

Plymouth Observer

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

COMMUNITY LIFE

It's magic: Interested in visiting dark magical lands? One way is through Magic: The Gathering, a trading card game that has cornered 70 percent of the games market since coming out in 1992. /B1

OPINION

Happy holidays: Santa writes to children in Observerland, while we reach into the past to the New York Sun and an editor's response in 1897 to Virginia O'Hanlon's quest for the truth about Santa Claus. /A12

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Peace: Plymouth columnist Dorothy Matsu writes about giving good manners a chance on the way to world peace. /A14

AT HOME

Special surroundings: Canton residents filled their gardens with color and variety. /D6

ENTERTAINMENT

Band of the Year: An amalgamation of rockabilly, swing, blues, R&B and rock 'n' roll, the Twistin' Tarantulas play constantly, and the clubs are standing room only. /E1

REAL ESTATE

Warm memories: The holidays are a nice time to look back at the wonderful stories from holidays past. /F1

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YMCA invited to offer proposal

Who should run a joint recreation program for the city and township? The YMCA is a possible operator and will present a proposal in January to a recreation committee.



BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The YMCA is to present a proposal next month on how it could operate a greater Plymouth recreation program.

At the latest joint city-township Recreation Committee meeting Wednesday, members tried to narrow down options on how a community-wide program could be run.

Earlier this month, Plymouth City Manager Steve Walters and Plymouth Township Finance Director

Rosemary Harvey presented four options on the structure of a joint department.

On Wednesday, committee members rejected two of the options and said two should be explored: a YMCA takeover option, or a system by which both city and township governments run a recreation department.

If the YMCA would run recreation, "you would select one or two people to be on our board," YMCA Executive Director Joanne McCarthy told committee members.

Please see YMCA, A10

Administrators opt for second chance

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to punishment for sale or distribution of drugs, or drug look-alikes, middle school students should be treated differently than high school students, who are expelled for a first offense. Middle schoolers need a second chance.

Such was the unanimous recommendation that middle school administrators made to the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Dec. 16. The recommendation came during a discussion about possibly aligning the student code of conduct for middle school and high school. The board eventually accepted the recommendation.

The current 1997-98 code of conduct for first offense for sale or distribution of drugs in the middle school calls for a five-day suspension, a mandatory intervention program and police involvement. A second offense calls for expulsion.

Sue Davis, board vice president,

MIDDLE SCHOOL

asked for an interpretation of the developmental differences between the two age groups. "What makes a middle school kid different in their knowledge of drugs and alcohol than a high school student?" she asked.

Ellison Franklin, principal of East Middle School, said middle school students are evolving from a parent-centered to peer-centered environment. "It is in that transfer that children make mistakes in judgment." Franklin enumerated the physical, social and cognitive changes middle school-age children go through and concluded: "The changes are second only to those between birth and one year."

"Sale and distribution is not a mistake," said Davis.

Tom Owens, principal of Pioneer Middle School, said there have been

Please see MIDDLE, A10



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Art: Ted Wakar and Jim Bur carve their sculpture as evening approaches. The competition will last 22 hours.

Olympians practice

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Maybe it's the numbing effect of the cold, or the detailed beauty of the artists' talent, but it almost seems that the two women dancing will come to life.

Instead, they're frozen in ice and their life expectancy is subject to the sun's intensity as they take form outside the Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth on a Sunday afternoon in late December.



Ted Wakar of Canton and Jim Bur of Eastpointe scrape and saw the ice as they practice the same design they plan to use at the Nagano Olympic

Please see SCULPT, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

On their way: U-M band members (top) Tiffani Natalini-Canton High, Rob Schikora, Catholic Central, Geoff Kandes, Catholic Central, and at bottom Chad Petersen, Catholic Central, Bianca George-Canton High, Laura Mortiere, Canton High, and Cathy Shasko, Canton High, will perform at the Rose Bowl.

Rose Bowl

Sweet sounds of victory

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

Eight University of Michigan students from Plymouth and Canton will make "Hail to the Victors" sound even sweeter on Jan. 1.

The University of Michigan Marching Band members will be among the 235 selected from

the 400-member band to travel to Pasadena, Calif., on Dec. 28 to perform at the 109th Tournament of Roses Parade and 84th Rose Bowl game.

"It's pretty exciting," said freshman Laura Mortiere. "I never thought I would be doing

Please see ROSE, A6

DDA wants hotel to make improvements

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The Mayflower Hotel's exterior is in rough shape, say some Downtown Development Authority members who want improvements.

The board voted Dec. 11 to send a letter to the Mayflower management detailing concerns.

It stated that the hotel owners had 14 business days to make some improvements, or face being ticketed for violations.

But DDA Director Steve Guile said that since sending the letter, actions have been taken to improve the hotel's exterior appearance, especially in the Mayflower II motor lodge portion.

MAYFLOWER

"We have received a call from (hotel manager) Matt Karmo indicating repairs were done, the only thing left was scraping and painting the exterior of the building," Guile said, as painting has to wait for warmer weather.

"I told him we eagerly await new construction," Guile said.

In a letter to city commissioners earlier this month, Karmo said the owners would decide likely by the end of February whether to continue with plans to renovate the hotel, or tear it down and build a new hotel-condo development.

Guile said the letter was sent because certain items "had languished, it's been an obvious eyesore for several months. We thought because of Christmastime and the upcoming ice festival these issues need to be addressed, construction or not," he said.

Karmo was unavailable for comment Monday on the DDA letter.

Guile said DDA members were concerned about the appearance of decking around the edge of the Mayflower II roof on the south and west side. "It's becoming a pigeon haven, we wanted to see that either repaired or removed," Guile said.

Please see HOTEL, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Rough: A temporary jackpost (above) supports a walkway on the Mayflower Motor Lodge, while paint peels off of the hotel main section.

Hotel from page A1

Further, he said some drain pipes leading from the deck down below need to be reattached.

DDA members also cited a broken window, along with peeling paint.

In a report earlier this month to city commissioners, Karmo said the hotel owners were considering rebuilding the hotel, as renovation costs have jumped from \$3 million to \$4.5 million.

Meanwhile, the estimated cost

for a new hotel starts at \$6.5 million, and financing could be easier to obtain for a new facility, Karmo said.

"We're looking at something more like a hotel combined with offices and exclusive downtown condominiums," Karmo told the city administration earlier this month. "The plan is to go higher."



COP CALLS

Teens arrested in break-ins

Two teens believed responsible for three house break-ins this fall in Plymouth Township were arrested by Livonia police Dec. 18.

The two, both 18 from Canton, told police they had committed break-ins in Plymouth Township, Northville Township, Canton and Livonia, according to Plymouth Township police.

The two are suspected in a house break-in Dec. 16, when a Plymouth Township man returned to his home on Glenview at 3:10 p.m. to find a stranger in his house.

The man told police that after he surprised the teen, the thief fled out a patio door. Then, a second teen appeared inside the house and ran out the door, the report continued.

The thieves got inside the house by breaking open a window to a door and climbing inside, police said.

Missing in the theft was

some cash and other items, according to the report filed with police.

Pedestrians injured

Two pedestrians were treated for injuries at St. Mary's Hospital after they were struck by a car Wednesday while crossing Wing Street east of Forest.

The pedestrians, a 19-year-old woman and 27-year-old man, both of Dearborn Heights, were crossing the street just after 3 p.m. when they were struck by a Chevrolet Cavalier driven by a 35-year-old Plymouth Township man, Plymouth police said.

The driver, who told police he did not see the pedestrians, struck the man, whose body in turn struck the woman, according to the police report.

The man suffered leg injuries while the woman complained of chest injuries. Police cited the driver for careless driving and the pedestrians for jaywalking.

RUBBISH SCHEDULE

Township rubbish collection will be picked up a day later if your regular pick-up is Thursday or Friday during the week of Christmas and New Year.

Christmas trees and natural wreaths will be picked up curbside on your regularly scheduled collection day during Jan. 5-9 for

compost disposal. For one week only, Jan. 5-9, leaves and yard waste may be placed curbside for collection on your regularly scheduled collection day.

The compost program will resume weekly curbside collection beginning April 6, 1998.

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Thanks, Mrs. Claus!

Mrs. Claus distributed presents, coupons and gift certificates downtown on Friday, thanks to downtown businesses Harvest Moon, Sideways, Naturally, Grunwald's House of Fudge, Gabrielas, Wild Wings, Plymouth Beading and Native West.

The gifts were donated to the city Downtown Development Authority to promote downtown businesses, said Emily Lawler, DDA assistant.

About 75 presents were distributed along with 100 discount coupons and 25 gift certificates.

Raises OK'd

Pay raises ranging from 2.3 to 3 percent for nearly 30 Plymouth Township full and part-time government employees were approved Tuesday by the township Board of Trustees.

The affected employees are not represented by unions. Unionized township employees have received 3 percent raises in the past year.

By the Board of Trustees'

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

action, a 2.3 percent lump sum payment not to be folded into base wages will be made to all department heads excluding the chief of police, police lieutenant and assistant fire chief.

Water main break

Cold weather, pressure changes and the city's aged water system led to three water main breaks in the city of Plymouth Wednesday and Thursday.

Municipal Services Director Paul Sincock reported water main breaks Wednesday at Harvey and Penniman, and Wednesday and Thursday at two locations along Main.

"There was significant road damage on Harvey," Sincock said, adding the road will be patched until spring when fair weather will permit a proper road resurfacing.

That water main break forced the closing of Harvey between

Fralick and Penniman.

Subdivision approved

The platting of lots and the sales of homes can begin at the planned Woodlore South subdivision as Plymouth Township trustees on Tuesday approved a final plat for the 63-lot subdivision.

Woodlore South is north of Joy Road and south of Woodlore subdivision.

Tax break granted

Plymouth city commissioners on Monday approved a 50 percent 12-year tax break for PdcGlass of Michigan, 300 Dunn St.

The tax break, available under state law, is on \$800,000 in planned building modifications and \$1.2 million in new equipment.

By a new city policy on tax abatements, the company agreed to donate 5 percent of the abated tax to community organizations.

"While the city has granted

temporary tax abatement on several industrial projects, the projects have still added the same amount of value to the city tax base," according to a report prepared by the city administration.

"The city's industrial tax base has increased from \$20,026,540 in 1988 to \$28,962,000 in 1997, primarily from the current tax abatement projects," the report continued.

Handicap doors

The Plymouth city administration is using \$5,350 in federal grant money to install automatic doors at city hall to make the building easier to get into for handicapped.

On Dec. 15, city commissioners approved the low bid for the doors on the Church Street side of city hall from Stauch Automatic Door Inc. of Detroit.

The firm specializes in projects to meet federal regulations to make buildings handicapped accessible, said city Administrative Services Director Carol Stone in a report to city commissioners.

Plymouth Observer

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50% off select merchandise

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gloves, mufflers &
hats

50% off select merchandise

assorted
men's gloves

50% off select merchandise

Ms. J
sportswear
& dresses

50% off select merchandise

assorted socks,
tights & pantyhose

50% off select merchandise

assorted
women's shoes
& handbags

50% off select merchandise

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neckwear

50% off select merchandise

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& Olga bras

50% off select merchandise

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50% off select merchandise

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HOLIDAY HOURS: MON - SAT 10-9 • SUN 10-7

Missing middle school girl is reunited with family

BY TEDD SCHNEIDER
STAFF WRITER

Central Middle School student Jennifer McGraw was reunited with her aunt and uncle Sunday evening, two weeks after she apparently ran away from their Canton home with a Plymouth Township friend.

The friend, a 13-year-old Plymouth girl, was turned over to police and released to her mother Sunday night. She will move out of state to live with another relative, according to Plymouth Township Police.

"We couldn't be more pleased they're safe," Rob Surret, McGraw's uncle, said Monday. "We have no idea (what prompted her disappearance) but we're working to get a handle on it."

McGraw, 13, was taken temporarily to an area shelter for runaways while the family works with counselors, Surret said. He expects her to return to school when the holiday recess ends Jan. 5.

The two girls were discovered by the resident manager of Forest Lane Apartments on Wayne Road, south of Warren, in Westland. The Plymouth girl used to live at the complex with her mother, said manager Dale Kendall.

Kendall believes the girls were staying in vacant houses under construction, just east of the complex, and also spending time at an apartment where a teen-aged boy lives. "I went back there (the houses) and saw footprints and other indications that someone was there," he said.



Found: Jennifer McGraw and a friend, both students at Central Middle School were located in Westland near apartments where the friend used to live. The girls were unharmed.

'We couldn't be more pleased they're safe. We have no idea (what prompted her disappearance) but we're working to get a handle on it.'

Rob Surret
—Jennifer McGraw's uncle

The two girls were seen walking along Plymouth Road near the Unisys plant by a Central teacher that afternoon. They were supposed to be in detention for cutting a class but never showed up at the school, according to school officials and Patricia Surret.

The Surretts said Friday that McGraw hadn't contacted them at all since Dec. 8. The Plymouth girl's mother said she received a brief phone call from her daughter on Dec. 11. She declined to reveal the nature of the conversation.

Classmates and school staff were concerned about the girls' absence and the Surretts hired a private investigator, Jerry Borycz of Statewide Investigation Service.

Borycz said the family was concerned because there was no real indication of any problems with McGraw. The girls didn't take clothes or money and may have decided to leave on the spur of the moment, he said.

Kendall first spotted the girls Thursday in the parking lot. He recognized the Plymouth girl, he said, but didn't realize they were runaways.

On Friday, he saw a poster with McGraw's picture at an area convenience store.

He saw the girls again about 5:30 p.m. Sunday, he said, and took them to the office, where he called police and the Surretts.

Patricia Surret, Jennifer's aunt and legal guardian, first reported her missing to Canton Police on Dec. 8.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

On the march: Sheryl Khoury, Kim Forester and daughter Julia, and a woman who preferred to remain anonymous picket condos sold by local Realtor and political activist Jerry Vorva.

Moms picket Vorva's real estate properties

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

A small group of mothers picketed property - represented by Realtor Jerry Vorva - Thursday morning in opposition to his determination to take the school bond issue to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary.

"We want people who buy these condos to know that they will have to be able to afford to send their children to private schools because of the continuing appeal," said picketer and Plymouth resident Sheryl Khoury.

"I'm just trying to inform his customers," said Khoury, explaining the picket.

Vorva, a former state representative and Plymouth resident, brought the sale of \$79.6 million of school bonds to a halt when he filed suit against the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools shortly

after the March 22 special bond election. The bond request passed by 96 votes.

Vorva claimed that 716 voters were denied their fundamental right to vote because the district's new touch-screen voting machines failed to register their ballots.

Close to 12,000 ballots were cast.

Wayne County Circuit Judge James Rashid ruled in favor of the district Aug. 22. Vorva and Plymouth attorney Stephen Boak appealed shortly after.

Vorva was quoted in the Observer Dec. 14 saying that "even if for some reason the Appeals Court rules against us, I'm going to the Michigan Supreme Court. If they rule against me, I'll go to the U.S. Supreme Court."

Khoury said she and other mothers of school-aged children are concerned about delays in the sale of bonds

and subsequent delays in the construction of a new high school and elementary school.

As long as the mothers didn't trespass, Vorva said he doesn't mind them picketing. "That's great. They have to walk around in the mud. I should tell them where my other properties are. They can picket and have the photograph taken. It will help me sell. That's free advertising," said Vorva, who works for Realty Executives in Plymouth.

Vorva said his appeals brief will be dropped off at the Michigan Court of Appeals before Christmas, with a hope that the court will hear the appeal sometime in January.

"It's not my fault if they think there are delays. The schools can go ahead and sell the bonds. They are not enjoined from doing so," he added.

New project planned

Campbell/Manix Inc., a Southfield firm that designs, engineers and constructs industrial and commercial buildings, announces a new project in Plymouth.

Ilmor Engineering, the race-engine building arm of Mercedes-Benz, is building a 26,000 square-foot technology center in the Plymouth-Oaks Business Park, Plymouth, to centralize its

American engineering and business management activities.

The new technology center, a design/build project by Campbell/Manix, will include administrative offices, and engine assembly and rebuild facility, three dynamometer test beds, and a machine shop. Completion is scheduled for early spring 1998.

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Knollenberg rips global warming agreement

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

In a word - yes or no - should the U.S. Senate ratify the global warming agreement?

"I need two words: hell no," replied U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township, who spent a week in Kyoto, Japan, observing the negotiations.

The third-term congressman from the 11th District which includes Redford and part of Livonia gave the usual reasons of harm to American industry, but he had some close-up comments about the United Nations-sponsored conference itself.

"I have never been in the gun-sights of so many countries. The deck was stacked against us. And it was a long time ago.

"The Green Movement (anti-industry environmentalists) was in charge. The U.S. was dead before we got to Kyoto.

"We heard, 'The U.S. has an obligation' (from the Danes and Dutch) and 'America has a burden to pick up and carry the rest of the world.'

"It exempts 80 percent of the world's (developing) nations

like China, India and Mexico. 'It gives them a license to pollute at will. Multi-national corporations would go there - and also get cheaper labor.'

But it was the European Union, rather than Asia, that was trying hardest to stick the U.S. with the job of scaling back emissions to 1990 levels, Knollenberg said in an interview this week in his Farmington Hills district office.

He said Time magazine was correct in reporting that the EU will have the easiest time meeting emissions targets. Reason: "The collapse of East Germany in 1990 forced many inefficient, pollution-belching factories and power plants out of business, cutting Europe's emissions as a side benefit."

Great Britain's job is easier because Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher broke the coal miners' union in 1985, and the nation switched to natural gas.

France will have little trouble because it's reliant on nuclear energy - and Knollenberg thinks that's the way to go, even though nuclear power plants and research have been halted here.



■ 'If you believe in global warming, this treaty won't get you there. It won't clean the environment, and it will be devastating to the American worker because the cost of energy will rise.'

Joe Knollenberg
—congressman

press. I went to a press conference the second day. The press was enviro-laden," he said, quoting a question about alleged strong poll support for an energy tax in the U.S. "Not in my district," Knollenberg said.

Participants took it for a fact, engraved in granite, that the world is being dangerously warmed by energy emissions. "No one questioned it. It's a fact (to them).

"But the debate (in the U.S.) will center on the science. The Big Three (auto makers) and the utilities can't be all wrong. The

AFL-CIO is connected to my view."

He cited University of Michigan research - still incomplete - on pumping carbon dioxide, the chief emission, into a tented area. "We know carbon dioxide helps trees. There are more trees in the country than at the time of the Pilgrims.

"Some scientists are saying, 'Let's study this before we jump off the cliff.'

"If you believe in global warming, this treaty won't get you there," Knollenberg went on. "It won't clean the environment, and it will be devastating to the American worker because the cost of energy will rise."

Knollenberg and 13 other U.S. representatives were appointed by Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. Knollenberg is a ranking member of the House Appropriations subcommittee on energy and water.

That panel oversees the Department of Energy, nuclear weapons and reactors, nuclear wastes, the Army Corps of Engineers, energy research and development, the Tennessee Valley Authority (now zeroed out of

the budget), and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The feeling is bipartisan. "John Dingell (D-Trenton, and dean of the Michigan congressional delegation) and I see eye to eye. Dingell was there," Knollenberg said.

Next-door congressman Sander Levin, a Democrat, already is battling EPA air quality standards, saying, "In my view, EPA's new standards would have a negative impact on the nation's economy and the economic well-being of south-eastern Michigan."

The Kyoto Protocol, as it's known:

■ Was agreed to by 150 nations Dec. 11.

■ Requires the U.S. to cut emission of greenhouse gases to 7 percent below 1990 levels; the EU must cut emissions by 8 percent and Japan by 6 percent; 35 other countries also have quotas.

■ Allows industrialized nations to trade "emissions quotas" among themselves.

■ Asks but doesn't require developing nations to cut emissions.

County lease car proposal on hold for now

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County commissioners will not lease or purchase county vehicles, at least not for the time being.

Commissioner Bernard Parker, D-Detroit, had introduced an ordinance that would delete a section in an ordinance that prohibits county elected officials from purchasing, leasing or operating a county vehicle to complete his or her duties.

Commissioners referred the item Thursday to the Committee on Roads, Airports and Public Services, which is expected to study the proposal in January.

Parker's resolution would change an ordinance introduced by Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, and approved by commissioners in October 1993 that prohibited the use of county-owned vehicles by elected officials. The ordinance itself regulated the purchase, lease and operation of county vehicles.

Parker believes his ordinance will save the county money through car leases.

"Right now the commissioners obtain up to \$350 per month for mileage," Parker said last week. "I think it would be cheaper for us to lease the vehicles at \$300 a month."

McCotter expects costs to lease vehicles may fall between \$300 and \$350 a month per commissioner. While the money may be already budgeted for commissioners, it is general fund money and taxpayers' money, McCotter said.

"It's greed and it's wrong," McCotter said.

Patterson said he would even ask County Executive Ed McNamara to veto it, if the item was ever approved by the commission. Even though Patterson has the largest district in square miles of any commissioner, he said he would not use a lease vehicle funded by taxpayers.

Patterson said he only requests and receives reimbursement for miles in his district that he drives to Sumpter or Huron townships, and not for driving within Canton or to commission meetings.

Patterson believes the commissioners who earlier expressed interest in changing the ordinance, now are backpedaling.

"You can see them trying to get it back in committee," Patterson said. "You heard (Commissioner Robert) Blackwell say that he didn't introduce it." (Blackwell had responded earlier that day to a published report incorrectly indicating he introduced the ordinance.)

Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland, said she isn't opposed to some county employees using cars if their duties require them to have transportation, but she doesn't believe the county commissioners should use them.

"I don't think the commissioners need (county) cars."

Commissioner Edward Plawecki Sr., D-Deerborn Heights, also is opposed to any lease cars for commissioners. "I can always make a claim for my mileage," Plawecki said.

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Students design their ice sculptures for fest

BY JOANNE MALESZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

If they are creative, artistic or have a wild imagination, Plymouth area middle school students will have a chance to see their winning design carved in ice at the 16th Annual Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular.

"We have all five public middle schools and three of the parochial schools involved," said Diane Sproull, an art teacher at Central Middle School.

Sproull and Sandra Watts of Watts-Up, which coordinates the ice festival, are working together again on the middle school design contest.

"We will have a winner from each school that participates," said Watts. Designs were due

at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce office Saturday, Dec. 20.

In addition to having their design carved by a professional carver, each of the winning students will win a savings bond, offered by the Observer Newspapers.

Students are not limited to a particular theme for the contest. "It can be of anything of interest to kids their age," Sproull said.

Unlike past years, the carvers will sculpt the winning designs and freeze them before the festival begins so visitors can see the students' ideas come to reality.

The winning students will be photographed and presented with their savings bonds at 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19 in Kellogg Park.

Rose from page A1

something like this." Mortiere, a 1997 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School, plays the snare drum and was a four-year member of the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band.

"I don't think I would be in the Michigan Band if I didn't do high school band," Mortiere added. "I think it was a really good experience."

Practice for the prestigious event will begin the day after Christmas, according to senior Robert Schikora. A history major, Schikora plays the quints (a group of five tenor drums). This is his fourth year in the U-M band and his first trip to the Rose Bowl. Schikora, who played in the Catholic Central band, found the U-M band to be "a phenomenal experience. You have tons of friends and you learn a lot of good lessons like healthy competition and how to interact with people and overcome challenges."

Part of that challenge is fitting hours of practice into a full load of classes and work. Schikora

'I don't think I would be in the Michigan Band if I didn't do high school band.'

Laura Mortiere
—Band member

pointed out that the band practices "just as much as the football team." Mortiere agreed, adding that the practice was similar to what she was accustomed to in high school. "We practice five days a week after school from 4 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.," she said. "We have a sectional one night a week and we practice Saturday before the game."

The intense practice schedule won't let up much during the trip. "The days are pretty much full," admitted Schikora. "This is the busiest bowl you could possibly be involved in."

Schikora said they will play at pep rallies and alumni functions as well as at Disneyland on Dec. 30. There will be some time for

fun after the Disneyland performance he said. And how about a New Year's Eve party?

Schikora said the party on the 31st will be rather subdued. "It's actually not even scheduled over midnight," he said. "They want us in bed since we have to be up at 3:30 or so on New Year's morning for the parade."

The maize and blue marchers are scheduled to be the 23rd event in the parade line that will be coiled up at the starting point of the seven-plus mile route in the wee hours of Jan. 1. They will play the usual favorites, including the Michigan Fanfare and while the horns rest, the drumline has a series of cadences to play.

"We play until our backs give out basically," Schikora said.

During half time, the marching Wolverines will present an eight-minute Latin performance of "Malaguena" and "El Toro Caliente" that Schikora describes as "really strong stuff."

The high-stepping marchers will return to Michigan on Jan. 2. As a senior graduating in May 1998, Schikora said, "This is the best way we could possibly hope to go out!"

Other Plymouth- and Canton-area musicians headed for the Roses are senior Michael Bishop, trombone; senior Geoff Kandes, trombone; junior Tiffany Natalini, flag; sophomore Chad Petersen, trumpet; senior Kathy Shasko, tenor saxophone; and senior Bianca George, horn.

Reserve band members who will cheer from home include sophomore Jahi Chappell, clarinet; sophomore Catherine Fry, clarinet; junior Redcloud George, euphonium; and freshman Joel Smigell, percussion.

Sculpt from page A1

Winter Games this winter. While it's not an official medal event during the Olympics, competitions are held during the accompanying Karuzawa Ice Festival, a cultural program associated with the winter games.

Their names are also synonymous with the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular. This year's 16th annual event is Jan. 14-19.

Bur and Wakar will go on to

compete in the World Championship Ice Carving, also in Japan, following the Olympics. In fact, they were the first non-Japanese ice carvers to ever win a team world championship in 1996 during the 37th Annual World Ice Sculptors Competition held in Asahikawa, Japan.

Watching Wakar, 35, and Bur, 31, transform the 400-pound blocks of ice, the long-haired women with chiseled features,

are balancing each other as they pull away in their ring around the rosy dance.

Peace theme

Because the theme of the Winter Olympics is peace, their sculpture, named "Rejoice in Peace," represents unity and dependence on one another. In ice sculpting, everything is dependent on balance and symmetry and if something is out of

sync, the sculpture falls. "It either looks great, or it breaks," Bur said, adding that if it does break there's an alarm sound that the cracking ice makes. "You hear that sound and you hold your hands out and hope you catch it."

Wakar and Bur maintain a willingness to change their design at a moment's notice. Sometimes there's nothing that can be done. Other times, they

accommodate the break. "You have to be able and willing to make the change," said Bur, who has a degree in industrial design from Wayne State University.

Each year during the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, Wakar watches the weather in Chicago to guess what will happen locally in the next four to six hours. "You need an alternative design if the weather is warm," added Wakar,

who has competed in ice carving since 1981.

Bur describes his sculpting relationship with his sister's husband as complementary, because he and Wakar learned to know what the other man is doing and anticipate his next move without uttering a word. They even share the same birthday.

"We've found over the years that I'm good at certain things, he's good at certain things and we blend," said Bur, who works as product information manager in the service of Bozell Worldwide, Inc., a Southfield advertising agency.

Ice sculpting, Bur said, has taught him more about the business world: You have to get the job done and you have no one to blame or turn to but yourself, he said.

Wakar has the same philosophical outlook about his art and explains that ice sculpting has taught him about life. The competitions, he said, represent much more than taking home a first-place win. Instead, it's about being true to the art and building comradeship with other sculptors.

"We like to generate enthusiasm for the art form and to the community," said Wakar, who is the executive chef at Ford Motor Company World Headquarters in Dearborn.

As an individual carver and as a member of ice carving Team Frozen Images, Wakar has won more than 27 first-place finishes and 60 top-five finishes. Wakar also serves as an ice sculpting instructor at Schoolcraft College in Livonia and has conducted ice sculpting seminars at various community events, schools, festivals and National Restaurant Associations functions and hotels around the United States.

Bur has won more than 15 first-place finishes and 10 top-five finishes. He also conducts community seminars. Their carvings range from a 16-foot-tall praying mantis to dragons, ships and helicopters.

Challenges accepted
"We like challenging things," Wakar said. "We like to challenge the ice and we like open spaces. At the Olympics we want to represent the city, the state and the country. We've built friendships with other sculptors from Norway, Japan and Russia. I'm looking forward to seeing our friends there as much as carving." Wakar added: "We go there to represent ourselves well. Winning is the icing on the cake."

Getting a sponsor is something they talk about to help defray the climbing costs of traveling to competitions around the world. With more than 500,000 people expected at the Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular and similar visibility at other competitions, Bur said: "There are probably people out there who could benefit from the exposure from this. We'd like to be tied with someone who really wants to be a part of what we're doing."

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Madonna offers summer program for '98 grads

Beginning in June, 15 to 20 high school graduates, who received their diploma during the 1997-98 school year and are eligible for financial aid at the college level, will have an early opportunity to complete six college credit hours at Madonna University in Livonia.

Tuition and registration fees for these courses will be provided through privately funded grants for those in need of financial assistance.

The 1997-98 high school graduates must be student applicants interested in attending Madonna University in the 1998 fall term and demonstrate an economic need. All participants must be admitted to Madonna University prior to acceptance to the Summer Start Program.

"We are proud to offer economically disadvantaged students a jump start on their education. This is Madonna University's second year providing this program," said Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz, Madonna University vice president for student life. "It is a great opportunity for these students as they will participate in learning seminars as well as develop a learning community with other first-

year college students." Classes will be held three days a week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students will attend two classes, English 101 and Computer Science 208. The courses will incorporate writing and math/computer skills to assist future academic success.

Students can get a "head start" on what college professors expect and can meet other first-year students.

Lunch will be included with the program and one lunch period each week will be designated "Lunch and Learn Session" which will cover such topics as time management, self integrity and study skills. Lunch costs are being funded through contributions, as well.

"The purpose of this program is to help students feel comfortable in a college setting and to acclimate them to the campus scene during the summer months," said Sr. Nancy Jamroz.

For more information, students may contact their high school counseling office, or call Madonna University's Office of Multicultural Affairs at (734) 432-5541 or Admissions Office (734) 432-5339.

Madonna University awards associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees.

Air bag thefts on the rise: state police

For 10 minutes of work, \$150 is good money.

That's what Lt. Bill Darnell of the Michigan State Police western Wayne County Auto Theft Unit, referring to air bag theft — a crime law enforcement and insurance industry officials say is becoming one of the most costly and widespread trends in auto-related crime.

Darnell, who was part of the investigative team that confiscated over 1,000 suspected stolen air bags estimated at a street value of more than \$1 million from a Detroit area used auto parts dealer, attributing the increase to convenience and a ready market.

"They only weigh about three pounds," said Darnell. "Street thieves can quickly steal an air bag, easily conceal it and turn it into instant cash as long as there are people out there willing to pay and not ask questions."

And, according to Darnell, that's what's happening.

"They act as a kind of pawn

'Street thieves can quickly steal an air bag, easily conceal it and turn it into instant cash as long as there are people out there willing to pay and not ask questions.'

Lt. Bill Darnell
Michigan State Police

shop, purchasing air bags from anyone off the street for \$150 to \$200 and then reselling them for \$400 to \$500 to distributors, who then resell them to auto body and automotive repair shops for \$600 to \$700," Darnell said.

William Liddane, director of Help Eliminate Auto Thefts, said this activity makes virtually every car a potential target. HEAT is a statewide auto theft prevention program that operates a confidential toll-free tip reward line (1-800-242-HEAT) for reporting auto theft related crimes.

"Citizens need to be vigilant — even when they think their cars are not the type thieves are interested in, because behind

every steering wheel with an air bag is a \$100 to \$200 enticement for some thief."

Jerry Hinton, manager of claims investigation for AAA of Michigan agrees. "So-called reputable auto and auto body repair shops are buying used air bags which in many cases are stolen and then billing insurance companies for new replacements."

Motorists not only face higher insurance premiums, but the question of whether the used air bags will be safe. "Are these used air bags the correct replacement per manufacturers' specifications and will they perform properly once installed?" Hinton asked.

Citizens must practice basic

anti-theft precautions, Liddane recommends. "Always remove keys and lock doors. Park in well-lighted areas. Avoid parking near Dumpsters or large vans or trucks and other obstacles that decrease visibility and provide cover for thieves."

The HEAT tip line is a powerful tool to help law enforcement. HEAT rewards tip line callers up to \$1,000 if their tip leads to the arrest and binding over for trial of a suspected car thief; up to \$10,000 if their tip leads to the arrest and binding over for trial of suspected theft ring members and/or chop shop operators. HEAT also rewards \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect.

Since its inception in 1985, HEAT has recovered 2,390 vehicles valued at \$27 million. During that period, the HEAT tip line has received 5,263 calls leading to the arrest of 1,978 suspects. HEAT has awarded \$1.7 million to tip callers since 1985.

Patterson seeks check on commission travel

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

At least one Wayne County commissioner wants travel and trade missions defined and "clear objectives" outlined for commissioners.

Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, introduced an ordinance Thursday that calls for a plan to outline objectives of commissioner's trips before the commission approves any travel or trade missions. He also wants an oversight system created, and transactions covered.

"I'm just trying to put a procedure and a plan in place to make us more accountable," said Bruce Patterson, R-Canton. "It's what they do in private business. They need to cost-justify this process."

"There seems to be an attitude among some commissioners that once they get an office allocation, it's their money and not the taxpayers," Patterson said.

Patterson wants an audit completed of travel accounts, expenditures and documentation to be reviewed by the commission's Ways and Means Committee.

The resolution was referred

Thursday to the General Government and Ways and Means committees. It is expected to be discussed in January.

Patterson also introduced a resolution calling for the commission to oppose the Kyoto Protocol because adoption of it would be what Patterson called "catastrophic" to Wayne County and the state of Michigan due to

emission standards that would increase regulatory and operational costs of manufacturing plants and industry.

That resolution was referred to the commission's Committee on Environment, Sewers and Drains for study.

Madonna sets March 2 deadline for scholarships

Madonna University in Livonia is accepting scholarship applications through Monday, March 2, from admitted students for the 1998-99 academic year.

Scholarship applications may be obtained at the University Financial Aid Office or by calling (313) 432-5663.

The majority of awards stipulate that the recipient be an admitted full-time student who possesses a minimum grade point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale, however, there are some exceptions as well as additional requirements.

