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Letters to Santa

Attention, girls and boys! Christmas is almost here and you know what that means. Santa Claus is up at the North Pole waiting for letters and double checking his list to find who's been naughty or nice. The Plymouth Observer is asking children to send us their letters to Santa Claus, along with their school picture. **The deadline is Dec. 11. The letters and photos will be printed in the Dec. 24th issue, having forwarded the letters to Santa in plenty of time.** Children of all ages are encouraged to send their letters to:

Letters to Santa
Plymouth Observer
794 South Main
Plymouth, MI 48170

IN THE PAPER TODAY



Wreaths: The Women's National Farm & Garden Association of Plymouth will sponsor a holiday greens mart and bake sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday./A2

COMMUNITY LIFE

Rising star: As founder of WSDP-FM radio, Bonny Dore began her career humbly as a teacher for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Now, the California resident ranks as one of the top women in film./B1

AT HOME

Where the heart is: Home entertaining is just the thing this holiday season. Revelers love to be invited to parties at homes./D6

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Teacher buyouts create job flurry

■ The school district is beginning an aggressive recruiting approach to attract new teachers. Nearly 100 educators are accepting buyouts.

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
tbruscato@ec.hometown.com

Plymouth-Canton school administrators are being forced to take an aggressive approach to filling teaching vacancies, dipping into a pool of eligible applicants who are also being courted by neighboring school districts.

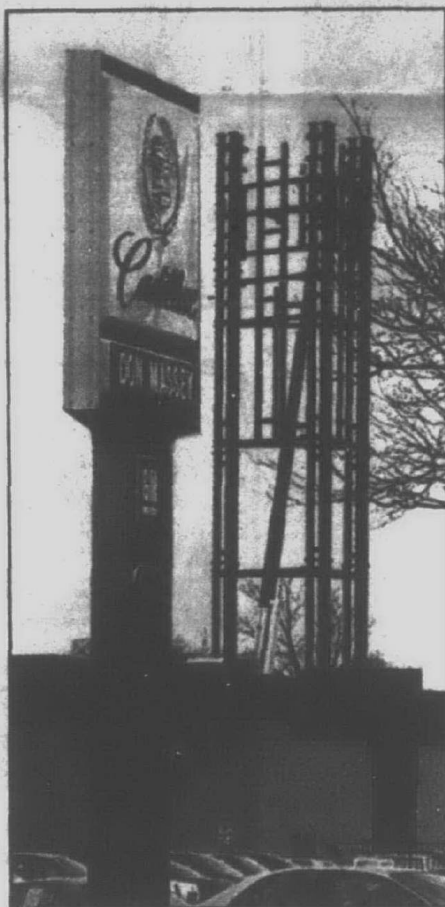
A buyout plan which is enticing nearly a hundred Plymouth-Canton school teachers to leave the district with \$60,000 each in their pockets has the administration scrambling to find replacements.

And, district officials say the number could go higher if enrollment continues to climb.

"We've broadened the number of colleges and universities that we'll send postings to," said Errol Goldman, assistant superintendent for employee relations and personnel. "We also have our school Internet site, our hotline, cable TV, as well as focus on our current student teachers."

Goldman told the Board of Education his office will know by Jan. 15 exactly

Please see **TEACHERS, A4**



Striking: A 120-foot clock/cellular phone tower is being built near Ann Arbor Road and I-275.

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Kettle drive to pay for bell ringers

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
tbruscato@ec.hometown.com

The Plymouth corps of the Salvation Army is being forced to pay bell ringers for its Red Kettle campaign because there aren't enough volunteers donating their time.

Martha Schultz, the Red Kettle campaign coordinator, said she has only 100 people volunteering time to ring bells and collect money in Plymouth, Canton and Northville. That's down from the 800 volunteers she had last year.

"We could use volunteers in the worst way," said Schultz. "The toughest time slots to fill are during the day when many people are working."

Schultz has hired six bell-ringers at \$7 an hour because she can't find volunteers to fill all the time slots between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. through Christmas Eve.

Schultz noted she does have most of her weekend slots filled with the help of Kiwanis, Rotary and Optimist clubs.

"We're looking for people to donate only a few hours of their time during this monthlong period," said Schultz. "Many people take a block of hours and split the time between family and friends."

Schultz said the ideal situation is to have all volunteers so all of the money raised will go toward people in the community who need help.

"There's a genuine need in the three communities for support, so it's important the donations go to them," said Schultz.

Please see **BELLS, A4**



Bell ringer: Volunteer Maggie Kappler of Plymouth stands in front of the Plymouth Cultural Center ringing her bell for the Salvation Army.

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Clock to strike in 1999

BY DUNCAN E. WHITE
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever found yourself driving down Ann Arbor Road in the morning, wondering just how late you are to work?

Well, Plymouth Township and the City of Plymouth will be able to give you an exact answer in 1999.

A 120-foot clock tower, scheduled to be finished within the next 30-40 days, is being erected near the intersection of Ann Arbor Road and I-275 in Plymouth Township.

The structure, which will also be used as a cellular phone tower, is being built on the property of the Don Massey Cadillac dealership.

It is the result of a study performed a few years ago in hopes of making the area more attractive and inviting to commuters entering the Plymouths from that direction.

"It is something that will begin to tie the corridor together as one for both

Please see **CLOCK, A4**

Mayflower deadline gets city's bah humbug

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
tbruscato@ec.hometown.com

Mayflower Hotel owner Matt Karmo is confident he'll finalize plans for a new downtown hotel by the first of the year.

"I hope to reach an agreement with a major developer by then," he said.

Karmo announced plans last January to demolish the present hotel and build a new multimillion dollar downtown cornerstone.

However, plans have stalled and

Karmo's latest announcement is one city officials have heard too many times before.

"Based on the history of this project, I'm not real optimistic," said Mayor Don Dismuke. "This is certainly an important area for development, and I've seen some of the proposals. However, will he (Karmo) ever pull the trigger?"

"I'm glad to hear plans are moving forward," added Commissioner Ron Loiselle. "I hope this time something

Please see **MAYFLOWER, A16**

Township payment plan increases in popularity

BY DUNCAN E. WHITE
STAFF WRITER

Since the inception of Plymouth Township's automatic water bill payment plan, several hundred residents have taken advantage of the opportunity ... and avoided a few headaches in the meantime.

More than 600 people have signed up for the program, initiated last year by

WATER BILLS

township Treasurer Ron Edwards, with more expected to sign up in the coming months.

"If people want to streamline government and keep their government small,

Please see **BILLS, A2**

Making spirits brighter

It's Plymouth-Canton Observer Cheer Club time again!

And we want to send out a big thank-you to folks who've dropped off gifts for the needy, since we kicked off the Cheer Club drive Nov. 26.

Those folks are Courtney, Elise, and Jeffrey Simpson of Canton, Emerson and Diane Coates of Plymouth, Nancy Krueger of Canton, Heather and Ryan Nimmerguth of Plymouth.

So join the Cheer Club by bringing donations of new toys and canned and boxed food to our office at 794 S. Main in Plymouth, during normal business hours.

The items will be collected until Dec. 11, when we'll turn them over to the Plymouth Salvation Army. They'll distribute the items to needy people in Plymouth, Canton and Northville.

The idea is to make Christmas special for everybody, not just the lucky families where mom and dad have plenty to spend.

CHEER CLUB

So if you're out doing Christmas shopping and have a few minutes to look for another toy, or maybe a gift of warm clothing, a new hat, scarf or gloves your thoughtfulness will be appreciated.

When you bring your donation by our office, we'll ask you to leave your name and city/township of residence.

That's because we like to print donors' names in the paper, while the Cheer Club drive is on. But you can be an anonymous donor, if you prefer.

Each year, we've recorded around 200 donors to the Cheer Club from Plymouth and Canton.

Happy Holidays! Please keep our Cheer Club in mind.

Just read!



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Reading time: Hannah Miller, 3, right, reads "Dress Up Time!" with her mom Kendra, while her sister Emily, 6, reads to herself at the Plymouth District Library. A number of activities are planned this month at the library for patrons of all ages. See Page A3.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL

The Women's National Farm & Garden Association of Plymouth will sponsor a holiday greens mart and bake sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday in the Plymouth Historical Museum, 185 S. Main. Items featured will be wreaths, bows, swags, and different arrangements. Proceeds go to benefit scholarships and civic projects.

The 125-voice Plymouth Community Chorus will present its Christmas concert, "Joy," at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in Plymouth Salem High School, 46181 Joy. For more information call (734) 455-4090.

The Whistle Stop Players will present "The Velveteen Rabbit" in the Plymouth Community Arts Council, JoAnne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5. For more information, call (734) 416-4278.

A candlelight sing-along and dedication of the "Walk of

Trees" begins at 6 p.m. Sunday in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

NEXT WEEK

Dec. 11: "Plymouth's Home for the Holidays" 5-10 p.m. A special night of discounts for downtown shoppers. Carols. Bring canned goods for the Salvation Army Food Bank at participating stores and receive a special bonus.

Dec. 12-13: The Plymouth Symphony League will be hosting "Sugar Plum Fairy Tea" following "The Nutcracker Ballet" at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12-13.

At the tea, the audience has the opportunity to meet and talk with members of the ballet and orchestra as well as refreshments. Tickets are \$5.

For additional information or tickets, call the symphony office at (734) 451-2112. Tickets are also available at the following outlets: Crystal Diamond Setters in Plymouth, Dearborn Music in Canton and Evola Music in Canton.

Expect tax bills in mail this week

BY DUNCAN E. WHITE
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again... shopping, holiday feasts and, of course, winter taxes.

If you haven't already received your Plymouth Township winter tax bills, you will shortly, according to Treasurer Ron Edwards.

"Most of them will be sent out Wednesday, some Thursday," he said.

The numbers for this year's winter taxes read like this: The overall tax increase for 1998 comes to 2.41 percent, compared

to a 2.64 percent jump in 1997. According to Edwards, most homeowners in Plymouth Township will be paying up to an additional \$35 on their winter tax bill.

value has grown because of new housing (which Plymouth Township's has) you have to lower the rate."

"Despite the drop in the increase of taxes from a year ago, the taxable value of homes has risen 2.7 percent from last year, leading to the slightly higher rate."

According to Edwards, it's simply a more modern way of doing business... and the wave of the future to boot.

"It's simply a more efficient way of doing operations for government," he said. "The IRS in 1988 or 1987 went to electronically filed tax returns. If you remember back then, it cost the IRS \$63 for return process and

If the community had not grown (lowering the tax rate increase) and taxable values had still risen 2.7 percent, the total winter tax bill would have been higher. Since the community growth and taxable values have risen somewhat equally, tax rates haven't risen as dramatically.

The winter tax bills incorporate county, township, district library and Huron Metroparks taxes into one. Summer tax bills included school taxes.

By filing electronically, it took their costs down to \$18. "It does the same thing with automatic water bill payments. Instead of us opening the mail and processing out the cash register and balancing, we send a report out that's balanced and we bring in to the computer system."

"Right now, we have a little extra work to do but we can post it to the account and we're done. There's no balancing factor to it. We don't have to worry about checks coming in. We don't have to worry about people hurrying here, any of that. I just think that when it comes to efficient management of your funds, this is the way to do it."

Edwards is confident that the program will continue to flourish as more and more people become aware of its existence.

"We were one of five communities in Michigan to offer this program and I know that Rochester Hills is doing much better than us but it's working well," said Edwards. "Perhaps with a little bit different marketing it can do better. We'll have to wait and see."

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Bills from page A1

it's a way of doing it," he said. "It's a much more efficient system that is already in place. People don't have to use stamps, it's minimal cost to the township."

The 600 citizens that are involved in the program represent approximately 5 percent of the population in Plymouth Township.

According to Edwards, that number may seem small but represents the success of this program within the last year.

"Detroit Edison has a similar program that runs about the same (in terms of percentage of the population participating)," added Edwards. "I think (the water bill plan) has been doing very well in that it's running about the same, and in only one year's time."

For anyone concerned about the government becoming even more involved with an individual's money, Edwards assures them there is no risk involved.

"One of the downfalls to this is that we have access to accounts but there are guidelines in place and rules and so forth that protect the consumer also," said Edwards. "We have not taken more money than we were supposed to from any account and we've done almost 1,500 transactions since this started."

"It's surprising that most of the people that have signed up so far have been senior citizens because they are away during the winter or traveling and this ensures that their bills are paid on time."

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Angel ornaments benefit Community Hospice

Community Hospice & Home Care Services Inc. (CHCS), with locations in Plymouth and

Westland, will dedicate a golden angel ornament in honor or memory of your loved one(s).

For a donation of your choice, you may inscribe a golden angel and return it to CHCS. It will then be placed on the Remembrance Tree located in the Westland Public Library, on South Central City Parkway.

The dedicated angels can be viewed in the front lobby of the library through Thursday, Dec. 24.

Several local credit unions are participating in the "Tree of Memories" program. Trees will be placed in their lobbies to encourage their membership to participate in the holiday activity. The funds raised will benefit the patients and families of CHCS.

Police on 'c' after

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
tbruscato@oe.com

Maybe it was the it. Or maybe it was spending four years.

Whatever the mouth city official that whoever to caroler from returned a piece of

"I drove past the morning on the w nearly drove off Paul Sincovek, mu director. "I was back in place."

Someone had and girl carole

Weather one m

The City of Plymouth completed all of leaf pickups. Creating that the weather to make on each area of the

Residents show that weather c limit leaf pickup guarantee that be picked up pr fall.

According to vices Director Pa late in the sea should no lon leaves into the who still have yards should ba the brown paper and place them pickup."

Crews from waste contract bish, will be

The Plymouth Library, 223 S. grams for the P nity. The follo scheduled for De

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HOW TO BUY A C Richard Truxall cation coordinat Library Network commercial-free answer your qu make decisions computer at 7 p Dec. 8. Register gram at the Res Desk or by tele 0750.

YOUTH DEPART

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FIRELIGHT STOR Plymouth Libr rytellers will s tales by the fir at 7:30 p.m., T Please register program begin Dec. 10, in per er's Advisory phone, 453-07

NATIONAL STR HOLIDAY NO The end of the so filled with that families quality time t month bring y library, where check out boo for all your fa

WALT DISNEY

"How to Buy a Computer"

Tuesday, December 8, 7 p.m.
Plymouth District Library

Richard Truxall, continuing education coordinator for The Library Network, will present commercial-free computer buying information and answer specific questions from the audience

Register at the Reader's Advisory Desk or by telephone at 734-453-0750

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WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES TODAY
OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY
ALCOHOL'S LINK TO BREAST CANCER

Recent research indicates that one drink daily (4 ounces of wine, 12 ounces of beer, or a shot of liquor) increases a woman's risk for breast cancer by 9%. An analysis by the Harvard School of Public Health also revealed that two to five drinks daily increased a woman's breast-cancer risk by 41% (similar to that experienced by women with family histories of breast cancer). Alcohol consumption raises estrogen levels, and high levels of the hormone have been linked to breast cancer. While one drink a week or a few drinks a month probably will not increase a woman's breast cancer risk, women should consider limiting their alcohol intake if they are at higher risk than normal for breast cancer to begin with.

If you would like to take a drink after work to unwind, consider the benefits of substituting an hour's worth of exercise for that glass of wine. Weight lifting helps increase bone and muscle mass. Aerobic exercise helps burn calories and increase cardiovascular strength. Plus, exercise is a great outlet for that workday stress. Get the low down on how to maximize your health, by calling our offices, located at 1711 Monroe, at 313-565-9510 to schedule an appointment.

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Jessie Martinez, M.D.
Duane Kroll, M.D.

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Clock from page A1

communities as a main entry into the township and the city," said Jim Anulewicz, director of Municipal Services for Plymouth Township. "About four years ago, we had in a number of top professional planners and architects from the state of Michigan to have them analyze the corridor and come up with a quick and dirty analysis of the problems with some solutions. The clock tower is a result of that meeting."

Plans also include a smaller clock tower at the corner of Ann Arbor Road and Main to mark the entrance to the city.

"We had an opportunity, by way of working with the cell company, to establish a clock tower or bell tower near or in the general proximity of the expressway," said Anulewicz. "Then to duplicate that with a smaller version at the entry to the city at Main Street."

■ By allowing the tower to be used for cellular phones, and incorporating the Cadillac logo into the face of the clock, the cost of building the structure will not come from tax dollars.

By allowing the tower to be used for cellular phones, and incorporating the Cadillac logo into the face of the clock, the cost of building the structure will not come from tax dollars.

"Mr. Massey has agreed to allow the construction to occur on his property, foregoing the legal lease rates that would normally be associated with that so that those costs could

be put into the cost of building the clock tower," said Anulewicz. "It's no cost to the taxpayers."

Anulewicz believes that the project is good for all parties involved.

"It's a win-win-win situation," he said. "We give the cell companies an opportunity to wrap up an area that has been very dead for them, it helps identify the dealership for Mr. Massey and it helps the communities as it is funded by itself."

Most of the structure is erected, but completion of the project isn't expected for at least another month.

"I haven't driven by recently, but as of last week, the foundation and all of the wiring were in and they were starting the structure," said Anulewicz. "I would anticipate it to be done within the next 30-40 days."

Teachers from page A1

how many teachers will accept the severance agreement at the end of the 1999 and 2000 school years. Thus far, he's expecting approximately 50 in each year.

"Our need for most years to replace teachers who are retiring or leave for other reasons is generally five to 10," said Goldman. "We'll have to be aggressive because of the numbers we need and the competition from other districts."

Goldman noted his office will distribute about a thousand fliers, and he'll be sending job notices to other school districts and their teachers.

"Some of the job openings we get don't make it to the posting board because we don't want to lose any good teachers," added Goldman. "I'm sure they do the same thing. It's a dog eat dog ..."

The Plymouth-Canton district's need for a large number of teachers comes as a result of a buyout plan in the current contract. It calls for a \$60,000 pay-out for teachers at the top of the

pay scale who want to leave. The money is paid out to each teacher over an eight-year period.

The district is hoping the end result will be to save money by replacing more experienced and higher-paid teachers with educators who have fewer years of teaching experience and are at the lower end of the pay scale.

Goldman expects to get a thousand applications, about double the number of resumes he receives in a typical recruiting year.

The district will have two recruiting periods. The first will be held from Feb. 1 to March 29. The second period will range from May 1 to June 14.

Goldman noted the hiring process is time-consuming, taking up to 25 hours to make a decision on one teacher. That decision is made by a selection committee, which includes administrators, building principals, teachers, parents and students.

The aggressive search by the district gets a wait-and-see attitude from the Plymouth-Canton

Education Association.

"We've been through this before in a previous buyout, and it turned into chaos," said Chuck Portelli, PCEA president. "And the substitutes aren't pleased because they don't get any priority."

This is the third revision of the hiring process, and Portelli said the union was able to change the transfer deadline for current teachers from May 1 to March 1.

"If we didn't do that, district teachers would lose an advantage," said Portelli. "Now, teachers who are currently employed and want to transfer to a different school will get the first chance at interviews for any openings. If a current district teacher isn't selected by the committee, then the administration can review applications from outside the district."

Portelli tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a change in the hiring practice which would have automatically given an opening to a teacher wanting a transfer.

Bells from page A1

"The money goes towards food, shelter, medicine, rent, utilities ... whatever the need may be."

Last year, the Plymouth-Canton-Northville communities, which serves the Plymouth-Canton-Northville communities, raised \$111,000 in the communi-

ties, and Schultz is hoping to surpass that mark this year.

"Some people just walk in the door and donate money. I remember last year getting a check for \$1,000," said Schultz. "It's amazing how wonderful and

generous people are."

If you have a few hours to donate as a bell-ringer for the Salvation Army's Christmas Red Kettle campaign, call Martha Schultz at (734) 453-5464.