Madonna University scholarships available for the 1998-99 year include: Detroit Edison Foundation Endowed Scholarship, awarded to minority students pursuing science, especially prospective teachers in elementary schools; Kristen H. Hallerman Scholarship awarded to a beginning nursing student from either Plymouth-Canton High School, Plymouth Salem High School, or Garden City High School; William Randolph Hearst Scholarship, awarded to students in service-oriented degree programs; Charles and Patricia Derry Video Communications Scholarship awarded to a video communications major; Bishop Moses B. Anderson/Frank Hayden Scholarship, awarded to African students or American students of

African heritage; Lions/Lioness Club Scholarship, awarded to hearing impaired students; Livonia Jaycees Scholarship, awarded to junior or senior students; and the Joyce and Don Massey Scholarship.

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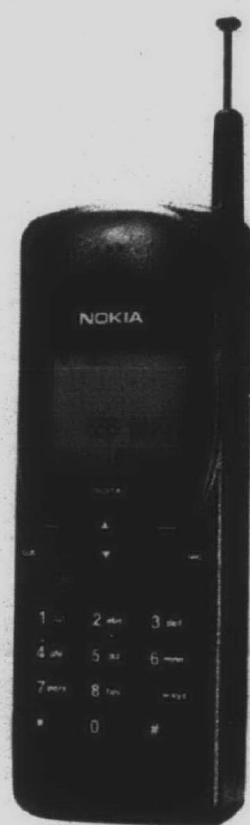
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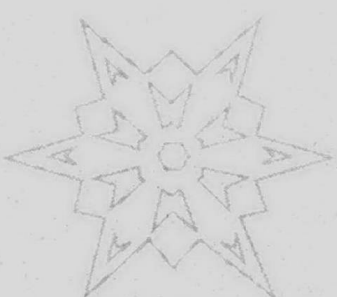


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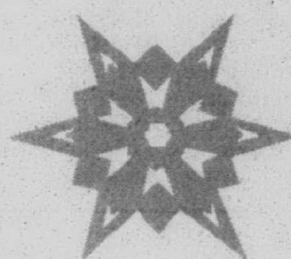
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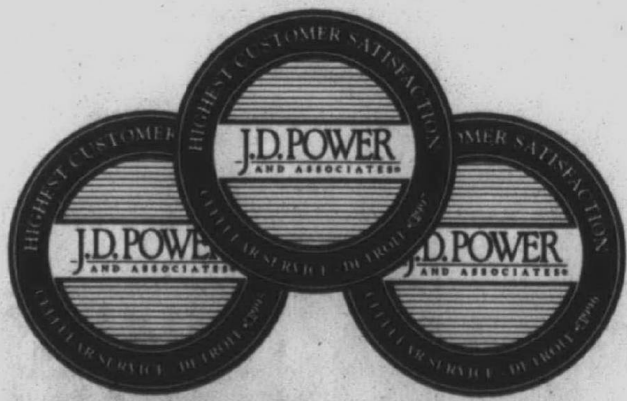
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Looking for a little inexpensive holiday family fun?

Check out the holiday light displays along Hines Drive, at the Detroit Zoo and at Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor while there's still time.

Billed as the country's largest drive-through light show, Wayne County's LightFest runs through Thursday, Jan. 1, along Hines Drive, between Merriman and Warren roads.

The display features overhead bridge displays, deer "leaping" over cars on Hines Drive, and a four-story poinsettia wreath with candles, said Kathy Lewand, administrative assistant for Wayne County parks.

For \$5 per car, motorists can enjoy a mix of new and old displays, featuring more than 800,000 lights on more than 35 displays: About 7,000 vehicles visited the LightFest this past weekend, Lewand said. She didn't have a total number for the entire event.

"Attendance is good," Lewand said. "It started out slow and we were concerned. But it has picked up considerably and we're pleased with the turnout. It's something people enjoy."

This year Wayne County has two new wetlands-themed exhibits, in conjunction with the newly opened Crosswinds Marsh in Sumpter Township, including a giant heron and animated frogs leaping from lily pad to lily pad.

Much of the money for new displays was donated by Friends of Wayne County Parks, with others sponsored by companies like Blue Care Network, NBD Bank and AAA Michigan.



Holiday glow: Domino's Farms has over one million lights this year and added six new displays, some with animation and more than 30 light displays



At the zoo: Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo illuminates through Sunday, Jan. 4, except on Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

This is the fifth year of the event, which started with roughly 25 light displays. The number has grown by approximately two a year, and includes displays depicting the Nativity, Hanukkah, and Kwanza.

For additional information, call (313) 261-1990.

Zoo lights

Heading east on I-696, you can still stop and take a walk on the wild side, by enjoying the fourth

annual Wild Lights celebration at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, featuring more than 50 animated animal displays with 350,000 lights.

Be sure to dress warmly as the half-mile walk usually takes about 45 minutes.

Wild Lights visitors will also be able to visit the new Edward Mardigian Sr. River Otter exhibit and the reptile house.

There will also be singing groups and costume characters

to entertain each night, as well as a hospitality tent with refreshments.

Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo illuminates through Sunday, Jan. 4, except on Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The lights will be on Monday through Thursday and Sunday from 5:30-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, the display will be on until 9 p.m.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 2-12. Children under the age of 2 are admitted free.

Proceeds from Wild Lights goes to the Detroit Zoological Society to help fund educational programs and for exhibit renovations.

In 1994, Wild Lights attracted 25,000 people. This year, zoo officials are expecting nearly 60,000 people through the turnstiles.

For more information on Wild Lights, call (248) 541-5835.

Domino's Farms

The Christmas Light Display at Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor has attracted more than a million people and raised nearly \$500,000 for charity over the past five years.

Last year 70 charities shared more than \$70,000, said Ashley Moran, director of the non-profit group Spirit of Christmas, which sponsors the event.

Domino's Farms has over one million lights this year and added six new displays, some with animation and more than 30 light displays, said Moran.

The holiday event costs \$5 per car Monday through Thursday, and \$7 on the weekend. Buses are asked to pay \$50. All the proceeds will benefit children and charities around metro Detroit.

Last year the event had 42,000 cars drive through, with 80,000 people visiting the indoor display. This year it is expected to draw 50,000 cars and 100,000 people.

The route was expanded to

include a drive around the petting farm, added Moran. Visitors will drive through most of the light display before entering the building for indoor attractions.

Moran says inside visitors will see 20, 14-foot designer-decorated trees, a "Christmas Around the World" creche exhibit, a miniature electric train, ornament-making for children, and a gingerbread house gift shop.

The focus of our exhibit is children, because Christmas is for kids, said Moran. Organizers are looking to broaden the event's appeal to make it an area event, not just an Ann Arbor experience.

The Christmas Light Display at Domino's Farms runs through Wednesday, Dec. 31, with the displays aglow from 6-10 p.m.

Take U.S. 23 to Exit 41, then a half-mile east. Follow the signs to Domino's Farms on Earhart Road, north of Plymouth Road.

Rivers to host legislative forum

Can a federal court nullify an Act of Congress by finding it to be unconstitutional even though it was passed overwhelmingly?

Can the President send troops overseas without the permission of Congress?

Can an administrative agency enforce rules which were not voted on by Congress?

For the answers to these questions and more, please join U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-13th District, for a discussion she is sponsoring on the Separation of

Powers from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 10. The educational forum will take place at Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency, 33500 Van Born, in Wayne.

Rivers has invited Roderick Hill, a professor at the University of Michigan Law School, former Congressman William Brodhead and Robert Sedler, profes-

or at the Wayne State University Law School to discuss the issue. After the panel discussion, the audience can participate in the discussion with questions and comments.

Western Wayne County residents of the 13th District are invited to attend.

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OBITUARIES

DIANE C. BUTTON
 Services were held for Diane C. Button, 48, of Westland, of Dec. 22 at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Canton, with the Rev. Daniel Zaleski from St. Theodore Church officiating. She was born April 6, 1949 in Monroe, Mich. She died Dec. 17 in Royal Oak. She worked as a medical office manager. She is survived by her husband, William F.; two daughters, Barbara Brown and Brinda Matykowski; a son, Brian F.; her parents, Jack and Audrey Reeves; two brothers, eight sisters and five grandchildren.

EILEEN P. WILLIAMS
 A funeral Mass was held for Eileen P. Williams, 81, of Ply-

mouth, on Dec. 22 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth, with the Rev. Dr. Dean Klump officiating. The burial was in Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. She was born Dec. 4, 1916 in Rosebush, Mich. She died Dec. 19 in Ann Arbor. She came to the Plymouth community in 1925 and graduated from Plymouth High School in 1935. She retired from McLaren Oil Company in 1975 after 40 years of service. She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Plymouth, as well as the Plymouth VFW Auxiliary Post No. 6955 for 40 years. Her work for the VFW included taking food to the VA Hospital and helping with summer picnics, she was also a mem-

ber of their state champion drill team. Her survivors include her daughter, Linda J. McNutt of Plymouth; a son, Bruce R. of Canadian Lakes, Mich.; three grandchildren, Maria Powers of Milford, Michael Williams of Westland and Renee Rock of Toledo, Ohio; eight great-grandchildren: Erikah, Easton and Savannah Powers; Krystal, Jessika and Jenna Williams; Brandon and Blake Rock; and three brothers, Joseph Archer of Ann Arbor, Ernie Archer of Plymouth and Jim Archer of Carlton, Mich. Memorials may be made to the Make A Wish Foundation.

ERICH LEE BLOUGH
 Erich Lee Blough, 24, of Ann

Arbor died Dec. 13 in Livonia. Arrangements were made by the Neely-Turovski Funeral Home in Canton. No services have been planned at this time. He was born Feb. 18, 1973, in Traverse City. He was the only child of Virginia G. and the late Danny Lee Blough. He enjoyed basketball and collecting comic books. He is survived by his parents, Kenneth and Virginia Belanger of Cedar, Mich.; his maternal grandfather, Lloyd E. Barnes of Gaylord; paternal grandparents, Albert and Geraldine Belanger of Lake Leelanau; several aunts, uncles and cousins. Memorials may be made to the Erich Blough Scholarship Fund at Northern Michigan College.

VERA MAY RAYCROFT
 A funeral Mass was held for Vera May Raycroft, 92, formerly of Plymouth, on Dec. 15 at the Church of the Nazarene in Howell, with the Rev. Donald Ault Jr. and the Rev. Wayne Brown officiating. The burial was in Sanford Cemetery in Cohoctah Township. Arrangements were made by MacDonald's Funeral Home. She was born Oct. 8, 1905 in Spencerville, Ontario, Canada. She died Dec. 11 at her home in Howell. She had moved from Plymouth to Howell in 1963. She attended Groveton School in Ontario. She was a homemaker and a member of the Howell Church of the Nazarene. She is survived by seven daughters, Joyce Flether of

Moira, N.Y.; Betty Kercher of Ipswich, Mass.; Lois Freeman of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Bethel Brechtel of Estes Park, Colo.; Beverly Ann Risch of Las Vegas, Nev.; Faith Sue Ashby of Loveland, Colo. and Donna May Neathamer of Howell; a son, Rev. Ray C. Raycroft of Millington, Mich.; 28 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; one great-grandchild; a brother William Earl Grue of Spencerville, Ontario; and two sisters, Iris Mary Murray of Iroquois, Ontario, and Elizabeth Fern Dunham of Montreal, Ontario. Memorials may be made to the American Bible Society.

Middle from page A1

no incidents of sale or distribution of drugs in the middle schools so far this year. During the 1996-97 school year, 33 students were suspended for substance abuse. "Of that number, only three students repeated the offense," he said. Franklin said the current code of conduct allows for the appropriate accountability in middle school. She said expulsion should be the "last option, not

the first." Barbara Church, principal of Central Middle School, spoke about a sixth-grader who brought chopped-up leaves to school. Several students reported that he had marijuana. "If this child had given other students some of these leaves, he would have been distributing," said Church, adding that the student has never repeated the incident after counseling and

parent involvement. When board member Liz Givens proposed giving middle school administrators the option to expel a student on the first offense, Franklin said they already had that option, but "it would be based on a broader picture of that child, consistent disobedience." Assistant Superintendent Errol Goldman cautioned against too much undocumented

flexibility and said rules and specific interventions need to be consistent to avoid risking liability for "unfair treatment." Davis said she agreed to maintain the current code of conduct for middle school students, but questioned the design of the mandatory intervention program for a drug-related offense. The program currently consists of a two-hour monthly meeting with parents and counselors.



Discuss: The joint city-township recreation committee meets regularly.

YMCA from page A1

McCarthy also answered a question recreation committee members had earlier posed: Would a portion of money supporting a YMCA-run recreation program have to be sent to support the national YMCA? Committee members said they needed an answer, because voters asked to support a recreation millage probably wouldn't back having some money raised through millage sent out of the community. McCarthy said that after researching the question, the answer was money would not have to be sent to the national YMCA, if the local YMCA is chosen to operate a community recreation program. Joining McCarthy at the meeting were city Planning Commissioner Doug Miller, City Commissioner Ron Loiselle, Walters, Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy, Harvey, Public Services Director James Anulewicz and Trustee Ron Griffith. Griffith arranged for the

appearance Wednesday of Bob England, director of Eastern Michigan University's Olds-Robb Student Recreation Center. Addressing the committee, England said a desire for recreation facilities "is really permeating more walks of life than you think." He said the EMU facility and others like it end up being used more than initially projected. "Look at other communities similar to you and see the other programs that are being run," he said. Recreation committee members have discussed seeking a half-mill from greater Plymouth voters to pay for an expanded recreation program. One committee plan would have some money set aside to pay for a facilities improvement effort. Committee members asked England if he knew of private businesses that ran recreation facilities. "Any other private enterprise other than the Y, I'm not aware of," he said.

CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on Monday, January 5, 1998 at 7:00 P.M. in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road to consider a request for the following special land use as provided in Section 27.03 of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance.

HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM SPECIAL LAND USE - CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL FOR A MEDICAL OFFICE AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 21.02B.3 FOR PARCEL NO. 047 01 0005 000. Property is located on the east side of Haggerty Road between Ford and Warren Roads within the I-275 Commerce Center.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission will be received at the above address up to the time of the hearing.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: December 24, 1997

CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 5, 1998 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

VANOFOSTER REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NOS. 086 99 0005 000 AND 086 99 0006 000 FROM R-3, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, TO C-2, COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL. Property is located on the south side of Cherry Hill Road east of Canton Center Road.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission will be received at the above address up to the time of the hearing.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: December 11 and 24, 1997

CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on Monday, January 5, 1998 at 7:00 P.M. in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road to consider a request for the following special land use as provided in Section 27.03 of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance.

A T & T WIRELESS SPECIAL LAND USE - CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 21.02B.8 FOR PART OF PARCEL NO. 045 99 0014 70J. Property is located on the south side of Warren Road between I-275 and Lotz Road.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission will be received at the above address up to the time of the hearing.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: December 24, 1997

CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 5, 1998 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

PETERSON REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 026 99 0020 000 FROM RR, RURAL RESIDENTIAL, TO RE, RURAL ESTATE. Property is located on the north side of Hanford Road between Ridge and Napier Roads.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission will be received at the above address up to the time of the hearing.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: December 11 and 24, 1997

CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 5, 1998 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

ALUBOWICZGHARIB REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 063 99 0015 000 FROM RR, RURAL RESIDENTIAL, TO R-3, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL. Property is located on the south side of Saltz Road between Canton Center and Beck Roads.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission will be received at the above address up to the time of the hearing.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: December 11 and 24, 1997

BY TIM RICHARD
 STAFF WRITER

The state ordered Michigan lift the veil of records for Fred Mager.

The court's Police's claim records under Information "unwarranted personal privacy."

"We conclude ship of a guilty intimate or of an individual the panel said Dec. 15.

"Defendants FOIA officer not point to unaware of mores, or ord community t the conclusion ship is an in rassing detail private life."

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Will state

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Appeals court on FOIA

Judicial panel says revealing gun ownership doesn't invade privacy

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

The state Court of Appeals has ordered Michigan State Police to lift the veil of secrecy from pistol records for Redford resident Fred Mager.

The court scoffed at the State Police's claim that opening records under the Freedom of Information Act would be an "unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

"We conclude that the ownership of a gun does not reveal intimate or embarrassing details of an individual's private life," the panel said in a 3-0 decision Dec. 15.

"Defendants (State Police and FOIA officer John McCarthy) do not point to — and we are unaware of — any customs, mores, or ordinary views of the community that would lead to the conclusion that gun ownership is an intimate or embarrassing detail of an individual's private life."

It concluded: "We reverse the trial court's grant of summary disposition in favor of defendants and remand for the trial court (Ingham Circuit Judge Peter Houk) to enter summary disposition in favor of plaintiff (Mager) with respect to the information sought."

It was signed by Judges Michael J. Kelly, Maureen Pulte Reilly and Kathleen Jansen.

Will state appeal?

The state has 21 days to appeal to the Supreme Court. The odds are against the state, however, because: 1) The Court of Appeals opinion was unanimous; 2) the Supreme Court already has ruled on what constitutes an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; and 3) the high court must grant leave to appeal.

Mager sought a record known as "MSP Form RI-11, Safety Inspection Certificate." It is issued when local police departments perform safety checks of a

pistol. A copy is sent to State Police headquarters for a central file.

Prior to Nov. 1, 1995, the forms were kept on index cards. Since then, they have been stored in a computer. Mager insisted it is a simple matter to run a copy of the computer tape.

Mager supports a bill by Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, to eliminate the 83 county gun boards' discretion in issuing permits to carry concealed weapons (CCWs, in police jargon). "I want to expose the records of the representatives and senators that don't support the Cropsey bill," Mager said.

He said gun owners can take some credit for the 1996 defeats of Reps. Jim Ryan, R-Redford, and Eric Bush, R-Battle Creek — defeats that helped Democrats regain control of the Michigan House.

Also on his bad list is Rep. Frank Fitzgerald, R-Grand Ledge, who has announced he's seeking the GOP nomination for attorney general.

'Politics involved'

"I'm not a hunter," Mager said. "I carried a rifle in 1967 in the boonies (Vietnam). I'm a certified instructor and a political action force."

For eight years Mager has delivered for Bob's Pizza in Detroit, a job that "pays well" but exposes him to some danger. He wounded one man who tried to rob him. The man was facing a court appearance the following Monday morning on armed robbery charges.

Mager is a member of Brass Roots, Michigan Gun Owners and the Council of Responsible Gun Owners. "I undertook this on my own," he said, without help or approval from the groups.

"There's politics involved. That's the main reason they (State Police) don't want this out of the bag," he said.

Mager said he already has

obtained some of the records by filing FOIA requests with county clerks. "About one-third complied," he said.

Complying were Macomb, Kent and Washtenaw counties.

He said Livingston, Isabella and Midland counties refused.

Wayne and Oakland counties sent him lists of names (11,000 from Oakland alone) but blacked out the addresses, making the records useless for his purpose.

School precedent

One reason Michigan State Police cited in refusing his FOIA request was that the list would contain three million names. Mager said that in Florida, a larger state, the total list was 259,000 names.

He said he sent the Indiana State Police a check and got the same kind of list promptly in the mail.

Mager started his suit early in 1996. But his case got a major boost last July when the Michigan Supreme Court defined privacy under FOIA. The high court said, "Information is of a personal nature if it reveals intimate or embarrassing details of an individual's private life."

The Supreme Court decision — cited in Monday's Court of Appeals decision — came in the cases of Bradley vs. Saranac Board of Education and Lansing Area School Administrators vs. Lansing School District.

In those combined cases, teacher Christine Bradley and the Lansing principals sought to block release to parents of their personnel records, especially disciplinary records. The high court ruled the records were public property and couldn't be exempted from a FOIA request.

Mager's attorney is Daniel G. Bamberg of DeWitt. Fighting the "privacy" argument, Bamberg's brief said the state routinely issues the same kind of information Mager was seeking on hunting licenses, fishing licenses, marriage licenses, divorce

records, motor vehicle ownership, driver's licenses, private security guards, civil service supervisory and managerial personnel, registered voters, dog owners and campaign contributions.

Courts have even held that the city of Pontiac had to reveal the identity of Silverdome stadium boxholders, Bamberg noted.

For 'criminal mind'

Defending MSP, assistant attorney general Thomas Quasarano said records of law enforcement personnel's names and addresses are exempt under FOIA; that many police officers obtain CCW permits; but that the records don't segregate names of police from others.

Quasarano said uncovering the identities of permit holders would reveal "the places and locations of firearms," handguns owned and possessed by private homeowners, gun collectors, antique gun collectors, private detectives and security guards, jewelry dealers and businesspersons generally, gun dealer inventories, gun and hunting club members, prosecuting attorneys and law enforcement officers who register their pistols as a safeguard in the event of theft, and others."

Opening the records, he said, would open "a Pandora's box by creating a virtual shopping list for anyone bent on the theft of firearms... and whatever else the criminal mind might evoke."

In contrast, he said, revealing holders of hunting and fishing licenses "does not open the doors of one's home to the public at large."

The Court of Appeals disagreed, noting that case law allows a union to obtain names and addresses of security guards, and a newspaper to obtain "mug" shots of defendants awaiting trial from the Oakland Sheriff's Department.

Commission OKs auditor general budget

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Auditor General Brendan Dunleavy received an early Christmas gift Thursday from the Wayne County Commission.

The auditor general — along with the commission counsel — received \$240,559 after commissioners voted 14-0 to amend the county commission's budget.

The transfer of 0.2 percent from various county departments means Dunleavy can add six more employees to the auditor general's office to provide staffing levels needed to audit each county department every two years as the revised county charter mandates.

Voters approved charter changes in November 1996 to strengthen the offices of the auditor general and commission counsel.

Dunleavy's budget was the center of much discussion during budget approval in October. He received a separate budget at that time, but also pushed for appropriations through budget transfers to add staff.

Dunleavy believes he can have a greater ability to perform oversight of major construction projects, including the expansion of Detroit Metro Airport and county parks construction projects.

The Commission counsel department will add two

more attorneys to bring that department total to five.

Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland, requested Chairman Ricardo Solomon, D-Detroit, suspend the rules and the commission take immediate action.

Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, said outcounty residents perceived commission budget as "perks," and the separate line item would help define that.

"It is a clear delineation of who is spending what," McCotter said.

"Right now we don't spend the attorney general money on ourselves," McCotter said. "This will clearly show that."

After commissioners denied a motion to send the amendment to committee, they approved the line item amendment, 8-6. Beard, McCotter, Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, and Edward Plawecki Sr., D-Dearborn Heights, approved those items.

Commissioners then amended the budget, 14-0.

Beard was pleased that the amendment was approved.

"One year ago, voters amended the charter to strengthen the auditor general and commission counsel," Beard said. "Commissioners pushed to get this done to allow an increase in staffing."

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Speaking up Girl encourages diversity

The Empire State Building, one of the most recognizable icons of American culture, is traditionally bathed in colored lights to celebrate various holidays and events. During the Christmas season, the lights are red and green.

A couple of years ago, on a December night, a 7-year-old Jewish girl noticed that the lights on the building were blue. She wondered if the lights were in honor of Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Well, no, she learned upon inquiring, the blue lights were displayed on Dec. 12 of that year to recognize the birthday of Frank Sinatra, "old blue eyes."

That was OK, but the girl, Mallory Blair Greitzer, thought that Hanukkah deserved to be honored on America's most famous (if no longer tallest) edifice. She began a campaign to try to make it so.

It took two years (and a letter to Leona Helmsley, whose management company operates the building), but this year on Dec. 23, the first night of Hanukkah, the lights on the Empire State Building were blue and white, honoring the Jewish Festival of Lights for the first time in history. Tonight, Christmas Eve, they revert to the red and green Christmas colors. A menorah will be displayed in the lobby of the building during Hanukkah and a crescent and star will be on display for USA Muslim Day.

There is no great moral to this story, but this is the time of year that is often referred to in the American Jewish community as "The December Dilemma" — a time when Christmas symbols are omnipresent while other religious beliefs and observances seem to be given short shrift. It is also a time when the message of "Peace on Earth and Goodwill Toward Men" is occasionally interrupted with protests about religious symbols on public property or in the classroom.

None of this is particularly surprising, given the diversity of American culture and the freedom we enjoy to protest that which goes against our personal convictions.

Still, there is a message in Mallory Blair Greitzer's successful campaign to balance the red and green Christmas lights on the Empire State Building with the blue and white lights of Hanukkah. She didn't ask that the Christmas lights be turned OFF, but that the Hanukkah lights also be turned ON. Good for her, and good for Leona Helmsley for listening, even if the symbolic gesture is only for one night.

A country as rich in cultures and traditions as the United States should focus on celebrating and learning from each and every one of them, not pitting one culture against another or trying to stifle those traditions that do not have equal significance for every single individual. What better time of year to recognize this than in December.

This year isn't unique, but it is unusual, in that three celebrations — Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa — overlap almost exactly. Hanukkah, the eight-day Festival of Lights that begins on the 25th day of the lunar month of Kislev, began this year at sundown on Dec. 23; the traditional "12 days of Christmas" last from Christmas Eve on Dec. 24 through Jan. 6; and the African-American Kwanzaa begins on Dec. 26 and continues through Jan. 1.

The histories are different, the symbols are different, the customs are different. But all these holidays share one common element: They are joyous occasions celebrating various religious and cultural traditions. They are, indeed, "happy holidays." That is their message, and that is our message to all of you.

Happy Holidays!

Editorial's message timeless

(Editor's note: Exactly 100 years ago this year, what may well be the most famous editorial in history first appeared in the New York Sun. Written by Francis Pharcellus Church, the editorial was a response to a letter from an 8-year-old girl, Virginia O'Hanlon. It is as meaningful today as it was then.)

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in the Sun it's so."

Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He

exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

No Santa Claus! Thank God, he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Reprinted from the *New York Sun*,
Sept. 21, 1897

Santa writes to youngsters

Dear Kids,

I just finished reading all those thousands of letters you send me every year. I can't respond in person to every one of them, but the nice folks at the Observer said they'd publish my letter to all of you, so here it is.

I can't promise that every single one of you will get every present you asked for, but I'll do the best I can. If you get to bed early and get a good night's sleep, I'll try to be quiet and not wake you up.

Meanwhile, you could do a few things for me, if you would. If you have a fire in the fireplace tonight, please ask your mom or dad to put it out before he or she goes to bed. I come down that chimney pretty fast, and it gets mighty hot in there.

If you have any extra pet food around, the reindeer would appreciate a dish of food and maybe a bowl of water. Any kind of dog food or cat food is fine. They don't like fish food very much.

Speaking of food, I really like those snacks you leave for me. But Mrs. Claus told me to ask if you'd leave skim milk or maybe a carton

of yogurt instead of eggnog and cookies. She thinks I need to lose weight!

Just one more thing. Ask your parents if they can make sure there's enough room in the driveway to park the sleigh. Last year, Vixen and Dasher got tangled up in some Christmas lights on one of those steep roofs, and they're a little bit spooked about landing on the rooftop now. They'll get over it, but this year I'm trying to keep the landing spots flat and low.

Take care now, and I'll see you tonight. You won't see me, but tomorrow morning you'll know I've been there.

Love,
Santa

Santa Claus

A season of giving



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Friends: Keith Perry, a student at Tanger Center, helps resident Marjorie Blain, a resident of Plymouth Inn, decorate her Christmas tree project.

LETTERS

Do it right

One of the toughest issues facing the Michigan Legislature is electric deregulation, an issue so steeped in technical jargon that most people prefer to ignore it.

But ignoring this vital issue would be a huge mistake. Michigan manufacturers — including my company, SMS Group — are high-energy users, heavily relying on power to run our businesses and make the products that we sell around the world. We not only need but demand a reliable energy source.

That's why I am personally concerned that deregulation be pursued in an orderly, fair and comprehensive manner, ensuring us the best, most reliable energy sources possible.

As a business person, I have monitored this issue closely, because the outcome will have a significant impact on my company's ability to compete, grow and create new jobs. I also sit on the board of the Michigan Manufacturers Association and have worked hard to bring all parties to the table to collectively seek a solution that ensures a reliable source of energy well into our future.

Make no mistake about it, restructuring is coming to Michigan one way or the other. Washington has put the industry next in line for restructuring, following the deregulation of the airlines, trucking, natural gas and telecommunications.

As a state, we can sit back, do nothing and let Washington set a "one size fits all" national policy that will probably fail to address Michigan's unique needs as a peninsula state. That could endanger our state's jobs, businesses, and fail to ensure that our future electricity needs are met.

Or our state lawmakers can tackle the issue by crafting a forward-thinking approach that provides a smooth transition to a more competitive marketplace while protecting jobs and businesses.

Handling restructuring at the state level offers another benefit. Our lawmakers can settle the matter before the end of this year and put Michigan's public policy on the cutting edge. That's where we need to be to help keep our economy healthy and strong.

That will also let business and electricity providers begin to plan for the future, rather than waiting to see what happens in Washington. The demand for electricity is rising in Michigan, yet no new generating plants are under construction.

Our legislators should make electricity restructuring one of their top priorities and

work to pass a restructuring plan.

This can't be delayed because too many jobs are at stake and too much of Michigan's future is at risk. We need action now to power Michigan's future.

Jeffrey Clevenger
president and CEO
SMS Group Inc.
Troy and Saginaw

Work together

Setting educational policy in Michigan is a huge responsibility that involves a large number of people — not just legislators like myself. One of the groups with the most knowledge and insight is teachers.

Recently, I conducted a special "listen-in" hearing in Brownstown with the chair of the Senate Education Committee, Sen. Joanne Emmons, R-Big Rapids. The purpose was to give teachers a chance to speak out on concerns they may have with the current school system, as well as to offer changes.

The teachers' responses were extremely helpful and positive.

The "listen-in" meeting originated from surveys sent out to educators across the district asking for input on ways to make life in the classroom more productive and effective for teachers and students.

For many teachers, it was the first time they had been asked to speak out publicly on education in Michigan. Through the surveys and the "listen-in" meeting, we received many thoughtful, intelligent responses from teachers.

Educators responded to a wide variety of subjects, including class size, parental involvement, technology upgrades, safer schools, inclusion of special needs students, attendance, testing and funding.

The comments made will serve as the basis for legislation to improve our educational system. Already, a series of bills have been worked on in the Michigan Senate which address the issue of safety and discipline in the classroom.

Whatever changes are needed will only be made after careful and deliberate consideration with all parties involved.

Working together, we can make education in Michigan — especially in Wayne County — better than ever.

Sen. Loren Bennett
R-Canton

Plymouth Observer

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— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Miracle of Hanukkah offers modern lessons

Two thousand years ago, the great religious leaders of the Jewish people described the miracle of Hanukkah in astoundingly concise terms: *During the occupation of the Holy Land by the Greeks the latter entered the inner sanctum of the Jerusalem Holy Temple and defiled all the oils.* (Jewish law recognizes states of "spiritual impurity" and "spiritual defilement." The olive oil used for the daily lighting of the Temple candelabrum, or Menorah in Hebrew was required to be utterly pure.) *When the Hasmoneans defeated them, one small jug of oil was found which evidently had not been touched by the Greeks.* (The touch of an idol-worshipping pagan would defile the oil and render it unfit for Temple use.) The little jug contained enough oil only for one day. The Menorah was rekindled and the oil miraculously lasted eight days, until new oil could be prepared.

From the text of the Talmud it is

clear that the defilement of the oil was not accidental, but intentional and systematic. A question begs to be asked. If the purpose of the Greeks was to extinguish the light of the Menorah and prevent its rekindling, why did they merely defile the oil; they could have poured it all out?

Choosing their words with exquisite care, the great Talmudic sages were clueing us in as to the true objectives of the Greeks, not to prevent the rekindling of the Menorah, but rather that it should be rekindled with defiled oil.

Like oil from an olive, we can extract from the above the essential meaning of Hanukkah, as follows:

One of the most common words in Jewish religious parlance is the "Torah." This Hebrew word, meaning literally "the Teaching," refers to the overall body of G-dly wisdom given to the Jews, beginning with the Bible.

The Greeks were willing to recognize the Torah, or even accept it as a



RABBI Y.M. KAGAN

perfect and beautiful literary creation, a work of poetry, wisdom, profound philosophy, etc. - provided it was considered as a human creation - like their own mythology (for sure a human invention - with the deities represented in human shapes and forms, with human characteristics and passions.) As such, the essential core principles of the Torah could be and ought to be changed and modified from time to time, so as to be politi-

cally correct, to harmonize with the character of the ruling class and the novel ideas of the period. Such an approach, as planned by the Greeks, would gradually do away with the permanence and immutability of such well-known Jewish religious practices as the Sabbath, circumcision, and other commandments.

In a word, the Greeks did not aim at the suppression of the Torah, but at its acceptance as the G-d given word, as G-d's Torah.

Similarly, the Greeks were not adverse to the moral and ethical values contained in Torah, but they prohibited the so-called "supera-rational" precepts - such as keeping kosher - which, more than any other, distinguish the Jewish way of life and make it specifically Jewish, holy and pure.

Hanukkah reminds us that the greatest danger to the Jewish way of life lies not in the threat of extinguishing its light completely, but rather in the tendency to defile it by

feeding contaminated "oil" to its "Menorah." This tendency expresses itself in many ways: in the worship of materialism and material success; in the presentation of one man-made ideology after the other as the panacea of all human ills; in the idolatry of science and technology; in the tendency to measure everything by the yardstick of human reason.

Such attitudes do not necessarily rule out "religious experience," but either confine it to a narrow domain or worse still, produce a sort of pseudo-religiosity, where consecration and commitment are sacrificed to convenience and compromise.

Hanukkah teaches Israel and us that the sanctity and purity of Jewish life must, can, and will be preserved at all costs.

Rabbi Y.M. Kagan is with the Lubavitch Foundation in Farmington Hills.

Messiah's magic found on the road with strangers

The bus pulled out of New York City's Port Authority 10 minutes late. It was a cold, wind-swept Christmas morning with no traces of snow to cover the litter-strewn city. The streets were virtually empty, a rare sight at any time of the year in New York.

The bus, too, was nearly empty. An elderly couple in the front who would later get off in Westchester County; a young man, military looking, who immediately fell asleep; a middle-aged woman and her young daughter, who did not seem to belong on a Greyhound bus at 8:10 a.m. on Christmas.