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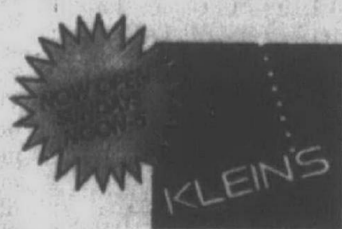
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Our 8 Week Session Begins January 4, 1999
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LIMITED TIME ONLY...SALE ENDS SUNDAY, DEC. 6th
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED. PRIOR SALES EXCLUDED. SORRY, NO LAYAWAYS DURING THIS PROMOTION.
"HOLIDAY MONEY" NOT APPLICABLE TOWARDS 1999 SPRING/CRUISE MERCHANDISE OR GIFT CERTIFICATE PURCHASES.
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Marquette House's unique brand of assisted living for older adults stresses wellness and independence — not passive reliance.

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Marquette House features full-service dining, a broad selection of social and recreational activities, 24-hour emergency response, housekeeping services, and a warm, friendly staff dedicated to hospitality and companionship.

Marquette House is easily accessible, yet peacefully secluded by our abundantly wooded grounds. Call now to schedule a tour and discover why Marquette House is so exceptional in so many different ways.

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(734) 326-8557

MET

The Michigan (MET) will a cants Dec. 3, 1999. The M vides an opp future college. Michigan child Acting stat MET Board Anderson said community col be offered wi options: lump purchase. "Ten years

Collectible

MET open for new applications

The Michigan Education Trust (MET) will accept new applicants Dec. 1, 1998 to Feb. 1, 1999. The MET program provides an opportunity to pay future college tuition costs for a Michigan child.

Acting state Treasurer and MET Board Chair Madhu Anderson said full, limited, or community college contracts will be offered with two purchase options: lump sum and monthly purchase.

"Ten years ago the average

cost of one year's tuition at a four-year public university in Michigan was \$2,302. This year the average is \$4,385," said Anderson.

MET contract price is exempt from state income tax and the increase in value of the original contract price is tax deferred. The increased value is then taxed at the students' tax rate over the time he or she attends college. MET is not guaranteed by the state of Michigan. It is secured by the assets of the

trust.

Applications are available at banks, grocery stores, day care facilities, hospitals, Rite Aid stores, Secretary of State branch offices, libraries and Treasury offices.

A nonrefundable \$25 fee is required when submitting an application.

For more information call 1-800-MET-4-KID (1-800-638-4543). Information also is available on the Web site at: www.treds.state.mi.us

'Friends' hosts family holiday event

Join the Friends of Nankin Mills and Wayne County parks staff for holiday festivities 3-6 p.m. Saturday at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center in Westland.

Families can expect a visit from Santa Claus, seasonal games and stories, old-fashioned holiday crafts, refreshments and a tree-lighting ceremony. The craft and game

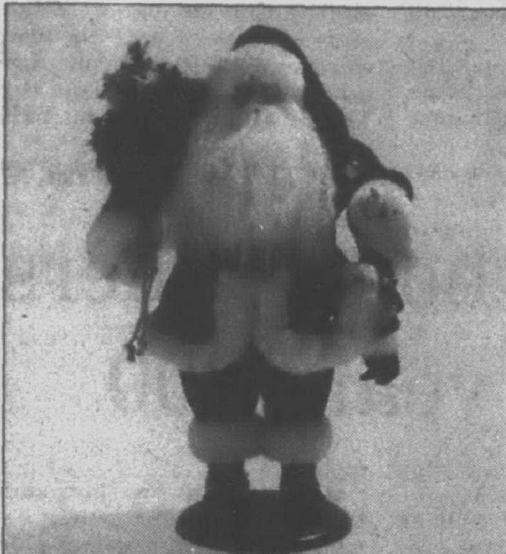
portion of the program takes place 3-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person and pre-registration is required.

For families attending after 4:30 p.m. to visit with Santa Claus and to view the tree lighting ceremony, there is no need to pre-register and no fee. All children should be accompanied by an adult.

This event has been made

possible through parks millage funds. In the event of inclement weather, the tree-lighting ceremony will be held indoors.

The Nankin Mills Interpretive Center is located on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. For information on this or any other Wayne County parks event, call (734) 261-1990.



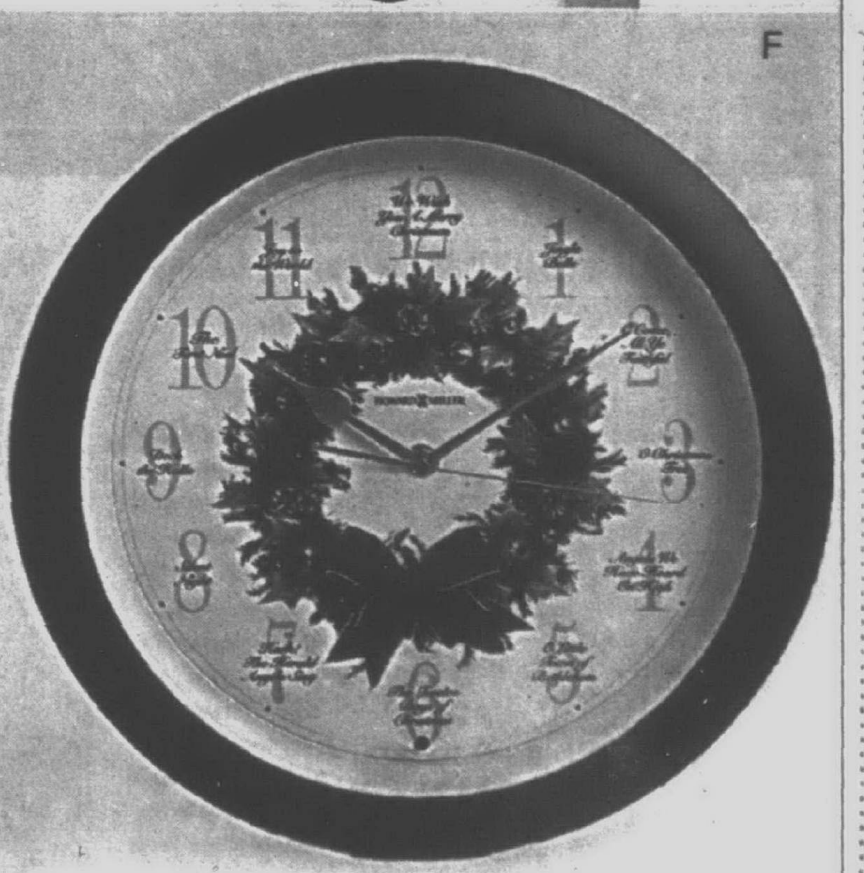
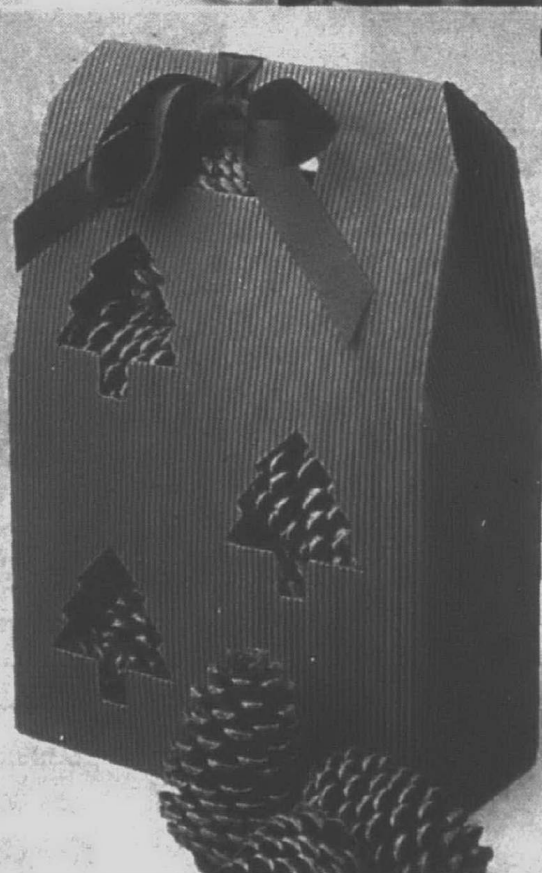
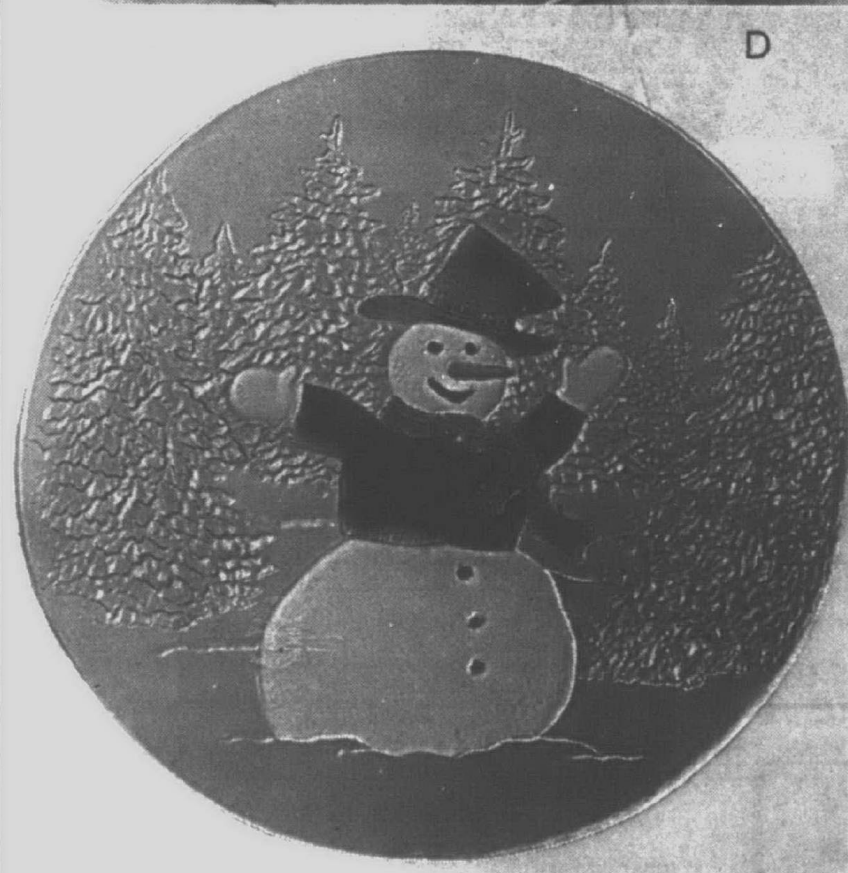
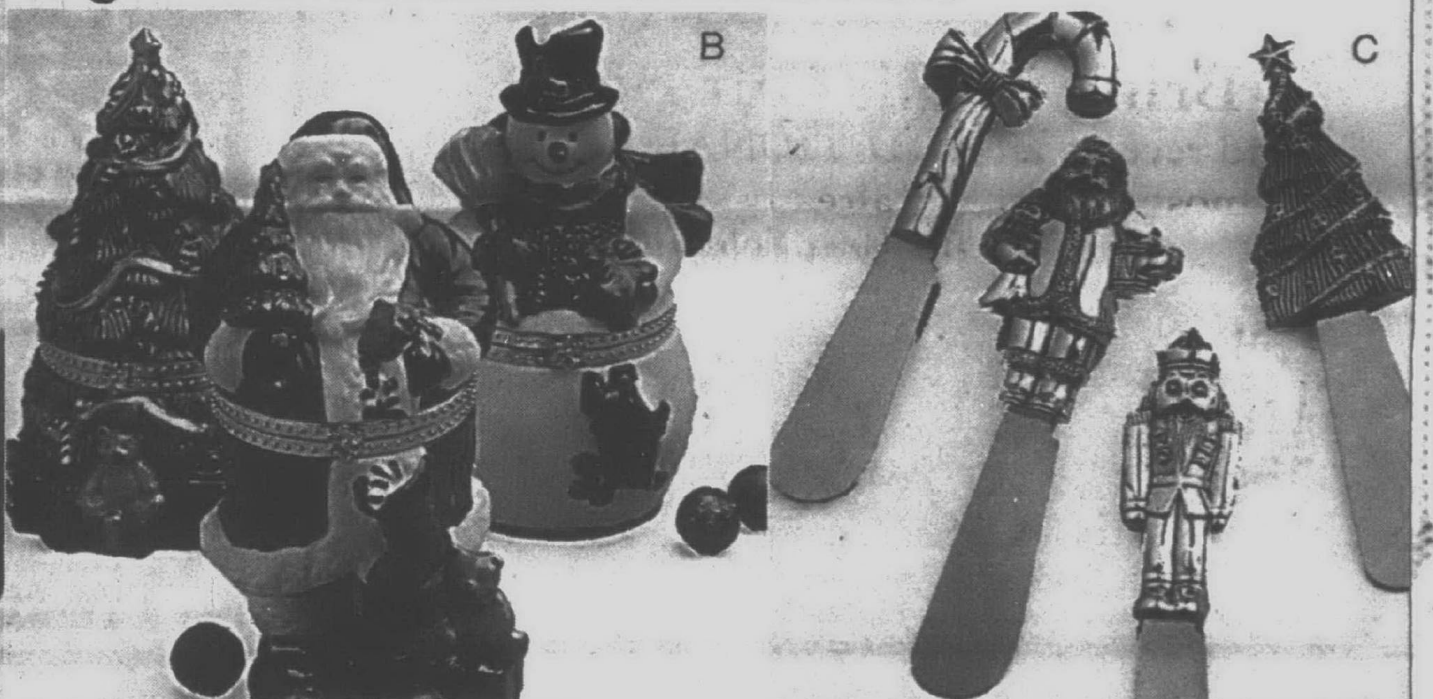
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imagine the surprise gifts for under \$40



- A. Jacobson's exclusive holiday mugs and dessert plates. Five mix and match designs available. Microwave- and dishwasher-safe. Each \$8 or four for \$24. Kitchen Shop.
- B. Hinged ceramic figures filled with delicious chocolate balls. From Galerie Au Chocolat. \$25 each. Fancy Foods.
- C. Silver plated holiday spreaders from Wallace. Set of four. \$20. China, Crystal, Silver.
- D. Choose from an assortment of holiday platters, including this delightful snowman handpainted on a cut glass plate. \$18. Kitchen Shop.
- E. Give a gift of home fragrance from ScentAutions. Cinnamon-scented pine cones in a holiday gift box. \$10. Bath Shop.
- F. Carols of Christmas clock plays 30 seconds of music as each hour strikes. Twelve carols in all. Quartz battery operated. Light sensor lowers volume during the night. \$29.95. Home.

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10-7 SUNDAY 12-5

Experts warn area officials of Y2K problems

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@homecomm.net

City hall will hesitate when you ask if it's ready for the Y2K problem.

That's on the advice of attorneys. They don't want mayors, city managers and public safety directors to make promises they may be unable to keep on Jan. 1, 2000 — the date their computers might, perhaps, crash.

"Attorneys advise us to be wary of the statements we make. The city is exempt from suits (under an ancient legal doctrine), but personal suits can be filed against you for misleading statements," James Amin advised a roomful of municipal and university officials.

Amin is director of administrative services for the city of Ann Arbor. He was among a panel of speakers at the University of Michigan's Nov. 30 outreach program with the Michigan Municipal League.

"Even the director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department says to keep a water supply on hand," Amin added.

No one predicted western civilization will grind to a halt. But many computers are programmed to read a two-digit number for the year and can't tell the difference between 1900 and 2000. So even where changes are being made, everyone needs to be prepared.

U-M is urging municipalities to make all employees aware of

the situation, list all possible problems, design and test solutions. A consulting firm said that as of Nov. 17, some 35 percent of all institutions and 29 percent of governments hadn't started preparations. A mere 7-10 percent had tested their equipment.

Wayne County, for example, reported it has "an aggressive schedule" but is a year behind that schedule. Likely to be affected: traffic lights, pension payments.

Those preparations involve asking vendors and repair companies tough questions — which they will evade answering — about whether the equipment they're selling and repairing is Y2K compatible.

"There are days when I feel my

neck is stretched to the other end of campus. I will not be celebrating 2000," confessed Jose-Marie Griffiths, U-M's chief information officer and executive director of information technology.

Griffiths' special problem will be the \$1 billion medical center on U-M's North Campus — power supplies, insurance records, laboratory specimens, payrolls, logistics for medical students.

"We have lots of biomedical specimens stored in controlled environments," she said. "We're looking at survival systems."

"It takes three months to get people to do the assessment," she added, advising officials that they already should have started preparations.

Griffiths had a taste of the problem last September when the Northwest Airlines strike prevented many faculty and students from returning to campus.

Officials from the Conference of Western Wayne, Livonia, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Oakland University, Pontiac, Detroit, Western Michigan University and several outstate cities fired questions and war stories at the speakers.

"In Washington, D.C., there were claims that over half their fire engines wouldn't start."

"Now we have to ask our vendors who repair our radios, 'is your repair service Y2K compliant?'"

"Many vendors absolutely

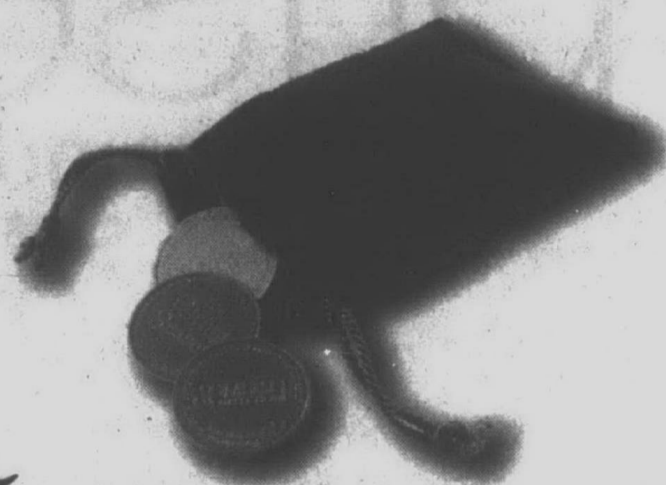
refuse to make any kind of assurance of Y2K compliance. Many will tell you to buy \$600,000 or \$700,000 of new equipment."

How do you test embedded chips? A lot of utilities have embedded chips in heating and cooling equipment, elevators and escalators. Answer: About 5 percent of chips will go bad.

After a power failure, stores in Australia were out of food in two days.

"I never thought of the possibility that my car wouldn't start because of an embedded chip in the car key." Reply: Any car built since 1997 by the Big Three is supposed to be Y2K

Please see Y2K, A7



FOR THE CHILDREN, FROM SANTA

Santa will be at Somerset North every day 'til closing. And for each child who visits, he has a special gift. A velvet pouch for three golden coins from Santa's treasure chest.

Children can use the coins for purchases at participating stores. Or tuck them away as mementos.

While you're waiting to visit Santa, the characters from "The Giving Season" will be on hand for rollicking entertainment, amusement and storytelling. If you wish, you can even join them for Saturday breakfast. (Reservations can be made at the castle.)

And for your entertainment, we've arranged daily performances at 1, 3 and 5 p.m. of "A Most Unusual Gift," a musical staged by The Children's Theatre of Michigan.

The Holidays at the Somerset Collection. Something for everyone.

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Practical tips for homeowners getting ready for year 2000

Get ready for a one-week camping trip on Jan. 1, 2000.

Don't plan an airline flight that day. And if you happen to be in eastern Europe, Latin America or a Third World country, your campout may last longer.

The reason is Y2K — the widespread expectation that computers will malfunction because they record the year by the last two digits and can't tell the difference between 1900 and 2000.

For example, a person born in 1944 may be told by a computer he is 44 years old, not 56. Credit card bills could be shown as not having been paid for 100 years.

The solution is to write com-

puter programs so that they record all years with four digits. But that might involve changing programs written in computer "languages" that are rarely used any more.