The driver made no acknowledgment of my entry. He, in fact, made no sound until another driver relieved him in Rochester. Even the little girl was remarkably quiet for the entire trip.

It was the first Christmas in what was then for me 24 Christmases in which I did not awake in my childhood home. I must confess a part of me felt free and very adult. Another part, however, felt very alone. Christmas dinner was a hamburger and some cardboard-like French fries in the bus station in Albany. The waitress was cheerful. She was in her late 40s or early 50s and widowed, she told me. Her only child was a son who could not get home for Christmas. That is why she decided to work. Everyone who comes in today will be my family, she said.

She gave me a big hug when I left and wished me a Merry Christmas. It was a genuine, motherly hug.

Between Albany and Rochester, I struck up a conversation with the middle-aged woman. She too was headed for Buffalo and her family



REV. RICHARD MARTZOLF

■ Rather than alone and forlorn, I began to feel peacefully present with Christ. It is a feeling I would later identify as Immanuel: God with us.

home. She had to work Christmas Eve and hated that her daughter would spend Christmas on a bus, but she had no other choice.

We spoke of past Christmases, our best and our worst. We weren't sure where this one would fall, but we knew it wouldn't be the best.

It was a 12-hour bus trip. Somewhere on the journey I realized I was both connected to and now disconnected from my family in a new way. I would, in fact, spend only one more Christmas Day in the home of my birth. While something was lost on that trip, something new began to emerge. As I stared at the miles of frozen upstate New York farmland, I began to feel a unique sense of my own identity.

Rather than alone and forlorn, I

began to feel peacefully present with Christ. It is a feeling I would later identify as Immanuel: God with us.

What I will never forget about that trip is that for the first time I saw Christmas as being transcendent of time and place. Christmas was not only in family, trees and presents. It was also in strangers, aloneness and memory. While circumstances may vary and one may say this Christmas was better than that, the real power of Christmas is not in the circumstances. It is the inner experience of the God who is with us.

Peace to all, the angels proclaim. For unto you is born a Messiah. Peace to all.

The Rev. Richard Martzolf is the pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church on Farmington Road in Livonia. He is a Livonia resident and a former newspaper reporter.

Traditions of yuletide endure

When I was growing up, way back in the pre-television days of the '40s and '50s, the favored entertainment for my parents and their circle of friends was to get together and sing Christmas carols.

Each Christmastime, they would gather at a different house, sing for an hour or so, have a drink, sing again and finally break for a buffet supper.

And everybody had favorites. My mother's was the dramatic tale told in "The Coventry Carol." Mine was and still is "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming," calling up such intense associations of the burning faith of the Middle Ages. Who could resist that soaring tenor line from "The First Noel"?

One family in the group was German in origin, so at the end of the evening we always sang a verse of "Silent Night" in German, "Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht" ringing in our ears as we walked through the snow to the car.

Everybody knew the words; most knew the parts.

Why? Because they were taught to every kid in elementary school. Back when I was in school, we always had Christmas trees and the Creche, complete with animals and Wise Men.

Nobody thought much about whether kids who were not Christian were made to feel uncomfortable by the practice. Most people back then simply assumed that Christian observances of Christmas were the appropriate expression of the dominant culture of America. And if Jewish kids who celebrated Hanukkah or black kids who followed Kwanzaa felt left out or put down, that was just too bad.

Of course, it was precisely that unthinking assumption of a dominant religious culture that led to the wholesale application of the First Amendment to state-supported schools and to the consequent elimination of religious practices such as Christmas carols from the school curriculum.

And although some may regret the way the First Amendment has now been interpreted so as to ban entirely all forms of religious practice from the schools, that may be a satisfactory tradeoff in a diverse America that seeks to respect all forms of religious commitment.

I found myself reflecting on this over the weekend because my wife, Kathy, and I have resurrected the old practice of my parents' generation and make our big annual holiday party a Christmas sing. We invite lots of friends, Christian and not, with the clear understanding that we will be singing carols from 5-6:30 p.m., when we stop and have cocktails and nibbles.



PHILIP POWER

I suppose all this is politically incorrect, but I don't much care. It's a lovely celebration of the season. It's consistent with my family's culture. And if some people don't want to sing Christmas carols, they can come after 6:30.

In fact, it turns out that a lot of the people most happily singing at our party this year were Jewish.

How did they learn the carols? Just the same way I did - in elementary school back in the '40s and '50s.

But that mechanism certainly isn't available to our kids.

Does that mean that Scott and Nathan, our children, will never enjoy Christmas carols in the way my parents did and I do? Or that the only way they will learn them is through the pre-masticated Christmas pop culture propagated by radio and TV?

No. It means that Kathy and I will have to teach them, include them in our caroling parties, talk with them about how much the carols and our tradition mean to us as a family. It means that we will urge our church to include carol singing as a regular part of Sunday school.

It means that the ways by which the particular culture of our family will be carried on from generation to generation will be up to us to build and develop as a family. We won't be able to rely on the all-too-easy assumption of my parents' day that the schools are going to do it for us.

It's harder. But it's better. Because it requires us to go to the conscious effort of identifying those parts of our family culture that we feel are of such value as to take the time and trouble to pass them on to our children.

Including singing "Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht" at the end of caroling parties.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (313) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@online.com.

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POINTS OF VIEW

Good manners go a long way in bringing peace

Rather than get weak in the knees at the consumer juggernaut that Christmas can become, I turn my mind to the mysteries and the hopes of the holiday.

Certainly we all pray for peace on earth, but while we're at it why not ask politely for the blessing of good manners? Peace on earth might well be the result of such a gift.

Don't give me that "kids these days" rigmarole because those kids have parents my age and my truly senior friends are quick to chime in about the appalling attitudes of many peers.

My godmother in her 80s passed away recently. Sweet, and something of a flapper in her youth, great-aunt Ollie died a very modest widow with no children of her own, but near to the extended families of us all.

When discussing the funeral, my mom told me how Olive's best friend actually asked - during the funeral - my aunt Shirley for an old stereo she had given to Ollie long ago. The day

after Shirley received a letter from someone out of state requesting the return of a microwave that was so antique it was made of steel. Now there's a sentimental sapsucker.

I felt uncomfortable when I saw a headline in this paper that read "No tears for Young" with a quote reading "he raped the city for 20 years."

I have only lived in Michigan for five years and I am certainly not as knowledgeable of politics as I'd like to be, but "rough things" hardly describes putting in print such plain and painfully bad manners when the fellow was not yet properly mourned.

One can only wonder what will one day be said of such callous persons when they pass, not to mention as they live. That old chestnut "If you haven't got anything good to say, say nothing at all" seems to have been lost on more than one generation.

When tempted to bemoan tasteless talk, I try to remember that as a country only a more than a couple hundred years old, America is as yet, shall we

GUEST COLUMNIST



DOROTHY MATSU

say, immature in our behavior. I grew up in the despicable "turn on-tune out" years with nothing to rely on but the example of my mother - thank God!

Later I would work out the intricacies of manners that would never be more essential than on the canvas training in the martial arts. To say that sound and sincere manners make or break you on the mat is physically fitting - she who feels it knows it.

It is hardly surprising that some

Every year we get another chance to do it right so don't get your knickers in a twist. We are taught that the babe in the manger had nothing and gave his life. The least we should do is keep in mind that the key to the mystery of Christmas may be in forgiving and forgetting.

folk become despondent around the holidays because along with all our happy memories we also reflect on those awkward moments when we might have been more charitable in our hearts and less of a pain in the manger.

The idea that Christmas is for giving and for getting a sack of stuff inevitably provokes ingratitude and miserable manners in many.

Every year we get another chance to do it right so don't get your knickers in a twist. Keep it simple and joyful. We are taught that the babe in the manger had nothing and gave his

life. The least we should do is keep in mind that the key to the mystery of Christmas may be in forgiving and forgetting.

Manners make the man and the woman. So I will try to keep that thought as close to me as our dream of Peace on Earth. Cheers!

Dorothy Matsu lives in Old Village and writes about life and living in a community. If you are interested in submitting a guest column, please contact Joanne Maliszewski, Plymouth Observer editor, at 459-2700 or write to 794 S. Main, Plymouth, Mich. 48170.

LETTERS

Donor facts

For the last several months, I have been helping with the Harold Hemphill Bone Marrow Drive in the Belleville area. In the course of talking with individuals and with public groups, it has become obvious to me that there are a few important points about being tested and/or being a bone marrow donor that are not casually known by most people. I must admit until I got involved I didn't know them either. I would appreciate it if you would share this letter with your readers.

First, all it takes is a simple blood test, exactly the same process your doctor would use to draw two small vials of blood. The first vial is used to determine your HLA numbers which are used for the purpose of matching your marrow with that of a potential recipient. The second vial is kept for verification should the first results indicate a potential match. The testing costs are only \$65 and free for anyone who is not able to pay (this is why we are raising money). Here's what I consider great news. With your permission, your HLA numbers will be posted on the National Bone Marrow Registry. Your bone marrow could be a gift of life to anyone in the country, a child or an adult. Considering for a moment what time of year it is, how could anyone give a greater gift?

Second, the actual process of donating your marrow is, in my opinion, an insignificant event. The donation process is as simple as this: usually a general anesthetic is given, or if you have a pain block from the waist down so you remain awake, then a doctor removes the marrow from your pelvic bone with a syringe. That's it - you're done. Normally, you will stay at the hospital overnight, because of the use of an anesthetic, and the after-effects are that of a sore muscle for a week or so. Your marrow replaces itself in a few weeks, you don't miss it at all. It's that simple. And someone is potentially saved from one of many cancers (breast cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, etc).

Third, you won't get AIDS in the process (only sterile equipment is used), don't assume you can't donate because of a past or present medical condition or prescription drugs you may be taking. Your marrow is not necessarily affected by these concerns as I found out during the screening process before my blood sample was taken.

Fourth, if your marrow is found to match someone, then and only then will you be confidentially contacted by the Red Cross. You do not have to donate. It is always your choice and at any time you can change your mind. No ques-

tions, no problem.

The medical community continues to fight these terrible diseases, as a result the need for bone marrow transplants are on the rise. Together we can fight these battles, together we can win! You never know which side of a transplant you could be on.

Bob Thorne

Support is welcome

Kathy Mount is volunteering her time and effort on behalf of C.S. Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan Health System to generate support for the Child Life and Volunteer Services Departments. Her work is an extension of the Brandy Pet Walk, which the Plymouth area so generously supported.

Thanks to the response of so many contributors for so many years, Kathy's non-profit organization, the Brandy Memorial Fundraiser, has solicited funds and contributed educational and recreational materials valued at more than \$150,000 to Mott Children's Hospital.

This combined support of money and in-kind gifts is critical to the respective missions of Child Life and Volunteer Services, especially for children who are hospitalized for extended periods and who are challenged to overcome serious injuries and illnesses. These programs and activities serve as the primary resource for children to enjoy some degree of normalcy in their lives during their recovery and rehabilitation.

Your contribution will be used directly by C.S. Mott Children's Hospital for the benefit of its young patients and your gift will be formally acknowledged for tax purposes.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Larry Warren
Ann Arbor

Thank you

During the month of October, and in conjunction with "Make a Difference Day," I coordinated a drive for brand new socks to be distributed to the needy.

Through the great cooperation of the senior center at the Summit, the library, our local Target store, and the Hoben Elementary School, over 500 pairs of new socks were collected.

The socks were delivered to the Canton Goodfellows, Salvation Army, and the Clothing Bank for distribution to those in need before the holidays. Thank you to those who contributed.

Anne Evans
Canton

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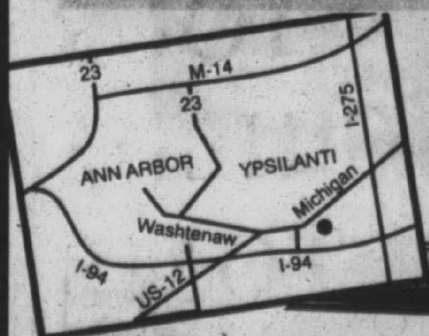
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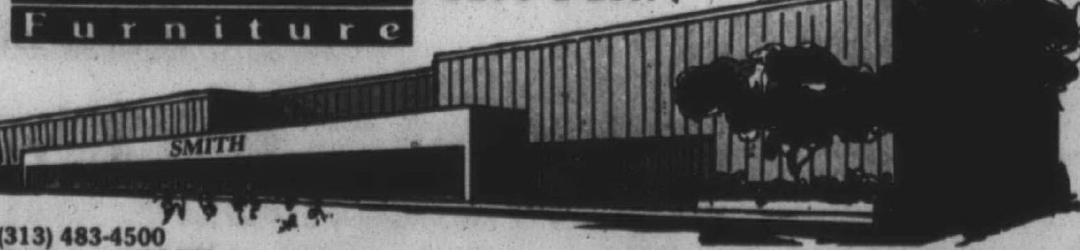
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COMMON SENSORS



JACQUE MARTIN DOWNS

Teen moms benefit from giving time

Samuel is just 1 year old. His little eyes show unconditional love for his mommy as she holds him tightly. But when he's placed into the arms of the child care worker, his dancing eyes stop dancing as he realizes that he's being transferred from loving arms to a stranger.

His mom has just turned 15, is not married, and has a quasi-boyfriend in the wings. Her tempestuous relationship with her mom and a non-relationship with her stepdad make life miserable, but she knows that finding a place of her own is out of the question.

Samuel's family worries that she's going to ask for child support; she worries that he's going to disappear. Finishing high school seems "iffy" at this point ... her future looks dim.

Samuel and all of the babies like him belong to the adolescent mothers and fathers who participate in our program known as Young Mother's Assistance Program (Y-MAP). Our most recent Y-MAP function involved our prevention team putting on our annual holiday monthly support group and party for the teen parents and their babies. This particular night's presentation was on alcohol, advertising and how large companies lure teens into drinking.

Our speaker masterfully captured the 85 teens' attention as he enthusiastically conveyed the point that every teen is being sucked in by the alcohol industry to buy alcoholic beverages.

We are very proud of our Y-MAP program because it services a population of unmarried teens who don't get a lot of support. Unmarried teen moms aren't a crowd who have made smart choices. They know it, their parents know it and their babies are a product of those choices.

Our job is to advocate for the babies. This includes helping the parent by steering him or her toward resources he or she is in need of (food, housing, baby formula, diapers). It includes teaching them parenting skills, about the hazards of substance abuse and abuse and advocating for them to finish school.

All of this is done to ensure that they will be the best parents they can be. It's to the taxpayer's advantage, too, because we hope to keep these single parents clear of substance abuse, off the welfare rolls and give their children a jump-start to begin preschool and kindergarten with the same skills as their peers.

A time to give thanks

We are particularly grateful this holiday season to all the unsung heroes who contributed gifts to the young mothers.

The Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia donated their church for our support group meeting. Their members (from children to adults) participated in a drive to give sleepers and books to the "newborn babe" which were ultimately given to the teens and babies.

We also appreciate all of the Hegira staff who contributed gifts (Livonia Counseling, Northville Counseling, Romulus Help Center, Westland Counseling, Next Step, Oakdale Treatment Facility, Hegira House, Psychiatric Intervention Center and Hegira's fiscal and administration).

We thank the Canton Target Store for the donated Christmas tree, Sears Portrait Studio for the coupons for photographs, a Euchre Club and a group of Moms of Toddlers donations, Schellhase, Rekiel and Mitcham of Livonia for their sleepers and books and an individual donation of toys and personal hygiene products.

But mostly, as a prevention director, I am most proud of the prevention team. The dedication of these young ladies is extraordinary. Every member of the team participates to make the support group evenings fun. Each

Please see SENSORS, B2

ENTHUSIASTS DISCOVER *Magic* IN THE CARDS

Interested in visiting dark magical lands? One way is through Magic: The Gathering, a trading card game that has cornered 70 percent of the games market since coming out in 1992.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

As a wizard, Shelby Lincoln has no mercy. She is grinning, having just drained the life from her friend and fellow wizard Garrett Brink.

"I always beat him," Lincoln said enthusiastically with the emphasis on "always."

Lincoln and Brink, both Canton Township residents, are visiting dark, magical lands where wizards roam, fight off each other's spells and hope to end their rivals' lives.

Their fascination is with Magic: The Gathering, a trading card game so hot that kids - and adults - will pay upward of \$160 for a card that's out of print. The alternative rock festival Lollapalooza even had a booth devoted to Magic at its stop at Pine Knob last summer. There's a \$1 million pro tour, and the finals were televised on ESPN 2 this fall.

Since Bo Milbank of Westland picked up Magic three to four years ago, the game has "continued burning its way through the current games. It's kind of taking over the market."

"It's put a lot of companies out of business; 70 percent of the market for games was being eaten by Wizards of the Coast (the makers of Magic)," said Milbank, who runs a Friday night gaming league at the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland. "Companies like TSR have actually filed for bankruptcy. Since 1992, over one billion cards have been sold. These guys are rich beyond their wildest dreams at this point."

Jason Freese of Rider's Hobby Shop

Variety: Mike Wroblewski, owner of Merri-Seven Coins in Livonia, shows off the Black Lotus card as well as the decks, priced at \$8.95, and some of the 2,731 individual cards players can buy for Magic: The Gathering.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Dueling wizards: Female players like Shelby Lincoln, who challenges fellow Canton resident Garrett Brink to a game of Magic: The Gathering, are few and far between, according to league organizers. For players like the Canton Township youths, the Black Lotus card (top photo, center), is a very rare card that makes it possible for a player to win in the opening hand.

in Canton Township said that marketing has upped the status of Magic.

"It's picked up considerably especially after the commercials started airing," said Freese, standing in front of a wall of shelves holding different boxes of Magic cards.

Freese himself is an avid player having been introduced to it two years ago. "I enjoy the challenge and all the different cards," the 21-year-old music student from Belleville said. "There's tons of different expansion sets, and there's thousands and thousands of

cards. The game's never the same."

Game of strategy

The object of Magic is to reduce your opponent's score from 20 to 0 by strategically playing cards that among other things cast spells and attack.

Cards are sold in decks, which cost about \$8.95. Players build their decks by purchasing multiple decks or any of the 2,731 individual cards from dealers. They must have a minimum of 40 cards to play Magic, although Freese and Milbank suggest 60.

Players begin by shuffling their decks and drawing seven cards. They alternate taking turns. Each turn is made up of a series of actions, such as playing cards and attacking their opponent.

The cards are of five different backgrounds - white, blue, black, red or green - each of which is a spell. The remaining colorless cards are either artifacts (another type of spell) or lands.

Mike Wroblewski of Merri-Seven Coins in Livonia, explained that there are also five different branches or lands of Magic - forest, island, mountain, plains and swamps. Lands create the energy (mana) needed to play spells.

The basic strategy of Magic lies in choosing when to play your cards and when to use your creatures to attack your opponent or protect yourself. More complex strategies involve combining your cards to make them more

powerful and choosing which cards to use in your deck to make it most effective.

"We like to say that Magic is a combination of the strategy of chess, the bluffing ability of poker and just the luck of the draw," Wroblewski said.

A child's version of the game called Portal spells out the game using a paper game board.

"They have portals for little kids and ignorant people," said Lincoln, as she pulls it out to teach the basics of the game.

While Shelby and Garrett played a game, Lincoln's mother, Pam, explained why her daughter enjoys Magic.

"Shelby likes imagination and fantasy things. She reads a lot of fantasy books," said Pam Lincoln of her daughter, a student at Plymouth's East Middle School. Garrett attends Lowell Middle School.

According to Milbank, Shelby Lincoln is in the minority.

"We see usually male (players)," Milbank said. "We do have a couple of gals who show up; a lot of teen-agers. It's hard to have an average player. We have a lot of high school kids, college kids, adults in their 40s. It runs the full spectrum."

"My wife calls it the 'Geek Fest' and I'm the 'Lord of the Geeks.' Truthfully, there are some geeks there, but for the most part it's non-geeks who have

Please see MAGIC, B2

Guide has the answers to parental questions

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Most parents would love to have thousands of pediatricians at their fingertips, available to answer questions about their child's growth problems, allergic reactions, coordination deficiencies and countless other concerns.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics Guide to Your Child's Symptoms" offers caregivers insights into the 100 most common childhood symptoms. Topics include fears, frequently ill children, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, irritability, posture defects and temper tantrums as well as learning, speech and vision problems.

"I think it will be a very good book for working parents when their child wakes up and they don't know whether to go to work or to the doctor's office," said Dr. George L. Blum, a pediatrician who shares his Southfield practice with his son, Robert, Dr. Celeste Lopez and Dr. Penny Coin. "They will get very good advice from this book."

Released last month, the book is a quick reference guide, allowing the reader to flip to specific areas according to symptoms.

"It covers a lot of health issues that parents worry about," said Blum, who is immediate past president of the Michigan chapter of the AAP.

Blum also works on its national committees and is newsletter editor of the "Michigan Pediatric Update" and a clinical associate professor at Wayne State University's School of Medicine.

The AAP is an organization of more than 53,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children and young adults.

The book is designed to give parents reassurance about common health problems and

Please see GUIDE, B2

American Academy of Pediatrics



THE OFFICIAL, COMPLETE HOME REFERENCE

GUIDE TO YOUR CHILD'S SYMPTOMS

BIRTH THROUGH ADOLESCENCE

ILLUSTRATED • STEP-BY-STEP

DONALD SCHEFF, M.D., F.A.P.P., AND STEVEN P. THORPE, M.D., M.P., F.A.P.P., EDITORS

Volunteerism nets nonprofits grants from Ameritech

Eight nonprofits are on the receiving end of contributions from the Ameritech Foundation, recognizing their employees' volunteerism.

The foundation has contributed a total of \$189,000 in grants to 151 eligible nonprofit organizations in Michigan through an employee program designed to increase support for volunteerism and community service.

The Ameritech Pioneer Program for Employee Volunteerism and Community Service, now in its third year, provides contributions of up to \$1,000 to organizations for which Ameritech employees have volunteered eight hours a month for at least six months in 1997. There were 201 employees in the state who

participated in the program this year.

"The program's goals are threefold - to recognize Ameritech employees who volunteer their time to community service, to provide an incentive for other Ameritech employees to donate their time, and to link the Ameritech Foundation's grant making with employee involvement," said Lisa Hamway, director of corporate contributions for Ameritech in Michigan.

Kathleen Tell of Livonia landed a grant for the Girl Scouts for her volunteerism. Tell, who works in product management at Ameritech, has been a troop leader for 11 years for senior scout troops at Novi, Livonia

Stevenson and Redford Thurston High schools.

Ameritech engineer Robert Desoff of Plymouth was recognized for his efforts with the MacTechnics Ann Arbor Computers Users Group Inc., where he serves as the newsletter editor and on the community service project team in addition to being an all-around volunteer.

Benefiting from Thomas Napolitano's volunteerism was the Southeast Michigan Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Inc. A Livonia resident and Ameritech software engineer, Napolitano currently is its treasurer. The group works with other organizations on such things as World Medical Relief, Motor City Blight Busters and

Habitat for Humanity.

Two organizations have benefited from the work of Al Calille of Plymouth. Cub Scout Pack 1532 has enjoyed his help with its Pinewood Derby, overnight campouts and other activities. And the Plymouth Family YMCA receives pro bono legal counsel from Calille, an Ameritech attorney.

Sharon Waite of Redford, an Ameritech engineer, has been devote her time to the Huron Forest Camp Cherith Inc. She is a vice-president and member of its Board of Directors and technology committee. She also has been involved in weekend projects, hands-on events and served as a tent counselor at the camp.

Angela Hospice Home Care Inc. is the beneficiary of Elaine Stewart of Westland's volunteerism and a recipient of a foundation grant. Waite is a human resource specialist at Ameritech and volunteers in patient care at the Angela Hospice Home. She also helps train volunteers for the agency's bereavement team and coordinates the Angela Hospice Choir.

And Joseph Dluzniewski of Livonia has been giving his time to the Metro West District of the Boy Scouts. A customer service specialist, he has served as an assistant pack leader and in organizing trips for the Boy Scouts.

Ameritech has a tradition of giving back to the communities

it serves. Last year, the company contributed more than \$25 million to 2,000 nonprofit organizations and Ameritech Pioneers - 25,000 employees and retirees throughout the Midwest - volunteered 332,500 hours of community service.

"The heart of any corporation can be measured by how enthusiastically its people give back to their communities," Hamway said. "Day in and day out, the men and women of Ameritech increase the size of Ameritech's heart through cheerful giving."

"They have a long-standing desire to strengthen their communities and empower their neighbors, and they willingly offer their time and talent to make a difference."

Magic from page B1

other interests outside Magic."

Taking it seriously

Merri-Seven is one of eight or 10 "arena stores" in the area which hold monthly tournaments under the auspices of Wizards of the Coast. Wroblewski and his store's assistant manager, Ramon Moore, serve as judges.

The new season begins in early January when Merri-Seven will move to Merriman and Five Mile roads. It costs \$3-\$5 for the season.

"If you join the arena here you can go to any other arena in the country," Wroblewski said. "It's being played all over the world."

"Occasionally, Milbank will hold a 'tournament illegal,' where the rules are 'considerably different' than arena play, at the Bailey Center.

"They can build a deck anyway

they want; all the standard rules for Magic are dissolved for that night," he said. "You're not allowed to have more than four of any particular card, but on our night, if you want to run 25 lightning bolts, you can do it."

On Friday, Dec. 19, Milbank hosted a tournament where players had to use "Christmas decks." All the decks had to include red and green cards or any other artifact with a Christmas motif to it.

Besides selling the cards, which Wroblewski and Moore have done since 1993, and judging tournaments, the duo teaches adults and children how to play.

"There's a lot of parents who come in here with their children who want to get involved," Wroblewski said. "They like to know that when their kids get into it, there's someone to answer ques-

tions. The game is not totally self-evident. Parents like that option because they don't want to learn the game."

Wroblewski and Moore said they get a lot of "gun slingers" who come in to the store, thinking they can beat them at Magic. One high school student strutted into Merri-Seven with an entourage and said he wanted to play Ramon. He wasn't available, so Wroblewski offered to play.

"I had one absolutely silly deck, but it was for jokes and one that was a tournament level deck," he said. "I asked him which deck he wanted to play. He picks the silly deck. To make a long story short, he got me down to seven or eight points. He thought he was doing really good and stuff. His buddies were all slapping him on the back for

taking care of the big guy."

"The big guy," Wroblewski, pulled out a Eureka card which allows the player to play all the permanent cards in his or her hand.

"Because of the way the kid was playing, instead of having seven cards in my hand, I had 20-21 cards in my hand," he said. "I attacked him with just enough stuff, so he couldn't defend himself. No matter how he did it, he was going to lose. He looked down there and it looked like he had a tear in his eye."

"He picked up his cards and walked out. His little entourage had their heads down following him. As he was walking out the door, I asked him, 'You want to play my good deck next?' I didn't see him for about a month."

Leagues cater to fans

Magic: The Gathering leagues are held in at least two locations in this area:

■ Bo Milbank hosts The Battlefield, a gaming night for Magic: The Gathering, Warhammer 40K, Warhammer Fantasy and Necromunda, 6-10 p.m. Fridays at the Melvin G. Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road (half mile west of Wayne Road, behind City Hall), Westland.

The cost is \$3 per night. Those ages 12 and older are admitted. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

■ Merri-Seven Coins hosts a Magic league, held under the auspices of Wizards of the Coast, the makers of Magic. The next season begins in January when Merri-Seven Coins will move from 19159 Merriman Road to its new location at Merriman and Five Mile roads.

The \$3-5 cost allows players to participate in tournaments in any arena store in the United States. For more information, call (248) 474-5373.

Guide from page B1

possibly calm them down, if they're overreacting to something that really isn't serious.

"Or, it could alert them to something that they hadn't thought about," Blum said referring to warnings listed on each page, highlighting symptoms

that should be taken seriously and warrant calling a doctor for more information.

The second part of the book is an illustrated first aid manual, which covers lifesaving techniques and how to treat less serious situations such as bites,

stings, cuts and scrapes. Safety issues concerning playpens, bathtubs and what to do in poisoning situations also are addressed.

"Most all of the publications of the American Academy of Pediatrics are well-written and well-received," Blum said. "They're a good source of information and quite accurate."

Previous AAP books include "Caring for Your Baby and Young Child" and "Caring for Your School Age Child," which combined have more than 1 million copies in print. Both books were selected by Child magazine

as one of the best parenting books of the year.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics Guide to Your Child's Symptoms" is available at Borders Book Stores and other major outlets for \$25.

"It's a comprehensive book and, if someone is buying one book for the care of their child, this certainly would be the book to get," Blum said. "I think it's a very good book for parents of children of different age groups."

The AAP was founded in 1930 by 35 pediatricians who met in Detroit in response to the need

for an independent pediatric forum to address children's needs. The group tackles drug, tobacco and alcohol problems, learning and behavioral disorders, issues concerning disabled children, sports medicine, nutrition, child-health financing, public education, professional education and advocacy for pediatricians.

"These are all things that we learn from our academy and our readings," Blum said. "Doctors are always studying. We're always trying to get better at what we do and we try to keep

one step ahead of the parent who reads a lot, too."

During 30 years of practicing medicine, Blum said the most common question he hears is from mothers asking if their newborns are healthy.

"That's the most important thing we can tell the parent of a new baby, but unfortunately we can't tell that to everybody," Blum said.

The next most common question Blum hears is from parents asking if their child's immunizations are up-to-date.

Think Trim founder has tips for the holidays

The holidays have arrived ... so has the parties, gifts of food and even more parties.

If you're like most Americans, you will gain between 7 and 10 pounds this holiday season. So should you succumb to the temptations of the season and vow to diet in the New Year?

"No," says Lorraine Stefano, founder and director of Think Trim. You can enjoy the holidays without gaining weight and she has a few healthy holiday tips to help you out.

(1) Go through the buffet line twice. Yes, twice. Start by going through the line without your plate. Look over the entire buffet and make some choices. Then go through with your plate, remembering you can have some but not all.

(2) Stuff your turkey, not yourself. Stuffing is truly only for turkeys. Sample some of the holiday food but remember moderation is the key. Try to leave the party feeling satisfied, not stuffed.

(3) Don't be fooled by the gift wrap. Many holiday foods are around all year long. The red and green foil-wrapped chocolate Santa tastes the same as the chocolate pumpkin you ate a few months ago. The reindeer Christmas cookie is only a sugar cookie in disguise.

(4) Choose healthy alternatives. This is the perfect time of year to redo that old family recipe by making some healthy substitutions. Instead of whole eggs, use egg substitutes. Instead of regular cheese or sour

cream, use the nonfat variety.

(5) Stay active. With the holidays, schedules become busier, but plan time to exercise. Remember any exercise is better than no exercise and you can even make exercise a part of your holiday celebration with family and friends. Take a long walk in the neighborhood to see

all the holiday decorations, build a snowman, go ice skating, dance to all your favorite Christmas carols.

(6) Start now. Think of how much further along you'll be in Jan. 1.

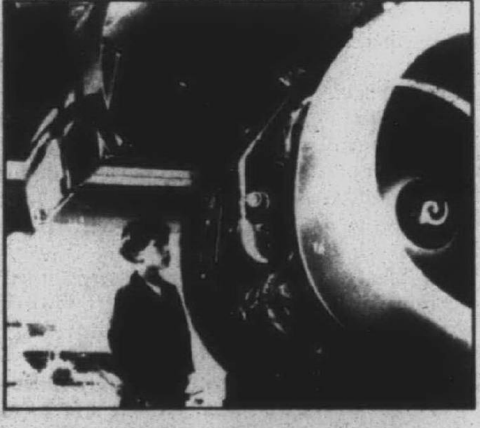
For more information about the Think Trim program, call (248) 589-3283.

Sensors from page B1

of them shows a tireless commitment which does not go unnoticed by the teens. So if you ever run into Jan Yuergens, Connie Moore, Ty Madge, Sherri Fick or Sue Beck, give them a pat on the back. They work relentlessly to get these teens back on track.

They, too, are holiday heroes.

If you have a question or comment for Jacques Martin Downs, a prevention specialist and the director of Hegira Prevention Programs, write her at The Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



You'll be flying in a jet maintained by Tommy.

When Tommy grows up, he'll be an aircraft mechanic. Perhaps he'll work on a jet that you fly in some day.

By then, the job will require an advanced knowledge of chemistry, physics, and trigonometry. Unfortunately, very few kids are being prepared to master such sophisticated subjects.

If we want children who can handle tomorrow's good jobs, more kids need to take more challenging academic courses.

To find out how you can help the effort to raise standards in America's schools, please call 1-800-96-PROMISE.

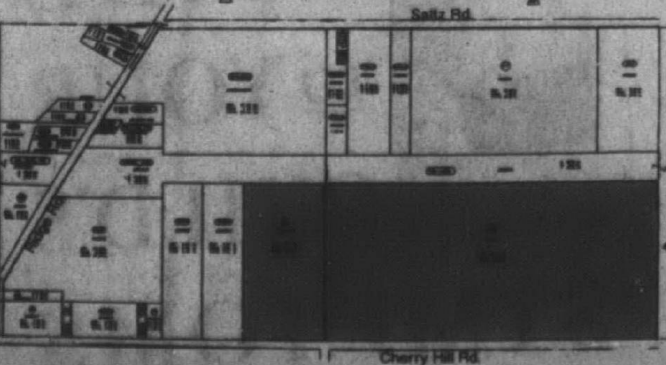
If we all pitch in and help, America will get where it needs to go.

Education Excellence Partnership **Ad Council**

CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 19, 1998, in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

CONSIDER A REQUEST TO ESTABLISH CHERRY HILL VILLAGE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PDD) AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 27.04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUSIVE OF PARCEL NOS. 067 99 0011 000 AND 072 99 0022 000. Properties are located on the north side of Cherry Hill Road between Ridge and Beck Roads. Preliminary Plan-1st Public Hearing.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission will be received at the above address up to the time of the hearing.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Published: December 24 and January 8, 1998

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Charter Township of Canton will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk, first floor, 1150 Canton Center Road S., Canton, Michigan 48188, until 10:00 a.m., January 14, 1998 for the following:

HISTORIC TRAVIS HOUSE - DRYWALL WORK

All bidders are required to attend a bid meeting at the Travis House site, 500 N. Ridge Road, Canton, Michigan on Wednesday, January 7, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. for a project walk through and to receive detailed bid information regarding this project. Questions about the project may be directed to the Resource Development Division, 734-397-5389.