The GartnerGroup, which specializes in research, suggests what the average homeowner should — and shouldn't — do as the year 2000 approaches. Excerpts from its report "Year 2000 Risk Assessment and Planning for Individuals":

"A 'bomb shelter' mentality is not called for." Don't withdraw all your money from banks or liquidate investments.

Prepare for localized failures for a limited time — think in terms of a snowstorm of several days. Have two weeks' salary in

cash.

Have up to five days supplies of key consumer items — medications, non-perishable food, household supplies, batteries for lights and radios. If you depend on food stamps or the Women-Infant-Children federal program, you should be especially cautious. The old propane gas stove may come in handy.

Don't count on your grocery store being open more than a couple of days if there's a crash. The food industry is among the worst prepared for Y2K.

Stock jugs of water. Fuel your vehicle. Have an adequate supply of home-heat-

Please see TIPS, A7

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Sunday, December 13th at Noon
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and an 18th c. French
oil on canvas.
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John and Joseph Meeks
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Friday, December 4th 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 5th 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday, December 7th 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 8th 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 9th 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 10th 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Free Parking Wednesday Evening Exhibition

A 15% Buyer's Premium is added to each lot sold up to and including \$50,000 and 10% over \$50,000 and is subject to 6% Michigan Sales Tax. Illustrated catalogs available at the Gallery for \$20.00, postpaid \$25.00 Express Mail and Overseas \$33.00. Annual subscriptions \$75.00. International subscriptions \$135.00.

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Safety

The holiday season is the busiest shopping year, but it's also a time for criminals to prey on the holiday season.

Officials from a theft prevention safety should top the list this season.

"People have a lot of things on their minds during the holidays, often do things for expediency they might not otherwise do, like leaving running or open to stop for some time."

Santa's coming Rite Aid

Santa Claus is coming to town and to Rite Aid stores in western Wayne County.

Santa will be on hand with children and wish lists at Rite Aid stores in Canton, Garden City and Redford.

Rite Aid will provide a complimentary graph of their visit. Children can meet Santa from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, and 5 p.m. Saturdays.

Here is the list of appearances:

Friday, Dec. 4 — Rite Aid S. Lilley, Canton; Mile, Livonia, and Road, Redford.

Friday, Dec. 11 — Rite Aid S. Lilley, Canton; Mile, Livonia, and Road, Redford.

Friday, Dec. 19 — Rite Aid S. Lilley, Canton; Mile, Livonia, and Road, Redford.

Rite Aid operates stores in 30 states, revenue of \$12 billion. Michigan has 381 stores.

Tips

from page A6

ing fuel delivered i

Retrieve all messages.

Send your messages early.

Obtain hard of your Social Security pension and savings.

Avoid air travel, 2000. If airfares fail, an airfare handle flights could by 80 percent.

Have your medical checkups in advance.

Ask your local ship or village i preparations. You hound them. For they have cellular mobile radio back agency services?

GartnerGroup thousands of en generally finds t panies are prepar er companies and ments are not. I U.S., Canada, Au northern Europ will be in bette Mexico, Central America, eastern Asia and the Midd

Y2K

from page A6

compliant. But Web sites are ignoring Y2K pro

City officials advice from the Accounting Offi possible malfunc

Traffic sig date-dependen down.

Criminal r adversely affect ple, prisoner re eligibility dates.

The Social S istration excha with states to de gibility of disab

benefits — "a issue," according many before Con

Safety experts stress precaution this shopping season

The holiday season may be the busiest shopping time of the year, but it's also a prime season for criminals to prey on shoppers burdened by packages and often too preoccupied to take parking lot safety precautions.

Officials from a statewide auto theft prevention program say safety should top holiday shoppers' list this season.

"People have a lot on their minds during the holidays and often do things for the sake of expediency they might not otherwise do, like leaving their car running or open to make a quick stop for some item or leaving

packages in plain view," said Bill Liddane, director of Help Eliminate Auto Theft, a program which operates a toll-free tip reward line.

"Unfortunately, this carelessness is precisely what criminals are counting on during the holiday season. These HEAT holiday safety tips are offered to remind people to stay alert and not forget about safety concerns, so that everyone has a happy and safe holiday."

HEAT offers the following tips for shoppers:

Park in well-lighted areas, near sidewalks or walkways.

Avoid parking near Dumpsters or large vans or trucks. (These obstacles decrease your ability to see the space around your vehicle, where carjackers could be hiding.)

Consider using the valet service if you are shopping alone at night at a mall. Leave only the ignition key with the valet. (Keep your registration and proof of insurance in your wallet.)

If shopping late at night, ask the store clerk if it is possible to get store security to escort you to your car. If you leave purchases or wrapped gifts in the car, place

them in the trunk and out of sight.

Try to keep one hand free with the ignition key in hand. Look around and inside car before getting in.

If you are threatened by a carjacker with a gun or other weapon, give up your car. Don't argue. A life is more important than any car.

When driving in traffic, always leave room between you and the car in front, so that if you sense trouble, you can maneuver quickly and get away easily.

If you are carjacked or witness a carjacking, try to remember

what the carjacker looked like — sex, height, build, race, age, hair and eye color and special features.

Once you are in a safe location, report the crime by calling 9-1-1 or the police. Also report your information to HEAT's toll free tip reward line at (800) 242-HEAT whether you are a carjacking victim or witness a carjacking. Your confidential information could be worth up to \$10,000.

HEAT is funded by Michigan auto insurance companies and 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 the tip results in 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 awarded \$1.7 million to tip callers and recovered 2,375 vehicles valued at \$26.6 million. The HEAT tip line has received 5,246 calls leading to the arrests of 1,960 suspects.

Santa's coming to Rite Aid

Santa Claus is coming to town and to Rite Aid stores in western Wayne County.

Santa will be on hand to visit with children and hear their wish lists at Rite Aid stores in Canton, Garden City, Livonia and Redford.

Rite Aid will provide children with a complimentary photograph of their visit with Santa. Children can meet with Santa from 5-8 p.m. on Fridays and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays.

Here is the schedule of appearances:

Friday, Dec. 4 and Saturday, Dec. 5 — Rite Aid stores at 180 S. Lilley, Canton; 37355 Eight Mile, Livonia, and 25790 Joy Road, Redford.

Friday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 12 — 5736 Middlebelt, Garden City, and 31245 Eight Mile, Livonia.

Friday, Dec. 18 and Saturday, Dec. 19 — 15181 Telegraph, Redford.

Rite Aid operates about 4,000 stores in 30 states with annual revenue of \$12 billion. In Michigan the chain operates 381 stores.

Tips

from page A6

ing fuel delivered in late 1999.

■ Retrieve all your e-mail messages.

■ Send your mail and packages early.

■ Obtain hard (paper) copies of your Social Security records, pension and savings plans.

■ Avoid air travel around Jan. 1, 2000. If air traffic control systems fail, an airport's ability to handle flights could be reduced by 80 percent.

■ Have your medical and dental checkups in advance.

■ Ask your local city, township or village if it has made preparations. You may have to hound them. For example, do they have cellular phones and mobile radio backups for emergency services?

GartnerGroup has surveyed thousands of enterprises and generally finds that large companies are preparing, but smaller companies and many governments are not. In general, the U.S., Canada, Australia and the northern European countries will be in better shape than Mexico, Central America, South America, eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Y2K

from page A6

compliant. But the Big Three Web sites are pretty much ignoring Y2K problems.

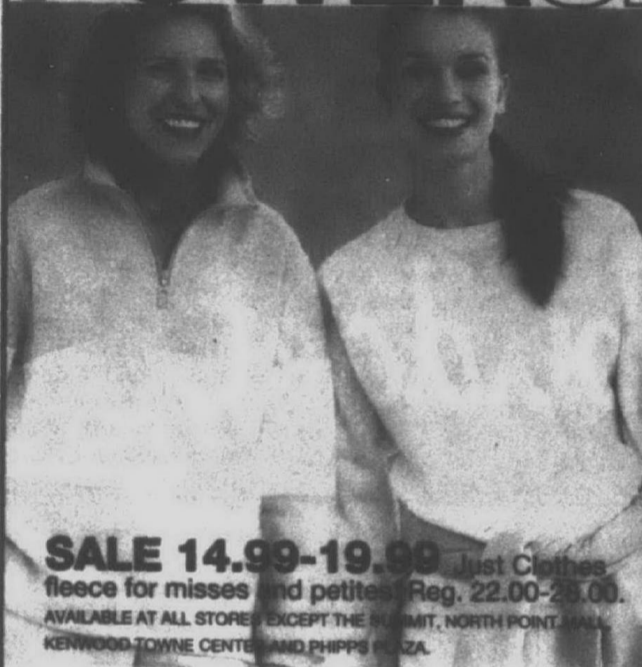
City officials have further advice from the federal General Accounting Office about other possible malfunctions:

■ Traffic signals that are date-dependent could break down.

■ Criminal records may be adversely affected — for example, prisoner release or parole eligibility dates.

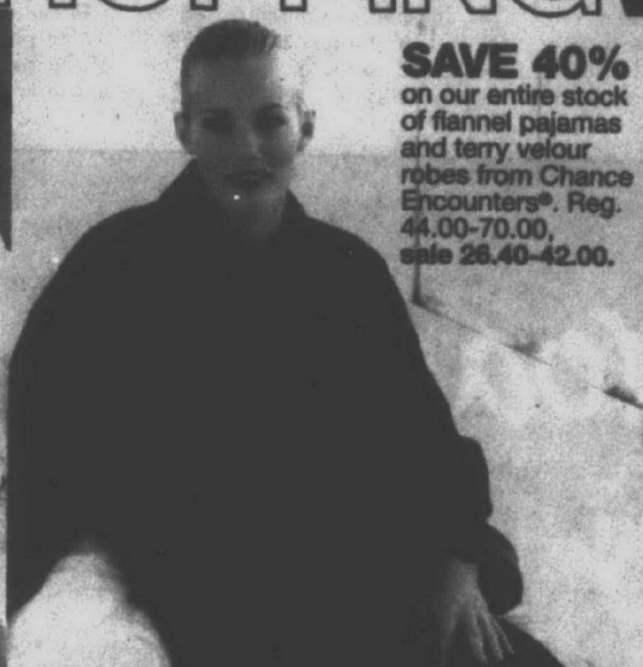
■ The Social Security Administration exchanges data files with states to determine the eligibility of disabled persons for benefits — "a monumental issue," according to GAO testimony before Congress.

P·A·R·I·S·I·A·N POWERSHOPPINGWEEKEND



SALE 14.99-19.99 Just Clothes fleece for misses and petites. Reg. 22.00-25.00.

AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES EXCEPT THE SUMMIT, NORTH POINT MALL, KENWOOD TOWNE CENTER AND PHIPPS PLAZA.



SAVE 40% on our entire stock of flannel pajamas and terry velour robes from Chance Encounters®. Reg. 44.00-70.00, sale 26.40-42.00.



SALE 29.99 Large selection of misses' and petite sweaters from Warnatta, Jeanne Perry, and Clothes, At Ease and By Design. Reg. 30.00-54.00.



SAVE 40% on a large selection of women's boots from Timberland, Enzo, Aigner, Unisa, Prima Royale and more. Reg. 37.00-120.00, sale 22.20-80.00.



SAVE 40% on the original retail price on selected ladies' outerwear. Reg. 130.00-450.00, sale 90.00-270.00.



SAVE 25-40% on designer handbags. Reg. 124.00-268.00, sale 93.00-201.00.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

LADIES

SAVE 25-50% on our large selection of holiday dresses for misses, petites and Parisian Woman. Reg. 59.99-220.00, sale 44.99-110.00. IN DRESSES.

SALE 49.99-69.99 Large selection of casual dresses for misses, petites and Parisian Woman. Reg. 69.99-89.99. IN DRESSES.

SAVE 40-65% on new reductions on related separates from famous makers in New Directions. Reg. 28.00-200.00, sale 9.80-120.00. IN NEW DIRECTIONS.

SAVE 25-50% on new reductions on selected fall and holiday career collections from famous New York designers. Reg. 58.00-152.00, sale 29.00-114.00. IN MISSES' SPORTSWEAR, D416.

SAVE 40% on our large selection of Parisian Signature two-ply cashmere sweaters, mock necks, turtlenecks and cardigans. Reg. 138.00-148.00, sale 82.80-88.80. IN MISSES' SWEATERS.

SAVE 25-50% on our large selection of sweaters. Reg. 24.00-54.00, sale 12.00-27.00. IN MISSES' AND JUNIORS' SWEATERS.

SAVE 25-50% on famous maker collections for Parisian Woman. Reg. 28.00-180.00, sale 20.99-89.99.

SAVE 25-50% on juniors' knit and woven tops and bottoms from Palmetto's. Reference Point and more. Reg. 18.00-38.00, sale 13.50-28.50. IN JUNIORS.

SAVE 25-50% on juniors' dresses and collections from XOXO, Ecu, Byer and more. Orig. 18.00-69.00, sale 13.50-34.50. IN JUNIORS.

SAVE 25-50% on our entire stock of misses' wool coats and leather jackets from Jones New York® and more. Reg. 250.00-850.00, sale 125.00-487.50. IN MISSES' COATS.

SAVE 25% on Tomorrow's Mother maternity apparel. Reg. 24.00-148.00, sale 18.00-111.00. IN MATERNITY. EXCLUDES DENIM AND LINGERIE.

INTIMATE APPAREL

SAVE 40% on our entire stock of Chance Encounters® satin sleepwear. Reg. 42.00-58.00, sale 25.20-34.80. IN INTIMATE APPAREL.

SALE 12.99-14.99 Entire stock of Warner's®, Olga® and Vanity Fair® bras. Reg. 19.00-27.00. IN INTIMATE APPAREL.

JEWELRY

SALE 29.99 Cubic zirconia bracelets set in 18K gold-over-sterling silver. Reg. 60.00. IN ACCESSORIES.

SAVE 40% on a large selection of boxed Parisian jewelry. Reg. 15.00-20.00, sale 9.00-12.00. IN ACCESSORIES.

ACCESSORIES

SAVE 25% on winter gloves, mufflers and hats from Fowles, Ben Berger and more. Reg. 8.00-75.00, sale 6.00-56.25. IN ACCESSORIES.

SAVE 50% on our large selection of social occasion handbags. Reg. 28.00-60.00, sale 14.00-30.00. IN ACCESSORIES.

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SEMCOG: State economy is 'envy of nation'

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oe.homescomm.net

A decade ago, southeastern Michigan was the economic sick man of the Midwest, the epitome of what scoffers called "the Rust Belt."

Today the auto capital outperforms the nation and even the more diversified outstate regions.

Why? How? Who did it?

The Engler administration, says Gov. John Engler.

"Consumer sentiment" and "the many initiatives undertaken by the U.S. motor vehicle industry," coupled with the fact that this region hasn't been hurt by "military base closings and defense industry cutbacks," says a report by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Government. Economists Jeffrey W. Jones and Abel Feinstein don't even mention Engler's name, though they gave some slight credit to his property tax cuts.

Engler, re-elected Nov. 3 in a landslide, had his budget director put forth his case for a medal in the opening of his fiscal 1999

budget message:

"Since taking office in January 1991, Gov. John Engler has fundamentally transformed the fiscal and economic landscape of the State of Michigan. For years, Michigan lagged behind the nation in nearly every economic indicator."

"Today, after cutting taxes 24 times, stopping wasteful government spending and reducing both welfare caseloads and unemployment to record-low levels, Michigan drives America's renaissance."

"Michigan's economy is the envy of the nation. Our successful efforts to reduce regulations and taxation have freed businesses, entrepreneurs and workers to create jobs, grow and prosper." (Italics added.)

SEMCOG's case

SEMCOG, in its October "Profile of the Southeast Michigan Region's Economy and Labor Market," agreed it has been "one of the great regional economic success stories of the 1990s ... a superlative ... a significant

reversal of fortune" for a region which "in the 1970s and 1980s often trailed the national economy, sometimes by a wide margin."

SEMCOG's analysis concentrates on the national market and behavior of the auto companies. Items:

■ "Consumer sentiment has, on the whole, been quite bullish" since 1990. The U.S. economy has grown at a moderate 2.8 percent annual average.

■ The motor vehicle industry "has increased output per hour by 34 percent."

■ Consumer concerns about the low quality of U.S. vehicles versus foreign cars are largely resolved. The Big Three "spent more than \$117 billion worldwide on research and development work."

■ American manufacturers targeted the light truck, van and sport utility vehicle market, "the fastest-growing segment of the overall vehicle market." By 1997 U.S. companies had captured 82 percent of the sport-ute market compared to 61 percent of the auto market.

■ Michigan doubled its exports from \$18.5 billion in 1990 to nearly \$38 billion in 1997, with "a significant share" coming from southeastern Michigan.

■ This region has been "insulated from the negative economic events of the 1990s. Military base closings, defense industry cutbacks and the collapse of over-built commercial real estate markets hurt the economies of many metropolitan statistical areas ... Defense spending does not play a large role in the region's economy, and commercial real estate was not subject to the degree of speculative excess evident in other cities."

■ Manufacturing used to be unstable. In the decade of 1979-89, southeastern Michigan lost 144,000 manufacturing jobs. In the 1990s, however, manufacturing added stability, inching up from 493,000 to 496,000 by 1997. Manufacturing work weeks rose from 42.9 hours in 1990 to 45.6 in 1997.

■ Construction has generated 20,000 jobs in the 1990s, a gain of 29 percent and triple the national average. The boom has

covered residential, commercial and industrial markets. SEMCOG credits "low mortgage interest rates, reductions in property tax rates and higher levels of transportation and infrastructure spending." (Italics added.)

■ Services added 185,000 jobs, up 15 percent during the 1990s. "Business/management/engineering services, health and miscellaneous services were the leaders in job creation. Wholesale and retail trade also recorded sizable gains."

■ Banking lost jobs with multi-state mergers, but real estate and insurance made up for it.

Buoyant forecast

SEMCOG's forecast was much the same as the University of Michigan economic forecast of Nov. 19-20. The southeastern corner will lead the state, although overall growth will slow.

Has the region succeeded in stabilizing and diversifying? Short answer: yes.

SEMCOG used a mathemati-

cal formula to produce a "volatility index." A high number is bad; a low number is good. The region reduced its 1990 index for executives and managers from 3.1 to 1.7; for precision production craft and repair, from 8.7 to 3.5.

Nationally, the index for executives and managers moved from 2.3 (lower than SE Michigan) to 2.0 (higher); for precision production, craft and repair from 5.8 (lower than SE Michigan) to 6.5 (higher).

SEMCOG predicts that any downturn will be less severe than those of the 1970s and 1980s. The region will face labor shortages. "The region will need to retain workers, attract needed workers with specialized skills, and encourage higher labor force participation."

SEMCOG's report is entitled "Profile of the Southeast Michigan Region's Economy and Labor Market 1997." Copies are available from SEMCOG Information Services, 660 Plaza Drive, Suite 1900, Detroit 48226; phone (313) 96104266. Web site: www.sem-cog.org

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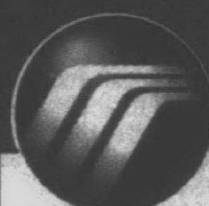
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LightFest



Aglow: Wayne County LightFest is now open with what county officials call "the Midwest's largest holiday show," featuring 39 giant displays and nearly a million lights. Four new displays are featured along the 4.5 miles of Hines Drive. LightFest runs nightly from 7-10 p.m., through Jan. 1, except Christmas Day. At the end of the drive, visitors can stop by Santa's Shelter at the Warrendale Picnic Area for refreshments and gift shopping, and they can get a picture taken with Santa Claus. A \$5-per-car donation helps keep LightFest operating. Hines Drive is closed to traffic at 5:45 p.m. Traffic enters the LightFest at Hines Drive and Merriman. For more information call (734) 261-1990.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Madonna evaluation nets NCA re-accreditation through 2008

Madonna University has received formal notification from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) that it has approved continued accreditation at the undergraduate and master's levels through 2007-2008.

Madonna College was first accredited by NCA in 1959.

Last January, a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools visited the University and conducted a comprehensive evaluation.

In its official report, the eight-member team unanimously recommended continuing the institutional accreditation of Madonna University.

Among the strengths of the University, as reported by the team, is "the rare spirit of collegiality approximating an extended family shared by students, faculty, staff, administration and the board."

Other strengths highlighted were: the talent and enthusiasm of the students and their appreciation of the programs, faculty and staff; the support of the faculty and staff for the institution's efforts to respond to new challenges in creative ways such as evidenced by distance learning and serving new student populations; the effectiveness of the University in forging mutually beneficial relationships with

other educational institutions, business and governmental agencies to serve community and student needs; the "attractive and well-maintained" physical plant; positive operating budgets coupled with fiscal responsibility and effective fund-raising strategies.

The team commented on the continued implementation of approved assessment plans for student outcomes and provided consultation in the area of international education.

"Our university is most grateful for the thoroughness in which the team members evaluated Madonna and appreciate NCA's recognition of our institutional commitment to academic excellence," said Sister Mary Francilene, president.

Livonia officials join suit to open primary election

By KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
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Two elected officials in Livonia support a legal challenge to "open" primary elections in Wayne County and allow voters to select candidates from Democratic and Republican parties without spoiling ballots.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and City Council President Jack Engebretson filed a brief about a week ago with the Michigan Court of Appeals supporting four Wayne County residents who want to open primaries.

Currently voters are not permitted to cross over between parties in primary elections. For example, voters marking ballots in support of County Executive Edward McNamara — a Democrat — in this year's August primary election could not vote in any Republican race — whether it was the contested state Senate race with Thaddeus McCotter, James Ryan and Debbie Whyman, or the gubernatorial race, won handily by John Engler.

John Hand, a Dearborn attorney and a former Wayne County charter commissioner, originally challenged the state law in March, asking the Wayne County Circuit Court to declare that the state's Ballot-Voiding Rule, which prevents split-ticket voting in primary elections, does not apply in Wayne County's "home rule" elections.

The plaintiffs include Patrick O'Hara of Detroit, Joseph Turinsky of Lincoln Park and Anthony and Jane Ruggiero of Plymouth. The suit names Wayne County Clerk Teola Hunter, the Wayne County Election Commission and the Board of Canvassers as defendants.

About three months ago Hand appealed a circuit court ruling that went against the plaintiffs.

Mary Nasser, attorney with Wayne County's corporation counsel, could not be reached for comment on the appeal.

Closing the primary

In their brief, Kirksey and Engebretson cite statistics from the August primary showing that 15,935 Livonia residents

LAW SUIT TO 'OPEN' PRIMARY ELECTIONS

voted for governor, including Democrat and Republican candidates, while 7,377 voted for either McNamara or challenger Sharon McPhail, the Democratic candidates for Wayne County executive on the same ballot.

The brief states 8,558 Livonia voters or 53.6 percent "were disenfranchised, right in the polling place, as only 7,377 voted in the primary which is tantamount to election for the Office of County Executive." (Wayne County's electorate is largely Democrat.) The state and county primary elections are "two primaries, not one," the brief states.

"The state's (ballot) voiding penalty, if it applies to more than the state primary itself, must be applied individually to the ballot for each primary, not collectively to the ballots for both primaries," the brief states.

Charter lacking

Since the Wayne County charter lacks the ballot-voiding provision, each Wayne County primary voter should be permitted to vote to nominate one candidate for each office to be filled, regardless of party affiliation, the brief concludes.

Kirksey said he has heard complaints from residents about the closed primary while in office as mayor and in previous years as a state representative.

"We just felt it was a situation where the Livonia voters were being disenfranchised," said Kirksey. When Kirksey heard about the lawsuit, he thought "it was important to add input to that concept," he said.

"It is important to look out for the best interests of Livonia. By and large, it's been an ongoing concern."

Engelbreton wants an open primary to "broaden people's choices."

"Voters in an open primary could have the opportunity to vote for candidates when they want to support people of both

parties. Not that they have to, but it at least gives them the opportunity," Engelbreton said.

Hand said the problem stems from a 1954 state statute that does not name the Wayne County executive or county commissioners, and applied only to nominations for offices listed at that time in the Primary Election Law.

The county executive's position was created in the Wayne County charter, which was approved by county voters in 1981, nearly 30 years after the state statute was passed.

Wayne County is the only chartered county out of Michigan's 83 counties and the 1954 statute shouldn't apply to Wayne County, Hand said.

Kirksey and Engelbreton's motion of support is important to the case, Hand said. "I think it brings across to the Court of Appeals that (the case) isn't just a couple of 'good government' types arguing this case," Hand said. "It shows that communities and voters see that the ballot voiding rule disenfranchises voters."

"It's not just a question of good government. I think the franchise isn't worth much if your vote isn't counted."

Commissioners opposed

Hand asked Wayne County commissioners last year to place a proposal before voters asking whether they wanted open primaries, but it was resoundingly rejected by commissioners.

Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland; Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia; Commissioner Bruce Patterson, R-Canton; and former commissioner Edward Plawewski Sr., D-Dearborn Heights, opposed it.

At that time, Beard called the request an "exercise in futility."

"Wayne County cannot make a change in this, because it violates state law," Beard said. Patterson said Democrats would cross over into Republican races, and Republicans would vote in races for Democrats, "just to be mischievous."

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OCC academy trains dogs for police work

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@humecon.com

Livonia is adding a new cop who may turn out to be a real money-maker.

His name is Haro, and he's a German shepherd dog being trained at the Oakland Police Academy by Officer John Walker.

"We've had a K-9 unit for eight years," said Walker, "but one of the dogs is retiring. This is the replacement."

A five-year veteran of the department, Walker qualified for the K-9 unit through an interview process. He hasn't handled a police dog previously, though he owns a 7-year-old shepherd-Labrador mix.

Over five weeks in November and December, they'll train for 200 hours, sometimes putting in 12-hour days. More precisely, the academy will teach Walker to train Haro.

Tuition is steep, but one police department made its money back 24 hours after the dog started work.

"That dog found a car with

drugs and \$4,000 cash," said Gary Godlewski, a Bloomfield Township police officer who doubles as K-9 coordinator for the Oakland Police Academy.

"Because of the drug forfeiture laws, these dogs pay for themselves. That dog (in Bloomfield Hills) made \$20,000 in six months. Most departments that send officers here pay for it by forfeiture money," Godlewski said.

The police academy is headquartered on the Auburn Hills Campus of Oakland Community College. It's a rarity in Michigan — the only academy that trains dogs for police work. OCC has completed two classes and currently is running third, said Dr. Joseph Macri, dean of public services at the campus.

"We have a waiting list for next spring," Godlewski said. "The response from the public has been overwhelming. And the students on campus (OCC and nearby Oakland University) love us."

Two kinds

There are two kinds of classes:
■ Narcotic dog academy — two

weeks at 40 hours per week. Donated Labrador retrievers are used. "Labs have a good nose, they don't bite, they can track, and they're natural hunters," he said. Price is \$3,500, and next class starts in January.

■ Patrol dog academy — five weeks at 40 hours per week in both classroom and field training. It covers narcotics detection, tracking, building searches, article searches and aggression control. The \$7,400 price includes an imported, \$3,000 German shepherd dog that has been pre-trained.

American-bred dogs show a lot of hip dysplasia, Godlewski said, and the imports from Germany, the former Czechoslovakia and Belgium have "an all-around better temperament."

Dogs are matched to handlers and their homes. The handler boards the dog with his family. Lams donates food.

"The last week of class, we'll do drug raids with the Detroit Police Department," Godlewski said. "We try to expose them to stuff they'll face down the street."

Police departments asked OCC

to do training when they became dissatisfied with private training schools, Godlewski said. Oakland's course is certified by the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

Detroit and Michigan State Police offer costlier 14-week academies where the dog is trained from scratch. Oakland finds it's cheaper to give dogs some pretraining to tie up less of the handler's time.

Chief of instruction is John Skalski, an officer with 27 years experience in the K-9 unit in Detroit and head trainer there since 1976. "He's the best in the state," Godlewski declared.

Five assistants work with Skalski, one to each of the five students. They teach the student to train the dog. The current class includes officers from the Livonia and Sterling Heights police departments and the Ingham (two deputies) and Lenawee counties sheriff's departments.

In the first week, handler and dog follow a trail made by dragging tripe from the stomach of a cow. To make the work more rewarding, bits of hot dogs are added as bait. At the end of the trail is the dog's ball.

Speaking English

"It's a big game for them," Godlewski said, referring to the dogs. "We look for a dog with a strong ball drive and strong retrieve drive." In the past, some handlers gave commands in German, but today the handlers stick to American English.

"My first dog was from Belgium and was trained in Dutch. Then I trained him in German and later used English — a trilingual dog." That dog was retired at age 9.

One difficult kind of training is building search. "When we do a search, it's safer and quicker to send a dog in. The dog uses its



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN STORMZAND

Field training: An unidentified officer and dog wrap up a busy day of training at the OCC Auburn Hills Campus dog training academy. It's a rarity in Michigan — the only academy that trains dogs for police work.

nose, not a light, and is faster than a couple of officers. All the people I've caught over the years will surrender when you announce you have a dog that will bite," Godlewski said.

Use of K-9 units tapered off about 10 years ago when the federal government ruled that handlers had to be compensated for the time caring for the dog at home. But new forfeiture drug laws enable the dogs to pay for their keep, and then some.

Sgt. Jim Morrall of the Ingham sheriff's department has two deputies in the academy.

One dog will be a replacement for a retiree, and the second will be an addition, bringing the K-9 unit to four.

Besides police work and revenue, the dogs are loved by members of the public who sometimes get nervous when a human officer comes around. "Great public relations," said Morrall.

Godlewski now works with Storm, a 75-pound male now 6 years old.

At the bottom of Godlewski's business card is this line: "Storm says 'Say NO to Drugs.'"

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RECOUNT SOUGHT

Melissa McLaughlin for a recount in the Wayne County Co.

The Canton R the seat to Way John Sullivan in a upset by 47 vote County clerk's of the recount Mor clude Wednesday.

McLaughlin will to swing the el With today's so ing methods, she it's a long shot.

"Twenty-five vo easy thing to McLaughlin. "I de slam dunk."

Her recount r come as a surpris "It wasn't un said. "It was a were looking for t Sullivan isn't the recount's outc

"I can't see it cl much," he said.

Either Sullivan will take office a commission's fi 1999 is slated for

McLaughlin wr idea of a recount election. She filed on the deadline of

The 11th Distr passes Wayne, B lus and the towns Sumpter, Huron

GARDEN C

In an article i edition of the Ob pers, an incorrect was published

turn

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OBSERVER NEWS ROUNDUP

CANTON

RECOUNT SOUGHT

Melissa McLaughlin is asking for a recount in the 11th District Wayne County Commission race.

The Canton Republican lost the seat to Wayne Democrat John Sullivan in an Election Day upset by 47 votes. The Wayne County clerk's office will begin the recount Monday and conclude Wednesday.

McLaughlin will need 25 votes to swing the election her way. With today's sophisticated voting methods, she acknowledges it's a long shot.

"Twenty-five votes won't be an easy thing to find," said McLaughlin. "I don't anticipate a slam dunk."

Her recount request didn't come as a surprise to Sullivan.

"It wasn't unexpected," he said. "It was a close vote. We were looking for this all along."

Sullivan isn't worried about the recount's outcome.

"I can't see it changing by that much," he said.

Either Sullivan or McLaughlin will take office on Jan. 1. The commission's first meeting of 1999 is slated for Jan. 5.

McLaughlin wrestled with the idea of a recount after the Nov. 3 election. She filed for the recount on the deadline of Nov. 23.

The 11th District seat encompasses Wayne, Belleville, Romulus and the townships of Canton, Sumpter, Huron and Van Buren.

GARDEN CITY

SCHOOLS JOIN LOBBY GROUP

Garden City schools are getting involved in a new legislative lobbying push on a more united, regional approach.

Superintendent Michael Wilmot told the school board Monday night of the aims and progress of the Tri-County Alliance, formed last spring by school officials in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

The group was organized in a move to affect school legislation on all areas — financing, local control and other issues, Wilmot said.

The alliance expands Garden City's lobbying involvement from its longtime membership in the Michigan Association for Improved School Legislation (MAISL), made up of 10 western Wayne County school districts.

In a progress report on the new Tri-County Alliance, Wilmot told the school board last week that he is personally involved in studying the impact of Proposal A on local schools.

Other areas of study by the alliance are the general school powers laws, local control, use of public funds for private schools and special education costs and funding.

LIVONIA

ATTORNEY DIES IN ACCIDENT

Tom Schwarze, a Northville attorney who handled Livonia Public Schools' legal concerns for more than 20 years, died Nov. 29 while returning from a hunting

trip in southwest Michigan.

As the legal adviser for numerous school districts in southeast Michigan, Schwarze will be remembered by many school administrators at his funeral at 10 a.m. today at Northville Presbyterian Church, 200 W. Main St., Northville.

Schwarze, 55-year-old senior partner in the Detroit firm Keller, Thoma, Schwarze and chief legal counsel to the Livonia Board of Education, was driving a Ford Expedition when it was struck on the driver's side by a pickup truck.

Schwarze's vehicle rolled over from the impact around noon Sunday in Wheatland Township, a rural community in Hillsdale County between Jackson and the Ohio border.

Passengers in his car included his brother Fred Schwarze, 57, of Plymouth and Fred's son, Carl Schwarze, 35, of Chelsea.

Tom Schwarze was pronounced dead at the accident scene. Fred Schwarze was treated for minor injuries at Hillsdale Community Health Center and released.

The accident is still being investigated by township police.

The driver of the pickup, David Fowler, 34, of Addison, was not injured. His children, Matthew and Heather, both 10, were taken to Bixby Medical Center in nearby Adrian.

Born in Pontiac, Schwarze moved to Northville in grade

school. He graduated from Northville High in 1961.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Michigan State University and a juris doctorate from Wayne State University.

He was active in the labor law section of the Michigan Bar Association, formerly serving as its chairman.

He is survived by sons, Thomas and Eric; daughter, Cara Brott; parents, Fred and Marian Schwarze; and sister, Bonney Hendrick.

PLYMOUTH

CAROLER RETURNED

Plymouth city officials are happy that whoever took a Fiberglass caroler from Kellogg Park returned a piece of holiday tradition.

"I drove past the park Monday morning on the way to work and nearly drove off the road," said Paul Sincok, municipal services director. "I was glad to see it back in place."

Someone had stolen the boy and girl carolers nearly two weeks ago from the planter box at Main and Penniman. The next day the boy caroler was put back in place. However, a note found on Frosty the Snowman said the girl had been carol-napped.

While the thief may have thought taking the \$800 statue was a prank, police weren't

amused with the holiday stunt. Conviction on charges of vandalism and theft could have resulted in a four year prison sentence.

REDFORD

SENIOR SHOP OPEN

The Senior Center Gift Shop, a longtime goal of many Redford Community Center seniors, got off to a flying start Tuesday.

"We did \$250 by noon," said Helen Zimmerman, gift shop committee chairwoman.

The gift shop offers a wide variety of items handcrafted by seniors, who must be at least 55 to qualify as suppliers.

Items are sold by consignment, with all proceeds going toward senior services. The shop takes a 10 percent cut from the sale of items created by seniors who have volunteered 40 hours or more to center projects and 20 percent for those volunteering less than 40 hours.

Offerings include hand-sewn stuffed frogs, bears, kittens and clowns; knitted tissue holders; beaded necklaces; clip-on pins; kitchen hand towels; wood-carved tulips, shamrocks and recipe holders.

Located in the Community Center at Hemingway and Capitol, adjacent to Capitol Park, the shop is a year-round project operated by seniors from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

WESTLAND

BELL-RINGERS NEEDED

Facing a possible shortfall in holiday fund raising, The Salvation Army in Westland is seeking bell-ringers to collect donations in its familiar red kettles.

"I really need some people," Lt. Charles Yockey of The Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Community Center said Monday.

The local organization launched its holiday fund-raising effort Friday with only 10 bell-ringers a day, little more than half the 18 people it needs, he said.

The Salvation Army will pay \$6.50 an hour, Yockey said. Bell-ringers must be at least 18 years old and have a photo identification and a Social Security card, he said. Call (734) 722-3660.

The bell-ringer shortage is fueling concerns as the Westland-based center struggles to meet its 1998 goal of \$110,000. The money pays for programs to help the community's less fortunate, including one Westland family that didn't even have 8clothes following a house fire earlier this year.

Bell-ringers hired to work need to arrive by 9:15 a.m. at The Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy Road south of Palmer.

From there, they are dropped off at kettle sites between 9:30 and 10 a.m. and picked up between 6:30 and 7 p.m.

CLARIFICATION

In an article in the Nov. 29 edition of the Observer Newspapers, an incorrect phone number was published for western Wayne County senior citizens to register for Meals on Wheels. The correct number is (800) 851-1454.

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OBITUARIES

WALTER J. KRAJEWSKI

Private services were held for Walter J. Krajewski, 78, of South Lyon. Local arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth.

He was born June 19, 1920 in Detroit. He died Nov. 20 in Farmington Hills. He was a sales representative at Gulf Oil Company.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Cunegunda Krajewski. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth J. Krajewski of South Lyon; one son, Ken (Barbara) Krajewski of Canton; one daughter, Marcia (James) Knott of South Lyon; one sister, Julia Machowicz of Detroit; five grandchildren, Tracy, Amy, Katie, Melissa, Kimberly; and two great-grandchildren, Ja-Vaughn and Kayla.

Memorials may be made to the donor of your choice.

SHIRLEY FAY WOOD

Services for Shirley Fay Wood, 79, of Canton were Nov. 24 in Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth with the Rev. James F. Andrews officiating. Burial was at United Memorial Gardens,

Plymouth.

She was born Dec. 21, 1918 in South Lyon. She died Nov. 20 in Ypsilanti. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lavern and Myrtle Tapp. Survivors include four daughters, Lois (Charles) M. Long of Foxport, Ky., Joy (Leroy) S. Simchak of Canton, Hope (James) E. Shuler of Gastonia, N.C., Paula (Dannie) J. Mullins of Carleton; three sons, David (Vickie) E. Wood of Westland, Mark (Dorothy) W. Wood of Jackson, Tenn., Philip (Diana) E. Wood of Chelsea; three sisters, Lillian Ellenwood, Lorraine Fadiga, Beverly Valentine; and two brothers, David Trapp, and Keith (Jean) Miller.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 17220 W. Twelve Mile Road, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076 or Mott Children's Hospital, Ann Arbor.

FLORENCE G. MCCOMBS

Private services were held for Florence G. McCombs, 89, of Plymouth. Local arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth.

She was born July 19, 1909 in Painesville, Ohio. She died Nov. 22 in Plymouth. She was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She formerly lived in the Lyndhurst and Chagrin Falls, Ohio area. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Frances L. Gilmore. Survivors include one son, John (Pat) McCombs of Plymouth; three sisters, Dorothy Johnson of Burton, Ohio, Jane Bandelow of Lyndhurst, Ohio, Marjorie Cjeka of Ceral Gables, Fla.; one grandson, Edward McCombs of Farmington Hills; one granddaughter, Betsy Freedman of Calif.; and one grandson, Tony Annas of Calif.

RUTH EMMA CAMERON

Services for Ruth Emma Cameron, 86, of Plymouth were Nov. 28 in the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Burial was at White Chapel Cemetery, Troy.

She was born on March 6, 1912, in Detroit. She died on Nov. 26 in Livonia. She was a homemaker. She came to the Westland community from Detroit.