Late bids will not be accepted. Canton Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Canton Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY BENNETT Clerk

Published: December 25, 1997

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

Sealed bids will be received by the Charter Township of Canton Clerk's Office, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, MI 48188 until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 15, 1998, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following described project:

TOWING SERVICE FOR CANTON TOWNSHIP

The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Published: December 25, 1997

Read Sports

CANTON TOWNSHIP ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley
ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton
1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(313) 397-5435

Published: December 11 and 24, 1997

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Charter Township of Canton will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk, first floor, 1150 Canton Center Road S., Canton, Michigan 48188, until 10:00 a.m., January 15, 1998 for the following:

PURCHASE OF ONE (1) COPIER WITH 20 BIN SORTER

Bid specifications are available in the Finance and Budget Dept. Canton Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Published: December 25, 1997

Sheph
Fred S. announce his daughter to Jon Pa of Ray a Livonia. The bride of the late is a 1993 Churchi pursuing engineering University May 1998. Her fian uate of Li School an the Center. He is emp Chrysler C. A May planned i

Carlisl
Jim an Livonia a ment of t Anne, to S son, the s Harrison c. The bride uate of Li School. SH from Gran sity in Api chology/sp minor in e. Her fian uate of Li School an Grand Va with a de, eances. H acceptance. A July Memorial Livonia.

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Listings 1 should b no later t next Thu be mail 36251 48150, 7279. F call (313) SCHOOL Applicat for the sp 7 at Scho Haggerty is \$90 for \$55 for a \$40 for a 8-by-4-fo is an addi tricity. Ap received f for the fir receive ar departm developm **MADONNA** Madonna ing applic its 13th a crafts sho p.m. Mar Center on and Leva measurin two chair table is \$ tricity are additional purchase Crafters v count is t by Feb. 1 call the u 5/9/98

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

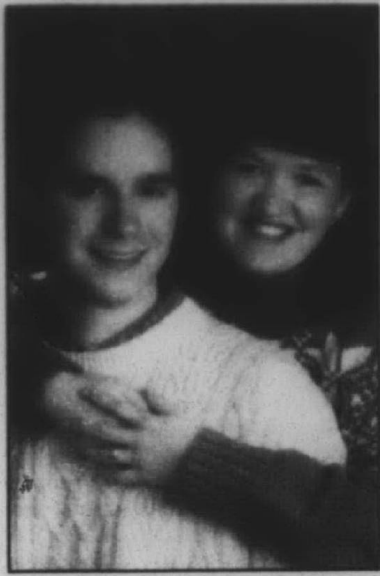
Shepherd-Gaudreau

Fred Shepherd of Livonia announces the engagement of his daughter, Alison Kathleen, to Jon Paul Gaudreau, the son of Ray and Barb Gaudreau of Livonia.

The bride-to-be, the daughter of the late Kathleen Shepherd, is a 1993 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and is pursuing a degree in chemical engineering at Michigan State University. She will graduate in May 1998.

Her fiancé also is a 1993 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and a 1997 graduate of the Center for Creative Studies. He is employed as a designer for Chrysler Corp. in Auburn Hills.

A May 1998 wedding is planned in St. Aidan Catholic



Church in Livonia.

Mokanyk-Jensen

William Theodore Mokanyk of Greensburg, Ind., and Julie Elizabeth Jensen of Plymouth were married July 4 at Old St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Ann Arbor by the Rev. Terrence Dumas.

The bride is the daughter of John and Arlene Jensen of Plymouth. The groom is the son of John and JoAnn Mokanyk of Greensburg, Ind.

The bride received a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a secondary teaching certification from Eastern Michigan University. She is currently teaching at Northville High School.

The groom earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana University. He is employed by National Speciality Services.

The bride asked Katie Randlett to serve as her matron of honor with Julie Rohrig, Christine Kelly, Erin Flanagan, Tammy Ho and Claire Goff as bridesmaids.



Darren Mokanyk served as the best man with Erik Jensen, Chris Chapman, Ryan Schutte, Travis Snyder, Kevin Foster and Mike Greiwe as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at the Mayflower Meeting House in Plymouth before leaving on a honeymoon trip to Grand Cayman.

Miller-Whitmore

Michael William Miller of Livonia and Rachel Suzanne Whitmore of Plymouth were married Oct. 25 at Our Lady of Orchard Lake Church by the Rev. John Sullivan.

The bride is the daughter of David and Irene Whitmore of Plymouth. The groom is the son of Regis and Kathy Miller of Livonia.

The bride is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School, Michigan State University and Madonna University. She is currently employed with a Detroit law firm.

The groom is a graduate of Wayne Memorial High School and Michigan State University. He is currently employed with Isuzu Motors of America.

The bride asked Jan Hartford to serve as her matron of honor, with Jennifer Graskewicz, Jennifer Mankarious, Marcie Bilesimo, Lea Anna Brunzman and Elizabeth Kuehne as bridesmaids. Toni Bilesimo was the flower girl.

Glenn Moore served as best man, with Mark Miller, Dave



Darrow, Scot Steiber, Jerry Smart, Terry Desselles, Bob Graskewicz and Dave Bilesimo as groomsmen. Michael Bilesimo was the ring bearer.

The couple received guests at the Forest Lake Country Club before leaving on a honeymoon trip to California and Maui. They are making their home in Livonia.

Carlisle-Harrison

Jim and Cyndi Carlisle of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Karin Anne, to Stephen Russell Harrison, the son of Greg and Judy Harrison of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 1994 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. She expects to graduate from Grand Valley State University in April with a major in psychology/special education and a minor in elementary education.

Her fiancé also is a 1994 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 1997 graduate of Grand Valley State University with a degree in biomedical sciences. He is interviewing for acceptance to medical school.

A July wedding is planned at Memorial Church of Christ in Livonia.



Fournier-Stark

George and Nita Fournier of South Deerfield, Mass., announce the engagement of their daughter, Leslie Karen, to Douglas Thompson Stark, the son of Tony and Loretta Stark of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology. She is employed by Diagnostic Ultrasound Corp. as a territory manager.

Her fiancé also is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in building construction management. He is employed by the City of Royal Oak as a firefighter and as a real estate appraiser by Heritage Appraisal Services in Livonia.



A November wedding is being

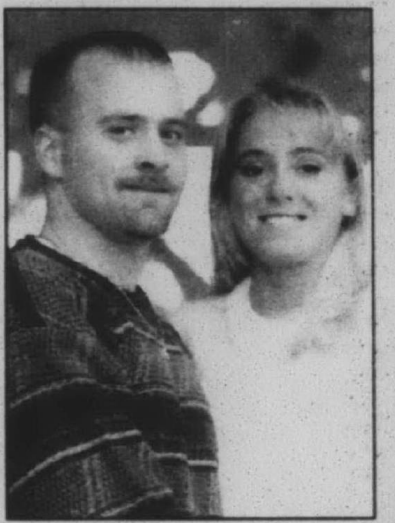
Beardsley-Porter

Ken and Mary Beardsley of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelly Threse, to John Randal Porter, the son of Frank and JoAnn Porter, also of Canton.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and Sally Esser Beauty School. She currently works as a cosmetologist at Shear Madness in Livonia.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Westland John Glenn High School. He currently works at Elite Communications as a supervisor of the Prime Star Division.

A February wedding is planned at St. Thomas A' Becket



Church in Canton.

VideoMagic holds seminar

Merchants specializing in weddings can get help educating brides about shopping for a particular service through a seminar being organized by Mark Salloum of VideoMagic Productions in Livonia.

more information, call Salloum at (734) 591-1652.

Salloum is organizing "How to Shop for Your Wedding Day, two two-hour seminars on Feb. 8 at the Dearborn Inn. It is designed to educate couples about what they should look for in a good DJ, photographer, Baker, bridal dress and the like.

In addition, couples will have an opportunity to speak with participating businesses one-on-one to answer questions or book services.

Each seminar will have seating for 40 couples. There will be short lectures of about 10 minutes by individual businesses, followed by the "open house."

Businesses interested in participating in the seminar can secure an exclusive place in the seminar with a \$50 deposit, payable to VideoMagic Productions, is due by Dec. 31. For

CRAFTS

Listings for the Crafts Calendar should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (313) 591-7279. For more information, call (313) 953-2131.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
Applications are being accepted for the spring craft show March 7 at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. The fee is \$90 for a 12-by-12-foot space, \$55 for a 10-by-10-foot space and \$40 for a 8-by-9-foot space or an 8-by-4-foot hallway space. There is an additional \$15 fee for electricity. Applications must be received by Jan. 9 to be eligible for the first jury round. To receive an application, call the department of marketing and development at (734) 462-4417.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY
Madonna University is accepting applications from crafters for its 13th annual spring arts and crafts showcase 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 28 in the Activities Center on campus, Schoolcraft and Levan, Livonia. Booth space measuring 9 feet by 6 feet with two chairs and one 6-by-8-foot table is \$50. Booths with electricity are limited and are an additional \$5. Exhibitors may purchase up to three spaces. Crafters will receive a \$5 discount if their forms are received by Feb. 1. For more information, call the university at (734) 432-5445.



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MOVIES

Most kids would help others if they had 'royal' power

Kids - what would you do if you were a princess or prince, and had the power to do anything? Would you try to help others, or buy a lot of toys?

Readers who responded to our question won an activity book from "Anastasia," Fox's first full-length animated feature film, now playing at metro Detroit movie theaters. They also received a T-shirt.

"If I were a princess I'd want all the children in the world to get as many dolls as they wanted," wrote 5-year-old Veronica (Roni) Allen of Livonia. If he were a prince Roni's brother Evan, who is 7, "would have a train drive me wherever I'd want to go and for all the children to have rides on it."

If Stephanie Kasmicki of Rochester, age 5, was a princess she would "help people, and get presents for the whole world so no one would be sad or left out."

"If I had the power of a princess I would make myself a member of the W.B.A. team for Detroit," wrote Amie King of Redford. "I play basketball for my school team and the R.T.J.A.A. and the A.A.U. If I was

on the team I could help them win the championship."

Her sister, Erin wrote, "If I was a princess and had her powers to do anything, I would get new lungs for my grandma because she can't breathe very good. For my other grandma I would get new knees because hers hurt all the time. For my two grandpas I would get them new hearts because they both had heart attacks. For my sister I would make her the captain of the new Detroit W.B.A. team because she loves basketball so much. For my mom and dad I would get them a bigger house because ours is getting to be too small."

If Kristina Klusek, age 4 of Canton "would take care of kids." Her sister Melissa who is 7 would "buy toys for the poor and make sure everyone was taken care of, and make sure everyone was happy."

Matthew B. Street of Southfield, age 5 "would go to Toys 'R' Us when I wanted to, go to grannie's when I wanted to, and get a cookie when I wanted."

Morris, his brother, who is 7 "would give lots of toys to the poor children, if I were a prince. I would also take my powers, put them in a ball and put it all over me to get rid of my chicken pox."

Their sister, Melanie Lynn Street, who is 3 "would dance with Cinderella like this: (Melanie twirls around with her hands over her head like a ballerina - as dictated to her mom).

Lily Greig of Rochester, age 9 "would give money to hospitals, and I would give delicious lunches to Meals on Wheels."

"Anastasia" is a great mystery of the 20th century. The year was 1916 and a young princess named Anastasia lived in a world of elegant palaces. Her family, the Romanovs, was celebrating its 300th anniversary as the ruling dynasty in Russia. But a dark shadow was descending over the palace. The fire of revolution began to rage across the country, ultimately destroying most of the Romanov family. Anastasia escapes. A magical mix of action, adventure, comedy, romance and music, "Anastasia" is an animated motion picture by Twentieth Century Fox about the lost Russian princess, the fabled last surviving member of the Romanov family

GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINEE

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BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
BEST DIRECTOR

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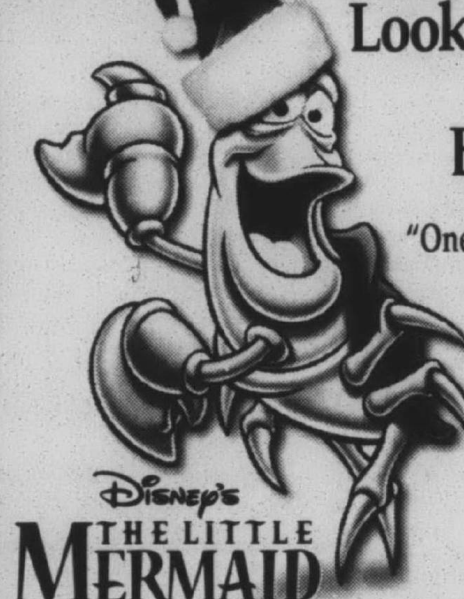
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4 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS


BEST PICTURE

BEST ACTOR: Matt Damon
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: Robin Williams
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Joe Morgenstern, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
"Astonishing and Thrilling Entertainment!"
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Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES
"Smart and Touching With a Very Warm Heart!"
'Good Will Hunting' is passionately acted by Robin Williams and Matt Damon and directed with style and shrewdness by Gus Van Sant!"

David Ansen, NEWSWEEK
"Rich, Funny and Filled With Emotional Truth!"
Matt Damon is sensationally appealing. Ben Affleck is funny and touching... Minnie Driver is terrific!"



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GOOD WILL HUNTING
BEN AFFLECK MINNIE DRIVER
PHILIPPOA

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SHOWCASE WESTLAND STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE STAR SOUTHFIELD 16 & DEARBORN

QUICK PLEAS

JO MONAGHAN

movies be gamut from numbing to "Jackie Br Harry" ar after "fe much ma that you use them New Year's In his f since "Pu Tarantino of his favo them toge called "J movie is Elmore I action he features a soul. At well combinati say the les line stewa and mon promises agents to derous g (Sam Jack The plot times co makes a s smuggle n Feds' nose thing abou Tarantino trademark Ultimate Elmore L Tarantino ties and bi "Pulp Fict replaced h twists of worked fa before Tar Still, yo cast, incl Robert Fo bondsmer Ordell's r Bridget F whose sel consist of watching t Bizarre a staple o and "Dec is no exce

WALT DISNEY CHRISTOPHER

AMCAME AMC LA AMC STER GENERAL CINEMAS SHOWC STAR GR STAR S

MOVIES

Quirky movies highlight holiday weekend.



TICKETS PLEASE
JOHN MONAGHAN

Hollywood has long made Dec. 25 a high-profile opening date for end-of-the-year movies. Far from a dumping ground, many of these films need to open before New Year's to qualify for Oscar nominations.

The eight movies bowing today run the gamut from quirky comedy to numbing tragedy. Three of them, "Jackie Brown," "Deconstructing Harry" and "The Sweet Hereafter" feature between them so much maverick moviemaking that you hope other filmmakers use them as the basis for their New Year's resolutions.

In his first film as director since "Pulp Fiction," Quentin Tarantino has assembled a few of his favorite things and rolled them together into something called "Jackie Brown." The movie is based on a novel by Elmore Leonard, stars '70s action heroine Pam Grier, and features a soundtrack of vintage soul.

At well over two hours, the combination grows unwieldy to say the least. Grier plays an airline stewardess collared for drug and money smuggling who promises to play ball with ATF agents to bring down the murderous gun salesman Ordell (Sam Jackson.)

The plot thickens (and sometimes coagulates) when she makes a side deal with Ordell to smuggle more money under the Feds' noses. The most interesting thing about the payoff is the way Tarantino plays with one of his trademark: non-linear time.

Ultimately, this is more an Elmore Leonard movie than a Tarantino one. The kinetic qualities and bizarre twists that made "Pulp Fiction" such a blast are replaced here by characters and twists of fate that probably worked far better on the page before Tarantino got hold of it.

Still, you have a fascinating cast, including '70s TV actor Robert Forster as an aging bail bondsman, Robert De Niro as Ordell's right hand man and Bridget Fonda as a "surfer girl" whose self-confessed ambitions consist of smoking pot and watching television.

Bizarre casting continues to be a staple of Woody Allen movies and "Deconstructing Harry" is no exception. His best film in

years stars Kirstie Alley, Demi Moore, Elisabeth Shue, Richard Benjamin, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus in another intensely personal story of a self-absorbed writer (Allen, of course) whose complex relationships fuel his fiction.

The movie poises between real-life and the writer's short fiction, adding up to a reminder of how clever Allen truly is as a short story author. In one, a young man uses the bachelor pad of a dying friend to date a prostitute. When the doorbell rings, a black-cloaked vision of death insists that, despite the man's pleas of mistaken identity, it's time to meet his maker.

How Allen juxtaposes these stories with real life is consistently clever. Who else would

cast scratchy-voiced Demi Moore as the fictional equivalent of Kirstie Alley?

In yet another homage to favorite directors Ingmar Bergman and Federico Fellini, Allen references the former's "Wild Strawberries" when the writer makes a long, flashback-filled trek to his old school's awards ceremony. By the end, he is in a Fellini version of hell, with naked writhing women and an office for Satan with central air. And doesn't anyone else find it funny that the nearly 60-year-old Allen has wooed some of the screen's most beautiful women in recent years? Julia Roberts and Helena Bonham-Carter have recently succumbed to his charms and now there's Elisabeth Shue, as a fan-turned-lover

who the writer warns (a la "Manhattan") not to fall in love with him.

These inside jokes are only frosting on the cake for a truly inspired movie that defines the nature of the artist as loner, loser, lover, misanthrope and hedonist. With Woody Allen, you get all of the above.

"The Sweet Hereafter," the latest from Canadian Atom Egoyan, won the top prize at Cannes this year. But don't let that, or the film's depressing content, scare you away.

In one of the richest film experiences this year, Ian Holm plays a lawyer who descends on a small Northern Canada town after a bus accident has killed virtually all of the town's chil-

dren. While some welcome his promise that justice will be served, others rightly see him as a money-hungry hysteric profiting from misery.

Yet it's difficult to see Holm's character strictly in terms of villain. Throughout the proceedings, he is constantly reminded of his own heroin-addicted daughter, who constantly rings his cellular phone with sweet talk but inevitably tries to squeeze him for drug money. What Holm and the townspeople need to realize is that fate doesn't play by the rules. And despite the human need to lay blame on

senseless tragedy, sometimes none can be found.

Egoyan, known for complex (often pretentious) studies of family politics, gets it right this time. With his clever use of wide screen, he creates at least one image that will be burned forever into your mind: a bright yellow school bus carefully negotiating turns on icy mountain roads, surrounded by an endless expanse of heavenly white snow.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.

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8 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS

BEST PICTURE

BEST DIRECTOR - JAMES CAMERON
BEST ACTRESS (DRAMA) - KATE WINSLET
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS - GLORIA STUART
BEST SCREENPLAY - JAMES CAMERON
BEST ORIGINAL SCORE - JAMES HORNER
BEST ORIGINAL SONG - "MY HEART WILL GO ON"

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SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS
SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8
STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR
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SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS
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STAR WINCHESTER 8

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AMC AMERICANA WEST
AMC BEL AIR 10
AMC EASTLAND 2
AMC LAUREL PARK
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY
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GENERAL CINEPLEX CANTON
GENERAL CINEPLEX NOVI TOWN
SHOWCASE ALBURN HILLS
SHOWCASE DEARBORN
SHOWCASE PONTIAC
SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS
SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
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10 pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 10 am

Church of St. Alexander
Rev. James B. Wright
Pastor
27835 Shawwassee
Farmington Hills, MI
248-474-5748

Church of St. Alexander
Rev. James B. Wright
Pastor
27835 Shawwassee
Farmington Hills, MI
248-474-5748

EPISCOPAL

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
18360 Hubbard Road
Livonia, Michigan 48154
421-8451

Mon-Fri. 9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Dinner & Classes
Saturday 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist

Sunday 7:45 & 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist
10:00 A.M. Christian Education for all ages
Sunday Morning - Nursery Care Available

The Rev. Robert Clapp, Rector
Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Phil. 2:11

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
9083 Newburgh Road • Livonia • 591-0211
The Rev. Emery F. Gravette, Vicar

Sunday Services:
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School

A Barrier Free Facility for the Handicapped

St. Martin Episcopal Church
24699 GRAND RIVER, DETROIT, MI
313-533-3600
Sunday Service 10:15
• Nursery Care Available
• Free Parking

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
9415 Merriman • Livonia
Sunday Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study/Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

School Grades Pre-School - 8
Church & School office: 422-6930

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
17810 Farmington Road • Livonia
(313) 261-1360

May thru October • Monday Night Service • 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.
9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 A.M.

Loia Park Ev. Lutheran Church
14750 Kinkoch • Redford Twp.
532-8655
Pastor Gregory Gibbons

Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 a.m.

Now accepting applications for 1997-98 school year.
WLQV 1500 SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Luther A. Werth, Sr. Pastor
Rev. Robert Bayer, Assist. Pastor
— Two locations to serve you —

LIVONIA
14175 Farmington Rd.
(N. of I-96)
Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
(313) 522-6830

CANTON
46001 Warren Road
(West of Canton Center)
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
(313) 414-7422
Visit our Web Site at <http://www.ccaa.edu/~lcmcs>

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
20805 Middlebelt (corner of 8 Mile & Middlebelt)
Farmington Hills, Mich.

WORSHIP SERVICES
Saturday Evening 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning 9:15 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30

Pastor John W. Meyer • 474-0675

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN Church & School
5885 Venoy
1 Blk. N. of Ford Rd., Westland 425-0260

Divine Worship 8 & 11:00 A.M.
Bible Class & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.
Monday Evening Service 7:30 P.M.

Gary D. Headopoh, Administrative Pastor
Kurt E. Lambert, Assistant Pastor
Jeff Burke, Principal/D.C.E.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
532-2266 REDFORD TWP.

Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided

Rev. Victor F. Halboth, Pastor
Rev. Timothy Halboth, Assoc. Pastor

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NewLife Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship-10 a.m.
(with children's message/nursery)
Youth & Adult Education: 9 a.m.
Our Lady of Providence Chapel
16115 Beck Rd. (between 5 & 6 Mile Rds.)
Pastor Ken Roberts (ELCA)
313 / 459-8181

CHRISTADELPHIANS

CHRISTADELPHIANS
Sunday Memorial Service 10:00 A.M.
Sunday School 11:30 A.M.
Bible Class - Wednesdays 7:30 P.M.
36516 Parkdale, Livonia • 425-7610

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH
291 E. SPRING ST.
2 Blocks N. of Main - 2 Blocks E. of Mill

SUNDAY
Bible School 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M. AND 6:00 P.M. (Nursery Provided in A.M.)
Pastor Frank Howard • Ch. 453-0323

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

AGAPÉ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER
"A PRACTICAL CHURCH ON THE MOVE"

New Location and Service Times
45081 Geddes Road, Canton, MI 48188 • (313) 394-0357

Sunday Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday - Family Night - 7:00 p.m.

Agapé Christian Academy - K through 12

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Brightmoor Tabernacle

Assemblies of God • Calvin C. Ratz, pastor
26555 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI (I-96 & Telegraph • West of Holiday Inn) • 352-6200
9:15 a.m. Family Sunday School Hour • Wednesday 7:00 p.m. "Family Night"

10:30 a.m. Pastor Calvin Ratz
6:30 p.m. Teen Challenge missionary, Mike Zello
24-Hour Prayer Line 810-352-6205

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
5 Miles W. of Sheldon Rd.
From M-14 take Gottfredson Rd. South
Dr. Wm. C. Moore - Pastor

8:00 Praise & Worship Service
9:30 Lifeline Contemporary Service
11:00 Traditional Service
SUNDAY SCHOOL (NURSERY PROVIDED)
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST SERVED
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (313) 453-1525
Sun. BIBLE STUDY & WORSHIP - 9:00 A.M. & 11:15 A.M.
Sunday School - 10:05 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
FAMILY NIGHT - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
Arthur C. Magnuson, Pastor
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN: 455-3196

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH
16700 Newburgh Road
Livonia • 464-8944

Sunday, Dec. 28th
Sunday after Christmas
Sunday School for All Ages: 9:30 a.m.
Family Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Service of Music
Rev. Dr. Janet Noble, Pastor
A Creative Christ Centered Congregation

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church (USA)
9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI
(between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)
(313) 422-0494

Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Nursery Care Provided
We Welcome You To A Full Program Church
Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor
Rev. Ruth Billington, Associate Pastor
Visit our Website at www.gocities.com/~rosedale

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

PLYMOUTH SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
PLYMOUTH ADVENTIST ACADEMY Grades 1-6
4295 Napier Road • Plymouth
(313) 455-3500

WORSHIP SERVICES
SATURDAY: Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.
Divine Worship 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Pastor Mike Doucoumes (313) 844-8660
School (313) 459-8222

UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
474-3444
Rev. Jean Love

Worship Services 10:15 AM, 6:00 PM
Nursery Provided
Sunday School 9 AM
Office Hrs. 9-5

NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
29887 West Eleven Mile Road
Just West of Middlebelt
248-476-8860
Farmington Hills
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

Worship, Church School, Nursery
"The Time Between"
Rev. Kathleen Graff, preaching

Senior Minister:
Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack
Associate Minister:
Rev. Kathleen Groff
Minister of Visitation:
Rev. Robert Bough

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
422-0149

Worship Services & Sunday School
9:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

December 28th
"In The Light Of That Star"
Rev. Melanie Lee Carey, preaching
Rev. Thomas G. Badley Rev. Melanie Lee Carey
Rev. Edward C. Coley

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17000 Farmington Road
Livonia 422-1150
Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Worship Services
Sunday School
8:00, 9:15, 10:45 A.M.
and 12:05 P.M.
Evening Service
7:00 P.M.

Shuttle Service from
Stevenson High School
for All A.M. Services Except 8:00 A.M.

Nursery Provided
Service Broadcast
11:00 A.M.
WUFL-AM 1030

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NATIVITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9435 Henry Ruff at West Chicago
Livonia 48150 • 421-5406
Rev. Donald Linkelman, Pastor

9:15 Adult Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
Service and Youth Classes
Nursery Care Available
-WELCOME-

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

5635 Sheldon Rd., Canton
(313) 459-0013

Sunday Worship & Church School
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Education For All Ages

Childcare Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Resources for Hearing and Sight Impaired

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Main & Church • (313) 453-6464
PLYMOUTH

Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Church School & Nursery 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Dr. James Skrimms Tamara J. Seidel
Senior Minister Associate Minister
David J.W. Brown, Dir. of Youth Ministries
Accessible to All

REFORMED

Reformed - Adhering to the Westminster Confession of Faith
Presbyterian Free Church
30025 Curtis Ave., Livonia 48154
off Middlebelt between Six and Seven Mile
Sunday Services - 11 am and 7 pm
Wednesday Bible Study - 7pm
Pastor - Kenneth Macleod - tel 313-421-0780

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST

30900 Six Mile Rd. (Bet. Merriman & Middlebelt)
Chuck Sonquist, Pastor

10:00 A.M. Worship & Church School
11:15 A.M. Adult Study Classes
Nursery Provided • 422-6038

"Where You Belong..."

Worship 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Church School 10:00 am
• Help In Daily Living
• Exciting Youth Programs
• Child-Care Provided
Pastors: Dr. Dean Klump, Rev. Tonya Arnesen

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth
15701 N. Terminal Rd. West of Southfield
(313) 453-5280

Catch the Spirit at
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
10000 Beech Daly, Redford
Between Plymouth and W. Chicago
Bob & Diana Goudie, Co-pastors
313-937-3170

3 Styles of Creative Worship

8:00 a.m. - Cozy, Traditional, Basic
9:30 a.m. - Contemporary, Family
11:00 a.m. - Traditional, Full Choir

Emphasis: Christmas: Redemption
Scripture Focus: Isaiah 43:1-7
Rev. Diana, preaching

Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Children-Youth-Adults



BY SUE MAS...
STAFF WRITER

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Woodcarvers' talents brighten up child care center

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It sure does look like Christmas in the lobby of the St. Mary Hospital Child Care Center, and the elves doing the work are the Livonia Woodcarvers.

A Christmas in the center's lobby is filled with the carvers' handiwork, close to 200 handmade and handpainted wooden ornaments members have been making for two years.

"I knew it would be a two-year project," said Tony Pietrzak, toy chairman for the 200-member club. "When the center opened a year ago, we wanted to do something nice and we came up with the idea of the handmade ornaments."

"We're extremely grateful," said center director Sister Joyce Marie Van de Vyver. "We've been able to have someone to go to for help. They're a real resource."

The club members provided about 65 ornaments last year, and Pietrzak expects at least that many more to add to the tree this year.

Club members begin working on the ornaments in October. Pietrzak buys the lumber, which is trimmed down and patterns applied by members with craft saws. The blocks of wood are then given to members to be carved and painted.

Additions to the tree this year

include 6-inch-tall wooden soldiers and the head of Santa surrounded by a Christmas tree, the winner of an ornament contest the group holds, according to Pietrzak.

"We use the whole club for this," he said. "And the ornament doesn't have to be just Christmas stuff. We have one guy who's going to carve some little cars for the tree."

The ornaments are only small part of what the group has done for the center. The front of the reception counter in the lobby showcases their talents. Sister Van de Vyver came up with the idea to make the center appealing to both adults and children.

The interlocking blocks are done in different colors of stain as are the numbers which are also puzzles. The number one is in one color, two is in two pieces and two colors and three in three pieces and three colors.

"It took a lot of interaction with Sister Joyce to get something appropriate for the lobby," Pietrzak said. "Any ideas she comes up with, I help. If I can't do it, I find someone who can."

"We wanted it to be child-like but something adults could relate to," Sister Van de Vyver added. "We wanted it to be tasteful and appealing to adults and children alike."

The shake-style awnings over windows facing on the indoor play area, the sky room, also

were Sister Van de Vyver's idea, executed by Pietrzak.

She wanted the room to resemble a neighborhood. The windows, painted in different pastel colors, flank doors leading to the different child care rooms that surround the play area on three sides.

Pietrzak made the shakes and took about two weeks to make the awnings that were installed just before the center's grand opening in July 1996.

"They really help make it nice, not institutional," said Sister Van de Vyver.

The center is one of several organizations that benefits from the woodcarvers' talents. Members have been making wooden toys to give to children placed with Spectrum Human Services and for young patients at Children's Hospital of Southeast Michigan for about 10 years.

At the hospital, the toys are given to children or placed in waiting rooms to be played with while children wait for treatments. In addition to wooden cars and trucks, the woodcarvers have come up with a brightly painted children's rocker made to look like an airplane.

And like Santa Claus, Pietrzak has made a list of things to make for the center. The future projects includes cradles, a rocking horse, small business-style signs for the doors and more ornaments, if neces-



PHOTO BY JERRY MENDOZA

Holiday cheer: Thanks to Livonia Woodcarvers like Tony Pietrzak (from left) the Christmas tree in the lobby of the St. Mary Hospital Child Care Center is filled with handmade wooden ornaments, eye-catching for 19-month-old Sarah Bates of Livonia and center director Sister Joyce Van de Vyver.

sary. "I had cancer three times and I beat it three times," he said. "This is my chance to give something back, my chance to return

something. "The guild members do a lot of nice things for people. They enjoy doing it, especially this." "This is a big help to the cen-

ter, especially the specialty items we wouldn't be able to purchase or obtain in any other way," added Sister Van de Vyver.

And then there were ...



Five generations: Marie Flowers of Allen Park decided to sit down with a few of her relatives this past summer, all five generations. Joining the great-great-grandmother (from left) was great-grandfather Brian Mastaw of Northville, grandmother Janet Mastaw of Redford, mother Michelle Frush of Redford and her infant son, William.

Museum celebrates Kwanzaa

The Museum of African American History will observe Kwanzaa daily Friday, Dec. 26, through Thursday, Jan. 1.

An African American holiday, Kwanzaa is celebrated to reaffirm the commitment to family, community and the black struggle.

The Kwanzaa celebration will start at noon each day with a Kwanzaa ritual, followed by a dance performance. From 1-3 p.m., visitors will be treated to a range of Kwanzaa performances, activities and workshops offered throughout the building.

The tradition of Kwanzaa was created out of the philosophy of Kwauida by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a black studies professor and black activist. It was first celebrated by his family and friends on Dec. 26, 1966.

Derived from Kwanzaa, a Swahili word meaning "first fruits of the harvest," Kwanzaa celebrates the minimum set of

principles by which African Americans should live - Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa, (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith). Each day, one of the seven principles (Nguzo Saba) is featured to clarify its significance.

At the museum, the Kwanzaa daily ritual will consist of the lighting of the candles, clarification of the day's principle and the pouring of libations. Representatives and families from the community, such as Gregory Guice of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. Robert Bland of Lewis College of Business, Nkenge Abi of the Shrine of the Black Madonna and Baba Ademiwole, will lead the ceremony.

The ritual will take place in the Dr. Charles H. Wright Theater. Seating will be available on

a first come-first served basis. The workshops, activities and performances throughout the day will correlate with the day's featured principle.

For children, there will be workshops where they will make a collage in celebration of Detroit, create self-portraits and design spirit bottles and African masks with Detroit artists Adrienne Edmonson, and Donald Calloway. The workshops will emphasize creativity, purpose and self-determination.

The museum will be open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., including Monday, Dec. 29. Kwanzaa activities are free of charge with museum admission - \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

The Museum of African American History is at the corner of Warren and Brush streets in Detroit. For more information, call the museum at (313) 833-9800.

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Smilie Co. - http://www.smilie.com</p> <p>WHOLISTIC WELLNESS Roots and Branches - http://www.reikiplace.com</p> <p>WOMEN'S HEALTH Asghar Alsari, M.D. - http://www.gyndoc.com PMS Institute - http://www.pmsinst.com</p> <p>WORSHIP St. Michael Lutheran Church - http://www.stmichaellutheran.org</p>
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RELIGION CALENDAR

Listings for the Religion Calendar should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (313) 591-7279. For more information, call (313) 953-2131.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church will have its family service at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at the Canton campus, 46001 Warren Road, and at 7 p.m. at the Livonia campus, 13175 Farmington Road. The 11 p.m. candlelight service will also be at the Livonia campus. Worshipers will be given a votive candle to raise during the singing of "Silent Night." The Choir of Christ Our Savior, Handbell Choir and instrumentalists will unfold the story through song, scripture and prayer. A pre-service concert of organ, handbell and instrumental music will begin at 10:30 p.m. Christmas Day, Dec. 25, worship with Communion will begin at 10 a.m. at the Livonia campus. It will feature uplifting music with the choir and instrumentalist.