She was preceded in death by

her husband, Malcolm R. Cameron. Survivors include her two sons; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

PHILIP PENGLASE JAMES

Services for Philip Penglase James, 90, of Canton were Nov. 30 in St. Michael Lutheran Church with the Rev. Drex Morton officiating. Burial was at Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia. Local arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth.

He was born on Dec. 10, 1907, in Detroit. He died on Nov. 25 in Novi. He was a member of St. Michael Lutheran Church. He was a supervisor.

Survivors include his daughter, Marilyn (Robert) A. Barrick of Canton; one son, Richard (Anita) D. James of Tulsa, Okla.; one sister, Mary Grace Adams of Grosse Pointe; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 S. Sheldon, Canton, MI 48187 or Karmanos Cancer Institute, Ply-

mouth Region, 744 Wing St., Plymouth, MI 48170-3446.

KURT THRUN

Services for Kurt Thrun, 75, of Ypsilanti were Dec. 1 in Stark Funeral Service Moore Memorial Chapel, Ypsilanti. Burial was at Highland Cemetery, Ypsilanti.

He was born on March 23, 1923, in Berlin, Germany. He died on Nov. 28 in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. He served in the German Afrika Korps during World War II. In 1953, he married Kathryn Loessel in Munich, West Germany. He immigrated to Ypsilanti in 1953. He was a leader in the travel industry. He opened the Travel Center in Plymouth.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Kathryn Loessel in November 1990; and his daughter, Tanya Sue. Survivors include his five sons, Thomas (Joy), Timothy, Todd (Julie), Tab and Troy (Karen); two brothers, Lothar and Ernst of Germany; and three grandchildren, Scott, Travis and Victoria.

MARY MADELENE "CHARLIE" RIDDLE

Private Services were held for Mary Magdelene "Charlie" Riddle, 84, of Ceres, Calif., formerly of Plymouth. Burial was at Oakland Hills Memorial Park.

She was born on Aug. 3, 1914, in Kentucky. She died on Nov. 27 in Emanuel Hospital in Turlock, Calif. She moved to Michigan at the age of 4. She graduated from New Hudson High School in 1933. During World War II, she worked on the line at Willow Run. After the war she moved to Livonia and worked for Daisy Air Rifle in the shipping department. When Daisy Air Rifle moved to Arkansas, she stayed in Michigan and worked for Sears and Montgomery Wards. She worked for the Plymouth school district from 1962 until she retired in 1978.

Survivors include her son, William Riddle of Ceres, Calif.; two grandsons; and one great-grandson.

Memorials may be made to American Heart Association.

Read Observer 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
(734) 397-5435

Publish: December 3 and 24, 1998

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS December 10, 1998

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1998 AT 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be held in the First Floor Meeting Room in the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD. The following Agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Roll Call: Cisek, Demopoulos, Johnson, Redfern, Williams
Acceptance of Agenda

- Kevin Iddings, 44064 Gordon, Canton, MI 48187 is representing KI Construction in regard to property located at 1718 Sheldon Road, Canton, MI 48187. They are appealing Article 26, Section 26.01 Schedule of Regulations: Intent and Scope of Requirements. Variance from the required 120' lot depth requirement and lot size requirement in R-5. Parcel #057-01-0518-000 (Planning)
- Douglas R. Mueller, 6642 Carlton Road, Canton, MI 48188 is representing Michigan Dehockey Center of 45109 Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48188. They are appealing the Section 26.04 Front setback variance in Li-2 District. Parcel #71-135-01-0001-302 (Planning)
- Luigi Cervi, 46141 Five Mile Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 is representing Luma Building Co. for property located at 41504 Singh Drive, Canton, MI 48188. They are appealing Article 26.02M Variance from the required 30 ft. Side to side ordinance. Parcel #71-101-03-0079-000 (Building)

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of November 12, 1998.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: December 3, 1998

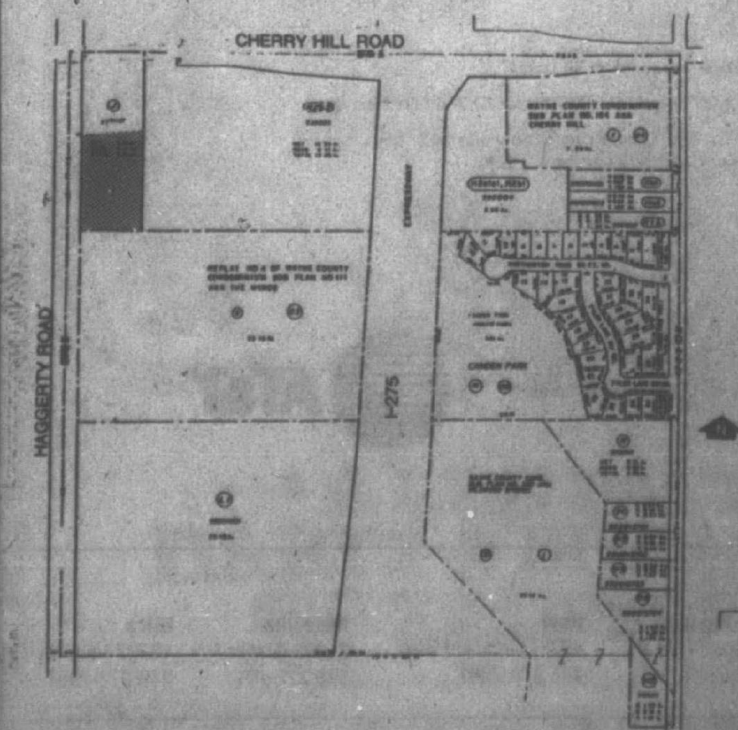
CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 168 of the Public Acts of 1959 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Comprehensive Plan of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 4, 1999 at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan:

TALLA FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT - CONSIDER REQUEST TO AMEND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FROM MEDIUM HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO LOCAL SHOPPING FOR THE SOUTH 400 FEET OF PARCEL NO. 094 99 0007 000. Property is located on the southeast corner of Cherry Hill and Haggerty Roads.

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



Publish: December 3 and 24, 1998

Brownies' book drive helps First Step families

Members of Brownie Troop 1572 know the thrill of owning their very own books, and they wanted to make sure other children don't miss out, either.

Recently, the Brownies conducted a book drive to benefit First Step, an agency that offers

assistance to victims of domestic violence in Western Wayne and the Downriver Wayne areas. These third-grade scouts papered Hoben Elementary with posters and asked other classmates and families for help. As a result, Troop 1572 collected

over 200 new or slightly used books for donation to First Step. Another 100 books in good condition were also collected for donation to local doctors' offices.

The book drive for First Step culminated during National Children's Book Week. This

annual celebration of children's literature traditionally occurs the week before Thanksgiving and is sponsored by the Children's Book Council, a non-profit trade organization dedicated to literacy among children.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, November 24, 1998 at 1150 South Canton Center Road. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bennett, Burdziak, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Shefferly, Yack

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Durack, Machnik, Minghine, Santomauro, Rorabacher, Kerr, Lenaghan, Zevalkink

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Consent Calendar Item 1, Second Reading Telecommunications Ordinance No. 143 was deleted from the agenda. General Calendar Item 23, Establish Date for Special Meeting/Study Session was added to the agenda. Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to adopt the agenda as amended. All ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly, to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of November 10, 1998 as presented. Motion carried.

Ayes: Bennett, Burdziak, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, Shefferly, Yack

Abstain: McLaughlin

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of November 17, 1998 as presented. All ayes.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by Burdziak, to pay the bills as presented. All ayes.

Expenditure Recap	101	\$188,657.49
General Fund	206	12,809.73
Fire Fund	207	38,179.41
Police Fund	208	27,576.11
Community Center Fund	211	6,027.20
Golf Course Fund	230	11,566.00
Cable-TV Fund	246	26,624.16
Community Improvement Fund	261	1,358.01
E-911 Emergency Funds	267	7,968.66
Special Investigative Fund	274	7,046.31
Federal Grants Funds	289	461.90
State Projects Fund	296	12.00
Retire Benefits	299	27,034.10
Bld. Authority Debt Fund	592	635,610.66
Water & Sewer Fund	804	405,733.45
Tonquish Creek Storm Drain	812	158,858.37
Koppnick Corp Park	814	8,252.89
Beck Road Paving Const. Fund	853	141.85
N Haggerty (Elliot) Storm	862	195.65
N Haggerty Paving	864	312.50
Beck Road Paving	Oct.	2,312.00
Recreation Checking Acct		\$1,566,738.45

RECOGNITION OF LT. WILLIAM LENAGHAN

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to adopt the resolution recognizing Lt. William Lenaghan. All ayes.

PUBLIC HEARING: NEW CLASS C LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST OF LASHISH INC.

Supervisor Yack declared the public hearing open at 7:15 P.M. Hearing no comments a motion was made by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to close the public hearing at 7:17 P.M. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, that the request from LaShish Inc., for a new full year Class C liquor license to be located at 1699 Canton Center North, Canton Township, Wayne County, Michigan 48187 be considered for APPROVAL "ABOVE ALL OTHERS"; it is the consensus of this legislative body that the application be recommended for issuance. All ayes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to accept the report of the Board of Canvassers meeting of November 4, 1998 and to attach these minutes to the November 24, 1998 meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees. All ayes. Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to reappoint Cordell Barker, Ronald Bradley and Peter Lodwick to serve three-year terms on the Recreation Advisory Committee beginning January 1, 1999 through December 31, 2001. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to increase Grounds Maintenance Account #101-270-930-0000 Repair and Maintenance of Parks, by \$4,167.50 from FY1998. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve the following: Increase the 1998 Pheasant Run Conferences and Seminars Account #211-756-951-0000 by \$2,000. Increase the 1998 Community Center Conferences and Seminars Account #208-757-951-0000 by \$2,000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve special event status for ST. Thomas A'Becket's craft show and permission to install signs advertising the event. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to adopt the resolution to approve the amendment to the Cherry Hill Planned Unit Development Agreement. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to cancel the Township Board Meeting scheduled for December 8, 1998 and move from a study session to a regular meeting on December 15, 1998. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, that the request to transfer of ownership of 1998 Tavern licensed business located at 44938 Ford Road, Canton, Michigan 48187, Canton Township, Wayne County from Fay Louise Palazzolo and Paolo Palazzolo to Man-Pal Corporation be considered for APPROVAL; it is the consensus of this legislative body that the application be recommended for issuance. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve the following budget amendment in the General Fund to appropriate funds for capital purchases:

Increase Revenues:		
Appropriations from Fund Balance	#101-000-699-0000	\$6,000
Increase Appropriations:		
Finance - Capital Outlay	#101-223-977-0000	\$6,000

All ayes.

GENERAL CALENDAR

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to adopt the resolution to approve the site plan for the proposed Burr Ridge Court Private Drive. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly, to adopt the resolution to approving Amendment No. 2 to Willow Creek PUD. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to adopt the resolution to rezone the south 3.003 acres of certain property identified by property tax EDP #042-02-0197-002 from C-1, Village Shopping to MR, Multiple-Family Residential District. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to adopt the resolution to approve the site plan for the proposed Arden Courts. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to adopt the resolution to approve the site plan for the proposed GE Capital. Motion carried.

Ayes: Burdziak, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Shefferly, Yack

Nays: Bennett

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdziak, to adopt the resolution to grant special use for a concrete recycling facility to be located south of Michigan Avenue and west of Belleville Road. Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by LaJoy, to table the consideration of special land use for a concrete recycling facility. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to adopt the resolution to approve the preliminary site plan for the proposed Rolling Meadows Site Condominiums and the variances to the Condominium Ordinance. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdziak, to award the bid for computer room shelving workbench, and printer stand to Wright Line in an amount not to exceed \$9,805.77 from the 1998 MIS Budget Capital Budget Item #9 (101-258-977-0000). All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to create and fill a Clerk Typist I position in the Grounds Maintenance Division to be budgeted from 1999 Salaries acct. #101-270-705-0000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to create and fill an Equipment Operator position in the Grounds Maintenance Division to be budgeted from 1999 Salaries acct. #101-270-705-0000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdziak, to create and fill a Laborer position in the Grounds Maintenance Division to be budgeted from 1999 Salaries acct. #101-270-705-0000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly, to award the bid for the purchase of a display board from Lacraft, Inc. 3445 Winifred, Wayne, MI for a total cost of \$6,900.50, from 1998 Police Capital acct. #207-301-977-0000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to award the bid for the purchase of two outside security cameras from ASC Security Systems, Plymouth, MI for a cost not to exceed \$9,800.00, from 1998 Police Capital acct. #207-301-977-0000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to award the bid for four (4) in-car video cameras for the department of Public Safety from Mobile Visions, 90 Fanny Rd., Boonton, New Jersey, 07004 at a cost not to exceed \$15,180.00 from 1998 Police Capital acct. #207-301-977-0000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to award the bid for the purchase of a 1999 McCoy/Miller, Type III Modular Ambulance from Coggan & Associates Inc., 15783 US 12, Union, MI 48130, for a cost not to exceed \$82,932.00 from 1998 Fire Capital Outlay acct. #206-336-977-0000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to award the bid for the purchase of confined space rescue equipment from Pressure Vessel Testing of Clinton Township, Michigan; Roco Rescue of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Smith Safety Products of Petaluma, California at a total cost not to exceed \$21,128.24 - to be paid from the 1998 Police Capital Outlay acct. #207-301-977-0000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to approve the agreement with Wayne County to upgrade winter maintenance on an additional 8.75 miles of roads and authorize payment of \$16,328.00 to Wayne County, budgeted from 1998 Wayne County Road Maintenance Account #101-441-950-0000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by , to authorize the Township Supervisor to execute an agreement with Wayne County to change the flashers at Warren and Beck Roads to a full traffic signal for a cost of \$26,300.00, budgeted from 1998 Capital Projects, Road Paving Fund #101-441-970-0000. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to award the design and construction follow up for the Summit Parkway repairs to Dietrich-Bailey and Associates, P.C. for \$9,588.00 plus a 10 percent contingency for a total of \$10,547.00 from 1999 Summit Parkway repairs. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to approve the resolution for the American Yazaki Pedestrian Tunnel accepting the liability and maintenance jurisdiction of the pedestrian tunnel and further authorize the Township clerk to execute the Maintenance Jurisdiction Permit. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to waive the formal bidding process and to authorize the purchase of two computers through the State of Michigan Extended Purchasing Program as part of the GIS Round 1 Project - Canton Township Utility Coverage Project through the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project (from 1998 GIS Utility Coverage Project account #101-860-818-1200). All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly, to award the bid for environmental cleaning of registers and duct work for the Administration Building with Cherry Hill Heating and Cooling for \$18,700.00 with a 10 percent contingency of \$1,870 for a total amount of \$20,570.00 and further that funds be transferred from 101-265-975-000, Capital Outlay, to 101-265-931-0000, Maintenance and Repair of Building, FY1998 in order to cover the cost of the contract. All ayes. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter, to approve the Special Incentive Award in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Debbie Zevalkink. All ayes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdziak, to establish the date of a Special Board Meeting for December 3, 1998, for the purpose of a Second Reading of the Telecommunications Ordinance No. 143 and any other business that may come before the Board of Trustees.

ADJOURN

Motion by LaJoy, supported by McLaughlin, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M. All ayes.

The above is a synopsis of actions taken at the Regular Board meeting held on November 24, 1998. The full text of the approved minutes will be available following the next regular meeting of the Board on December 15, 1998.

THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor
TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: December 3, 1998

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Former Livonia educator will head Madonna international study program

The former director of global education at Livonia Stevenson High School has been named as the new director of international studies at Madonna University.

Jonathan Swift of Bloomfield Hills recently retired from Livonia Public Schools after 25 years of teaching, but now he will bring his world knowledge to Madonna.

Educated in Great Britain, France and the United States, Swift holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University, a doctorate from Michigan State University and a certificate of music from the Paris Conservatory of Music.

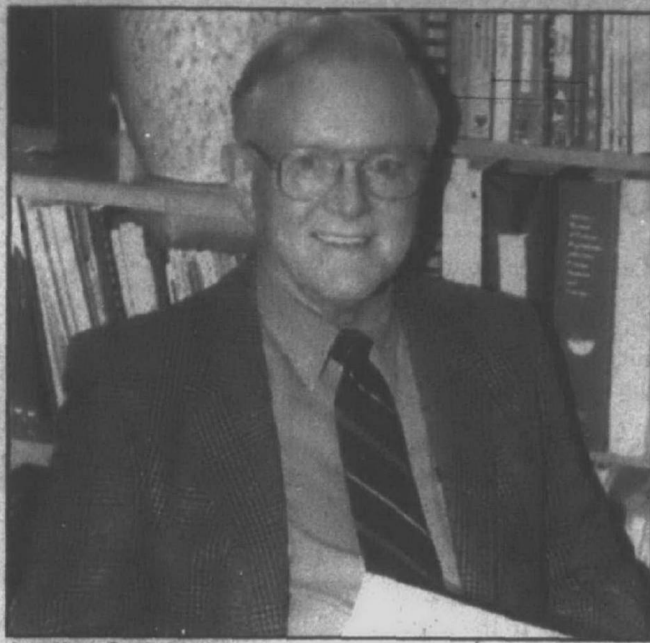
Swift has covered the globe as a singer and television personality, and is an author of several articles and reviews.

"It is a great honor for Madonna University to have a man of such extensive experience on board," said Ernest Nolan, vice president for academic affairs at Madonna University. "His many travels abroad will continue to expand our international studies program."

Swift hopes to create a brochure describing international programs and activities, work with Madonna's international students to recruit more individuals from their home countries, and design a faculty newsletter.

Swift would like to see more faculty, staff and students visit other countries.

"Our ideal would be to have everyone on campus have an overseas experience," Swift said.



Jonathan Swift

Marines launch toy drive

Fantastic Sams family hair salons are drop-off locations for the Toys for Tots campaign spearheaded by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

Each year, thousands of Metro Detroit children have a happier Christmas as the result of the Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots program and the hundreds of area businesses and organizations that help collect and distribute the new, unwrapped toys.

The Marine Corps Reserve and other volunteers hope to better last year's total of 350,000 toys.

To help launch this year's campaign, several of "the few and the proud" visited local Fantastic Sams to help publicize the 51st annual toy drive for needy children. They also took the opportunity to get their trademark "high and tight" haircuts trimmed up.

Many of the Fantastic Sams franchisees will be displaying in their salon the names of those who donate toys and have drawings for gifts and prizes.

Fantastic Sams are located in Livonia, Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Garden City and Redford.

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Grosse Pointe, Barnes & Noble... 7:00 p.m.

— DECEMBER 5TH —
Farmington Hills, Borders... 3:00 p.m.

— DECEMBER 10TH —
Birmingham, Borders... 7:00 p.m.

— DECEMBER 11TH —
Rochester Hills, Barnes & Noble... 7:00 p.m.

— DECEMBER 12TH —
Troy, Barnes & Noble... 2:00 p.m.

— DECEMBER 13TH —
Shelby Township, Barnes & Noble... 2:00 p.m.

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City of festivals

All events can't be subsidized

Retailers should be commended for pulling together to make sure the sixth annual Walk of Trees came together this year. It was an event that almost didn't happen.

The downtown merchants pitched in to pick up the \$2,500 cost for city-related services, such as setup and trash collection. What's even more remarkable is that they united quickly to make sure the holidays didn't go by without lighting up Kellogg Park. The annual event has become part of Plymouth's holiday landscape.

A special events policy adopted a few years ago by city commissioners provided a \$400 in-kind service contribution to the festival committees. Other city-related costs would be passed on. In the past, the city absorbed the expenses from its Municipal Services division.

We assume city officials realize the importance of these special events, which draw thousands of people to downtown Plymouth. After all, what would Plymouth be without any festivals?

We also can see the city's point of view. If it shells out \$2,500 in city services for all 130 downtown events, the grand total adds up quickly, and that's a big bite out of city coffers — money that is meant to service all residents, not just the business community. And that is not meant as a slight to retailers.

We acknowledge that the decorated trees are an attraction for residents, but retailers are the ones who benefit the most. Of course, in order for a community to be economically viable, residents and businesses must work hand in hand.

City officials need to look at each of these events individually before passing on service costs. Some are struggling to make ends meet, such as the Plymouth Fall Festival.

Organizers of Plymouth's Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff are threatening to change locations next year due to the high costs of city-related services. The first year, the city absorbed all \$1,400 in expenses. The following year, the city picked up \$1,900 of the total \$3,100 costs and this year contributed only the \$400 in-kind donation toward the \$5,000 costs, according to Annette Horn of Native West, chairwoman of the event.

Profits also were down this year — \$4,000 — compared to last year's \$14,000, she said. Although the proceeds do go to charities, it's hard to be sympathetic toward a money-making event. The city needs to recoup its costs.

We hope the Chili Cookoff stays in Plymouth next year, but maybe the committee should look for other ways of reducing expenses, such as using volunteers instead of city services.

MEAP serves its purpose

Game time is over. Enough 11th-graders have skipped the state tests. They've acted out their rebelliousness and thumbed their noses at the principal. Now it's time for state and local officials, parents and students to get serious.

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program high school proficiency tests have a serious purpose. It is to make sure kids do more than sit in a classroom X number of hours; it's to make sure they learn what they need to function after graduation as college students, as workers and as citizens.

It's no secret that some high schools in Michigan have been diploma mills. That's why the state designed proficiency tests in math, reading, writing and science. Setting the standards, during years of work, were employers, college admissions people, school officials and parents.

Instead, only 16 percent of Farmington students, 24 percent of Clarenceville students and 40 percent of Plymouth-Canton students took the tests last spring. That's compared to less than 50 percent of students in Livonia and 80 percent in Garden City. In Wayne-Westland, nearly all juniors took the tests.

The tests are here to stay. Michigan is not going back to the days of local standards. Michigan's tests have won high praise both from Michigan's educators as well as Dr. Willard Daggett, the New York State internationally known guru of teaching for real-world employability. Daggett warns against "naysayers" who would sabotage state testing.

Daggett notes that a major goal of MEAP high school tests has been to emphasize multi-step problem solving rather than one-step calculations and memorization. Another goal has been to integrate academic disciplines rather than test them in isolation.

In particular, Daggett praised the communications tests (reading and writing) for "requiring the complex cognitive skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation within

real-world problem situations."

So why doesn't the state just pass a law requiring able-bodied kids to take the MEAP proficiency tests? In part it has to do with the Headlee amendment to the state constitution that requires the state to pay for anything it mandates. In part it has to do with right-wing paranoia about any kind of state requirements.

What can everyone do to make sure kids take the proficiency tests?

- The state should provide timely feedback. Tests are taken in the spring and results should be available the first week of school. Local school districts have their final shot at helping students in the senior year. This year, test results weren't released until after the November election.

- Ensure that individual results are being shared with parents.

- Although the test is still too long and more work must be done, we hesitate to suggest any major overhaul. There must be some continuity of results, so districts can have useful longitudinal data for North Central Accreditation and for state mandated school improvement process.

- The state must do a better job explaining the test. The booklet currently used to interpret the results is very confusing to even experts in testing.

- The state and local districts should deal with parents' — yes, parents' — fear of this test. Parents fear that it will hurt kids for jobs and for college.

- The Legislature could adopt the House bill, languishing on the agenda, to require college officials to consider an applicant's MEAP test scores.

- The Legislature could have adopted the amendment, rejected by the Senate, requiring that a high school senior wishing to take vocational courses in a voc-tech academy or community college, to have at least minimal passing scores (level 3) on MEAP tests.

Game time is over. MEAP high school proficiency tests are here to stay.

Holiday Happenings



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBSCHMANN

He's back in town: Santa's arrival on Friday was just one of 130 special events planned in downtown Plymouth. Stephanie Paul, 9, and her brother Richard, 12, of Westland tell Santa what they would like for Christmas. Christmas Carol (Amy LaValle, 13, of Canton stands in the background).

LETTERS

Questions train tax

Positively Plymouth depends on a tax payer's perspective. Especially if City residents are required to pay four times as much for the Sheldon Road underpass as Township residents.

The community has received assurance of government funding for a proposed \$8.8 million underpass. However, to secure the project, the Township and City must provide a portion of the cost; \$1.6 million. There are two proposals to generate the money. The City has suggested a community-wide 0.14 mill increase over 10 years. The Township said the total cost should be divided 50 percent; \$800,000 per community.

Township officials have expressed doubts about the fairness to Township residents of a community-wide millage. Certainly, the Township and City should be concerned about raising \$1.6 million, and that the project has community support. But fairness?

The Township has nearly three times the number of residents as the City and 80 percent of the Plymouth area tax base. Due to the vast differences in population and tax base, under the Township's proposal, City residents would be required to pay 0.32 mills, while Township residents would only pay 0.08 mills. If there is any unfair tax burden, it is with the City residents.

We are a community for school and library funding, social and charity events, and fire protection. Local business publications highlight the City's historic nature and small town atmosphere. Community residents boast of a Plymouth address.

Major improvements to the community require common financial responsibility. Either a multi-million dollar underpass is viewed as a benefit to the community, or it is not. Either the Township and City are one community willing to fund the project, or we are not. Positively.

Gerald Sabatini
Plymouth

Wrong message

I am fuming mad at the article I just read in the Observer! I can't even begin to find the words that even partially describe my outrage at our school administrators. I'm referring to

(the Nov. 22) article, "Mixed Messages: D.A.R.E. student suspended for honesty"

With all of the double-talk, dishonesty, and just plain garbage that fills my children's world every day, now I have to explain why they might get into trouble for taking something harmful they find to their teacher???

This article just can't be real. Do we really hire administrators who are this stupid? People who don't have enough brain cells to examine an issue and reward honesty and integrity over some legalistic wording? Someone ought to inform our school administration that one of the reasons we have authorities is to apply the spirit and intentions of rules and laws, to judge right and wrong.

At no point does it appear there was any question that the items involved belonged to the child. The boy got figuratively slapped for doing the right thing, and you can bet every other kid in that school will remember it. I pray some child doesn't pass over a weapon or something truly harmful they may find on school grounds for fear of getting expelled!

I expect outrage on the part of our school board. This principal should stand in front of that entire school, admit her mistake, and apologize to every honest student in that school. But that would take character, a backbone and a brain. I'm sure we'll hear no apologies or admitting of mistakes. Once again it will be our perception problem and not their behavior. I can't wait to find another community in which to raise my children. A community that actually demonstrates honesty and principles, even to go as far as to admit a mistake (you know, one of those things we try to tell our children to do).

My only objection to the Observer's coverage was that it should have been titled "Wrong Message!"

David Bard
Canton

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number.

Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Plymouth Observer, 794 South Main Street, Plymouth, 48170.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

What kind of winter do you think we are in for?



'It think it will be pretty cold. The Mountain Ash trees had a lot of berries on them this year.'

Joanne Delaney
Plymouth



'I would bet it's going to be a mild one with the way it's started. Maybe towards the spring it will be colder.'

Terry Blumberg
Canton



'I don't think we're going to have much of one at all.'

Dick Schultz
Brooklyn



'I think it'll be a real cold one. Last it was mild so I think this year will be a lot worse.'

Pam Pless
Ypsilanti

Plymouth Observer

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— Philip Power

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I've been very. I am blessed with and have the phy ability to pursue.

Suddenly, I kn of the tickets to s nate.

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Funerals, cert tersweet rituals grieving and to s worthy life. And thy life than Dor

Descendent of since the 17th ce 1825, Don Thurt distinguished fa versity School ar where he forged Kennedy, his cla his roommate, w Kennedy sister a Peace Corps.

Don's career v fund-raising. Hi of the best. After the board of dire

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I remember y Grosse Pointe — a party to introd ing a run for pre ers of the Michi as though everyl there, drawn by and prodigious v

Don was a me

POINTS OF VIEW

Area woman makes girl's Red Wing dream come true

GUEST COLUMNIST



GWEN DIETRICH

ing camp in Traverse City. I couldn't believe my luck to have won the complimentary package provided by Sugar Loaf resort, the Detroit Red Wings and WNIC radio.

But why me?

I am an avid hockey fan but there had to be something more to this — a reason I had won. Something even more special had to come out of my winning.

I've been very fortunate in my life. I am blessed with talent as an artist and have the physical and emotional ability to pursue what I love.

Suddenly, I knew. I would give two of the tickets to someone less fortunate.

I contacted Kevin Vaughn, marketing manager of the Detroit Red Wings, to discuss my plan to find a child, a little boy or girl, who has great love for the Wings and who has either a terminal illness or a life-threatening medical condition.

Kevin loved the idea, although he cautioned that a child with such a condition would probably not be able to travel to Traverse City. If that were the case, he said the Wings would donate a couple of sets of tickets to home games.

But I had hope. I knew it would work out.

Days later, Kevin called with good

news.

"You're not going to believe this," he said, "but we just received a fax about a 4-year-old Traverse City girl, Courtney Bailey, who has cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair. Courtney loves the Wings and would like to meet them."

I was overjoyed. I could be instrumental in granting this little girl's wish.

Not only would Courtney meet the Wings, but mom Dawn and dad Don would be along to experience Courtney's joy.

The plan was set. We met Kevin at the arena shortly before game time.

Tomas Holmstrom and Anders Eriksson were the first to emerge from the locker room and greet Courtney.

Imagine the excitement of a little girl who watches every game and wants to skate like the Wings do, especially Steve Yzerman.

Courtney is unable to take part in many activities, but she is able to enjoy horseback riding as part of the physical and occupational therapy she receives five days a week.

Doug Brown was the next Wing to make Courtney's dream come true. At first, she didn't recognize him because he wasn't wearing the red and white uniform, so Brown went to the locker room to put on his jersey. He returned with Sergei Fedorov and a hockey stick as a souvenir.

Next, Joe Kocur stopped to say hello to Courtney. He left briefly only to return with a hockey stick, which he autographed for her.

Wait, it gets even better. Who should be next out of the locker room bearing a hockey stick he would autograph for Courtney but Kris Draper?

The Red Wings and I and Kevin Vaughn had succeeded in creating magic for this little girl who couldn't stop smiling as she looked down at the three hockey sticks placed across



Wish fulfilled: Courtney Bailey, a 4-year-old Traverse City girl with cerebral palsy, got a free trip to the Red Wings training camp, thanks to Canton resident Gwen Dietrich. Here Courtney gets friendly with Joe Kocur.

the arms of her wheelchair.

We all enjoyed the rest of the evening watching the Wings, but the game could not compare to being a part of making this child's dream come true to meet her Red Winged heroes.

Shortly after returning home, Dawn sent me photographs of our eventful evening and a mug I will

cherish forever. It read:

"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in ... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

I cherish Dawn's note to me even more.

"Thanks for coming into our lives," she wrote. "Courtney is still talking

about the players."

Courtney underwent surgery in October to lengthen the muscles in her hips. Her right hip is almost dislocated.

I am grateful to have been given the chance to brighten the life of this child.

Gwen Dietrich lives in Canton Township.

Public service really meant something to Don Thurber

Don Thurber's funeral last Saturday was at old Christ Church, on East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, close by the Renaissance Center.

As an Episcopalian and a sucker for ritual, I was deeply moved by the traditional, rolling liturgy and by the concrete symbols of faith so deftly melded together: The hymns, the stained glass shining in the warm sun, the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah," the bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace." Ritual, I think, provides the emotional content that separates everyday events from significant acts.

Funerals, certainly, are significant acts, bittersweet rituals designed to promote a healthy grieving and to stimulate the celebration of a worthy life. And nobody knew had a more worthy life than Donald M. D. Thurber.

Descendant of a family that lived in America since the 17th century and in Michigan since 1825, Don Thurber was truly a blueblood from a distinguished family. He attended Detroit University School and graduated from Harvard, where he forged friendships with John F. Kennedy, his classmate, and Sargent Shriver, his roommate, who would go on to marry a Kennedy sister and be the first director of the Peace Corps.

Don's career was in public relations and fund-raising. His firm, PR Counselors, was one of the best. After he retired, he was chairman of the board of directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

But his love was public service, a blazing commitment that lasted his entire life.

When President Kennedy asked him to raise money for the National Park Service, he established the National Park Foundation that recently raised more than \$1 million to refurbish Isle Royal National Park. He was a key fund-raiser for the restoration of Orchestra Hall and the building of the Center for Creative Studies. He was executive assistant to U. S. Sen. Blair Moody, a consultant to Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and an adviser to Secretary of Commerce Elliot Richardson. He was a regent of the University of Michigan.

I remember years ago going to his home in Grosse Pointe — elegant, tasteful, discreet — for a party to introduce Richardson (then considering a run for president) to the movers and shakers of the Michigan Democratic Party. It seemed as though everybody who was anybody was there, drawn by Don's infectious enthusiasm and prodigious web of acquaintances.

Don was a member of a remarkable and



PHILIP POWER

small group, mostly men, members of distinguished families who felt to their bones the obligation to use their talents in disinterested, valuable public service. It seems as though their stature and standing freed them from the ego needs that cheapen the careers of so many, liberating them to devote their talents to benefit their entire society.

National examples abound, beginning with John Kennedy and Elliot Richardson, both Don Thurber's friends.

Two Michigan models come quickly to mind: G. Mennen Williams, six times elected governor and the founder of the modern Democratic Party, was a blueblood, an heir to the Mennen toiletries company fortune. William G. Milliken, the son of a distinguished Traverse City retailing family (Milliken's Stores), is still revered to this day for his sane, thoughtful moderation.

In a famous passage from "The History of the Peloponnesian War," Thucydides, the ancient Greek historian, relates Pericles' Funeral Oration: "We are lovers of beauty without extravagance, and lovers of wisdom without unmanliness. Wealth to us is not mere material for vain glory but an opportunity for achievement."

Don Thurber did not quote Pericles in the funeral service he designed in the few weeks after he came home from the hospital to die. But he would have recognized it as a touchstone of his own life and philosophy.

I grieve Don's passing, not just because I was lucky enough to be a friend but also because his death diminishes yet again a small group of valiant, productive citizens of our state.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@ceonline.com.

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Mayflower from page A1

will happen."

"I don't blame them for being disappointed, but it's a very long process," added Karmo. "It's not easy on me either, trying to find someone to invest millions of dollars. You can't find someone overnight."

There are indications Karmo is asking \$2 million for the property, with a developer needing another \$5 million to complete the project.

Change of plans

After spending \$400,000 on a renovation plan, Karmo decided to tear down and rebuild on the existing site because "the current 78 rooms will not support a full service hotel. Instead of adding more rooms in a patchwork job, it makes more sense to build what will work on the site." The only name Karmo is

throwing out right now as a possible developer is John Vincent. Plymouth attorney John Thomas has also announced his interest in the property.

Thomas said he presented Karmo a proposal about six weeks ago, but hasn't heard from him since.

"I would reduce the building to its original 1927 structure and put offices in it," said Thomas, who owns other properties in town.

A Plymouth city official said plans presented six months ago included a very large hotel with 300 parking spaces, which would be 200 spaces short of what is needed. Karmo was told to go back to the drawing board.

Karmo is planning a full-service hotel with double the number of current rooms, with a restaurant and bar, banquet facilities and meeting rooms,

plus a health club for guests. He's confident a major hotel chain will lend its name to the hotel.

One or two levels of condominiums on top of the hotel are also part of the plans, but depend on a feasibility study.

"I expect that it will take about five months for engineering and design, and another 18 months to build," said Karmo.

Despite his big plans, Karmo finds himself trying to settle back taxes with the city. City officials have sent a notice

telling Karmo he has until Dec. 31 to pay \$171,258 in delinquent taxes or the city will take the issue to court.

"Of course, I will take care of the taxes," said Karmo. "We've been taking care of the taxes every April with lump sum payments."

Questions raised

Karmo said that when he purchased the Mayflower Hotel in 1994 during bankruptcy proceedings, he assumed a quarter of a million dollars in back taxes, and

has been paying them on a yearly basis since then in an effort to catch up.

"Mr. Karmo needs to know he needs to come clean with back taxes in a legal time frame, or we'll proceed through the courts," said Commissioner Joe Koch.

Some wonder if Karmo is in way over his head.

"We are not losing money, but just trying to keep this thing running until we can build something better for the city," he added. "It's a temporary situation."

Karmo believes his downtown corner is "a very unique site. It reminds me of the Townsend

Hotel in downtown Birmingham. There aren't a lot of downtown hotels that really flourish, but I think this one can."

"Business people like to stay in places within walking distance to a park, a theater, library, coffeehouses," added Karmo. "They would rather stay in a safe environment instead of next to a highway."

Karmo said city officials and local residents won't be happy until they see work actually being done on the site.

"There is still a lot of activity behind the scenes to be decided," cautioned Karmo. "A deal is not a deal until it's signed."

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NEWSLETTER PRINTING/PROCESSING

The Charter Township of Plymouth is currently accepting bids for the printing and processing of quarterly newsletters for a Two (2) year period commencing January 1, 1999. Request for Proposals may be obtained at The Office of the Clerk, 42350 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Sealed bids can be delivered to the Office of the Clerk by December 4, 1998 no later than 3:00 p.m.

Publish: November 29 and December 3, 1998



PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1998

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 1998 at 7:00 P.M., in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall to consider the following:

**SITE PLAN APPROVAL:
BOX BAR AND GRILL
777 W. ANN ARBOR TR.
ZONED: B-3, GENERAL BUSINESS
APPLICANT: AJ JONNA**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth 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/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Carol Stone, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
(313) 453-1234, Ext. 206

All interested persons are invited to attend.

Publish: December 3, 1998



NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES

Winter taxes are due on December 1, 1998 and payable through March 1, 1999 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. After hours, payments can be placed in the DROP BOX located in the City Hall lobby next to the Treasurer's office window. The DROP BOX outside the Library building, located on the east side of the building, next to the book returns, is also available. National City Bank (the former First of America Bank) Plymouth office will also accept tax payments for your convenience through March 1, 1999.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED during the Christmas holidays from Thursday, December 24th through Friday, January 1st. The Treasurer's office **WILL BE OPEN TO ACCEPT TAX PAYMENTS** and other payments on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29th AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30th.**

TERESA CISCHKE, CMFA
City Treasurer

Publish: December 3 & 6, 1998

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1998 REQUEST FOR AN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE FOR TOWER AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: That a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 1998, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider a request from Tower Automotive, Inc., for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for a 66,366 square foot addition to their existing facility located at 43955 Plymouth Oaks Blvd., Plymouth Oaks Business Park, Plymouth Township, County of Wayne, Michigan. The request includes the cost of new machinery, equipment, furniture and fixtures.

The request of Tower Automotive, Inc., is on file in the Clerk's Office where it is available for public perusal from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any Township resident or member of any taxing authority within the Township of Plymouth shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments directed to the Clerk and received prior to the meeting will be considered. Following the public hearing the Board of Trustees may consider the request.

The public hearing, commencing at 7:30 p.m., will be held in the Meeting Room at Plymouth Township Hall, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, on Tuesday, December 15, 1998, during the regularly scheduled Board of Trustee meeting. Telephone number 453-3840 X 224

MARILYN MASSENGILL, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: December 3, 1998

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JACK GLADDEN

Child's play: Who's got right stuff?

It's an American tradition and it starts the day after Thanksgiving. Shoppers hit the malls, looking for bargains, and the women of WAND station themselves outside the Toys 'R' Us store in Southfield, protesting Power Rangers, GI Joes and other toys that they claim promote violence among children.