For more information, call the church office at (734) 522-6830.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Redford will have Christmas Day worship with Holy Communion at 10 a.m. at the church, 13542 Mercedes, east of Inkster Road and south of I-96. For more information, call the church at (313) 538-2600.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit will have a service with the Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day at the church, 9083 Newburgh Road, Livonia. For more information, call the church at (734) 591-0211.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

St. Aidan Youth Group is raising funds in December by selling the Entertainment Ultimate Book which contains discounts on dining, travel, shopping, movies, special events and sports. The books cost \$40 with a portion of the proceeds going to help fund youth conferences and workshops. For more information, call (313) 425-5950 or (248) 474-1396.

St. Matthew United Methodist Church is also selling the 1998 Entertainment book. The cost is at \$40 with \$8 going to the church's Mission Committee. To order, call Dick Horie at (313) 522-4856.

SUNDAY LESSONS

"Lessons Learned" will be the lesson at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at Church of Today West in Village Oaks Elementary School, 23333 Willowbrook (between Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads), Novi. The church also offers youth education, a course in miracles at 7 p.m.

Tuesdays and others courses in 4T, meditation and unity basics. For more information, call (248) 449-8900 or at its Web site, <http://www.cotw.com>.

DIVORCECARE

DivorceCare, a special video seminar and support group, has begun a 13-week session, 7:15-9:15 p.m. Sundays at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton Township. The series features nationally recognized experts covering such topics as "Facing Your Anger," "Facing Your Loneliness," "Depression," "New Relationships," and "Forgiveness." Child care is available. Call (313) 459-3333 for more information.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

The radio series, "What is This Christian Science and Who Are These Christian Scientists?" is being broadcast at 1:30 p.m. Sundays on WQBH-AM 1400. The topic will be "Just what is a Christian Science practitioner?" on Dec. 28.

"The Christian Science Sentinel-Radio Edition" also can be heard at 9:30 a.m. Sundays on WAAM-AM 1600. The conversational program discusses current public topics as well as shares healing through prayer from people all over the world.

TEAMKID

TeamKid, a unique club which blends activity with interactive learning, discipleship and Bible memory, meets 5:45-8 p.m. Sundays at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. The program is for children in grades 1-6 and provides practical Biblical answers in a fun and interesting setting. For more information, call the church office at (313) 421-0472.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Men Who Make a Difference, a small group of Christian men dedicated to the biblical principles of building a "Godly Man," meets at 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. The group is open to men of all denominations who wish to diligently seek the face of Jesus. For more information, call (313) 421-0472.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Ward Presbyterian Church will celebrate New Year's Eve with an evening of fellowship, beginning at 9 p.m. with a sacred Christian concert, featuring Dale Hicks, at the church, 17000 Farmington Road, Livonia. A buffet is available at 10 p.m. by advance reservation only. The evening will conclude with a Watch Night service at 11 p.m. Chimes will ring in the New Year and close the service just after midnight. For more information, call (734) 422-1826.

WATCH NIGHT

A Watch Night Holy Communion service will be held at 7

p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at Salem National Evangelical Lutheran Church, 32430 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. For more information, call the church at (313) 422-5550.

ROSE BOWL PARTY

Merriman Road Baptist Church's Men Who Make a Difference will host a Rose Bowl Party on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, at the church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. The party starts 30 minutes before the kickoff. Participants will enjoy the entire Rose Bowl game on a big screen television while munching a variety of snacks. The party is open to all. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-0472.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance divorced and separated Christians, will have a dance at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, West Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. The cost is \$8 and includes refreshments. For more information, call Roase at (734) 464-3325.

The group also meets on Sundays for breakfast and Mass - 10 a.m. at the Redford Inn, Five Mile Road west of Beech Daly Road, Redford, and at 11:15 a.m. at St. Aidan's Church, Farmington Road north of Six Mile Road, Livonia - call Val at (734) 729-1974; for coffee and conversation at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Archie's Restaurant, Plymouth Road east of Merriman, Livonia, and for pinocle at 7 p.m. every other Friday - call Rose at (734) 464-3325.

GUEST SPEAKER

Journalist Jack Lessenberry will speak on the issues of race in America at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Lessenberry is a member of the journalism faculty at Wayne State University and Madonna University. He also is a consultant, editorial adviser and freelance writer for many national and regional publications, including Vanity Fair, Esquire, George, New York Times and Boston Globe. He received an Emmy Award for a "Frontline" documentary on Dr. Jack Keivorkian. Locally, he is a contributing editor and columnist for The Metro Times, Oakland Press and Toledo Blade.

For more information, call the church at (313) 422-1470.

TAI CHI CLASSES

The Taoist Tai Chi Society of Michigan will offer beginning and continuing Tai Chi classes 7-9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 5, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Tai Chi is a series of gentle turn-

ing and stretching exercises that have been practiced by the Chinese since the 11th century. For more information, call (248) 332-1281.

BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study of Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, will host a morning Bible study 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 6, at the church, 21260 Haggerty Road, Northville. Women of the Word, which will meet in the lower level, will use the "Joy of Living" interdenominational series with lessons on the books of I-II Corinthians. The teachers will be Nona Kelly of West Bloomfield and Debbie Stottele of Novi. The semester registration fee will be \$12 which covers necessary materials. Child care will be provided. For more information, call (248) 348-7600.

NEW BEGINNINGS

New Beginnings, a grief support group held year-round at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile Road, east of Merriman Road, Livonia, continues with its monthly speaker series on Thursday, Jan. 8, with "Moving On." There are no fees. Anyone may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need. For more information, call the church office at (313) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (313) 462-3770.

PARENTING TODAY

Having trouble communicating with your kids? Find out how to really talk to your children by attending the Active Parenting Today classes offered at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The 6-week course will be offered 6:30-9 p.m., beginning Thursday, Jan. 8.

The cost of the course is \$15 (spouses are free) and includes a parent's guides. Preregistration is preferred. Child care will be available for a nominal fee, but only open to those who call and request it at least one week before the first meeting.

For more information or to register, call the church at (734) 422-1470.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience for married couples to improve their communication skills, learn the value of intimacy and renew their love for each other Friday through Sunday, Feb. 13-15 and March 20-22, at St. John's Family Life Center in Plymouth. For more information or to register call (248) 528-2512 or (810) 286-5524.

PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

The Rev. Gerald Flannery of St. Aidan's Parish in Livonia is inviting the public to join him on a journey of personal enrichment to Fatima (Portugal), Lourdes

and Lisieux (France) from April 24-May 7. The price is \$2,895 per person in a double room. A single supplement is \$280. For more information, call Carlson Wagonlit Travel in Plymouth at (313) 455-5810.

HISPANIC CHURCH

The Hispanic Pentecostal Church conducts worship services at 2 p.m. Sundays at the Open Door Church, 33105 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia. The Rev. G. Diaz officiates. For more information, call (248) 471-5282.

FROM THE HEART

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church offers From the Heart Cancer Support Group at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of the month in Rooms B2 and 4 at the church, 17000 Farmington

Road, Livonia. Family members, those with cancer and friends are invited to share, encourage and support one another in a loving, hopeful God-focused environment. For more information, call the church at (313) 422-1826.

LITURGY ON TAPE

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is available on videotape for a cost of \$15, plus \$3 postage, from Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, Livonia 48152. The tapes make a great gift for a shut-in or those unable to attend the liturgy. The tapes also can be given to those people who are either seeking or expressing an interest in the Orthodox faith.

Children have many special needs... and because parents don't always have a lot of time, the Observer & Eccentric has created this unique directory to make life just a little easier.

For more information about advertising Call June at: 313-953-2099




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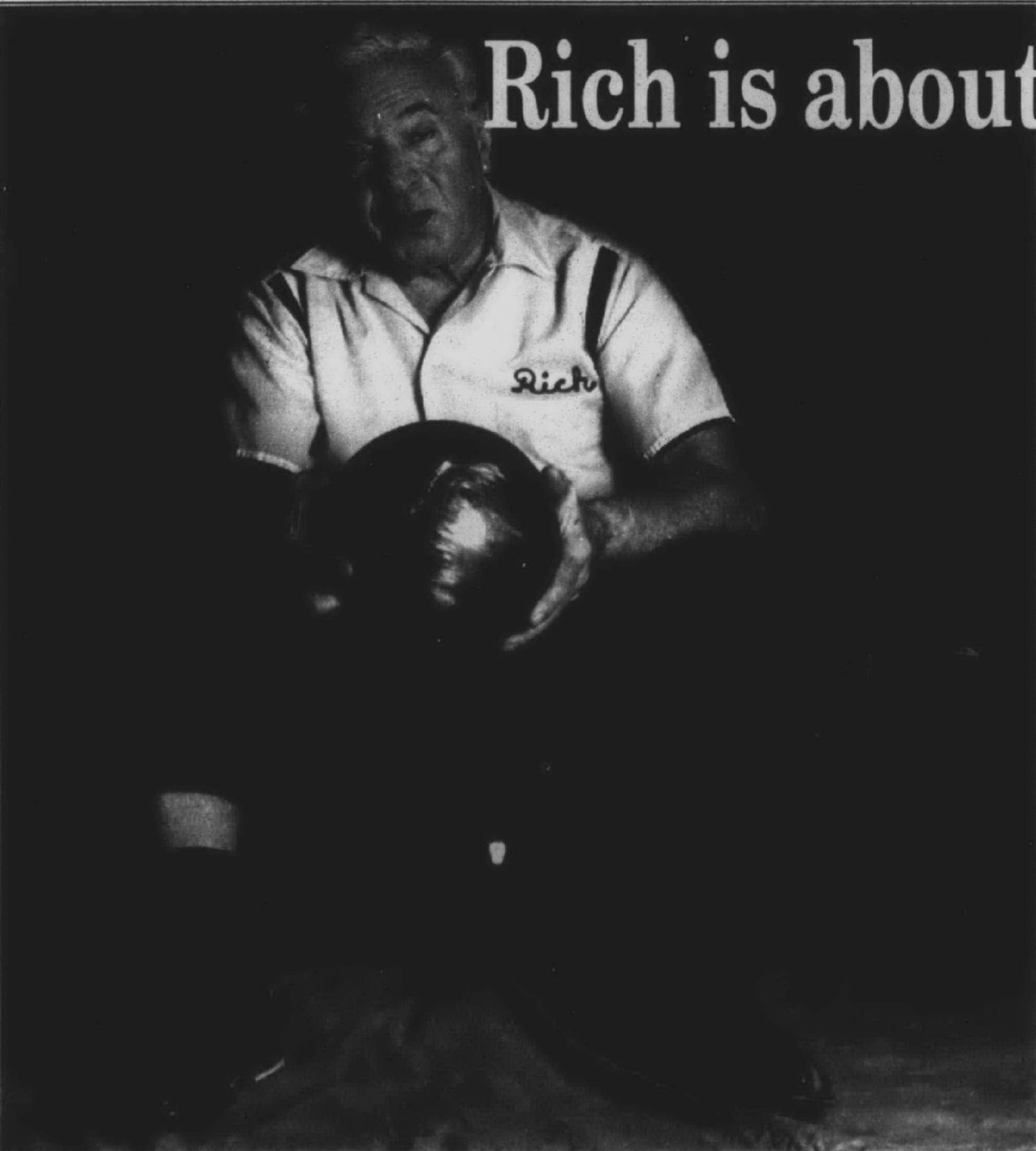
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C.J. Risak, Editor 313.953.2108

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Thursday, December 25, 1997

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Canton struggles

It's hard to go into battle without all of your troops.

But that's what Plymouth Canton was forced to do Saturday in its home wrestling tournament. So it should come as no surprise that the Chiefs finished eighth out of nine schools.

John-Peter Demick, Brent Buttermore and Brian Musser all missed the Plymouth Canton Invitational with various illnesses or injuries. The three seniors are the heart of the Chiefs' lineup.

Despite the absences, several Canton wrestlers did do well.

John Pocock, a 130-pounder, placed third overall. Not bad for a guy wrestling his first varsity matches.

"He really stepped up to the plate," assistant coach John Demick said. "We're very proud of him."

Jim Shelton took fifth place at 145 pounds. Anthony Busch managed a fifth, too, at 160 pounds. It was his first time at the varsity level.

Belleville won the tournament while Ann Arbor Huron was second.

Lightning strikes

The Plymouth Lightning '81, a girls under-17 premier soccer team, completed an undefeated season at the WideWorld Sports Center in Ann Arbor.

The Lightning '81 went 8-0, outscoring their competition 43-4.

Team members are Kelly Connell, Emily Kaatz, Kristin Kopski, Alison Morency, Emily Neienham, Vicki Palis, Brooke Schupra, Kristina Senich, and Sarah Ware of Canton; Sarah Debien, Danelle Filipis, Theresia Radtke, Cheron Rice, Katie Thomas, and Andrea Weinman of Plymouth; Kristyn Hoag and Kristin Shea of Novi; and Jessica Roberts of Trenton. The team is coached by John Debien and Glenn Kaatz.

Bike Trekkers

Serious bikers can get on the right track Sunday mornings by joining members of Bike Trekkers for a ride through West Bloomfield. Bike Trekkers meets at 8 a.m. each Sunday morning at the West Bloomfield Recreation Center and ride 10-15 miles on various routes through the subdivisions of West Bloomfield.

Routes include both paved and dirt roads as well as the West Bloomfield Trail Network. Bike treks may also take riders outside West Bloomfield.

The program is free and there are no residency requirements. Cyclists must be at least 16 years of age, have a bike with sturdy tires that can endure gravel roads, and must wear a helmet.

For more information call Doug McEwen at (248) 738-2500 or leave a message at (248) 788-3940. The Parks and Recreation Center is located at 4640 Walnut Lake Road, west of Orchard Lake Road.

Skaters needed

The Southfield Ice Company is looking for skaters to perform in its 1998 production.

Arguably one of the top ice shows in the metro area, Ice Company 1998 takes place Wednesday, May 13, through Sunday, May 17, at the Southfield Sports Arena (26000 Evergreen Road, just south of I-696). Wednesday and Friday performances are at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday shows are 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday performances are 1:30 and 5:30 p.m.

The auditions are open for skaters ages 5 years and over. Following is the audition schedule: Saturday, Nov. 8 from noon to 2 p.m.; Monday, Nov. 10 from 4:15-5:50 p.m.; Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 17 (for soloists only) from 4:15-5:50 p.m.

Skaters of all skill levels are invited to take part in the auditions.

For more information, call 354-9357.

Rays reduce rate

The Farmington YMCA-Stingrays swim team is offering a reduced monthly swim rate for high school swimmers.

The YMCA-Stingrays have a dual affiliation with United States Swimming. The team offers a 12-month competitive swim program for any swimmer age 6 to 18 years.

Any swimmer interested in more information should call Cindi Steff at (248) 478-4484.

Ocelots are the real deal



BRAD EMMONS

As much as I love holiday shopping at the last minute, I certainly had my fill late Saturday afternoon at crowded Twelve Oaks Mall.

Venturing south on I-275, I decided to pull off the Seven Mile exit ramp and catch the second-half of the Schoolcraft-Kellogg Community College men's basketball game.

Turned out to be the best bargain of the day and a great stocking stuffer.

I was more than curious to get my first look at the Ocelots, who have been turning a few heads under first-year coach Carlos Briggs, a former Schoolcraft All-American player.

And after what I witnessed Saturday night, I'll be back for more.

Schoolcraft pulled out a mind-boggling 75-74 victory on Kevin Melson's basket at the buzzer.

Briggs, who led SC to its best season ever in 1984 (since then there have been 13 straight losing sea-

sons), called timeout with just 45 seconds remaining (after the ball had been knocked out of bounds) to set up a desperation play.

The 6-foot-6 Melson, who has got to be one of the midwest's top JUCO players, showed his Scottie Pippen-like qualities by scoring the game-winner on a layup off an inbounds pass from Jimar Eddins at the buzzer.

Needless to say, Schoolcraft men's basketball, off to its best start in school history (10-2), could be Observerland's best kept secret.

But it's not the way the Ocelots won it, but the way they played which impressed me more than anything else.

Briggs, who led the nation in scoring during his days at SC, averaging 30 points-plus before going on to star at Baylor, has the Ocelots playing unselfish hoops, for sure.

He runs a disciplined offense and his players seem to have a commitment toward defense.

Please see EMONS, C2

Melson's basket saves Schoolcraft

With a flare for the dramatic, the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team pulled out a miracle 75-74 victory over Kellogg Community College Saturday night at home.

Kevin Melson's basket with no time remaining gave the Ocelots, now 10-2 overall, the win.

The 6-foot-6 forward from Detroit Communication & Media Arts, led Schoolcraft and all scorers with a game-high 32 points.

Melson, who ranks third in the country in scoring at 28 points per game, was 14 of 18 from the floor and six of eight from the free throw line. He also grabbed eight rebounds.

Schoolcraft trailed 40-34 at halftime and by as many as 11 against the hot-shooting Bruins in the second half before staging a furious comeback.

Please see OCELOTS, C2

No luck, again

Salem takes 2nd, Canton 3rd at WLAA Relays

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Some things don't change.
Some things do.

In reference to the Western Lakes Activities Association Relays swim meet, hosted by Plymouth Salem last Saturday, what didn't change was that Salem — winner of the last five WLAA league titles — could not find a way to win the Relays championship. It marked the third-straight year the Rocks have failed to claim the crown, in large part due to their own mistakes.

What did change? Well, there's a new power in town: Livonia Stevenson.

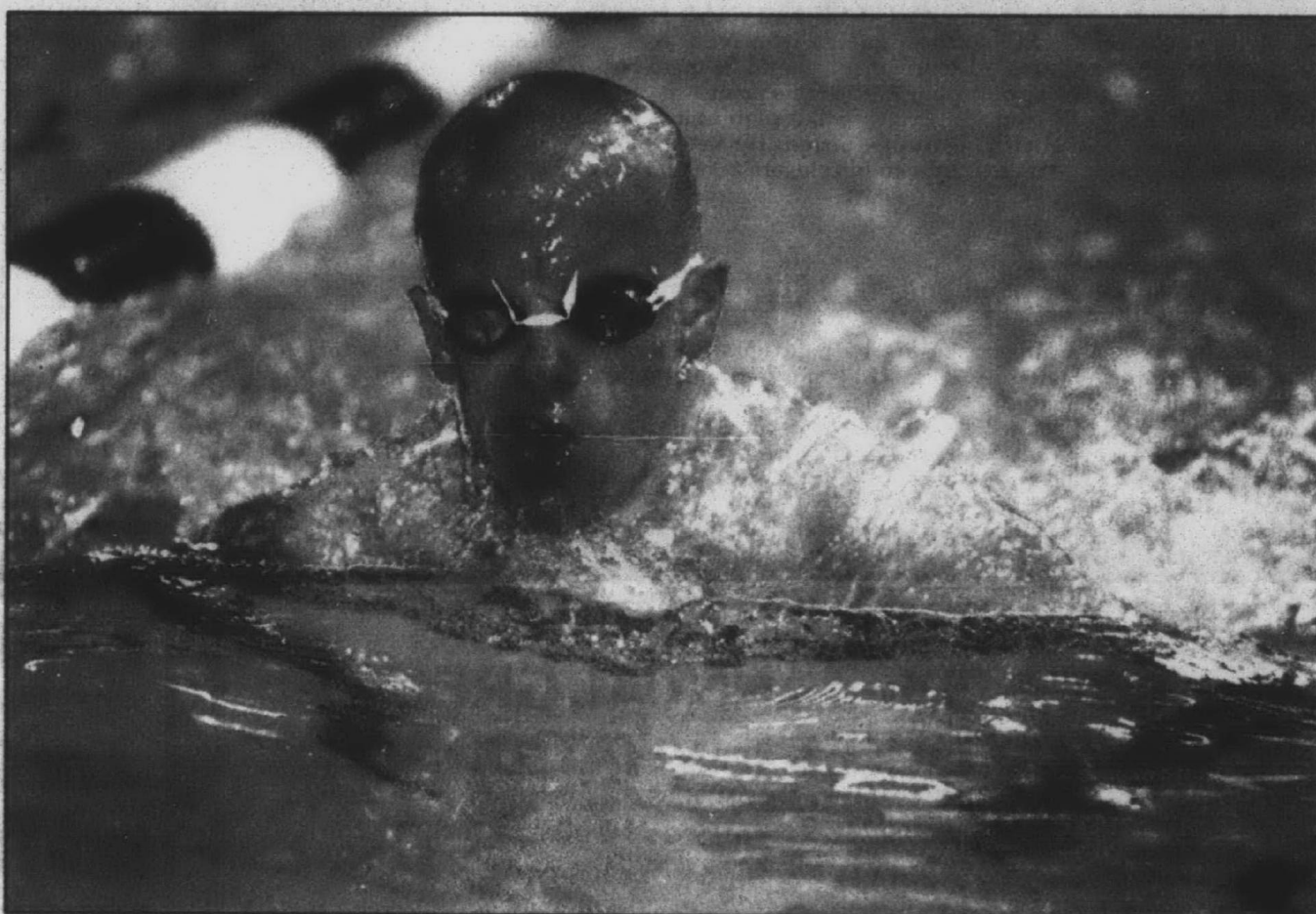
It isn't a major surprise that the Spartans emerged as the Relays champion. Once Salem put itself into a hole by getting disqualified in the first relay, the 400-yard medley — an event the Rocks had finished first in, but were DQ'ed for a jump start — the impetus shifted to Stevenson.

From then on, it was the Spartans' meet to lose. And they didn't.

Stevenson finished with 242 points, with Salem second (224) and two-time defending Relays champ Plymouth Canton third (212). Northville was fourth (184).

"It was a fun meet," said Stevenson coach Doug Buckler, admitting that finishing first added to the enjoyment. "It's been awhile since we won it."

Please see WLAA RELAYS, C3



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Solid start: Canton could not recapture the WLAA Relays title, which it had won the past two years, but the Chiefs turned in a solid showing. Matt Heiss (above) swam the breaststroke on both Canton's 400 medley relay, which was second, and its 200 breast relay, which was fourth.

Canton coach bolsters staff with addition

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Canton is adding an impressive new assistant coach to Bob Khoenle's football staff.

Tim Baechler, with five seasons of head coaching experience at Hudson and one at Dexter behind him, will join Khoenle's staff in an undetermined position for the 1998 season.

"I'm sure he's going to help us," Khoenle said. "But as to how and what, I don't know for sure yet."

FOOTBALL

"He's a good man, knowledgeable and responsible. He's probably going to be defensive coordinator but as of right now I'm not sure."

"We're going to have staff meetings after the first of the year."

Baechler, an English teacher at Lowell Middle School, resigned after one season at Dexter to end a frequent

commute to the other side of Ann Arbor.

Tim and Julie Baechler became parents to son Brocton last May. Suddenly an hour-long commute for Julie to work with her family in Plymouth became a little more complex.

"We needed to find a place closer to her work," Tim said. "So I had to try to find another job."

He quit working at Hudson, where the teams he coached were 32-13 in five seasons, and landed a coaching job

at Dexter.

The pay for high school coaches works out to about 50 cents per hour, though, so subsisting on those wages was out.

"So even though there was no guaranteed teaching job, we decided to go for it."

"I was going to be a substitute teacher the first semester, then if things worked out in football, I was sure I would get a teaching job (at Dexter)"

Please see BAECHLER, C3



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGFIELD

Sidestepping: CC's Dave Turner tips the puck past Rice's Mike Healy, avoiding Healy's check and still managing to keep control of the puck.

Shamrocks squander lead, end up tying Brother Rice

Redford Catholic Central's hockey team is idle until Jan. 10 and you can't fault coach Gordie St. John for thinking the Shamrocks started their holiday break after the first period of Saturday's game against Birmingham Brother Rice.

The Shamrocks jumped to a 3-0 lead after one period only to allow Rice to score three unanswered goals in the third and earn a 4-4 tie before a small afternoon crowd at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

"It was a holiday type crowd," St. John said. "Everyone was out shopping."

If that's the case, someone should have purchased a hat for Rice's Joe Kustra, whose hat trick sparked the rally.

CC's Tony Keshishian was equally impressive, scoring two goals with an assist.

"It was a night for the K men," St.

John said. "It was Tony's best game by far and that Rice kid is a good player."

The tie left the Shamrocks at 3-0-2 overall. The defending Class A state champions haven't lost since a mid-season game last year against Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

"After a good first period we kind of fell apart," St. John said. "Rice played much better hockey. We didn't carry out our assignments and took stupid penalties. It showed us what we have to do to be good."

Nathan Lewarne and Ian Devlin had the other CC goals. David Moss, Greg Berger and Jim Melton picked up one assist each.

Rice freshman defenseman Andy Mechigan assisted on three of the Rice goals. Kevin LeFere, who missed some games early with a shoulder injury, scored one goal. Chris Cassidy assisted

Please see HOCKEY, C2

Whalers slip by North Bay

The Plymouth Whalers moved to within two points of first place in its division Saturday with a 2-1 home victory over North Bay.

Kevin Holdridge and Harold Druken scored for the Whalers and Julian Smith added a pair of assists. Plymouth improved to 43 points, just two behind London in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division.

Holdridge opened scoring in the first period as Troy and Julian Smith assisted. Druken's game-winner came at the 7:05 mark of the second period on a power play.

North Bay's lone goal was also via the power play, at 9:17 of the second period.

The Whalers (20-9-3) play Saturday at Windsor and Monday, Dec. 29, at home against Erie.

Whalers transaction

The Whalers made a major trade Dec. 19 that involved four teams and 12 players.

Plymouth acquired defenseman Paul Mara from Sudbury and left wing Rick Smith from Windsor. In exchange, defensemen Luc Rioux and Mark Ridout, right wing Andy Burnham and 1998 second-round draft choice were dealt.

In Mara, the Whalers acquire a former

OHL all-star defenseman. A 6-foot 4-inch native of Massachusetts, he recorded nine goals and 34 assists for Sudbury in his rookie year. Mara has eight goals and 18 assists this year for the Wolves.

Left wing Smith is a 19-year-old Brighton native. He had eight goals and five assists for Windsor this year.

"Mara is one of, if not, the best defensemen in the Canadian Hockey League," Whalers Associate Coach Greg Stefan said. "There's no doubt in my mind he will add to our already strong defensive unit. With the addition of Mara and Smith, we believe we have an opportunity for a successful playoff bid."

Cushman, Dietrich carry Crusaders past Kalamazoo

Katie Cushman scored 20 points and Chris Dietrich added 13 as Madonna University rolled to a 91-61 home victory over Kalamazoo.

The Crusaders jumped to a 51-30 halftime lead and were never challenged in the second half. Madonna improved to 8-4 while the Hornets dropped to 2-7.

Cushman nailed four three-pointers on her way to scoring 20. She added five assists and a pair of steals.

Dietrich had six assists to go with her 13 points. Dawn Pelc had six rebounds to lead the Crusaders.

SC women drop pair

Apparently, not much progress was made in the 16-day layoff between games for Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team.

The Lady Ocelots returned to action Friday at the Macomb CC Tournament, with dismal results: After a strong first half, they were battered in the second in losing 88-66 to Edison (OH) CC.

On Saturday SC met Kellogg CC, and the outcome was even worse: This time the Ocelots trailed from the start and were crushed, 67-32.

The two defeats left SC at 3-5 for the season. Edison improved to 8-1; Kellogg is 7-2.

In the loss to Edison, the biggest difference came at the free throw line. The Ocelots, who led 40-37 at the half, were a poor 13-of-29 at the stripe (44.8 percent) compared to Edison's 23-of-32 (71.9 percent).

Anyway, shopping can take a permanent break.

WOMEN'S HOOP

SC also had more turnovers (28 to Edison's 24) and was outrebounded (35-31).

Theresa Cooper's 19 points and 10 rebounds topped the Ocelots. Amber Tackett added 14 points, six steals and five boards; Crissy Harmon had 12 points and four assists; and Jenny Talbot got 10 points.

Best for Edison was Rachel Brugger, who nailed 15-of-19 floor shots en route to scoring 38 points. Angie Benham scored 12, with Jamie Bridge and Shivonne Garland each contributing 11 points. Bridge also had 11 rebounds and seven steals; Garland dished out five assists.

The loss to Kellogg was SC's worst offensive performance of the season. The Ocelots trailed 29-14 at the half and never did recover. They connected on just 12-of-42 shots from the field (28.6 percent), while Kellogg made 26-of-64 (40.6 percent).

SC's woes at the free-throw line also continued; the Ocelots made just 6-of-15 (40 percent); Kellogg wasn't much better (15-of-32, 46.9 percent).

In addition, SC was outrebounded by a wide margin (40-30) and committed a whopping 30 turnovers (Kellogg had 15).

Talbot was the only Ocelot to reach double-figures in scoring: she had 11 points and seven rebounds. Kellogg was led by Cari Pacey's 17 points, Kendra Yeo's 13 and Niki Sullivan scored 11 and grabbed 10 boards.

Emons from page C1

Melson, who does it inside and outside, is certainly a diamond in the rough after sitting out his first year at SC with an injury.

The word is leaking out. Division I coaches are migrating to Six Mile and Haggerty in droves to see this kid.

Briggs, a fourth-round pick of the San Antonio Spurs who later played professionally in the Philippines, came to SC's battered program in August with virtually no players (with the exception of holdovers Melson, Garden City's Pete Males and Jose Bru) just two weeks prior to the start of the first semester.

Briggs, who is widely known throughout Detroit basketball circles, left his full-time high school teaching job in Texas to become a part-time coach at SC. He held three tryout sessions, finding starters Emeko Okonkwo and Jimar Eddins, both from Ann Arbor Pioneer; along with back-up point-guard Mario

Montgomery.

Throw in Westland John Glenn's athletic David Jarrett late into the mix (he signed just a week prior to classes) and you have a remarkable transformation of a perennially pitiful junior college basketball program.

And he has quickly transformed the Ocelots into an Eastern Conference contender — unheard of in these parts.

Ironically, Western Conference teams in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association put SC on the schedule for a sure win.

But after beating Kellogg, Grand Rapids (twice) and Lansing, SC is becoming a team to be reckoned with.

And if SC had not lost two close games in a New Jersey tournament, they'd be mind-boggling 12-0 at this point.

Briggs has a plan and is just getting started. He keeps close tabs on his players academically,

and does his homework recruiting and scouting despite having only one paid assistant coach, (Andy Coleman).

Of course, keeping his players eligible is the true test, especially at SC, which annually promotes its Student Athletic Support System program, but in reality is no more than a public relations sham.

And it's a shame the men's basketball program faces so many obstacles, especially from an administration that cares little about athletics in general.

Believe me, athletics at Schoolcraft College is a necessary evil.

The coaches win in spite of the school's indifference.

If athletics were important, then they'd have a full-time athletic director in place and not a registered nurse with a masters degree overseeing the program.

It's too bad President Richard W. McDowell, Dean of Instruc-

tion Lou Reibling, VP Conway Jeffress or a Trustee or two couldn't have seen the jubilation in that gym following the miracle finish.

It was, however, good to see a pair of faculty members in attendance (but I won't mention their names to protect the innocent).

I just hope Briggs is around long enough to see this thing through. He's brought excitement and an awakening to a sleeping program.

It's something former SC coach Glen Donahue envisioned doing before he left to take an assistant's job two years ago at Central Michigan.

SC returns to action this Saturday and Sunday for its holiday tournament.

It would sure be nice to see some support this weekend — administrative, that is.

Anyway, shopping can take a permanent break.

Ocelots from page C1

Cat-quick point-guard Mario Montgomery (Detroit) came off the bench to spark the defense.

He also hit a key three-pointer during the surge.

SC took a five-point lead with just over two minutes remaining, but Kellogg rallied back to gain a two-point advantage, 74-72, on a

basket by point-guard Antonio Jones (23 points) with just under 30 seconds to go.

Melson then split a pair of free throws with nine seconds to play, pulling SC to within one, 74-73.

SC, however, had two fouls to give in order to put Kellogg in

the bonus situation. The Ocelots fouled quickly at seven and five seconds.

With just five seconds remaining, Jones missed the front end of a one-and-one.

SC's Jimar Eddins grabbed the rebound, but a sideline pass was batted out of bounds in the

Ocelots' front-court with only .45 seconds left.

Ocelot coach Carlos Briggs called timeout to set up a final shot and his set-play worked to perfection against Kellogg's man-to-man defense.

Isolating two players on the perimeter and sending Derek McKelvey to the corner for a possible three-point try, Eddins lobbed the ball into Melson, who found himself isolated one-on-one in the post against a Kellogg defender.

Melson caught the pass and wheeled inside for the winning two — just beating the buzzer.

David Jarrett (Westland John Glenn) added 15 points for the winners. Emeko Okonkwo (Pioneer) contributed 11, while Eddins had eight.

Terry Curtis and Larry Daily chipped in with 18 and 15, respectively.

Kellogg (8-6 overall) hit 12 three-pointers on the night.

Northwood 97, Madonna 65: The Fighting Crusaders fell to 1-12 on the season Saturday with a loss at Northwood University.

Damon Coleman scored 28 points and grabbed six rebounds to lead Northwood (7-1) to the win.

For Madonna, Mark Hayes had 23 points, Narvin Russaw 13, and Nick Hurley (Plymouth Canton) had eight points.

Poor shooting had a hand in Madonna's setback. The Crusaders shot just 40.4 percent for the game while Northwood made better than 50 percent of its shots.

Hockey — C1

on two goals.

Michigan has been seeing as much ice time as veteran defenseman Eric Bryant, Ryan Dettloff and Dan Pszenyeczny.

"Michigan's learning on the fly, doing a good job," Rice coach Mike Brown said. "We've been throwing him right to the wolves."

Rickey Marnon was the CC netminder. Rick Bartley started in goal for the Warriors before being relieved by last year's No. 1 netminder Aaron Smith.

Bartley was coming off a 3-0 shutout victory over Ann Arbor Pioneer.

The Warriors, 4-0-3 overall, are idle until Jan. 7. Saturday's game was the first the Warriors have played at full strength, according to Brown.