Animal rights activists stage demonstrations in front of fur stores, participating in what the activists have labeled "Fur Free Friday." Attorneys general and other law enforcement officers issue their annual warnings about scams for bogus charities, a campaign the Oklahoma attorney general calls "Operation Santa Fraud."

And a variety of "public interest" groups issue dire warnings about toys that they claim are designed to cause damage to both body and soul. Welcome to the beginning of the Christmas season in America.

Most of these campaigns are well-intentioned (or at least they started out that way), but after a time they begin to get a bit tiresome. And sometime it's difficult to distinguish between looking out for "the public interest" and just being a group of organized busybodies.

Please see GLADDEN, B2

Film production is a Dore-ing job

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

As a University of Michigan student, Bonny Dore was always on the lookout to earn an extra buck, whether it be as a narrator at the North American International Auto Show or as an actress in television commercials.

The opportunity arose for her to appear in a Maxwell House Coffee advertisement. While she was preparing for the role, the Royal Oak native had an epiphany.

"They handed me a script, and it was incomprehensible," Dore said. "In the past, I had fixed things quietly. But this time I went in the bathroom and I rewrote it. I just couldn't say those words."

"I came out and had it memorized. When I said it, he (the director) looked at me and said, 'That's not what the script said. Who wrote this?'"

Dore confessed: "OK, you can fire me. I did it in the bathroom. I'm sorry. I just couldn't say those other words."

His response was quite different from what she expected.

"He looked at me and said, 'I'm sorry. They pay people to do that. You did a really good job. This is terrific.' I had a little epiphany that maybe being an English professor wasn't what I wanted to do."

Acting on the tip, Dore gave up her fellowship in English and began work on a master's degree in film at University of Michigan. Since her days as a teacher for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, she has produced the "Schoolhouse Rock" educational series, the children's television show "Hot Fudge" and television series and movies.

Her work paid off in September when

Dore was awarded the Women in Film Founders Award at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel in California.

According to the Women in Film Web site, <http://www.wif.org>, Dore was given the award by Fox Entertainment Group President Peter Roth "in recognition of her efforts on behalf of the organization and paving the way for other female executives and producers."

"It was given to me not only by my peers but by the women in television; it is very special to me," Dore said via telephone from her Beverly Hills, Calif., office. "The person who gave me the award was Peter Roth. The reason

Please see DORE, B2



Kid's stuff:

Bonny Dore (left) started her career as a teacher and founder of Plymouth-Canton's WSDP radio station, but along the way to receiving the Women in Film Founders Award, she created and produced WXYZ-TV's highly successful children's show "Hot Fudge" (above).



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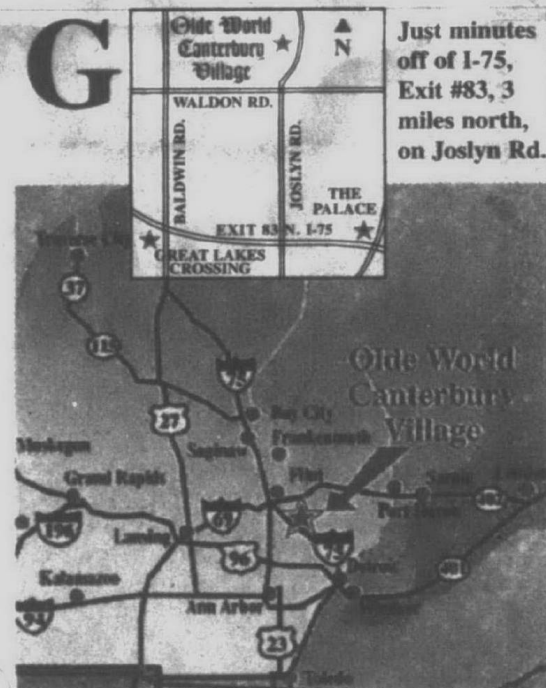
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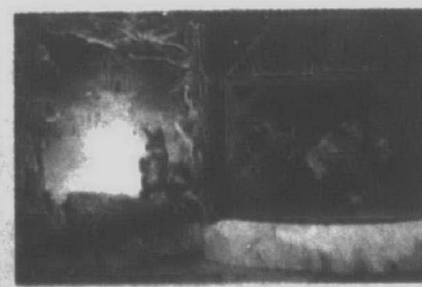
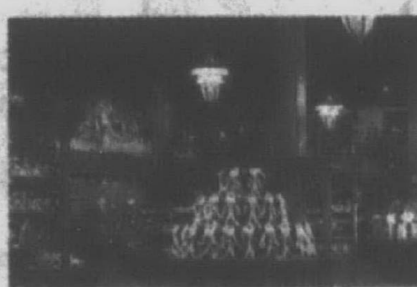
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Dore from page B1

Peter gave me the award was because he started his life as my assistant with ABC. It was very, very emotional. He made me cry.

For the ceremony, Dore prepared a videotape retrospective of her career.

"I showed a piece of 'Scooby Doo' in the clip and I showed a piece of 'Schoolhouse Rock.' There were so many executives who were below 35, they went crazy. It was unbelievable. They erupted," she said.

Humble beginnings

Dore was hired as a teacher for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools in 1969 after earning a bachelor of arts degree in English from University of Michigan. Concurrently, she was working toward a master's in film at U-M.

"I spent my first year in the old high school and then I helped design Plymouth Salem with (then-principal) Bill Brown, particularly the mass media section," said Dore, a 1965 Royal Oak Kimball High School graduate.

They set up a closed-circuit cable television station and a radio station, WSDP, which went on the air Feb. 14, 1972.

"It was a busy time, considering when I got the job, I just turned 21," she said. "I also had to teach. I was the debate and forensics coach as well. It prepared me beautifully for all this."

John Seidelman, a counselor at Plymouth Canton High School who has been with the district since 1971, described Dore as someone who has made a profound impact on students.

"Bonny Dore was a very dynamic young lady and she had a real vision for the radio program at Plymouth Salem High School," said Seidelman, who worked as WSDP's station adviser for 17 years. "If it wouldn't have been in part for Bonny's vision, WSDP never would have happened."

Seidelman has seen several WSDP alumni go on to college and work in the industry. Dore, he said, helped provide those opportunities.

Dore was manager of WSDP until mid-1973, when she was hired as a television production supervisor for the New York State Department of Education, Eastern Educational Network of PBS. She returned to Detroit to work for ABC-owned WXYZ-TV Channel 7 where she created and produced the children's TV show "Hot Fudge."

Larry Santos, the host of "Hot Fudge," was impressed with Dore's abilities.

"She initially was involved in getting me involved in the show; I always found her to be very professional and quite creative and very good working with the talent on the show," said Santos, whose "Hot Fudge" albums are available on the Novi-based Overture Records label.

At the time, "Hot Fudge" was innovative with its creative use of popular music and education.

"Back then, the idea of doing rock 'n' roll jingles as a way of teaching kids about their emotions was very, very, very new. Nobody had attempted it before," she explained.

The show was such a huge success that she was promoted to manager of children's programming for the ABC-TV network in Los Angeles in 1975. As an executive, she was in charge of working with musicians, writers and producers to create one of the most successful and memorable series of educational clips - "Schoolhouse Rock," short lessons on grammar, multiplication, nutrition, history and the bill of rights.

Dore said she was thrilled when, in 1997, Rhino Records released a series of "Schoolhouse Rock" CDs.

"It was a wonderful feeling. I just bought the CD for my niece and it was such a joy to watch her enjoy them," Dore said. "It's nice to see the work that I did 20 years ago still matters."

Prime time

From there she was named director of variety television for the ABC-TV network where Dore was responsible for all variety programming, including "The Captain and Tenille," "Donny and Marie" and "The Brady

Bunch" series.

The next stepping stone in her career was serving as vice president of development and production for Krofft Entertainment from 1977 to 1981.

"I did a zillion shows; we did 'Captain Kool and the Kongs,' 'The Bay City Rollers.' We won two Emmys for that," Dore explained.

After opening the West Coast office of Centerpoint Productions, she and friend Leslie Greif established Bonny Dore Productions Inc. and The Greif-Dore Company in 1983. Now, she is devoted to her company.

"I've done practically everything - one-hour specials, half-hour variety series, half-hour situation comedy series, two-hour movies," she said.

Her work includes "Glory! Glory!" a four-hour mini-series for HBO starring Ellen Greene, Richard Thomas and James Whitmore, which is airing on the Arts and Entertainment cable station. It was nominated for six ACE Awards.

Dore's latest project is a mini-

series that will shoot in Japan.

Despite that schedule, Dore made time 11 years ago to marry trial attorney Sandy Astor. She has three stepchildren, and they live in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Her friends and acquaintances at home are thrilled about her Founders Award.

"Bonny is an incredible talented person," said Bill Keith, WSDP station manager. "It's exciting to see her recognized with this honor."

Dore visited the area for WSDP's 25th anniversary reunion in November 1997. She added that she was "very, very, very happy and surprised" that Keith created the Bonny Dore Founders Scholarship in her honor.

"It was gratifying that, after all those years, of the 40 students who founded WSDP with me, 27 of them showed up," she said. "They flew in from all over the country. When I introduced them, they all came up and stood with me. It was a wonderful moment. I'm extremely proud of every one of them."

Walton-Temple

Eric Alan Walton and Lynn Temple were married at Newburg United Church in Livonia. Thomas Bradley performed the ceremony.

The bride is the Robert and Ellie Temple. The groom is the Walton and Carla of Plymouth.

The bride is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. She is employed by the City of Phoenix, Michigan, as an enrollment coordinator. The groom is a Plymouth Canton High School graduate. He is employed at the Center as a technician.

The bride asked to serve as matron Julie Kozakowski, her sister, and Tara Kozakowski, her sister-in-law. The bridesmaids were Emily Kyleigh Clark and the flower girls were the bridesmaids. The

Powell-Hunter

LeRoy and Eva Gaines, Michigan, an engagement of the Brenda Lee, to the Hunter Jr., the so Colleen Hunter of

The bride-to-be Spring Arbor College is majoring in psychology. Her fiancé will graduate from the College, where he is administration manager. An August wedding at Bethel Park Church in Flint.

Culling-Ob

Virgie Ann O'Richard Edward married Oct. 17 at the Lutheran Church. The Revs. Dennis Gawronski performed the ceremony.

The bride is the Leonard and Rhonda of Livonia. The groom is the Mildred Cull and the late Edward. The bride is the Wayne State Uni-

Gladden from page B1

A spokeswoman for those WAND protesters in Southfield told a reporter: "There is only one way to play with these toys that we don't approve of (emphasis added) and that's violently and aggressively. I just hope parents will start thinking about the type of toys they are buying for children."

And the inventory-control manager for the Toys 'R' Us store said: "It's our job to provide the toys that consumers are looking for. It's really up to the parent to pick and choose what their child plays with."

A new direction

WAND started out back in the 1980s as Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament. As the need for such a movement waned, the organization kept going, same acronym, different words. It is now Women's Action

for New Directions. That's broad enough to cover just about any cause that comes along. Like "war toys."

WAND members, of course, are not the only ones concerned about toy soldiers and toy guns. In Massachusetts, sponsors of the Toys for Tots drive have asked donors to bring only "non-violent" toys to the drop-off centers - no BB guns, plastic revolvers or toy machine guns. Nothing wrong with that, but it's interesting since the Toys for Tots program is sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps and the drop-off centers are located at State Police posts around Massachusetts.

But if WAND and the Marine Corps are concerned about the psychological effects of guns and war toys, the Public Interest Research Group (which started out as basically a consumers

advocate organization) has released its annual list of "dangerous toys." PIRG has, by design, focused on toys containing small parts that can cause choking, if swallowed by a child.

Their report lists 24 "dangerous" toys discovered during a survey of stores across the country, from Babe the Pig and Friends Bedtime Babe ("small child could choke on a clock accessory") to a Battery Operated Transport Truck, containing "small plastic fruit and vegetables that children could choke on."

But, in a press release accompanying the report, PIRG reports that the "leading choking killer" of children is still - are you ready? - balloons. That's right. BALLOONS.

"It is totally inappropriate to market balloons for toddlers," said Edmund Mierzwinski, con-

sumer program director of PIRG. "We urge parents to avoid balloons altogether for children under 8, and even then to use extreme caution."

The other 'targets'

If PIRG's "special interest" is toys that choke, other groups have their own particular targets. Greenpeace worries about toys that contain "toxic chemicals known as phthalates that are added to polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic toys as a softener," and the Speech and Hearing Department at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York focuses on toys that are too loud (such as toy sirens and squeaky rubber toys [that] can emit sounds of 90 decibels) and can damage a child's hearing.

An Oklahoma group has issued warnings about toys that shoot objects, such as BB guns or

slingshots, or that include parts that fly. Playthings are a leading cause of eye injuries to children, according to Martha Pat Upp, executive director of Prevent Blindness Oklahoma.

In Hartford, Conn., the Rev. Christopher L. Rose has issued his annual list of the Top 10 "Warped Toys." One wonders where some of these toys come from, such as Gynnn Exotic Dancer (a quite anatomically correct doll, according to the reverend), Typhoid Mary (who comes with shackles and a straitjacket) or Crush Me Phil (who foams at the mouth and begs to be kicked).

Maybe these people don't have that much to fret about. Retailers and toy manufacturers are worried that kids are outgrowing toys at a much younger age than they did in the past and are moving on to high-tech stuff involv-

ing computers and video games or more "sophisticated" items like clothes and makeup. Toys 'R' Us is renovating stores to make more room for electronics and clothes.

And sales of Barbie dolls, that perennial Christmas favorite, are expected to be down this year for the first time since 1976.

Instead of worrying about the toys kids play with, perhaps we should be concerned that they are growing up too fast and not playing with toys at all. I'd rather see a fifth-grader playing with GI Joe or Barbie than hanging around a chat room on the Internet or worrying that her eyeliner doesn't match her lipstick.

Jack Gladden is a copy editor at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He lives in Canton Township. You can e-mail him at jgladden@oe.homecomm.net.

CRAFTS CALENDAR

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 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131.

BRYANT CENTER

The Bryant Center will have its second annual Christmas craft bazaar 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 2-3 and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 4 at the center, 18000 Merriman Road, Livonia. All crafts have been made by Bryant students, and money raised will benefit the student vocational workshop. For more information, call the center at (734) 425-0100.

SENIOR HOUSE

Senior House of Livonia will

have its 10th annual holiday craft fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 3 at the retirement home, 11525 Farmington Road, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. There will be a bake sale, white elephant booth and raffle. For more information, call Madeline at (734) 425-3050.

LIVONIA CIVIC PARK

The Livonia Civic Park Senior Center will host a senior craft show from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 4, at the center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission is free. For more information, call (734) 466-2555.

WAYNE-WESTLAND YMCA

The Wayne-Westland Family YMCA will have its annual craft show 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Y, 827 S. Wayne Road, West-

land. For more information, call (734) 721-7044.

ST. THOMAS A' BECKET

St. Thomas A' Becket Women's Club will have its ninth annual craft show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 5 at the church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. There will be more than 75 crafters, hourly raffles, bake sale and lunch. Admission will be \$1, seniors 50 cents and children younger than 12 free.

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL

Meadowbrook Congregational Church will have its Treats and Treasures, a sale of holiday cookies, Christmas decorations, jewelry, attic treasures and cutlery, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 5 at the church, 21355 Meadowbrook, Novi. For more information, call (248) 348-7757.

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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Walton-Temple

Eric Alan Walton and Shelly Lynn Temple were married Aug. 8 at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia. The Rev. Thomas Badley performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Robert and Ellie Temple of Canton. The groom is the son of Alan Walton and Carla Gardner, both of Plymouth.

The bride is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and Eastern Michigan University. She is employed by the University of Phoenix, Michigan campus, as an enrollment counselor.

The groom is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School. He is employed at Botsford Kidney Center as a biomedical technician.

The bride asked Debbie Brake to serve as matron of honor with Julie Kozakowski, Kris Sangregorio and Tara Gatscher as bridesmaids. Emily Walton and Kyleigh Clark were junior bridesmaids. The flower girl was



Amanda Temple.

The groom asked Sean Pardo to serve as best man with Robert Temple, Garry Lopez and Norm Budnick as groomsmen. Troy Lopez was the ringbearer.

The couple received guests at Fellows Creek Golf Club. A honeymoon in Cancun is planned. They are making their home in Canton.

Petito-O'Bey

Antonio Thomas Petito and Theresa Ann O'Bey were married Aug. 22 at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Redford. The Rev. Donald Walker performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Theresa O'Bey of Livonia and the late John O'Bey. The groom is the son of John and Peggy Petito of Hartland.

The bride is a 1990 graduate of Central Michigan University. She is employed by Oxbow Machine Products Inc. in Livonia as a human resource manager/field service coordinator.

The groom is a 1987 graduate of Michigan State University. He is employed by Bay Pointe Golf Club in West Bloomfield as a horticulturist.

The bride asked Rose O'Bey to serve as her maid of honor with Marg Steinheiser and Siobhan Groleau as bridesmaids.

The groom asked Scott Hicks to serve as his best man with



Terry Carlson and Craig Julien as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at Barnstormer in Whitmore Lake before leaving on a honeymoon trip to Alaska. They are making their home in South Lyon.

Porterfield-Marion

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Porterfield of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Jean, to Todd Andrew Marion, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Barry Marion of Durham, N.C., formerly of Canton.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School and the University of Michigan. She is employed by Kmart Corp. in Troy.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School and the University of Michigan. He is employed by Reed Detective Agency in Livonia.

A March wedding is planned at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville.



an Church in Northville.

Sherman-Fontana

Andrew Robert Sherman and Cara Marie Fontana were married July 18 at the Dixboro United Methodist Church. The Rev. James Cochran performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Lawrence and Janice Fontana of Plymouth. The groom is the son of Harold and Mary Sherman of Ypsilanti.

The bride asked Marie Elaina Fontana to be her matron of honor with Marisa Fontana as maid of honor and Michelle Gayeski, Lisa Smith and Sandee Salzer as bridesmaids.

The groom asked Michael Sherman and Steve McGregor to serve as his best men with Daniel Kolesar, Josh Harrell and Shawn Crabtree as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at Hawthorne Valley Country Club



before leaving on a honeymoon trip to Hilton Head Island, S.C. They are making their home in Ypsilanti Township.

Powell-Hunter

LeRoy and Evadeen Powell of Gaines, Mich., announce the engagement of their daughter, Brenda Lee, to John Galbraith Hunter Jr., the son of John and Colleen Hunter of Redford.

The bride-to-be is a senior at Spring Arbor College, where she is majoring in psychology.

Her fiancé will graduate in December from Spring Arbor College, where he is a business administration major.

An August wedding is planned at Bethel Park Free Methodist Church in Flint.



Payton-O'Brien

Bethany L. Payton of Redford and Edward B. O'Brien III of Chelmsford, Mass., announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is a 1984 graduate of Redford Union High School, a 1989 graduate of Wayne State University with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a 1994 graduate of DePaul College of Law with her juris doctor degree. A lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, she has been on active duty in the Judge Advocate General's Corps since 1994. She is stationed in Norfolk, Va., where she is a prosecutor, specializing in sexual assault crimes.

Her fiancé is a 1989 graduate of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst with a bachelor of arts degree in history and political science and a 1994 graduate of Boston College Law School with a juris doctor degree with honors. A lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in Judge Advocate General's Corps, he is stationed aboard the USS Enterprise (CVN 65) on a six-month deployment in the Arabian Gulf.

A fall 1999 wedding is planned.

Culling-Obidzinski

Virgie Ann Obidzinski and Richard Edward Culling were married Oct. 17 in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia. The Revs. Dennis Bux and Marc Gawronski performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Leonard and Rhoda Obidzinski of Livonia. The groom is the son of Mildred Culling of Livonia and the late Edward Culling.

The bride is a graduate of Wayne State University with her

bachelor of social work and master of social work degrees. She is employed as a therapist at the Downriver Guidance Clinic in Southgate.