"We have two weeks off to lick our wounds," Brown said. "We're a little knicked up and need time away from the rink. I believe the holidays are time for family anyway. Believe me, I played a few times on Christmas Night in the I (International Hockey League).

"It's a good way to end 1997 on a positive note. It's not the way you want to start out that game but we fought back and it was a good learning experience for our younger players."



The third period collapse isn't going to ruin St. John's Christmas, either.

"If we continue to improve as we have in the first month, we'll be tough in March," St. John said.

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Sunday, December 28
Third Place Game • 1:30pm
Championship Game • 5:00pm

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WLA
"We went the attitude t so let's just what we can. There were Buckler doubt emerge on t most, there was expected this year thar Also, the Sp team, swi meet of the three meet life," said Bu It appare them much, 7 10 relays; for Salem. The capture by heavyweights

WLAA
Dec. 20 a

Team finishes
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DATES/D

BASS
Bass season e Dec. 31.

DEER
The second a through Jan. cial late antle season runs t private land c

GOOSE
The special la season runs J southern Mich aries for the l changed this the same as t Zone of the re season. The e open during t the exception

SQUIRREL
Fox and gray runs through

RABBIT
Rabbit season March 31 stat

CLASSE

FLY TYING
The Challeng Unlimited an tining Educu week fly tying 7 p.m. Monda ingham Seah Registration l (248) 203-380 tion.

ARCHER

JUNIOR OLYMP
The Oakland Club in Clark Olympic Arch Program begi Sundays. Call more informa

JUNIOR ARCHER
A weekly prog archers begin days at Detro Bloomfield. C or (313) 835-2 mation.

OUTDOO

SOLAR
The School for ship, Adventu a non-profit or ested in prom tion of outdo at 7:30 p.m. o of each month in Southfield. 6658 for more

FISHING

CLINTON VALLE
Clinton Valle; socking new r and non-best The club meet at Mountain

WLAA Relays from page C1

"We went into the meet with the attitude that we can't win it, so let's just have fun and do what we can."

There were a couple of reasons Buckler doubted his team could emerge on top. First and foremost, there was Salem, which was expected to be even better this year than last.

Also, the Spartans were a tired team, swimming their third meet of the week. "I haven't had three meets in one week in my life," said Buckler.

It apparently didn't harm them much. They won four of the 10 relays; for that matter, so did Salem. The only events to evade capture by the league's two heavyweights were the 200-yard

breaststroke relay (won by Livonia Franklin's Chris Supplee, Erik Koppin, Dave Bosman and Jody Gomez) and the 400-yard individual medley relay (won by Canton's Aaron Reeder, Kurtis Hornick, John Cook and Mike Dempsey).

There was one other significant occurrence that impacted on the meet and its final results: North Farmington. The Raiders — one of the league's top teams — were no-shows, for reasons as yet undetermined.

"This is the first time it's ever happened, so I don't know what the consequences will be," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "That's up to the administrators."

Without doubt, the opening event was the difference in the meet. When Salem was disqualified, the team that took over first place in the 400 medley was Stevenson (Joe Bublitz, Kevin VanTiem, Mark Sgriccia and Mike Malik).

"We did our typical relays thing," said Olson, noting that in each of the previous two years the Rocks' disqualifications in the 200 backstroke relay cost them a meet title. "Only we got DQ'ed in the first relay this time."

"(Stevenson) swam real well and didn't run into as many problems as we did."

The Spartans' other relay wins

came in the 200 butterfly (Steve Domin, Brad Feathers, Sgriccia and Keith Falk); the 500 crescendo freestyle (George Earhart, Jacob Varty, Malik and Falk); and the 200 medley (Bublitz, VanTiem, Domin and Brad Buckler).

Salem won the 400 free (Dan Kelly, Dan Jones, Mike Kilgore and Brian Mertens); 200 back (Aaron Shelton, Brent Mellis, Matt Casillas and Nick Corden); diving (Chris Cameron and Mike Belvitch); and 200 free (Corden, Tim Buchanan, Jones, Locke).

The Rocks set the only new meet record in the 200 free relay, winning in 1:29.70 (former record, 1:31.81, by Northville in 1991).

Baechler from page C1

next year." But right after the first week of school, Baechler learned of an opening in the Plymouth-Canton school district at Lowell Middle School. He interviewed and got the job.

"I kind of like this district," he said. "And I live in Canton. I thought it would be nice to live and work in the same town. So I resigned at Dexter to teach and coach here."

The Class B Dreadnaughts were 3-6 with several close losses and an explosive offense.

Going from head coach to assistant won't be a problem, he feels.

"I was an assistant coach for three years before I became a head coach," he said. "Bob Khoenle is 62 years old. He played at Massillon (O.). He played at Purdue. I'm sure there are plenty of things I can learn from him."

"I'm going into it with the attitude of wanting to learn about the league. They play some of the best competition in

the state. I'm excited to be a part of that."

He's joining a program, however, which is hamstrung by not having middle school football. And whose facilities are not on a level with premier Class A programs.

Canton has openings on its staff because at least three assistants are leaving — Troy McCall is moving to Atlanta while Wayne Robinson and Chris Roberts are returning to college full-time to finish work on their degrees.

Baechler "is going to fit in good because of that," Khoenle said. "The timing's real good. I'm glad to have him. He's a good man."

Khoenle "just sounds like a real good guy to work for," Baechler said. "He talks about wanting input from his assists. It sounds like he's going to give me a great deal of responsibility."

"I don't think egos will get in the way. This is a great area, a great school system."

RELAYS RESULTS

WLAA SWIM RELAYS Dec. 20 at Plymouth Salem

Team finishes: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 2:42; 2. Plymouth Salem, 2:24; 3. Plymouth Canton, 2:12; 4. Northville, 1:58; 5. Walled Lake, 1:58; 6. Farmington Harrison, 1:50; 7. Livonia Franklin, 1:27; 8. Livonia Churchill, 1:14; 9. Farmington, 1:05; 10. Westland John Glenn, 1:00; 11. North Farmington (did not show).

Event results

400-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Joe Bublitz, Kevin VanTiem, Mark Sgriccia, Mike Malik), 3:52.28; 2. Canton, 3:59.34; 3. Northville, 4:11.49; 4. Farmington, 4:17.42; 5. Churchill, 4:19.34; 6. Walled Lake, 4:30.13; 7. Franklin, 5:06.02.

400-yard freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Dan Kelly, Dan Jones, Mike Kilgore, Brian Mertens), 3:34.45; 2. Walled Lake, 3:35.88; 3. Canton, 3:36.90; 4. John Glenn, 3:39.07; 5. Stevenson, 3:43.56; 6. Harrison, 3:53.93; 7. Northville, 3:54.58; 8. Churchill,

4:47.35; 9. Franklin, 5:23.71.

200-yard breaststroke relay: 1. Franklin (Chris Supplee, Erik Koppin, Dave Bosman, Jody Gomez), 2:06.55; 2. Farmington, 2:08.79; 3. Northville, 2:10.28; 4. Canton, 2:11.80; 5. Stevenson, 2:13.13; 6. Salem, 2:15.40; 7. Walled Lake, 2:15.90; 8. Harrison, 2:34.93; 9. Churchill, 2:44.69.

200-yard backstroke relay: 1. Salem (Aaron Shelton, Brent Mellis, Matt Casillas, Nick Corden), 1:48.05; 2. Northville, 1:50.71; 3. Canton, 1:56.24; 4. Franklin, 2:19.02; 5. Stevenson, 2:22.09; 6. Churchill, 2:25.01; 7. Harrison, 2:29.79; 8. Walled Lake, 2:33.72; 9. John Glenn, 2:46.68.

200-yard butterfly relay: 1. Stevenson (Steve Domin, Brad Feathers, Mark Sgriccia, Keith Falk), 1:42.94; 2. Salem, 1:58.47; 3. Canton, 2:00.99; 4. Walled Lake, 2:10.70; 5. Northville, 2:20.00; 6. Churchill, 2:23.49.

One-meter diving relay: 1. Salem (Chris Cameron, Mike Belvitch), 3:44.45 points; 2. Farmington, 3:19.05; 3. John

Glenn, 3:01.05; 4. Franklin, 2:83.15; 5. Stevenson, 2:48.95.

400-yard individual medley relay: 1. Canton (Aaron Reeder, Kurtis Hornick, John Cook, Mike Dempsey), 4:10.55; 2. Harrison, 4:11.27; 3. Salem, 4:13.09; 4. Franklin, 4:18.60; 5. Stevenson, 4:24.79; 6. John Glenn, 4:48.48; 7. Northville, 4:51.32; 8. Walled Lake, 5:07.94; 9. Churchill, 5:11.21.

500-yard crescendo freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (George Earhart, Jacob Varty, Mike Malik, Keith Falk), 4:29.44; 2. Northville, 4:39.33; 3. Walled Lake, 4:39.78; 4. John Glenn, 4:44.77; 5. Salem, 4:44.81; 6. Canton, 4:51.82; 7. Churchill, 4:56.80; 8. Harrison, 5:43.43; 9. Farmington, 5:50.98; 10. Franklin, 6:33.41.

200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Joe Bublitz, Kevin VanTiem, Steve Domin, Brad Buckler), 1:46.87; 2. Harrison, 1:48.36; 3. Salem, 1:51.19; 4. Farmington, 1:55.06; 5. Canton, 1:56.63; 6. Northville, 1:57.69; 7. Walled Lake, 1:59.63; 8. John Glenn,

2:18.22; 9. Churchill, 2:23.43; 10. Franklin, 2:47.00.

200-yard freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Nick Corden, Tim Buchanan, Dan Jones, Andrew Locke), 1:29.70 (new Relays record; old record 1:31.81, Northville, 1991); 2. Harrison, 1:43.00; 3. Stevenson, 1:44.08; 4. Canton, 1:46.70; 5. Walled Lake, 1:48.25; 6. Northville, 1:51.42; 7. Farmington, 1:57.31; 8. Churchill, 2:02.08; 9. John Glenn, 2:03.88; 10. Franklin, 2:23.47.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

DATES/DEADLINES

BASS
Bass season ends statewide on Dec. 31.

DEER
The second archery season runs through Jan. 1 statewide. A special late antlerless only firearms season runs through Jan. 4 on private land only in Zone III.

GOOSE
The special late Canada goose season runs Jan. 2-Feb. 1 in southern Michigan. The boundaries for the late hunt have been changed this year and are now the same as those for the South Zone of the regular waterfowl season. The entire south zone is open during the late hunt with the exception of the five GMU's.

SQUIRREL
Fox and gray squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

RABBIT
Rabbit season runs through March 31 statewide.

CLASSES

FLY TYING
The Challenge Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Birmingham Continuing Education will offer a 10-week fly tying class beginning at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Registration begins Jan. 5. Call (248) 203-3800 for more information.

ARCHERY

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (810) 623-0444 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS
A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

OUTDOOR CLUBS

SOLAR
The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation, a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658 for more information.

FISHING CLUBS

CLINTON VALLEY BASS ANGLERS
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. The

next meeting is slated for 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Senior Citizen's Center in the Livonia Civic Center. Call Jim Kudej at (313) 591-0843 for more information.

FISHING BUDDIES
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. Call (248) 656-0556 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Dearborn Civic Center. Call (313) 676-2863 for more information.

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN
Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Range hours are noon to sunset on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. to sunset on Wednesdays. On Saturdays and Sundays the rifle and pistol range is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the sporting clays course is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenshield Rd. (three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills). Call (810) 814-9193 for more information.

PONTIAC LAKE
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford has rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges. Range hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is located at 7800 Gale Rd. Call (810) 666-1020 for more information.

ORTONVILLE RECREATION
Ortonville Recreation Area in Ortonville has rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting facilities. Range hours through Dec. 22 are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Rd. Call (810) 693-

6767 for more information.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks, toll free: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

1998 PERMITS
The 1998 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 and \$8 for senior citizens. The annual boat launching permits are \$18 and \$9 for senior citizens. Call 1-800-47-PARKS for more information.

DEER THROUGH THE SEASONS
Explore the world of the park's largest mammal, the whitetailed deer, through slides and a short walk during this program, which began Sunday, Dec. 21, at Kensington.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

RECYCLE CHRISTMAS TREES
Ten Oakland County Parks will be recycling Christmas trees Dec. 27-Jan. 11. Trees may be dropped off 9 a.m.-4 p.m., seven days a week. Independence Oaks and Orion Oaks will remain open for Christmas tree recycling through Jan. 25.



FULL MOON CROSS COUNTRY SKI
Experience an evening of cross country skiing under the light of the full moon during this program, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Independence Oaks.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2433. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.

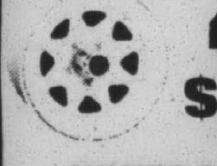


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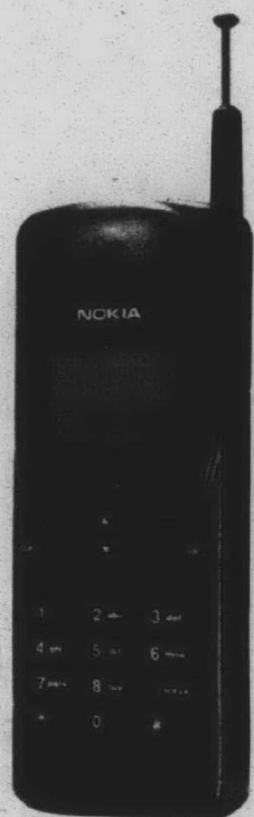
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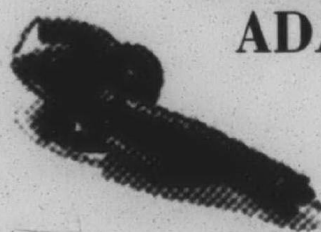


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WEEK

SINGLES

West S night dar Friday at Manor, S west of Ir nia. Adm bird spec p.m. Age welcome. sional DJ hits. Dre jeans). 96
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SCHOLAR

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CALENDAR

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND PLYMOUTH

WEEKEND

SINGLES DANCE

West Side Singles Friday night dances are held every Friday at the Burton Manor, Schoolcraft Road, west of Inkster Road, Livonia. Admission is \$5. Early bird special \$3 before 8:30 p.m. Ages 21 and older welcome. Music by professional DJ. Top 40 current hits. Dressy attire (no jeans). 981-0909.

Suburban Singles presents a "Singles Mingle Dance" every Wednesday and Sunday at the Bonnie Brook Country Club, Telegraph Road, south of Eight Mile in Redford. Admission is \$4. Early bird special \$3 before 8:30 p.m. Ages 21 and older. Fashionable attire (no jeans). For more information, call (313) 849-5275.

West Side Singles presents a Christmas Dance Friday, Dec. 26, at the Burton Manor in Livonia. Cost is \$3 before 8:30 p.m. Ages 21 and over. Dressy attire (no jeans). 981-0909.

A New Year's Eve Dance will also be hosted by the West Side Singles on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at Burton Manor in Livonia. The event is from 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., with a cash bar. A DJ will play Top 40 Music, and there will be party favors, balloon drop and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Dressy attire (no jeans). 981-0909.

AROUND TOWN

UNIQUE GIFTS

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce offers gift ideas for year-round. Gift certificates for over 40 Plymouth area retail shops and eateries as well as Plymouth sweat-shirts. Call 453-1540.

BUILD BOOK COLLECTION

Join the Plymouth District Library and help build the collection. Choose to donate to the adult or youth collection with \$25. The staff will help select a title and a bookplate will identify your donation to honor a friend or family member. Call 453-0750, Ext. 213.

BET CHAVERIM

The Hannukah party planned for Dec. 28 has been canceled. Call 480-8880 for the CBC hotline.

BRIDAL SHOW

Fox Hills will host "Your Golden Moment" on Jan. 14 with vendors from every aspect of a wedding: photographers, florists, DJs, bands and much more. There will be a fashion show, live music, and snacks. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Call (313) 453-7272 for information.

ADULT EDUCATION

The Plymouth-Canton Community School's Adult Education will begin registration for second semester on Jan. 5 for new credit students. New paid students can register Jan. 12. The semester begins Jan. 26. Registration takes place at Starkweather Edu-

cation Center, 550 N. Holbrook in Plymouth.

ORIGAMI EXHIBIT

Madonna University will be holding an origami art exhibit beginning Jan. 8 with an open reception at 4:30 at the University library. This reception will include a presentation and free lessons. There is no charge. The exhibit will continue through Jan. 30, during regular library hours. Call (734) 432-5711 for information.

SAXOPHONE QUARTET

The Lowell St. Saxophone Quartet, comprised of EMU students will be performing at the Alexander Recital Hall on the campus of EMU, at 8 p.m. on Jan. 15.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

The Water Club Grill will host this event serving prime rib and seafood buffet, and dessert table. There will be two seatings, the first at 6 p.m. at \$29.95 per person, including the buffet only. The second seating will be at 9 p.m. and will include live music, dancing, party favors, and a midnight toast at \$38.95 per person. For reservations call (313) 454-0666.

TAI CHI

Botsford Center for Health Improvement is offering an introductory course in Tai Chi beginning Jan. 7. This class meets every Wed. through Feb. 24, from 7-8 p.m. The fee is \$70 and preregistration is required. Call (248) 473-5600 for information.

WINTER BALL

Canton Community Foundation is hosting its fourth annual Canton Winter Ball on Jan. 9 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The evening includes a gourmet dinner, open bar, and live music. Reception begins at 6:30, dinner at 8 p.m. and dancing at 9 p.m. Attire is semi-formal, tickets are \$60 for and individual, corporate sponsorships are available. This is the largest fund-raiser for the foundation. Call (313) 398-5000 for reservations.

ART CLASSES

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is now accepting registrations for winter 1998 art classes and workshops for all ages. Classes start Jan. 12. Choose from photography, batik, printmaking, music, pottery, basketry and children's theater. Call (313)416-4ART.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

Fox Hills Golf Club will be hosting this event 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. Tickets are \$79 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, free drinks, live music, desserts and noisemakers. Call 453-7272 for required reservations.

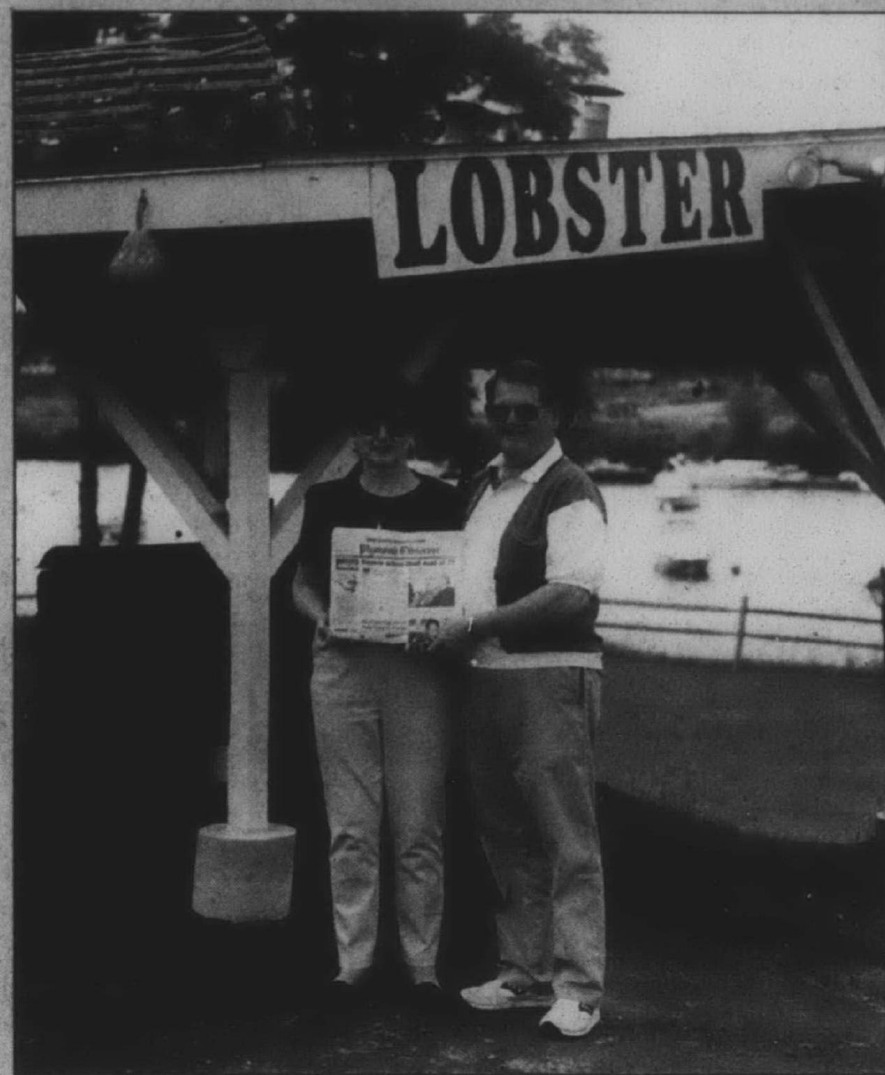
LIBRARY EVENTS

The Plymouth District Library is hosting many exciting events this month: a holiday card display, Internet youth classes and book discussions. Call 453-0750.

ART WORKSHOPS

D & M Studio's Once Upon an Easel in Canton

Wishing you were here



Vacation: Jack and Rita Gibbs of Plymouth took their Plymouth Observer with them on vacation to Bar Harbor, Maine.

is offering a variety of holiday art workshops for adults and youths. Call Sharon, 453-3710.

ADULT CPR

St. Mary Hospital in Livonia will offer a Basic Life Support Adult Heart-Saver Course 1-3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, in the Marian Pavilion Conference Room B, near the South Entrance on Levan Rd. The cost is \$20 per person. To register, call (313) 655-2922 or 1-800-494-1650.

YOUTH SOCCER

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department will be taking Spring Youth Soccer registration during the month of January, at the Recreation office, 525 Farmer St., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A birth certificate is required, \$40 for residents, \$60 for non-residents. Call 455-6620.

FUNNIEST VIDEOS

Enter "Michigan's Funniest Videos" at East Lansing's first annual Film Festival on March 29. Tapes should be acceptable for family viewing and no longer than 10 minutes. Deadline is Feb. 10. Send them to: Michigan's Funniest Videos, P.O. Box 025035, Lansing, Mich. 48909-5035. Call (517) 336-5802.

SALVATION ARMY

Senior citizens of all ages, get your exercise and have a good time, too, in the Senior Volleyball Program. The program meets 10 a.m. to noon, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. There is an annual fee of \$10. For more information, call the Salvation Army (313) 453-5464 and ask for Martha.

The Salvation Army offers open gym time 1-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. There is a \$1 per person

fee. For more information, call (313) 453-5464.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SINGLE ADULT FELLOWSHIPS

The Single Adult Fellowship-ers of Newburg UMC in Livonia will be having their January 1998 Dinner Meeting on Jan. 10 at the Old Country Buffet on Wayne Rd. at Hunter in Westland. The dinner starts at 4:30 p.m., all are welcome and bring a friend.

SOUNDINGS

Soundings is a Center for Women and offer a variety of career programs, professional development and personal growth classes and workshops. The center is in Ann Arbor on 4090 Packard Road. There is a job resource room, financial counseling, job hunters and

numerous support groups. Call (313) 973-7723 for further information.

DIABETES

St. Mary Hospital Diabetes Support Group will be having a meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, in the hospital auditorium. There is no charge or registration required. Call (313) 655-2922 or 1-800-494-1650.

EMPOWER

One free hour for parents or families to empower: counseling, resources and support for crisis situations, medical needs or ongoing issues. Call for an appointment 981-3039.

CELIAC SPRUE

For persons who have celiac sprue and dermatitis herpetiformis, their families and friends. Monthly meetings, next one 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Southfield Presbyterian Church, 21575 West 10 Mile in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6996.

HIV/AIDS TESTING

The HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) offers free walk-in testing at a variety of locations throughout Washtenaw, Livingston and other counties. Call (313) 572-9355.

NEW BEGINNING

The New Beginnings Grief Support Group meets 7 p.m. every Monday at the Plymouth Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon, just south of Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Anyone who is grieving a loss of a loved one is invited to attend. There is no charge. For information, call (313) 453-7630.

ARBOR HOSPICE

A seven-week support and educational group for parents who have lost an adult child will be offered by Arbor Hospice. Groups will meet 4-5:30 p.m. Thursdays at Arbor Hospice, 3810 Packard, Ann Arbor. The group is open to any parent who has experienced the death of an adult child, regardless of whether the loss occurred recently or many years ago. A minimal donation will be requested. For more information and to register, call Arbor Hospice at (313) 677-0500 or 1-800-783-5764.

MDDA

MDDA (Manic Depressive-Depressive Association) holds its meeting the second and fourth Sundays 2-4 p.m. at Oakwood-Canton Health Center Community meeting room. For more information, call Nancy at (313) 455-8f.98.

VOLUNTEER WORK

VOLUNTEERS

The Alzheimer's Association is seeking volunteers to provide companionship to people experiencing memory loss. Those who volunteer receive an excellent orientation that provides them with the information and skills to brighten the life of someone with Alzheimer's. To learn more or to volunteer, call Adam Sterling, (248) 557-8277.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. Meetings are 7-9 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Livonia Senior Center on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile Road. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others are welcome to attend meetings which serve Plymouth, Canton, Westland, Livonia, Redford and Garden City. Interested volunteers may call 459-0216 or 421-4208.

BEAUMONT HOSPICE

Beaumont Hospice invites you to become part of its hospice team by volunteering your services to support the care of patients with terminal illnesses and their families. Information, (248) 828-9514.

CLUBS

MOTHER OF MULTIPLES

The Plymouth-Canton Mothers of Multiples club meets 7 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month. Call Barb at (313) 207-5224. Playgroup meets every other Tuesday; call Sue at (313) 459-9324.

CAREER WOMEN

The National Association of Career Women West Suburban Chapter meets on the third Tuesday of each month, at Ernesto's Restaurant, 41661 Plymouth Road in Plymouth; from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For information, call Judie, (313) 453-7272, Ext. 223.

GOODFELLOWS

The Plymouth Goodfellows meet 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the City Hall on Main Street. Call 455-8611 or 451-3554.

MEET OTHER MOTHERS

(M.O.M.) offers guest speakers and discussion. It meets at 9:30 a.m. the second and fourth Friday of the month at the First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth. Babysitting is provided. For more information, call Kate at (313) 453-3675.

TOASTMASTERS

Join the Oral Majority Toastmasters Club at 6:45 p.m. Sundays at the old Friendly's building, at Ann Arbor Road and Lilley. For more information, call Marc Sullivan at (313) 455-1635.

AUDITIONS

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS

One of Michigan's premier choirs, the Plymouth Community Chorus, is looking for people who love to sing. Auditions will be held Jan. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 N. Territorial Rd. Auditions by appointment on Jan. 13, 20 and 27 at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will begin Jan. 13. Male voices, especially tenors are needed, female openings are also available. (313)455-4080.

CALENDAR FORM

The Plymouth Observer welcomes Calendar items. Items should be from non-profit community groups or individuals announcing a community program or event. Please type or print the information below and mail your item to The Calendar, Plymouth Observer, 794 South Main Street, Plymouth, MI. 48170, or by fax to 313-459-4224. Deadline for Calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. Call 459-2700 if you have any questions.

Event:

Date and Time:

Location:

Telephone:

Additional Info.:

Use additional sheet if necessary

CAMPUS NOTES

To submit your academic honor or graduation announcement to Campus Notes, send the material, printed or typewritten, to: Campus Notes, Plymouth-Canton Observer, 794 S. Main, Plymouth, Mich. 48170.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Walsh College in Troy has awarded scholarships to several local students. From Plymouth, Tammy Croxall received the Morris A. Wattles Memorial Scholarship and Sheryle Patterson received the Walsh College Scholarship. From Canton, Lynn Cannon received the Seimen's Automotive Scholarship, Lila Gould and Amy Tolstyka both

received the Masco Corporation Scholarship and Therese Tyler received the Presidential Scholarship.

GRADUATED

Eastern Michigan hosted winter commencement on December 14, in the Bowen Field House, honoring 1,470 students. The following students from Canton earned master's degrees: John Cook, Jennifer Dallacqua, James Day, Deborah Fedor, David Holmes, Lila Howard, Gregory Johnson, Jeffrey Johnson, Gary Kondratek, Patrick Paskiewicz, Daniel Sarafian, Gail Smith, Ximin Wang, Christine Wensley, Sheryl Yengera, Joan Zarosley, Juntao Zhang.

From Plymouth, the following students have earned master's degrees: Aaron Basler, Kristine Bowland, Kelleigh Dugan, Colleen Killen-Gonyea, Robert Redford, Stephanie Schriener, Elizabeth Vartanian-Gibbs, James West.

DEAN'S LIST

Two students from Canton were named to the Dean's List for the Fall term at Northwood University in Midland. They have earned at least a 3.0 grade point on a 4.0 scale. Congratulations to Lisa L. Craven, the daughter of Richard and Magdalen Craven and Laura Logsdon, the daughter of James and Debbie Logsdon.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Susan R. Alonzo of Canton received the 1997-98 Highest Achievement Award in her major, international business, from Madonna University. She has attained the highest GPA in that major.

GRADUATED

Michigan State University awarded 2,239 students with degrees for fall 1997. Graduates from Plymouth include: John Bell - with high honors, Jennifer Curran, Melissa Davis, Dawn Habbkirk, Ayanna Jones, Geraldine Roc, Christopher Soave, Craig Steshetz and Ryan Townsend.

Former CC lineman reverses fortunes

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The 1996 football season for Boston College offensive lineman Doug Brzezinski was nothing short of a disaster.

It was more like a scene from the movie "Titanic." He was treading water.

But the 6-foot-4, 305-pound left tackle from Redford Catholic Central survived the year of turmoil to earn All-Big East honors in 1997.

Although BC finished 4-7 for the second straight year, Brzezinski was one of four Eagles named to the All-Big East's first team.

"It was a relief more than a surprise," said Brzezinski, a senior from Livonia with one year of eligibility remaining. "Last year was a horrible year for me. I got benched in the Pitt game. There were a lot of problems within the team."

PROFILE

These were just not small problems, but BIG problems for BC, which was rocked by a gambling scandal where three Eagle players bet against their own team.

"It was kind of blown out of proportion by the media," Brzezinski said. "College athletes all over bet, but this whole thing was idiotic. These guys were calling their bookies from the hotel."

The national media scrutiny which followed turned out to be a huge distraction and the school's football program had been sullied.

Dan Henning, former San Diego Chargers head coach and Detroit Lions offensive coordinator, stepped down following the probe after three seasons as BC's

head coach. (Henning is now the offensive coordinator for the Buffalo Bills.)

"Things just got out of control," Brzezinski said. "He was a good coach, but he trusted the players too much. With Henning, the players always pushed the envelope."

"Guys were just dogging it and going through the motions the weight room, and some weren't even showing up. A lot of guys, who were used to being coddled in high school, claimed they were hurt and were getting out of practice and not playing when they could have."

"There was a lot of stress and it was a bad situation. Things were tough all the way around. And it was no person in particular."

After a 4-7 season in '96, BC went with Tom O'Brien, the offensive coordinator at Virginia as its new head coach. His offensive coordinator and offensive line coach was Jeff Jagedzinski from East Carolina.

The two new coaches ditched Henning's one-back set.

The blocking schemes stressed fundamentals and the approach was much the same when



Doug Brzezinski
All-Big East lineman

Brzezinski played for Tom Mach at CC. (Brzezinski was a junior starter on CC's 1992 state championship team.)

"I liked our offense a lot more because it was simplified," said Brzezinski, a former soccer player who didn't play football until the ninth grade. "Under Henning, we had five different ways of blocking. Things got confusing. We went back to a more basic set. It was a lot better, more fun. It just made more sense."

And the discipline was also Mach's style.

"He addressed the problems right away, he stressed team unity right away," Brzezinski said. "Nobody was putting up with any guff. He threw two or three guys off the team right away. It was all business. There was no gray area."

This fall, the Eagles lost several close Big East games, including a double overtime loss to Miami. They beat West Virginia, a top 25 team, which turned out to be Brzezinski's top game.

"Coach O'Brien had been in the Marines, and he said don't look for any sympathy," Brzezinski said. "He knows what it takes. I like it a whole lot better. Things are getting better now."

This year the Eagles racked up nearly 5,000 yards in total offense with an even balance of rushing and passing.

A three-year starter, Brzezinski, a Sociology major, is looking forward to his final season in a BC uniform.

But there was a time when he felt bewildered.

The BC coach that recruited him out of high school, Tom

Coughlin, left shortly after Brzezinski signed his NCAA National Letter-of-Intent to take the head coaching position with the NFL expansion Jacksonville Jaguars.

"I was still committed to the school and I said to myself that I had to stick it out," he said. "But it (1996) was like a nightmare. It reminded of a book I read, 'Heart of Darkness.' I thought about transferring."

He is now home for the holidays with his family, including brother Nick, a junior tight end who caught touchdown pass in CC's 23-6 state Class AA championship win over Ann Arbor Huron.

But he would rather be away at a bowl game.

"I get nervous sitting around at home, I always have to be doing something," said Brzezinski, who works out regularly at Gold's Gym on Eight Mile Road.

A big year could put Brzezinski high in the NFL draft, but he isn't thinking about the pros just yet.

He's just trying to keep the Boston College ship from sinking and steering it toward the right course.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 26

(River Rouge Tournament)

Redford CC vs. DePorres, 6 p.m.

River Rouge vs. Ecorse, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 27

Rouge Tournament, 6 & 7:30 p.m.

Wayne at Brother Rice, 7:30 p.m.

Bishop Borgess vs. Detroit Finney

at Ferndale High School, 7:30 p.m.

(Grosse Ile Tournament)

Salem vs. A.P. Cabrini, 6 p.m.

Riv. Richard vs. Grosse Ile, 8 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 29

Grosse Ile Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Dec. 27

Madonna at Findlay (Ohio), 6 & 8 p.m.

(Schoolcraft Holiday Classic)

Owens Tech vs. Durham (Ont.), 5 p.m.

S'craft vs. George Brown, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 28

Schoolcraft Holiday Classic, 3 & 7 p.m.

Madonna at Findlay (Ohio), 1 & 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Dec. 27

(Schoolcraft Holiday Classic)

Lakeland CC vs. Windsor, 1 p.m.

S'craft vs. George Brown, 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 28

S'craft Holiday Classic, 1 & 5 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Saturday, Dec. 27

RU at U-D Jesuit Tourney, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 28

U-D Jesuit Tourney, TBA.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Saturday, Dec. 27

Ply. Whalers at Windsor, 2 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Saturday, Dec. 27

Ypsi Lincoln Tourney, TBA.

UM-Dearborn Tourney, TBA.

TBA — time to be announced.

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<p>Dearborn Hgts.* 26600 Ann Arbor Trail Dearborn Heights, MI 48127 (313) 278-6450</p>	<p>Lincoln Park 1901 Southfield Rd. Lincoln Park, MI 48146 (313) 386-5600</p>	

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Due to unforeseen demand,
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may not be available at all stores.

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Entertainment

The Observer

Page 1, Section E

Keely Wygonik, Editor 313-953-2105

on the web: <http://observer-eccentric.com>

Thursday, December 25, 1997

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



"The Living Nativity," is part of The Radio City Christmas Spectacular at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward, Detroit. Call (248) 433-1515 for tickets, and performance times.

SATURDAY

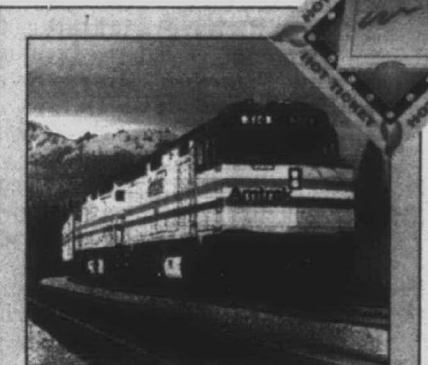


19 Wheels performs at the 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are \$6. (248) 335-8100.

SUNDAY



Meadow Brook Theatre presents "A Christmas Carol," 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at Oakland University, Rochester. Tickets \$23, (248) 377-3300.



Hot Tix: Toy & Hobby Expo '97, Friday-Sunday, Dec. 26-28 at the Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Dr., Novi features art work by Paul Adams, the world's largest mobile train display, new and used model railroad and toy trains, antique toys, collectible dolls and more, call (248) 348-5600.



PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER

Go cat go: When not touring the United States, the local rockabilly band Twistin' Tarantulas packs them in on Sundays at Fifth Avenue Billiards in Royal Oak. The band is, from left, drummer Alex "The Thrilla From Manila" Trajano, bassist/singer "Pistol" Pete Midtgard, and guitarist "Gorgeous" George Friend.

Twistin' Tarantulas:



BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Feeling jovial, a teenage Pete Midtgard popped Humble Pie's "30 Days in the Hole" into his eight-track player.

"I had this speaker on the floor in my room that really was a cardboard box with just a round speaker tied into it (sitting) on a hardwood floor," Midtgard recalled.

"I cranked it up really loud and when the bass came in, the speaker started skating around on the floor like one of those little football guys. That's when I said, 'Man, I want to be that guy. I want to be the guy who makes the speaker rattle across the floor and shake the glass.' I wanted to be the bass player."

Midtgard's bass playing abilities have undoubtedly improved since then as he's now known as "Pistol Pete," the lead singer and upright bass player for the rockabilly band Twistin' Tarantulas.

Bass gripped tightly and sweaty hair flapping with the beat, Midtgard and his band attract dancers like flies to fly paper.

O & E Band of the Year

An amalgamation of rockabilly, swing, blues, R&B and rock 'n' roll, the Twistin' Tarantulas play constantly and still the clubs are invariably standing room only.

The Twistin' Tarantulas were on the cusp of the rockabilly/swing revival long before others jumped on the now trendy bandwagon. Like rockabilly or hate it, the Twistin' Tarantulas rock.

The Twistin' Tarantulas are The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' 1997 Band of the Year.

Side project

Midtgard grew up in Pontiac attending Pontiac Central High School. He graduated, what he calls, "Phi Beta Drop Out."

"I was in a hurry to go to a new school — school of hard rocks. I got a PhD from the hard knock school of adolescent rage. I can't push the first button on a computer, but I still remember binary codes."

While he was in school, he played multiple instruments including the tuba and trombone. It was at age 16 or 17 that he plopped in the aforementioned Humble Pie tape.

Who: Twistin' Tarantulas, Mudpuppy and Nobody's Business

What: Performs

When: 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31

Where: Upstairs at Fifth Avenue Billiards, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak.

Why: It's New Year's Eve

How: Tickets are \$35 which includes a complimentary glass of champagne, or \$60 per couple which includes a complimentary bottle of champagne. Both ticket prices include a light buffet and party favors. Only those 21 and older will be admitted. For more information, call (248) 542-9922

Other shows:

Twistin' Tarantulas perform at 10 p.m. Sundays throughout December and January at Fifth Avenue Billiards in Royal Oak.

They also perform at 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Kodiak Grill, 45660 Mound Road, Utica. For more information, call (810) 731-1750.

Twistin' Tarantulas play Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., in Ann Arbor. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. for the 19 and older show. For more information, call (734) 996-8555.

To sign up for the Twistin' Tarantulas' mailing list, write "Pistol" Pete Midtgard at 2748 Vermont, Detroit, Mich., 48216

"I was into Humble Pie, Kiss, Led Zepelin, Black Sabbath, Deep Purple, all the big arena bands. Back then I had a lot of the cultural habits that were real common in the '70s."

Harkening back to his high school days, Midtgard and the Twistin' Tarantulas cover Misfits songs and Motorhead's "Ace of Spades."

"What else? It's one of the greatest songs ever written as far as I'm concerned. I've done that song in every band I've been in. When I started playing the upright I wasn't about to change."

Midtgard honed his skills in a variety of acts including the Frantic Flattops and Flying Saucers. In December 1993, the Twistin' Tarantulas were created as a side project

Please see **BAND, E2**

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Plan an informal, fun-filled New Year's Eve at home

What's On TV

New Year's Eve College Football Bowls
 ■ Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas — 2 p.m. CBS (WWJ), Arizona State (8-3) vs. Iowa (7-4)
 ■ Liberty Bowl, Memphis, Tenn. — 3:30 p.m. ESPN, Pittsburgh (6-5) vs. Southern Miss. (8-3)
 ■ Fiesta Bowl, Tempe, Ariz. — 7 p.m. CBS (WWJ), Kansas State (10-1) vs. Syracuse (9-3)

Countdown to 1998

■ Tonight Show, broadcast live — 11:35 p.m. NBC (WDIV)
 ■ Dick Clark's Rockin' Eve — 11:30 p.m. ABC (WXYZ) after the local news
 ■ When New Year's Attacks — 11 p.m. Fox (WJMK) — live from Reno. 90 minute show counts down to new year, features top musical performances, comedians, fireworks, Top 10 Scariest Moments of 1997, and a midnight stunt to bring in the New Year.

Sip champagne

BY ELEANOR AND RAY HEALD
SPECIAL WRITERS

You did it! You copped out and didn't get reservations for New Year's Eve! Don't fret, you have a week and can either plan to max out at the peak of hedonism or cheap out.

Champagne and hedonism pair nicely. In the category of magnificent, indulgent, unforgettable, extravagant maxing out for around \$145

a bottle, you can get the world's best, 1989 Champagne Krug or the 1985, to usher in the new year. You have the champagne idea; now for the caviar.

If you've not purchased caviar before, here are the basics. Russian caviars are identified by the species of



Please see **SIP, E2**

View a video

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

Rest assured there are other ways to ring in a New Year than simply watching Dick Clark drop that silly ball in Times Square. Your local video store is more than happy to meet your needs, whether you're spending the holiday with friends, a lover, or just by yourself.

Throw Your Own Premier

— it's easy to have your own premier with major movies that for some reason never made it to area screens. One that's getting decent notices is "Traveler," starring "Titanic's" Bill Paxton and "Boogie Nights" Mark Wahlberg as gypsies who traverse the rural South, bilking people out of their money.



Please see **VIDEO, E2**

Play a game

JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

For awhile there it seemed like parlor and board games were all just derivations of Monopoly and Charades. That's not true anymore as stores have whole aisles of clever ways to liven up New Year's Eve parties.

Here's just a sample:

■ Outburst — In a game that promises "common knowledge and uncommon hilarity!" you are given a topic like "Canine Commands" and must come up with all 10 desired responses in only 60 seconds. Other categories: "Dances of the Sixties" and "Parts of the Body that Come in Pairs."

■ Planet Hollywood — Is the official game of the Tinsel-



Please see **GAME, E2**

Band from page E1

for Midgard - who was playing with the Garfield Blues Band and Johnny "Yarddog" Jones - and "Gorgeous" George Friend, then of the R&B group the Sun Messengers.

"I was doing pick-up blues gigs all around town playing the upright until the Tarantulas finally got to a point where we knew we were see-worthy. We've been full time almost two years," Midgard said.

Five drummers later, Alex "The Thrilla From Manila" Trajano, formerly of the avant jazz troupe Blue Dog, is on skins.

"Alex is awesome. Alex is the find," Midgard explained.

Midgard realizes that one day he, too, may leave.

"Musicians do come and go. That's the nature of musicians. They do a certain bag long enough then they get tired of it. Me, I have my own thing that I do. There will always be a Twistin' Tarantulas, but I think

the only main stay is going to be me. Other guys are going to come and go. That's just something that you learn to accept after awhile."

Maracas player Frederick ("Ready Freddy") Spencer made an unexpected exit from the Twistin' Tarantulas Friday, Nov. 1, 1996. A captain in the armed services, Spencer was shining his shoes and brass buckles and buttons on the cloth wheel on a bench grinder. Police believe that his tie got caught, yanked him down and snapped his neck.

"I wrote a song about what I learned from that experience. It was a strange thing because I had this song in mind earlier. One time I was thinking about spectator sports and thinking about how spectators get so involved in this thing, but they're not in the arena. I've never been able to understand that personally," Midgard explained.

"I was thinking about people who love to sit back and criticize the people that are in the arena doing the battle. They're not trying anything."

The chorus, he said, encourages people to make the most of their lives.

"There might not be a tomorrow," Midgard sang. "There's not much left of today. So live your life in the arena and love, don't sit in the stands and fade away."

Prior to Spencer's death, Midgard struggled with the song's verses. Afterward, the words flowed.

"It was real simple then. It was the last time he taught me a lesson - that you should live and love and love to live because you never know your fate."

"The Arena" will be on the Twistin' Tarantulas' follow-up to "Attack of the Twistin' Tarantulas," its debut CD released in the fall 1996. Midgard is planning to record soon and release a new CD this summer.

Also included on the CD will be "Lighthouses."

"Lighthouse" is about different

people in my past that when I was wandering with no direction, these people were beacons. They were lighthouses when I was wandering too far away from where I should be."

After a pause, Midgard said, "Oh, I have to sing the chorus for you."

"In my darkest moments when I felt so alone/ At times when I'd wander so far from home/ You lit a candle while I cursed the dark/ You're a lighthouse in a foggy world."

Quickly, he sat up and admitted that he got the lighthouse/foggy world connection from the Frank Capra film "Meet John Doe."

"I'm writing songs with a little bit more serious subject matter. The first CD has a lot of those songs that I wrote when I first started playing rockabilly. My feeling about rockabilly at that time was that it had to be all fluff. You don't want to say anything too deep because it's just fun, happy happy, joy joy music."

"There's a couple songs on it

that have odd twists to them like 'Snake in the Grass.' I'm sitting there telling this girl she's got to get away from this guy because he's treating her (badly) and by the way, I'm available. That was the only song I was lyrically proud of on that record."

A shuffle, a stroll and Latin and bossa nova beats have become standard fare for the Twistin' Tarantulas' shows.

"We try to educate. There's a real big dance scene that's evolving. For the longest time, all these so-called dancers all they could dance to was one groove, which is fast swing. All they know how to do is spin each other around and dance really fast. If you don't play fast swing, they wouldn't dance."

Finally, Midgard tossed out a threat.

"I started saying to them, 'Look man. If you're really dancers then you should know how to do a shuffle and a stroll and a mambo and a bossanova. If you're really going to get out here and wear the clothes, and

wear the two-tone shoes and the pin-striped suits, you folks should learn how to dance to all these different steps, not just 'Sing, Sing, Sing.'"

Nevermind the threats, the crowds keep pouring in to clubs like Fifth Avenue Billiards every Sunday night. Midgard knows full well that his band is all about its live performances.

"We're a fun band to watch," Midgard said confidently while crossing his arms. "It's not because we put on some big dog and pony show. We enjoy what we do. That comes across. I love the music that I play. It comes from the bottom of my heart. I try to look nice, keep my hair combed."

"We try to mix it up. It's all in a very similar vein. We play American roots music. We don't do one bag. We have a nice full bag of tricks. We can do swing. We can do blues swing. We can do straight-ahead rock 'n' roll. We can do rockabilly. It all has a common denominator to it. It's always the three of us playing."

Game from page E1

town-themed restaurants, players are given categories like "Reasons to press STOP on your VCR," "Famous Blond Actors," or "Movies with One Name." You must come up with as many answers as possible while an electronic timer (with a "Mission Impossible"-style suspenseful tune) gives the game tension.

Monopoly Special Editions - You've probably lost the shoe and the few \$500 bills that remain are looking pretty dogeared. Still, even if you do buy the "Deluxe Edition," it won't prevent your opponents from hitting Boardwalk before you do.

And in a twist on the "Your City Here" versions of the game produced in bergs nationwide, Monopoly's "Star Wars Classic Trilogy Edition" mixes Chewbacca and Community Chest. Here the pewter tokens now resemble X-wing fighters as you develop cities and spaceports throughout the galaxy.

Channel Surfing - The favorite pastime of couch potatoes worldwide is now a popular (and socially acceptable) parlor game. Using the remote control on your cable television (not included), you must search for such items as "Tacky Outfits," "Fruit," or "Somethings That Makes You Gag," all explained for you on game cards. In a clever twist, a "Ring" could be a wedding ring, but it could also be

a sound.

Tom Clancy's Politika - For those of you frustrated by the world political situation, here's a strategy game that allows you to control the fate of modern Russia. The premise here is that the Russian President has died, leaving the country in the hands of the Russian mafia. Unlike the books, where you're at the mercy of the Mr. Clancy's literary whims, here you call the shots.

Act One - Another game where knowledge of Hollywood helps, this time with 1,400 lines or other clues from the most memorable moments in TV and movie history. Draw a card, act out a scene, and then your partners have to guess what it is, based on your performance and their familiarity with classics such as "I Love Lucy," "Star Wars," "The X-Files," and "The Godfather."

Compatibility - A game like this can either lead to holiday fun or some serious family disharmony. Here you and your partner choose a subject that both of you have some strong feelings about and then pick from a stack of pictured cards with related images. The "Marriage" category might prompt a cuddly Teddy bear, but there are also cards of prison cells. Rank these pictures in order of personal importance and watch the sparks fly.

Sip from page E1

sturgeon (beluga, ossetra or sevruga) and the sea from which they are taken (generally Caspian or Black). Other caviars are described as granular, pressed, flavored or pasteurized. It is most important to purchase fresh caviar. Beluga is the most expensive.

Fish departments of upscale grocery markets in the area regularly carry caviar during the holidays. Ordering caviar by telephone from a reputable importer and having it shipped overnight is a snap. We've used Caviarteria, Park Avenue, New York (800) 4-CAVIAR or for American caviars, Carolyn Collins Caviar Company, Chicago (800) 226-0342.

Become a style maven on New Year's Eve! Imitate James Bond. Go to a New Year's Eve showing of "Tomorrow Never Dies," the latest James Bond film. Watch Pierce Brosnan as Agent 007 drink the 1989 Champagne Bollinger Grande Année \$70. This is the 19th Bond film and the eighth in which Agent 007 drinks his favorite champagne. You'll get thirsty, so have your bottle chilled and imitate the Bond style when you get home! It's also great with caviar.

You just want to stay home? Fine, rent the video of one or all seven other Bond films in which Agent 007 drinks Bollinger

Champagne - "Live and Let Die," "Moonraker," "Octopussy," "A View to a Kill," "The Living Daylights," "License to Kill," "GoldenEye" and "Tomorrow Never Dies."

Bollinger Special Cuvée runs about \$30 if the Grande Année seems a tad pricey. No kidding, it's really good with fresh popcorn!

Prepare a simple, romantic dinner with wine. Chardonnay remains America's most favorite white wine. 1996 Alderbrook Chardonnay \$13 is most appealing.

Or you could order pizza. Drink good but cheap red wine with your pizza. The following are \$10 or less.

1995 Napa Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon; 1995 Georges Dubouef Cabernet Sauvignon; 1995 Lindemans Bin 45 Cabernet Sauvignon; 1996 Walnut Crest Merlot; 1996 Sutter Home Merlot; 1995 Lindemans Bin 40 Merlot; or 1995 Fetzer Eagle Peak Merlot.

Video from page E1

Offbeat Romance - Before you rent "Sleepless in Seattle" again, try a charming little romance called "Before Sunrise," from Richard Linklater, the director of "Dazed and Confused" and "Slacker." Here Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy play young Bohemians who meet on the train in Europe and decide, on the spot, to spend one memorable night together in Vienna.

Better in Black and White - The holidays are almost over, but there's still time to catch "Shop Around the Corner" (1940) a Jimmy Stewart movie directed by Ernst Lubitsch that gives "It's a Wonderful Life" a run for its money. Here the stammering one plays head clerk at a Budapest gift shop who doesn't realize that the co-worker he constantly argues with (Margaret Sullivan) is the same woman he has been wooing through a personals ad.

Hong Kong Action - With the Hong Kong influence making itself more and more known through the American success of Jackie Chan, John Woo and hopefully soon Chow Yun Fat (his new movie opens in February), it's time to catch up with the Asian invasion on video. Now that you've seen Woo's "Face/Off," check out his "Hard Boiled," whose high-octane shootout in a big city hospital includes some of the most heart-pounding action ever put on film.

New York, New York - If you can't be in New York this holiday, you can see it in its glory in "On the Town" (1949), for my money the most exuberant MGM musical ever made. Here sailor boys Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin spend such a memorable 24 hours in Manhattan (it was filmed on location) that you'll be planning your next trip.

Pre-"Scream" Screams - Now that you know both "Screams" practically by heart, check out the offbeat movies Wes Craven made before he became a household name, though preferably those without II or III after the titles. "Last House on the Left," "The Hills Have Eyes," and "Deadly Friend" won't disappoint.

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CHRISTINA F...

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STREET SCENE

The waiting is over for Irish rockers The Devlins



CHRISTINA FUOCO

It seems appropriate that Peter Devlin is waiting. Leaning up against a phone booth at JFK Airport in New York City, Devlin - who handles bass, sampling, programming, and vocals for Irish pop band The Devlins - is talking about his band's latest disc "Waiting" (Radiouniverse). It's been four years since the

band offered its first full-length album "Drift" (Capital).

"It definitely was a long wait, for more reasons than the obvious one," said Devlin, who was waiting to catch his flight to his hometown of Dublin.

"After we finished the whole promotion of the record in the United States we had to do it all over again at home. We didn't get a simultaneous release. It was only about two years ago when we started working on this one. It doesn't seem that long for us but for everybody in the States - anybody who cares - it seems like a long time."

The Devlins and its fans are hoping that "Waiting," produced and engineered by Pierre Marchand (Sarah McLachlan), and mixed by Tom Lord-Alge (The Verve Pipe, Oasis), will produce the superstardom that the band deserves.

"We felt that the record company didn't do our first album justice in the States. We didn't have management at the time to realize that. We just hooked up with really good management and they negotiated our way off our label and onto another label."

"With our old label, all the staff changed and still is chang-

ing. We had four A&R people on one record. ... They were just looking for the next Green Day or ska/punk band. They were trying to get us to make a record we didn't want to make."

The Devlins now call Radiouniverse home which is also where Black Grape, Live, and Angelfish, the project by Garbage's Shirley Manson, answer.

The Devlins, which also includes drummer/percussionist/vocalist Sean Devitt, is to ska/punk what the Ramones are to classical music. The quiet hum of Colin Devlin's guitars embrace his moody, atmospheric vocals backed by simple tones of a grand piano and drums.

Intimate lyrics like "Tell me your secret, what you desire. I will still be there for you ... You light up my dreams, light up my skin, you're so far away, you're holding it in" in "World Outside" draw listeners into Colin

Devlin's world.

"Colin's words I think are more sort of outward looking on this record. For the first one all the lyrics were written in his bedroom. They were very introspective and all about relationships," Peter Devlin said of his brother.

"This one there are some very personal songs about relationships. This record deals more with what we've been going through the last three years - getting a record deal and traveling all over the world and touring, all the promotion and waiting around. It is a bit more outward looking."

The Devlins' tour schedule for its debut "Drift" included shows with Sarah McLachlan. Among those dates was a show with McLachlan at the Music Hall in Detroit.

"People were standing up at the end of us. We got a half standing ovation which is better than none," Devlin said with a

laugh.

This year and next, The Devlins are planning on sharing a stage with Paula Cole and Ben Harper. On New Year's Eve, The Devlins will celebrate with the Barenaked Ladies at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"I can't wait for that show," Devlin said using that word again.

"We're looking forward to that. It's a big venue."

Tickets for the Barenaked Ladies "Holiday Spectacle," \$25, are still available at the Palace box office and all Ticketmaster outlets. Showtime is 9 p.m. for the all-ages show. The Palace is located at 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills. For more information, call (248) 377-0100 or (248) 645-6666.

If you have a question or comment for Christina Fuoco, you may leave a message for her at (313) 953-2047, ext. 2130.

Dave Wagner accepts end of good run



ANN DELISI

'Tis the season for giving, acceptance, peace on earth and goodwill toward men. Unfortunately, it's also the season for busy malls and parking lots, slow mail delivery and office parties at which more than a few employees will do and say things they'd regret if they could only remember them.

It's the time of year newspaper and magazine columns recap the year that was, too. And why should this one be any different? Besides, with *Backstage Pass* re-empted to make way for special holiday programming on Detroit Public Television, we have time and space. Speaking of having time on one's hands, one of our crack *Backstage Pass* correspondents has found himself with a dubious temporal windfall: Dave Wagner was victimized by a format change after 18 years at classical radio station WQRS-FM. Even when he says it himself, the number surprises Dave. "18 years? Wow, that's a long time. I wonder what that is in radio years?" He doesn't wait for Lorne Green to do the math, saying,

"That's a heck of a good run. Not too many people in the radio business get to do the same show on the same station for such a long time."

What? Here I am ready to hunker down and get small about corporate radio's abandonment of classical music, and Dave's already over it! "The past is gone. I've taken a Zen sort of attitude on all this. When you buy a house and it's a colonial and it's white and it's your house, and you paint it pink, you have the right to do that."

Assuming the loss of that venerable format is the nadir of the year in classical, I asked Dave for his 1997 highlights. "Back in February, there was a great recital by violinist Cho-Liang Lin. The concert was in Ann Arbor with the Ars Poetica Chamber Orchestra. It's a highlight because he's such a brilliant player. And I love that orchestra, because it's made up of top players from Detroit, Cleveland and Dallas, who they fly in to put on these fabulous concerts."

I asked Dave to predict a high point for 1998. "The ongoing Pro Musica series at the DIA. They always bring great arts - up and coming artists - into a very intimate setting. Every program has been spectacular, and you're close to the performer. So often

classical concerts are such a formal presentation, with the orchestra elevated on stage, and they perform and the audience watches and then leaves. I mean, people leave uplifted, but they leave. It's not like, say, going to see a reggae band.

"For the Pro Musica series, the DIA always has an afterglow where you can actually talk to the performer. I don't know who gets a bigger kick out of it, the audience or the musicians. And that's because classical musicians are used to sort of being secondary to the music itself. They're conduits - they play the music, but the music is the star. That's what's special about the Pro Musica series, it's so different from the typical classical music setting. People get to connect with the musicians, much like what you hear that all the time in country music - the stars connecting with their fans. I think that's a good thing."

Bringing a touch of Twitty to Tchaikovsky is what makes Dave special. "The best thing is connecting with people. The great thing about radio is all those people enjoying what you do. I didn't realize how much people enjoyed that radio station, but since I've left I've had all these people telling me how much they valued it. It's touching really."

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

<p>General Cinemas Bargain matinee daily plus \$3.25 (Twi-Lite) show daily</p> <p>Canon 6 Ford Rd., 1 Mi. west of I-275 981-1900 Advanced same-day tickets available *Denotes VIP restrictions Friday thru Thursday</p> <p>GIFT BOOKS NOW ON SALE</p> <p>THE RAINMAKER (PG13) TITANIC (PG13) SCREAM 2 (R) TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Novi Town Center 8 Novi Rd., South of I-96 344-0077 Advance same-day tickets available FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY *DENOTES VIP RESTRICTIONS</p> <p>GIFT BOOKS NOW ON SALE</p> <p>TITANIC (PG13) HOME ALONE III (PG) THE JACKAL (R) FOR RICHER OR POORER (R) ANASTASIA (G) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) FLUBBER (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Keego Twin Cinema Orchard Lake Rd. at Cass Lake Rd. 682-1900 All Seats \$1.50 before 6 pm \$2.50 AFTER 6 PM FREE PARKING BURGER KING LOT Family Matinee FRI-SAT-SUN</p> <p>THE LITTLE MERMAID (G) AIR FORCE ONE (R) THE RAINMAKER (PG13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>National Amusements Showcase Cinemas</p> <p>Showcase Auburn Hills 1-14 2150 N. Opdyke Rd. Between University & Walton Blvd 810-373-2660 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed Thurs. Fri. Sat.</p> <p>TITANIC (PG13) TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) MOUSE HUNT (PG) AMISTAD (R) SCREAM (R) FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) FLUBBER (PG) ALIENS 4 (R) ANASTASIA (G) RAINMAKER (PG13) THE JACKAL (R) LITTLE MERMAID (G)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Showcase Dearborn 1-8 Michigan & Telegraph 313-561-3449 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily *Late Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun.</p> <p>TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)</p>	<p>SCREEN (R) FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) AMISTAD (R) FLUBBER (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Showcase Pontiac 1-5 Telegraph-Sq. Lake Rd. W. Side of Telegraph 810-332-0241 Bargain Matinees Daily *All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily</p> <p>TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) SCREAM 2 (R) ANASTASIA (G)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Showcase Pontiac 6-12 2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph 810-334-6777 Bargain Matinees Daily *All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat.</p> <p>TITANIC (PG13) MOUSEHUNT (PG) AMISTAD (R) FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) FLUBBER (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Quo Vadis Warren & Wayne Rds. 313-425-7700 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed Thurs. Fri. & Sat.</p> <p>TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) ALIENS 4 (R) ANASTASIA (G) RAINMAKER (PG13) THE JACKAL (R) LITTLE MERMAID (G) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Showcase Westland 1-8 6800 Wayne Rd. One blk. S. of Warren Rd. 313-729-1060 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed Thurs. Fri. & Sat.</p> <p>TITANIC (PG13) MOUSEHUNT (PG) AMISTAD (R) SCREAM (R) FLUBBER (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Star Theatres The World's Best Theatres Bargain Matinee Daily \$4.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm Now accepting Visa & MasterCard *NP Denotes No Pass Engagement</p> <p>Star John-R at 14 Mile 32289 John R. Road 810-585-2070</p> <p>CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES FRIDAY - THURSDAY No one under 6 admitted for PG13 &</p>	<p>R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP GOODWILL HUNTING (R) NP POSTMAN (R) NP TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) NP TITANIC (PG13) NP MOUSEHUNT (PG) NP AMISTAD (R) NP FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) FLUBBER (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Star Rochester Hills 200 Barclay Circle 853-2260 FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13) NP THE POSTMAN (R) NP TITANIC (PG13) NP TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) NP AMISTAD (R) NP SCREAM 2 (R) NP FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Star Southfield 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off I-696 248-353-STAR No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP TITANIC (PG13) NP TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) NP MOUSEHUNT (PG) NP SCREAM 2 (R) NP AMISTAD (PG) NP FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) NP HOME ALONE 3 (PG) ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) FLUBBER (PG) THE RAINMAKER (PG13) THE JACKAL (R) ANASTASIA (G)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Star Winchester 1136 S. Rochester Rd. Winchester Mail 248-656-1160 No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP MR. MAGOO (PG) NP AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS (R) NP JACKIE BROWN (R) NP MOUSEHUNT (PG) NP HOME ALONE 3 (PG) FLUBBER (PG) LA CONFIDENTIAL (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>United Artists Theatres Bargain Matinee Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM Same day advance tickets available NV - No V.I.P. tickets accepted</p> <p>United Artists Fairlane Fairlane Town Center Valet Parking Available 313-593-4790</p> <p>ALL TIMES FOR FRI-THURS MIDNIGHT SHOWS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY</p> <p>TITANIC (PG13) MOUSEHUNT (PG) HOME ALONE 3 (PG) ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) THE RAINMAKER (PG13) ANASTASIA (G)</p>	<p>EVE'S BAYOU (R) THE WINGS OF THE DOVE (R) DISNEY'S LITTLE MERMAID (R) STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) NP</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>United Artists Oakland Inside Oakland Mall 810-585-7041</p> <p>SCREAM 2 (R) ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) THE RAINMAKER (PG13) BOOGIE NIGHTS (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>United Artists 12 Oaks Inside Twelve Oaks Mall 810-585-7041</p> <p>TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) MOUSEHUNT (PG) SCREAM 2 (R) THE RAINMAKER (PG13) NP</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>United Artists West River 9 Mile 2 Block West of Middlebelt 810-788-6572</p> <p>TITANIC (PG13) NP TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG) NP MOUSEHUNT (PG) NP FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) NP SCREAM 2 (R) NP HOME ALONE 3 (PG) NP SCREAM 2 (R) NP ANASTASIA (G) NP</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Birmingham Theatre 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-644-3419 NP Denotes No Pass Engagements</p> <p>Order Movie tickets by phone! Call 644-3419 and have your VISA or MasterCard ready! (A 75c surcharge will apply to all telephone sales)</p> <p>SPECIAL OFFER... 10% OFF ON ALL \$10, \$20 AND \$50 GIFT BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE</p> <p>NP TITANIC (PG13) NP TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) NP MOUSEHUNT (PG) NP AMISTAD (R) NP SCREAM 2 (R) NP HOME ALONE 3 (PG) FLUBBER (PG) THE RAINMAKER (PG13) ANASTASIA</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>MJR THEATRES</p> <p>\$1.00 Ford Tel \$1.50 313-561-7200 \$1.00 til 6 pm After 6 pm \$1.50 Ample Parking - Telford Center Free Refill on Drinks & Popcorn Please Call Theatre for Showtimes</p> <p>ROCKET MAN (PG13) FAIRY TALE (PG) RED CORNER (R)</p>	<p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>99c Livonia Mall Livonia Mall at 7 mile 810-476-8800 ALL SEATS 99c ALL SHOWS FREE Refill on Drinks & Popcorn FREE SHOWS DAILY FOR CHILDREN 12 & UNDER ADULTS 99c THIS FEATURE ONLY</p> <p>IN AND OUT (PG13) MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG13) AIR FORCE ONE (R) FAIRY TALE (PG) ROCKET MAN (PG) STARTS FRIDAY LITTLE MERMAID</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Waterford Cinema II 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd. 24 Hour Movie Line (810) 666-7900 \$3.25 (Twi-Lite) SHOWS DAILY</p> <p>TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) MOUSEHUNT (PG) TITANIC (PG13) HOME ALONE 3 (PG) SCREAM 2 (R) FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) FLUBBER (PG) ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) ANASTASIA (G) THE JACKAL (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Terrace Cinema 30400 Plymouth Rd. 313-261-3330</p> <p>All shows \$1 except shows after 6 pm * All shows \$1.50 75c every Tuesday Would you like to see Free Movies? Then become a "FREQUENT VIEWER!" COME IN AND FIND OUT HOW!</p> <p>SUN-THURS Box Office opens at 4:00 pm Monday - Friday only</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Main Art Theatre III Main - 11 Mile Royal Oak (248) 542-0180 \$3.00 (Twi-Lite) SHOWS DAILY</p> <p>DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (R) THE SWEET HEREFTER (R) THE WINGS OF THE DOVE (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES Children Under 6 Not Admitted</p>
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Winter 1988

Courses taught by Robert Schefman

Drawing - All Levels - In this class held on Tuesdays from 9:00 - 12:00 noon, students will explore a variety of drawing media, techniques, and subjects with an emphasis on drawing as our most immediate and fundamental means of expression.

Oil Painting - All Levels - Students will work from the model in this class held on Thursdays from 9:00 - 12:00 noon or 12:30 - 3:30 to breathe life into their painting. The class will study the formal concerns of value, color, and composition; going beyond into subject matter. A good drawing foundation is essential.

Level 3 Painting Studio - This course is team taught with Leslie Masters on Tuesdays from 12:30 - 3:30. The goal of this class is to provide serious, advanced painters with a group venue to examine their direction in painting, participate in discussions, and move ahead in the art process. Class members will be expected to work outside of class and approval from the instructors must be received to enroll in this class.

Robert Schefman received his BFA from Michigan State University and his MA from University of Iowa. He has participated in a wide variety of group shows including Interventions at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1995. He has completed numerous commissions in painting and sculpture for schools such as Wayne State, University of Iowa, and Cooley Law School in Lansing, and for restaurants such as Stelline at Somerset and at Tribute in Farmington Hills. His most recent mural commission was for Dearborn's 19th District Court Building.

You can register for these classes and more by signing up for the Winter Semester at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. Classes start January 5 through March 28.

Call (248) 644-0866

The BBAA is a Community Supported Regional Art Center.
Sponsored by The Observer & Eccentric Newspaper

8 days a week

A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

THEATER

AVENUE PRODUCTIONS/ATTIC THEATRE
 "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline," featuring Susan Arnold as "Patsy" singing 20 of Cline's most memorable songs with a five-piece band, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28; 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through January; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5-Saturday, Feb. 7; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12-Saturday, Feb. 14, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Group rates available. \$22 Thursdays and Sundays, \$27 Fridays and Saturdays. Colangelo's Sunday brunch package \$33; Baci Abbracci dinner packages \$35 and \$39. (248) 335-8101

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE
 "In the Sweet Bye and Bye," a comedy by Donald Driver, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the theater, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. \$15, \$40 for season subscription. 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, performance \$50 and includes champagne and buffet supper. (313) 868-1347

FISHER THEATRE
 "Les Miserables," through Sunday, Jan. 4, Fisher Theatre in the Fisher Building, Detroit. 8 p.m. Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and special holiday performance 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. No performance Thursday, Jan. 1. \$15-\$58. (248) 645-6666/(313) 871-1132 meadow brook theatre
 "A Christmas Carol," 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at the theater, Wilson Hall at Oakland University, Walton Boulevard and Adams Road, Rochester. Student, senior and group discounts available. (248) 377-3300

COMMUNITY THEATER

CONLEN PRODUCTIONS
 "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a post-Christmas musical drama for the entire family, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at Faith Bible Church, 34541 Five Mile Road, Livonia; 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton; 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, at Church of Divine Savior, 39375 Joy Road, Westland. Free. (734) 459-2332

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

MARQUIS THEATRE
 "Aladdin," 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 27-28, and Jan. 3-4, and 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 29, Tuesday, Dec. 30-Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 2, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., Northville. \$6.50. (248) 349-8110

WILD SWAN THEATER COMPANY
 "The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse," Saturday, Dec. 27-Sunday, Dec. 28, and Friday, Jan. 2-Sunday, Jan. 4, Henry Ford Museum's Anderson Center Theater, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. (313) 271-1620

SPECIAL EVENTS

RECORD AND CD MUSIC COLLECTIBLES SHOW
 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, and Gary Graff, Jim McFarlin and The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' Christina Fuoco will sign copies of "MusicHound R&B: The Essential Album Guide" from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Clawson Knights of Columbus Hall, 870 N. Main St. (1/2 mile north of 14 Mile Road), Clawson. \$3. (248) 546-4527

SPORTS CARD, COMIC AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW
 3-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at the Roseville Towne Center, 12 Mile and Gratiot, Roseville. Free. (248) 557-1529

TRADITIONAL POLISH CHRISTMAS TREE
 On display 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays through Thursday, Jan. 1, American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Road (at Dequindre Road), Troy. (248) 689-3636

YPSILANTI'S NEW YEAR JUBILEE

Featuring 40 performances by a variety of artists including Sheila Landis and Rick Matie, Paul VornHagen, Joel Mabus, Wild Swan Theatre, LaRon Williams, Cranberry Creek, O.J. Anderson, George Bedard and the Kingpins, Al Hill and the Love Butlers, Lonestar Dance Company, Nite Flight, and Charlene Berry, Wednesday, Dec. 31, in a variety of locations throughout Ypsilanti's Historic Depot Town. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children ages 5 and younger. Tickets available at Busch's Valu-Land Stores in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti area, and at the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Area Visitors and Convention Bureau. Free badges available for families who cannot afford it. (734) 484-6620/(734) 483-4444/(734) 995-7281.

FAMILY EVENTS

DETROIT ZOO'S "WILD LIGHTS"
 Light show featuring more than 50 animated animal displays along a half-mile trail, 5:30-8 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 30 (except Christmas and Christmas Eve), at the zoo, 1-696 and Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak. \$3 adults, \$2 children 2-12, free for children younger than 2. DZS members' admission, \$2 adults, \$1.50 children 2-12. (248) 541-5835/(248) 541-5717

YPSILANTI FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
 Featuring miniature train rides and horse-drawn wagon rides, 6-10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 25, and 6 p.m.-midnight Wednesday, Dec. 31, Riverside Park along the Huron River, Ypsilanti's Historic Depot Town. Donations accepted. (734) 483-4444 or <http://www.ypsi.org>

CLASSICAL

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Performing J. Strauss Jr.'s "Clear Track Galop (Bahn Frei)," Bernstein's "Tonight," and Webber's "All I Ask of You," with the Keith Saxton Sextet performing for dancing onstage after the concert, as part of "A Singing, Dancing Gala for 1998," 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$25-\$85 includes party hats and noisemakers. (313) 833-3700

POPS / SWING

ATOMIC FIREBALLS
 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (swing) (248) 335-8100.

THE IMPERIAL SWING ORCHESTRA
 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$10, 19 and older. (swing) (734) 996-8555

AUDITIONS

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS
 Open auditions for singers (male voices especially needed, particularly tenors but female voices also needed) 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, auditions by appointment 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 13, 20 and 27 at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45000 North Territorial Road, west of Sheldon. Rehearsals for annual Spring Concert begin Jan. 13. (313) 455-4080

CHORAL

INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR
 The Jewish Community Center choir performs Russian and Hebrew ethnic and holiday music 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at the Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit's Cultural Center. \$3 adults, \$1.50 seniors/children ages 12-18. (313) 833-1805

JAZZ

SEAN BLACKMAN AND JOHN ARNOLD
 10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Tuscan Grill, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 652-1600

PAUL FINKBEINER TRIO
 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older; 9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2-Saturday, Jan. 3, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. \$5, 21 and older. (trumpet, piano, bass trio)



Trains: Toy & Hobby Expo 97 Friday-Sunday, Dec. 26-28 at the Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Drive, Novi, features new and used toy and model trains, antique toys and models, collectible dolls, bears, doll house miniatures, and the World's Largest Mobile Model Railroad - The Wonderful World of Toy Trains display. Artist Paul Adams will be exhibiting his Railroad and Auto Art, which has several metro Detroit themes. Adams applies railroad and other transportation scenes into realistic watercolor paintings. He plans to start work on prints of Briggs Stadium and Olympia Stadium as they were in the 1940s and '50s. He will be working on one of these prints while exhibiting at the show. Show hours are 5-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28. Admission is \$6 adults, \$3 children ages 4-12; parking \$4. Call (248) 348-5600 for information.

(248) 645-2150/(734) 662-8310
GROOVE COLLECTIVE
 With JWQ, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$20 in advance. 21 and older. (acid jazz) (313) 833-9700

MIKE KAROUB'S CELLO JAZZ
 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Tuscan Cafe, 150 N. Center St., Northville. Free. All ages. (248) 305-8629

KOG'S KATS
 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Free. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

KATHY KOSINS
 With her vocal, piano and bass trio, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 at the Oakland Grill, 32832 Woodward Ave. (south of 14 Mile Road), Royal Oak. (248) 645-2150/(248) 549-7700

SHEILA LANDIS
 With Rick Matie, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cover charge. 21 and older; With Rick Matie and Dennis Sheridan, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Lentine's Southern Barbecue, 41240 Hayes, Clinton Township. Free. 21 and older; With Rick Matie, 8-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, Cafe Anzu, University of Michigan's north campus, 1733 Plymouth Road (at Murfin), Ann Arbor. Free. All ages. (313) 861-8101/(810) 412-2233/(734) 769-1212

PHIL LASLEY TRIO
 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (sax, piano, bass trio) (248) 645-2150

CARL MICHEL
 Guitarist performs with bassist John Dana. 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Agape Caffe, 205 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. All ages. (734) 534-4185

MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY (M.A.S.)
 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, D.L. Harrington's Roadhouse, 2086 Crooks Road (at M-59), Rochester Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (top 40/contemporary jazz) (248) 852-0550

SHAHIDA NURALLAH AND FRIENDS
 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. \$40, \$75 per couple. 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

JOHNNY O'NEAL
 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-

Saturday, Dec. 27, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. \$10. 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

SAX APPEAL
 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Peabody's, 154 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 644-5222

STEPHEN GRANT WOOD
 10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 861-8101

ALEXANDER ZONJIC
 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27 (\$7.50), and Wednesday, Dec. 31 (cover charge), Thai-Chi Express, 630 Woodward Ave. (two blocks north of Jefferson Avenue), Detroit. 21 and older. (313) 963-8424

WORLD MUSIC

BENNY CRUZ
 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit's Cultural Center. \$3 adults, \$1.50 seniors/children ages 12-18. (Latin American) (313) 833-1805

MICHAEL O'BRIEN
 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (acoustic Irish) (248) 642-1135

ANGELO PRIMO
 10:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, Tuscan Grill, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 652-1600

JOHN L. SULLIVAN BAND
 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, and Wednesday, Dec. 31, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (Irish) (248) 642-1135

FOLK

BALDUCK MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS
 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Sunrise Sunset Saloon, 15222 Charlevoix, Grosse Pointe Park. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 822-6080

RON CODEN
 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

CAHAL DUNNE
 Saturday, Dec. 27, singer, song-

writer, pianist, storyteller, at Cowley's Old Village Inn, Grand River and Farmington roads, Farmington. \$35 per couple includes dinner. Reservations. (248) 474-5941.

ORIN ROSSE FINESSE
 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

CHARLES GREENE
 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, O'Mara's 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

LISA HUNTER
 9-11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Espresso Royale, 214 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Free. All ages. (734) 668-1838

JAN KRIST
 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 861-8101

DANCE

OAKLAND COUNTY TRADITIONAL DANCE SOCIETY
 Karen Missavage calls to music by Cheri and Steve Whalen, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, First Baptist Church, 210 N. Main St., Royal Oak. \$7, \$6 members and students. (248) 968-3565/(248) 642-3306

DEIN PERRY'S TAP DOGS
 Friday, Dec. 26-Sunday, Jan. 4, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays (\$26 and \$36), 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays (\$22.50 and \$32.50), 7 p.m. Sundays (\$32.50 and \$22.50), 8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays (\$22.50 and \$32.50), and 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31 (\$26 and \$36). All ages. (313) 872-1000

THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR
 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, and 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10-\$50. All ages. (313) 983-6611/(248) 645-6666

WOLVERINE SILVERSPUR DANCERS
 7:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Italian American Cultural Center, 28111 Imperial St., Warren. \$20. (810) 772-4765/573-4993, (313) 526-9432

COMEDY

BIG RED'S COMEDY CLUB
 Comedian/hypnotist Jim Hoke and Steve Sabo, Friday, Dec. 26-

Saturday, Dec. 27; Bill Hildebrand and J.R. Remick, Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$65 includes tax and gratuity, four-course meal, comedy, dancing); Bill Thomas, Friday, Jan. 2-Saturday, Jan. 3, at Mr. B's Roadhouse, 595 N. Lapeer Road (M-24), Oxford. (248) 628-6500

HOLLY HOTEL
 Norm Stulz, Seth Buchwald and Chrissy Burns, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$15 in advance only), and 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$20 in advance only), and 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 1, and 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2-Saturday, Jan. 3, at the hotel, 110 Battle Alley, Holly. (248) 634-0000

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB
 Joe Delion and Joey Bielaska, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27; Steve McGrew, Hector Rezzano and Joey Bielaska, 6:15 p.m. and 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. Dinner/show packages available; Hector Rezzano, Mike Malak and Joey Bielaska, Friday, Jan. 2-Saturday, Jan. 3, at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays unless otherwise noted. Cover charge changes according to act. (734) 261-0555

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S
 Bill Hildebrand, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27 (\$8, \$18.95 dinner/show package); Mike Green, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$15 includes 5:30 p.m. appetizers), and 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$55 includes buffet served from 8-9 p.m.), 5070 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885

BERNIE MAC
 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$27.50-\$50. All ages. (248) 433-1515/(313) 983-6611

MAINSTREET COMEDY SHOWCASE
 Claudia Sherman, 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27 (\$12); Jackie Flynn, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$22.50), and 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$27.50 includes party favors and a split of champagne), at the club, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 996-9080

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE
 Ken Brown of WJR's "Albom in the Afternoon," with Derrick Richards, 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28 (\$6); Christopher Titus, Billy Ray Bauer, and MC Steven Bills, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$45 per couple for show only), and 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 (\$60 per couple, includes party favors and a split of champagne), at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. (248) 542-9900 or <http://www.comedycastle.com>

SECOND CITY

"Generation X-Files" through January at the club, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The cast performs a free improvisational comedy set after Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday shows, and the late shows on Fridays and Saturdays. \$14 Thursdays, \$17.50 Fridays, \$19.50 Saturdays, and \$12 Sundays and Wednesdays. New Year's Eve performances: 5:15 p.m. dinner and 7:30 p.m. show (\$70 includes dinner at Risata and a complimentary glass of champagne, \$25 show only), or 8:15 p.m. dinner and 10:15 p.m. show (\$90 includes dinner, complimentary champagne, dessert buffet and afterglow party, \$40 show, dessert afterglow and champagne) The show's title is reflective of current cultural trends, not necessarily the show's content. (313) 965-2222

MUSEUMS AND TOURS

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 After an August fire, the New Glancy Trains exhibit is open in the museum's Wrigley Hall Gallery with a 25 percent larger layout and additional interactive elements for visitors, upcoming events include the Glancy Trains Show with toy train appraisal for nominal fee 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Continued
 Saturday, Dec. 27; "Remember Hudson's" look at what downtown of the city through De museum, 5 (at Kirby), are 9:30 a. Friday, 10 Sunday. Fr Wednesday 11:50 seniors 12-18, free and younger (313) 833-3333

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER
 IMAX movie "Speedway," a.m. Monday "Special Effects" and 1:20 p.m. Fridays, 12 p.m. Saturdays, 12:45 p.m. Sundays, \$4.75 for seniors 60 and younger one screen visit to the science department. Discovery 1 laser presentation each additional 10 or more 2 p.m. Monday 12:30 p.m. Sundays. (313) 833-3333

HENRY FORD MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY
 Featuring the holiday open for public a.m., 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays hourly from Saturdays every half hour Sundays. \$10 or more by Candlelight Friday, Dec. 27. \$7; all Evergreen Michigan-Detroit (313) 593-3333

HENRY FORD GREENFIELD HOUSE
 "1850s Holiday Taver dinner with Friday, Dec. 31, and Sat. Jan. 4; "Tra Season," featuring and decorations through the museum Oakwood Blvd. \$12.50 adults ages 62 and older ages 5-12 rates available

MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN
 "Sacred Art the first collection to be produced with from 9:30 Tuesdays-Sunday, De Museum of History, 31 Brush St., Arts" feature of art objects sequined pots, painted rattles, packets, de musical instruments media assemblage temporary exhibit is in of the image Haitian Vodou suitable for and under supervision for adults 12 and under

POI
 "ANTI-FREEZE With Lonnie Davis and t Soul, Mudp "Yarddog" J Josh, 7 p.m. Johnnie Joh George Bed Johnnie Bas Insurgents, Mystery Tr with James Harmonica Harris and t

Please see next page

8 days a week

Making contact: Please submit popular music items for publication to Christina Fuoco; all others to Linda Chomin, two weeks in advance to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150 or by fax (313) 591-7279

Continued from previous page

Continued from previous page
Saturday, Dec. 27;
"Remembering Downtown Hudson's" exhibit, a nostalgic look at what made the Hudson's downtown Detroit store an icon of the city's prosperous era, runs through December 1998, at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Free admission Wednesdays; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 seniors and children aged 12-18, free for children ages 11 and younger Thursdays-Sundays. (313) 833-1805

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER
IMAX movies include: "Super Speedway," 10 a.m. and 11:10 a.m. Mondays through Fridays; "Special Effects," 12:20 p.m. and 1:20 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 12:45 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. Saturdays, and 1:45 p.m. Sundays; "Destiny in Space," 12:45 p.m. Sundays, at the museum, 5020 John R (at Warren Road), Detroit. \$6.75 for adults, \$4.75 for youths 3-17, and seniors 60 and older, includes one screening of an IMAX film, a visit to the Exhibit Floor, a live science demonstration in the Discovery Theatre and a short laser presentation. \$2.50 for each additional IMAX movie. Discounts available to groups to 10 or more. Hours are: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and 12:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. (313) 577-8400 or <http://www.sciencedetroit.org>

HENRY FORD ESTATE
Featuring rooms decorated for the holidays by area florists, open for public tours, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Mondays-Fridays in December, hourly from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays in December, and every half hour from 1-4:30 p.m. Sundays. \$7, \$5 for groups of 20 or more by reservation; Candlelight tours, 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27. \$7; all at the estate, 4901 Evergreen Road, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn. (313) 593-5590

HENRY FORD MUSEUM AND GREENFIELD VILLAGE
"1850s Holiday Evenings at Eagle Tavern," featuring a holiday dinner with a 19th Century twist. Friday, Dec. 26-Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Saturday, Jan. 3-Sunday, Jan. 4; "Traditions of the Season," featuring holiday trees and decorations from various eras, through Sunday, Jan. 4, at the museum and village, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. \$12.50 adults, \$11.50 seniors ages 62 and older, \$6.25 for children ages 5-12, and free for children ages 5 and younger. Group rates available. (313) 271-1620

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
"Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou," the first comprehensive exhibition to explore the arts produced within this religion, runs from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays through Sunday, Dec. 28, at The Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave. (at Brush St.), Detroit. "Sacred Arts" features a wide spectrum of art objects including sequined flags, sacred bottles, pots, painted calabashes, beaded rattles, bound medicine packets, dolls, cosmographs, musical instruments, multimedia assemblages and contemporary paintings. The exhibit is rated PG-13 as some of the images in Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou may not be suitable for children ages 13 and under, or individuals sensitive to graphic images. Adult supervision is suggested. \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. (313) 494-5800.

POPULAR MUSIC

"ANTI-FREEZE BLUES FEST"
With Lonnie Brooks, Thoretta Davis and the Sharecroppers of Soul, Mudpuppy, Johnny "Yarddog" Jones, and Motor City Josh, 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, and Johnnie Johnson backed by George Bedard and the Kingpins, Johnnie Basset and the Blues Insurgents, Jim McCarty and Mystery Train, The Reefermen with James Wailin' and Harmonica Shaw, and Mimi Harris and the Chisel Bros., 7

p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$15 per night, \$25 for two-day pass. 18 and older. (blues) (248) 544-3030

THE ARTIST FORMERLY KNOWN AS PRINCE

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills. \$19.99, \$45, and \$65. (248) 645-6666/(248) 377-0100 or <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

JOCELYN B. AND THE DETROIT STREET PLAYERS

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 259-2643

BARENAKED LADIES "HOLIDAY SPECTACLE"

With The Devils, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills. \$25. All ages. (alternapop) (248) 377-0100

JOHNNY BASSETT AND THE BLUES INSURGENTS

9:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 642-1135

GEORGE BEDARD AND THE KINGPINS

With Sarah Brown, Bill Kirchen and Cub Koda, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (rockabilly) (734) 761-1451

BIG DAVE AND THE ULTRASONICS

9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (jump blues) (734) 996-8555

THE BIZER BROTHERS

9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Pages, 23621 Farmington Road, Farmington. Cover charge. 21 and older. (pop) (248) 477-0099

BLUE CAT

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800

BLUE CRUSADERS

9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800

BOTFLY

With Enemy Squad and Uncle Booby, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$8 in advance. 18 and older. (funky rock) (313) 833-9700

BRILLIANT

10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Rivertown Saloon, 1977 Woodbridge, Detroit. Cover charge. 18 and older. (pop) (313) 567-6020

BUGS BEDDOW BAND

9 p.m.-1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Kingsley Inn, 1475 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2-Saturday, Jan. 3, Beale Street Blues, 8 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-1400/(248) 334-7900

CITY LIMITS BLUES BAND

With Barbara Scott, Paul "Big Rufus" Clayton, and comedian Tim Costello, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Knights of Columbus hall, 2430 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte. (734) 284-2709

THE CIVILIANS

10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Kodiak Grill, 45660 Mound Road, Utica. Free. 21 and older; 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Mount Chalet, 4715 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (810) 731-1750/(248) 549-2929

ALICE COOPER

9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$45. All ages. (rock) (313) 961-5451

TOMMY D BAND

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Hennessey's, 49110 Grand River, Wixom. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 344-4404

DEMOLITION DOLLRODS

With Detroit Cobras and 2 Star Tabernacle, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10. 18 and older. (punk) (313) 833-POOL

DIAMOND DUKES

9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer



The Artist: Formerly Known As Prince performs 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, at The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills. \$19.99-\$65. (248) 645-6666/(248) 377-0100 or <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

Road, Dearborn. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 581-3650

DOKKEN

With Devil's Night and Illegal, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, The Palladium, 17580 Frazho, Roseville. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. 18 and older. (rock) (810) 778-6404

DUNGBEATLES

9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Bo's Bistro, 51 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 338-6200

EKOOSTIK HOOKAH

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$10. 18 and older. (Deadhead) (248) 544-3030

THE REV. MARC FALCONBERRY

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 349-9110

FOOLISH MORTALS

10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Kodiak Grill, 45660 Mound Road, Utica. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (810) 731-1750

JERRY GARCIA BAND

Featuring Melvin Seals, Jackie LaBranch, Gloria Jones and Donnie Baldwin, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$16 in advance. 18 and older. (Deadhead) (313) 833-9700

GARFIELD BLUES BAND

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 259-2643

GRIN

9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. 19 and older. (rock) (734) 996-8555

HOARSE

With Grayling and Dean Fratava, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (rock) (734) 996-8555

HOWLING DIABLOS

With Parka Kings, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$20 in advance. 18 and older. (funk rock/ska) (248) 544-3030

IMMATURE

4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 1, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$26 in advance. All ages. (R&B) (248) 433-1515

JIMMIE JACKSON AND THE BLUES CONNECTION

9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800

JOAN OF ARC

With Remington, 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$6. All ages. (pop) (313) 833-POOL

JOHNNY "YARDDOG" JONES

With The Sidewinders, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues)

(248) 543-4300

KEOKI

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, as part of "Maximum Overload" at the Motor Lounge, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. \$12.50 in advance. 18 and older. (techno) (313) 369-0090 or Motor3515@aol.com

KILLER FLAMINGOS

9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Cover charge. 21 and older. (R&B) (248) 543-4300

JOHN D. LAMB

9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River, Novi. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 349-9110

JOE LEBEAU AND THE COOLFLAMES

7-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27-Sunday, Dec. 28, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty, Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (734) 451-1213

LITTLE SONNY AND THE DETROIT RHYTHM BAND

9:30-11:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, as part of "Chase the Blues! Night" at First Baptist Church, 300 Willits Street (at Bates Street), Birmingham. Cover charge. All ages. (blues) (248) 644-0550

LOOSE COUNTY ROAD COMMIS-SION

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27; Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (rock) (734) 485-5050

JIM MCCARTY AND MYSTERY TRAIN

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 581-3650

MEDICINE HAT

10 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2-Saturday, Jan. 3, Bullfrog Bar and Grill, 15414 Telegraph Road (one block north of Five Mile Road), Redford. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 533-4477

MONKEYCHUCK

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (pop) (734) 485-5050

SCOTT MORGAN

9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. 19 and older. (rock) (734) 996-8555

MOTOR CITY JOSH AND THE BIG 3

9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty, Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (734) 451-1213

MOTOR JAM

With Jody Raffoul, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Union Lake Grill and Bar, 2280 Union Lake Road, Commerce Township. Free. 21 and older; With Jody Raffoul, 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Kodiak Grill, 45660 Mound Road, Utica. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, Karl's Country Cabin, 9779 Gotsfredson Road, Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 360-7450/(810) 731-1750/(734) 455-8450

MUDPUDDY

With the Twistin' Tarantulas and Nobody's Business, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, upstairs at Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. \$35 includes complimentary glass of champagne, \$60 per couple includes complimentary bottle of champagne, and light buffet and party favors for both. 21 and older. (blues/rockabilly) (248) 542-9922

STEVE NARDELLA

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800

19 WHEELS

With Solid Frog, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$6 in advance. 18 and older. (roots rock) (248) 335-8100

PAKISTANI TAMBOURINE

With Medicine Hat and Government Honey, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Bullfrog Bar and Grill, 15414 Telegraph Road (one block north of Five Mile Road), Redford. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 533-4477

PARKA KINGS

With Gyga and Hot Stove Jimmy, 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$5. All ages. (ska) (313) 961-MELT

"PLANET E RECORD LABEL NEW YEAR'S PARTY"

With Kevin Saunderson, Carl Craig, Monk, Jazzhead, Java

Jacket and DJ Hannah from London, England. 9 p.m.-4 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Motor Lounge, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. \$15 in advance. \$20 at the door. (313) 369-0090 or Motor3515@aol.com

PURPLE FLY

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Union Lake Grill and Bar, 2280 Union Lake Road, Commerce Township. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 360-7450

RIGHTEOUS WILLY

9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 543-4300

ROCKET 455

With Murder City Wrecks and Easy Action, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$5. 18 and older. (garage/punk rock) (313) 833-POOL

RUSTED ROOT

Annual holiday show, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets at Ticketmaster. All ages. (Deadhead) (313) 961-5451

SGT. ROCK

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Woodbridge Tavern, 289 St. Aubin, Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older; Wednesday, Dec. 31, Holiday Inn North Campus Ann Arbor, 3600 Plymouth Road (at U.S. 23), Ann Arbor. \$140 per couple includes music, dinner, munchies, dessert, six cocktails, champagne toast; \$215 per couple includes the above plus a room and breakfast. (classic rock covers) (313) 259-0578/(734) 769-9800

THE SHE'S SO HUGE

10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$5 in advance. All ages. (rock) (248) 335-8100

SOLEDAD BROTHERS

9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Garden Bowl in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Free. 18 and older. ("trashy, twisted blues two-piece") (313) 833-9851

SOLID FROG

9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Rivertown Saloon, 1977 E. Woodbridge, Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 567-6020

SPEEDBALL

With Hoarse, Big Block, Full on the Mouth, The Deans and Fletcher Pratt, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$10 in advance. 18 and older. (rock) (313) 961-MELT

SPONGE

With the Howling Diablos, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, The Palladium, 17580 Frazho Road, Roseville. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. 18 and older. (rock) (810) 778-6404

SUICIDE MACHINES

With En Kindel and Social Scare, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$6 in advance. All ages; With Bumpin' Ugles, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$6 in advance. All ages. (punk) (313) 961-MELT

CURTIS SUMPTER PROJECT WITH CURTIS DAVIS

9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty, Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (734) 451-1213

TELEGRAPH

With Old Spice and The Exceptions as part of Telegraph's annual Christmas show, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$4 in advance. All ages. (ska) (313) 961-MELT

MARY THOMPSON AND THE DELTA CHILDREN BLUES BAND

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, B.C. Beans Coffee and Art Gallery, 2964 Biddle, Wyandotte. Free. All ages. (blues) (734) 284-2244

THUS

With House of Usher, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$7. 18 and older. ("Detroit's only Russian progressive rock band") (313) 833-POOL

UNITY

9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, D.L. Harrington's Roadhouse, 2086 Crooks Road (at M-59), Rochester Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (top 40) (248) 852-0550

USHER

8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28,

Palladium, 17580 Frazho, Roseville. \$20 in advance. 18 and older. (R&B) (810) 778-6404

RANDY VOLIN AND THE SONIC BLUES

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, Bogey's, 742 E. Walled Lake Road, Walled Lake. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, Goose Island Brewery, 1538 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 669-1441/(248) 644-4800/(248) 682-4566

WAILIN' INC.

9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 543-4300/(248) 542-9922

DINING

Convenient, light and right dining between the holidays

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

There's an old saying that, "you can please some of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time." Experienced restaurateurs and parents of three kids, ages 2, 7 and 9, Paula and Chuck Darany of Birmingham, took on the challenge of proving the old adage dead wrong!

Tired of squabbles resulting from attempts to please the family five, they opened Pasta Pickup six months ago as a unique carryout. With a variety of noodles and an array of sauces, you can please an entire family or crowd of friends. Everyone can have dinner exactly the way they like it!

Pasta Pickup is convenient. Dinners are uniquely packaged in individual eat-in containers and come with plastic utensils within a big brown bag to keep them hot. When you're finished eating, there are no dishes to wash.

For \$5 you pick your pasta (spaghetti, fettuccine or ziti-mostaccioli) then sauce (meat, marinara, pesto, Alfredo or olive

The Pasta Pickup

Where: 33488 Woodward, Birmingham (248) 64-PASTA.
Hours: Daily lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 5-9 p.m.
Menu: A variety of noodles and sauces create different combinations pleasing pasta lovers of all ages.

Inn Season Cafe

Where: 500 East Fourth Street, Royal Oak (248) 547-7916.
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; until 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Saturday opening is noon.
Menu: Meatless preparations in a variety of ethnic diversities. Selected items prepared without dairy products. Carryout menu.

Harvest Moon

Where: 545 Forest, Plymouth (313) 454-7593.
Hours: Monday-Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays until 8 p.m.
Menu: Housemade soups and sandwiches with many specials appealing to vegans. Carryout available.
Credit Cards: Cash and checks; credit cards are not accepted.

Seva

Where: 314 East Liberty, Ann Arbor (313) 662-1111.
Hours: Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday; brunch served 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.
Menu: In addition to breakfast, lunch and dinner items cater to vegetarians and vegans. Dine in or carryout.

oil and vegetables) and get it with salad, bread or bread sticks. For kids 10 and under, a half portion is half price. If you can't decide, the most popular is fet-

tuccine with marinara sauce.

Paula Darany was characterized by her husband Chuck as "a great home cook and pasta fanatic." She adapted recipes from friends to come up with the popular selections.

For \$1 extra you can personalize your pasta with one of the following: mushroom, artichoke hearts, olives or roasted peppers. For \$1.50 more, you can choose sauteed vegetables, meatballs, chicken, shrimp, Italian sausage, melted mozzarella or sundried tomatoes.

Vegetable lasagna or ravioli with cheese filling are \$6. Chicken Parmigiana or Eggplant Parmigiana are \$7. All four come with salad and bread sticks. Dessert Italian ice or chocolate chip cookies are \$1.50.

The following three eateries appeal to vegetarians and vegans. Even if you don't regularly subscribe to this preference,

after holiday excesses, it's a good time to discover a healthier way of eating that's quite tasty.

Inn Season Cafe

For more than 16 years, Inn Season Cafe has been home to the best meatless preparations around. At lunch and dinner, chef/owner George Vutetakis pleases with grain or cultured soy burgers served on an organic whole wheat bun with all the trimmings \$6 and goes on to offer vegetarian, organic, healthy creations in a number of ethnic diversities from Chinese to Middle Eastern.

Several selected dishes appeal to vegans. Filling this bill are such starters as Bruschetta \$5, toasted whole grain bread with marinara sauce, calamata olives and soy cheese or Black Bean Avocado Quesadilla \$6, whole wheat tortilla filled with refried black beans and soy cheese, pan braised and served with mild ancho salsa. Both can also be ordered with dairy-fresh cheese.

If you like wraps in place of a standard sandwich, the California Wrap \$6.50, whole wheat lavash rolled with roasted tomato, cucumber, baby lettuces, avocado, sprouts and cheese with choice of dressing is delicious. A different and equally wonderful, more Middle-Eastern version, of the same is House Wrap \$6 with sweet red pepper, hummus and marinated onion.

You won't miss the beef, chicken or pork in a Mexican Burrito, \$7 (lunch) or \$8.50 (dinner) because the vegetable, bean and rice filling is so wonderfully flavorful. It's the same with Classic, Szechuan, Tofu Arame or Cashew Ginger stir-fries.

Pizzas with a number of toppings, available only at dinner, have a Tuscan crust made with roasted garlic, fennel, organic whole corn meal and organic wheat flour.

Market price fresh fish of the day from northern Canadian



STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY ZOLYNSKY

Dinner on the double: Paula and Chuck Darany offer a variety of noodles, and an array of sauces to please an entire family or crowd of friends at Pasta Pickup.

lakes or the deep sea are served with salad and potatoes.

A standard is Whitefish Luncheon \$8, a four-ounce fillet baked with sesame-Dijon sauce and served with brown rice and choice of vegetable of the day.

Daily dessert selections round out this creative vegetarian menu. Specialty beverages include sparkling sangria or cider, fresh juices and hot cider.

Harvest Moon

Owner Pat Cahill's specialties are housemade soups; at least three are on the menu daily, and more than a dozen vegetarian

sandwiches. Many daily specials are vegan oriented. Baked goods are also dairy free.

Harvest Moon's 28-seat eatery is also home to the only all-organic juice bar in Michigan.

Seva

Whether the preference is small courses, salads, sandwiches, chargrill, pasta or pizza, Seva obliges.

Mexican favorites, Greek and Middle-Eastern specialties along with stir fries are chock full of healthy vegetables. Vegan versions of most dishes are available.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

■ **Golden Mushroom** - 18100 W. 10 Mile Road Southfield (just west of Southfield) (248) 559-4230. Old-time favorites and new culinary creations. Dinner seatings begin 5 p.m. the last is 10:45 p.m.

■ **Water Club Grill** - 39500 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth (313) 454-0666. New Year's Eve Gala features prime rib and seafood buffet including snow crab legs, white clam linguini, herb baked chicken, peel & eat shrimp, dessert table and more. Two seatings available in the lower level, the first includes the buffet only at \$25.95 per person, and is at 6 p.m. The second seating will be at 9 p.m. and includes buffet,

live music by Meridan, dancing until 1 a.m., party favors and champagne toast at midnight. Cost \$38.95 per person. Cash bar, tax and tip not included in prices listed. Dinner will be served in the main dining rooms from 4 p.m. to midnight, regular dinner menu.

■ **Cafe Cortina** - 30175 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 474-3033. New Year's Eve - special menu, party favors, dancing, \$95 per person.

■ **Corsi's** - 27910 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, (313) 531-4960. New Year's Eve Family Buffet, 5-9 p.m., adults \$7.75, seniors, \$7.50; children under 10, \$4.75.

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Featuring the best in today's Latin-American Music
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Advance ticket includes: Dinner, dessert, coffee/tea/soft drinks; party favors
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NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION!

\$30.00 PER PERSON

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New York Strip w/ Sautéed Mushrooms
Blood London Broil w/ Mushrooms Sauce
Cinnamon Apple Chicken
(Tender Breast served w/ a Cinnamon Apple Dipping)
Frog Legs (Sautéed in Garlic, Butter & White Wine)
Mixed Grill (Cuban Brisket, Lamb Peppers, Halibut & Braised Salmon)
Filet Mignon w/ Au Jus
Chicken Cordeon Bleu (Roasted Breast Filled w/ Ham & Swiss Cheese)
King Cut Prime Rib w/ Au Jus
*** Champagne at Midnight ***
Pizza served after 1:00 a.m.
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