The groom also is a graduate of Wayne State University with a bachelor of fine arts degree and of the University of Michigan with a master of fine arts degree in painting. He is employed as an adjunct professor of art at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

The bride ask Claudia Lowe, Katie Paulik, Jaleen Scigliano,

Jennifer Domagala and Samantha Domagala to serve as her attendants.

The groom asked David Culling, Michael Obidzinski, Eric Culling and Steve Schroat to serve as his attendants.

The couple received guests at a reception at the American Legion Hall in Dearborn Heights before leaving on a honeymoon cruise of the South Caribbean. They are making their home in Canton.



Foster-Embry

Craig P. Foster of Canton and Christine Desjardens of Manchester, Mich., announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Christine, to Shawn Patrick Embry, the son Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wayne Embry of Hopkinsville, Ky.

The bride-to-be is a 1988 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School, a 1992 graduate of

Grand Valley State University and a 1998 graduate of the Citadel College of Graduate and Professional Studies. She is employed by Heritage Community Services.

Her fiancé is a student at Trident Technical College. He is employed by the U.S. Air Force.

A February wedding is planned at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston, S.C.

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* U.S. Department of Education, 1993.

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CALENDAR

GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND PLYMOUTH

WEEKEND

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

Whistle Stop Players will present "The Velveteen Rabbit" Dec. 4-6 in the Plymouth Community Arts Council, JoAnne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. Show times are 7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5. For more information, call (734) 416-4278.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Detroit Lasestadian Lutheran Church Congregation will hold their annual holiday bake sale from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5 at 290 Fairground, Plymouth. The bake sale will feature nissua (a finished sweet bread), pasties, poinsettias, wreaths, hand-made gift items, and many more fresh baked goods.

MUSIC FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Women's Club of Plymouth presents "Music for the Holidays" at 12:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4 at the Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial. The event is free of charge and guests are welcome.

ADVENT RETREAT

Madonna University will hold an advent retreat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, in the Founder's Room and the University Chapel in the Residence Hall. This year's theme will be "Embody Christ." The Rev. Dave Cornett, a missionary of the Divine Word, will lead the activities, which include prayer, quiet reflection, conferences, lunch, a reconciliation service and a liturgy. The public is invited. The cost is \$12 for the day. The cost includes lunch and refreshments. For more information, or for reservations, call Deacon Gene Desjarlais in the campus ministry office at (734) 432-5419. RSVP by Dec. 3.

LUMINARY KITS

The Plymouth Symphony League and the Trailwood Garden Club will hold their annual fund-raising sale of luminary kits 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, in Kroger at Sheldon and Ann Arbor Road, and in Plymouth Market place at Lilley and Ann Arbor Road and Westchester Mall. The cost of a set of 10 candles with white bags is \$4.

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church is having their annual special Christmas cookie walk from 9 a.m. until sold out Saturday, Dec. 12, in the church, 36075 W. Seven Mile Road, between Newburgh and Farmington roads, Livonia. There will be fancy ethnic cookies, an assortment of Greek, Ukrainian, Russian, Italian, and many more. There will also be an assortment of homemade pierogi, stuffed cabbage, sweet bread, and nut, apricot and poppy seed rolls. For more information, call (248) 476-3432.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

The Village Potters Guild will host a holiday sale Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 3-5, at 340 N. Main, Plymouth. Hours are 8-9 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. There will be 25 ceramic artists exhibiting both functional and decorative work in porcelain, stoneware, raku, and pit-fire.

The Women's National Farm & Garden Association of Plymouth will sponsor a holiday greens mart 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, in the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main. There will be a bake sale. Items featured will be

wreaths, bows, swags, and different arrangements. Proceeds go to benefit scholarships and civic projects. For more information, call Karen Horton at (734) 207-0563 or Pat Robinson at (734) 458-1187.

USED SPORTS EQUIPMENT SALE

The Canton Parks and Recreation Services will sponsor its annual used sports equipment sale 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in Pheasant Run Golf Club clubhouse, 46500 Summit Parkway in Canton. Anyone may sell sports or recreational equipment. Sellers can take their equipment to the Pheasant Run Golf Club clubhouse 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3. Items will be priced and tagged for the sale on Saturday, Dec. 5. Seller sets the price - Canton Parks and Recreation keeps 15 percent. Volunteers will do the selling, so you need not be present. Collect money or pick up unsold items 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. For more information, call 397-5110.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

The Plymouth Poets will sponsor their annual Christmas party to decorate the Michigan Poets Christmas Tree at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in Kellogg Park, Plymouth. The public is invited to cover the tree with laminated photos of Michigan poets, then everyone will retreat to the Box Bar for food, festive libations and a reading of the Plymouth Poets holiday verse.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The 125-voice Plymouth Community Chorus will present its Christmas concert, "Joy," at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in Plymouth Salem High School, 46181 Joy, Canton. Tickets can be bought at Evola Music, 7170 N. Hagerty, Canton; Sideways Gift Shop, 505 Forest, Plymouth; and the Northville Record, 104 W. Main, Northville. Tickets can also be ordered by calling (734) 455-4080.

OPEN HOUSE

The Canton Historical Society will host a holiday open house and bake sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in the museum. The bake sale will feature a politicians' table with homemade treats donated by township officials and local politicians. Refreshments will be served. The museum is at the corner of Canton Center and Heritage Drive (Proctor).

SINGLES' EVENTS

Single Place holds a walk in the park 10 a.m. every Saturday at Heritage Park, Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington.

Single Place holds the following social events every Sunday: worship 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary; brunch 12:30 p.m. at Northville Crossing Restaurant, 18900 Northville Road, Northville; coffee and cards 6 p.m. at Tuscan Cafe, 150 N. Center, Northville.

SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

A Christmas Choral Concert will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in the Felician Sisters' Motherhouse Chapel. The Madonna Chorale, which is made up of students, faculty, and local community members, is conducted by David Wagner, associate professor of music at Madonna University. The public is welcome to attend and admission is by donation to the music scholarship fund. The concert will feature the Mid-night Mass for Christmas by Marc-Antoine Charpen-



Gifts galore: Joanne Ramirez, left, points out some of her "Bearfoot Productions" for shoppers at the Plymouth Cultural Center last weekend. Shopping are Elaine Rauch of Canton, Amy Varghese of Westland, Elaine Winkelman of Garden City and Nadine Norman of Royal Oak.

tier, the Magnificat by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi and many other Christmas favorites. The choral will be accompanied by a small string orchestra. This year's Christmas concert will be dedicated to the Felician Sisters who are celebrating the 125th anniversary of their American foundation. For more information, call David Wagner at (734) 432-5708.

SING-ALONG WITH SANTA

Ring in the holiday season harmonizing side by side with the red suited one himself at the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's annual sing along with Santa. The benefit will be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth in downtown Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$5 for children, \$10 for adults, \$25 for families, and \$50 for patrons. Patron tickets include priority seating and a listing in the program (if order received by Dec. 3). For more information, or to order tickets, call (734) 994-4801. Tickets are also available at 527 E. Liberty, Suite 208, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or at the church beginning at 2:30 p.m. the day of the event.

WINTER CONCERT

The Ann Arbor Youth Choral conducted by Ruth Datz, Richard Ingram, Donald Williams and Shayla Powell will hold a winter concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, in Trinity Chapel, Concordia College, 4090 Geddes, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10 per family, \$7 for adults, and \$4 for students and seniors. For more information, call (734) 996-4404.

BOYCHOIR CONCERT

The Boychoir of Ann Arbor is pleased to present its 12th annual Christmas Concert, entitled "A Boychoir Christmas," at 3 p.m., and at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19 in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (Division

Holiday crafts

at Catherine) in Ann Arbor. The program will include traditional Christmas carols as well as John Rutter's "What sweeter music" and Benjamin Britten's, "There is no rose." Tickets are \$12 per adult and \$6 per student or senior. A family ticket is \$30. Tickets may be reserved by calling (734) 663-5377.

AROUND TOWN

LIBRARY PROGRAM

The Plymouth District Library will host an informational meeting for those wanting to know "How To Buy a Computer" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, in the library. Richard Truxall, who works as the continuing education coordinator for the Library Network, will answer questions and discuss basic computer buying information. Truxall helped develop the Internet Public Library and is the collection librarian for the Michigan section of the Michigan Electronic Library. The program is free. Registration is required at the Reader's Advisory Desk or by telephone at (734) 453-0750.

CRAFTERS NEEDED

Madonna University is accepting applications from crafters for its 14th Annual Spring Arts & Crafts Showcase, to be held from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, March 20 in the Activities Center on campus. The show will feature a variety of hand-made arts and crafts including pottery, jewelry, paintings, textiles and woodworking. Booth space is available for \$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 form is received before Feb. 1. For an application or information, call (734) 432-5603.

TOY & HOBBY EXPO

The Toy & Hobby Expo returns from 3-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 26 and from 9-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 27 at the Novi Expo Center, located at I-96 and Novi Road (exit 162). The show will feature fantastic operating displays including the world's largest mobile model railroad display. Vendors and collectors will be selling new, used, antique and collectible toys and hobby supplies. Admission is \$6 for adults, and \$3 for children 4-12 years of age. Parking is \$4. For more information, call (734) 455-2110.

WORKSHOPS

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will offer a Christmas Craft Workshop/Visit with Santa from 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 15. Cost is \$7 per child, this includes a visit with Santa Claus and assistance in making a holiday craft project. Photos are also available for a charge of \$2. For more information, call (734) 416-4ART.

Plymouth Community Arts Council will offer a Pottery: Make A Christmas Ornament (ages 6-12) from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10. Cookie cutters and rolling pins are just some of the tools used to produce a lasting holiday memento or a great gift. Pick up of ornaments are to be announced. Cost is \$11. For more information, call (734) 416-4278.

ART MARKET

The Lucille B. Conger Group of the University of Michigan is hosting the fifth annual art market from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10 at Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Road, Ann Arbor. Admission is \$5 or a home tour ticket. The art market offers unique holiday gifts, holiday decorations and art items for every day enjoyment. Items include whimsical and classic jewelry, chenille blankets and

scarves, stationary, and paper goods, art dolls, Santa, snow people and angels, painted glassware, dried floral arrangements, wreaths and more.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Lucille B. Conger Alumnae Group of the University of Michigan elegantly presents Home for the Holidays home tour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10. This year's tour features four fabulously decorated homes that will inspire you for the holidays. These four impressive homes are located in Stonebridge, the Delhi Park area, and off of Newport Road in Ann Arbor. Cost is \$15 per person and includes admission to all four homes and the Conger Art Market held at Barton Hills country Club on the same date.

SCHOOL OPENINGS

Suburban Children's Co-op Nursery has openings in all classes for 18 months through 5 years old. Located in Livonia bordering Canton, Plymouth and Westland. Quality education offered with parent involvement. Low tuition rates. For more information, contact Michelle at (734) 421-6196.

YMCA

The Plymouth community is accepting registrations for classes. The classes are youth travel basketball league for grades three-eight; girls' instructional basketball league for grades three-six; introductory to dance, ages 5-8; creative movement for preschoolers, ages 3-5; active older adult water exercise, youth travel floor hockey for ages 9-12, and step aerobics fitness class and aquatics. For more information, call the Plymouth YMCA at (734) 453-2904.

SKI TRIP

Schoolcraft College EdgeRunner Ski Club is sponsoring a Blue Mountain, Ontario skiing trip on Feb. 5-7. The trip includes two-night condo accommodation, two day/night lift passes, two breakfasts, one dinner, hot tubs, saunas, and more. The club offers this trip at a special price of only \$159 for members, and \$189 for non-members. Trip participants must be 18 years or older to attend. For more information, call EdgeRunners at (734) 462-4422.

KIWANIS

Plymouth-Canton Morning Kiwanis invites you to visit the 7 a.m. Tuesday breakfasts at the Water Club on Ann Arbor Road east of I-275. For more information, call (734) 453-1373.

KOEZE NUT SALE

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County is sponsoring a fund-raiser for Koeze nuts. The proceeds are used for local and international service projects dedicated to world peace, providing community service and improving the status of women worldwide. Orders can be delivered at your convenience. For more information, or to order, call Candy Martin at (248) 348-1410 or Kay Diggs at (734) 459-8374.

MEDLODGE GROUP

The Medlodge Group Inc. has made available to local clubs and organizations a representative to assisted living, long-term care, services available, reimbursement under Medicare and other topics. If interested, contact the administrator or admission director at West Trail Nursing Center at (734) 453-3983.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The VFW No. 6695 Ladies Auxiliary of Ply-

mouth is looking for a volunteer age 12-15 who has done exceptional volunteer work. Two \$1,000 savings bond are awarded nationally. For more information, notify Ann Smith at 453-1529.

CERTIFIED SITTER CLASS

Oakwood Healthcare System presents a certified sitter class 5:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, and 5:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, in Plymouth Canton High School, 8415 Canton Center Road, Canton. The program is for people 11-15 to develop skills to become knowledgeable, safe and responsible babysitters. Includes infant, child CPR and choking intervention, information on age-appropriate activities, basic first-aid, bathing, feeding, growth and development. Cost is \$30. For more information, or to register, call (734) 416-2937.

LOW FAT COOKING CLASS

Oakwood Healthcare Systems presents a quick and easy low fat cooking class 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in Plymouth Canton High School, 8415 Canton Center Road, Canton. The registered dietitian teaches participants about low fat cooking and eating. Cost is \$10 per person. For more information, or to register, call (734) 416-2937.

ADULT DAY CARE

Adult Day Care is a weekday program, open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. serving seniors who need some assistance but don't need to be in a nursing home. The program is designed to give needed relief to the caregiver while providing an enjoyable, activity-filled day in a relaxed, supervised, friendly environment. Trained professionals assist with the restroom, medications and offer a hot lunch. Transportation and financial assistance are available. For more information, call the Plymouth site at (734) 451-1455 or the Livonia site at (734) 591-2216.

SUPPORT GROUPS

STARTING OVER

Starting Over is a group for widowed men and women under the age of 45. Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of the month at Plymouth Church of Christ. For more information, call (734) 662-5999.

PARKINSON EDUCATION

The Parkinson Education and Support Group of Washtenaw County meets in Ann Arbor 1:30-4 p.m. the second Sunday of the month at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, Building 5305, near parking lot P. The next meeting will be held on Dec. 13 in the Education Center. It will be a potluck/holiday party/white elephant exchange. Please bring a dish to pass as well as your own place settings. Coffee and juice will be provided and a ham will be prepared by the committee. For more information, call (734) 930-6335 or (734) 741-9209.

ARBOR HOSPICE

Arbor Hospice sponsors a variety of grief support programs open to the public. If you would like more information or would like to sign up, call (734) 662-5999.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Community Hospice and Home Care Services has a drop-in grief support group. The group meets 6:30-8 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month to support people grieving a loss through death. To learn more, call Becky Rouse at (734) 622-4244.

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 734-459-4224. 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

NEW VOICES

Scott Rogers of Franklin, Ind., and Jodi Henry-Rogers of Garden City announce the birth of India Salome Henry-Rogers Aug. 1 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Tim and Diane Henry of Garden City and Kathy Tillotson of New White-land, Ind.

Gary and Beth Creekmore of Plymouth announce the birth of Dylan Louis June 20 at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. He has two brothers, Jordan, 8, and Alex, 3. Grandparents are Robert and MaryLou Weaver of Hilton Head Island, S.C., formerly of Livonia, and Harvill and Ann Creekmore of Lexington, Ala., formerly of Northville.

Simon John and Kimberly Ann Pionton of Westland announce the birth of Zachary John Aug. 3 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Nancy Pionton of Westland and the late Simon Pionton and Ed and Connie Lutsic of Wyandotte. Great-grandmother is Helen Tomala of Wyandotte.

Matt and Robin Hallam of Garden City announce the birth of Alyssa Brooke Oct. 18 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She has two brothers, Chad and Randy. Grandparents are Jim and Dell Hallam and Dennis and Brenda Nordstrom, all of Dearborn Heights.

Scott and Kimberly Sparks of Garden City announce the birth of Kailynn Mae Aug. 9 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She joins four siblings, Jessica, 8, Chelsie, 6, Allissa, 4, and Scott II, 2. Grandparents are Mark and Donna

Sparks and Ron and Mary Francis, all of Garden City, and Tom and Debbie Tanoshunas of Belleville.

Mark and Cheryl Buckley of Westland announce the birth of Jessica Rose-Lee Oct. 14 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She has a brother, Mark Jr., and three sisters, Sarah, Jennifer and Samantha. Grandparents are John and Kathy Nepsy of Wayne, Albert and Sheila Meyers of Wayne and Judith Milot of Westland.

Tracey Beverley of Garden City announces the birth of Caitlyn Nicole July 28 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Troy and Carol Beverley of Garden City.

Jennifer Rexford of Westland announces the birth of Dakota Paul Rexford Oct. 11 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Tim and Rae Blome of Pigeon and Tim Rexford of Columbus, Ga.

Bernard Brewer III and April Gearhart of Westland announce the birth of Drew Weston Aug. 12 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins a brother, Stephen Gearhart, 7. Grandparents are Tom and Donna Perry of Plymouth and Bernard and Joyce Brewer of Westland.

Sean and Mary Conley of Westland announce the birth of Shyann Lashae Aug. 17 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She has a sister, Ashley. Grandparents are Nadene Conley of Wayland, Ky., and Helen Schumaker of Mount Clemens.

Girl Scouts 'wrap up' the holiday

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER
smason@ec.homecom.net

OK, you've fought the crowds to get the perfect gifts for those on your Christmas list. You've survived the long lines at the cash register and got an aerobic workout lugging heavy shopping bags to the outreaches of the parking lot.

Now, you face the task of cutting, folding and fumbling with cellophane tape to get everything ready for Christmas Day.

Well, maybe not. If you don't mind lugging your collection to Wonderland Mall at Plymouth and Middlebelt roads in Livonia. That's where you'll find a cadre of Girl Scouts and their mothers eager to wrap anything and everything for a small fee.

This is the fifth year the Girl Scouts have had their gift wrapping booth at Wonderland, wrapping such things as a mink coat, refrigerators, microwave ovens and a sweater or two.

"They get out there on the floor to wrap some of them," said Diane Bergendahl, who with Sue Roy and Kathy Swan are overseeing the booth. "CD towers are the awkward ones to wrap."

Bergendahl and Roy have been a part of the gift wrapping booth for seven years, while Swan has five years on her tape dispenser.

The 52 girls in the seventh-12th grades are members of 12 Cadette and Senior Girl Scout troops in Livonia, Redford, Westland, Novi, Farmington Hills, Detroit and Inkster. Helping them are 44 mothers working at the booth.



STAFF PHOTO BY TIM HAWLEY

"We're down about 10 girls from last year, but we have a good number," Bergendahl said. "They get more shifts to work."

The booth currently is open during mall hours - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. - and will stay open to 10 p.m. as it gets closer to Christmas. The mothers staff the booth until 3 p.m., when the girls arrive from school.

Prices start at \$1.50 and a medium-sized shirt box cost \$3.75 - 50 cents less, if you supply the box.

This is the seventh year the Scouts have had a gift wrapping

booth and the fifth year it has been at Wonderland Mall. In the past, the booth has been located in a vacant store front, but this year, it's out in the mall across from the food court and kitty-corner to Jeppers.

"There's no storefront which is better because people don't see us in a storefront," said Bergendahl. "But it's been slow to start because we're away from most of the stores."

The gift wrapping booth is one of several fund-raising activities for the girls. They work on the calendar and nut sale which just

ended and also participate in the cookie sale - they start taking orders Dec. 14.

But the booth provides money for troop end-of-year activities. In the past, the troops have used to money for trips to Toronto, Chicago, Boston and Savannah as well as the Mall of America in Minnesota and Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

"We do get around; that's what the money is for," said Bergendahl, whose troop at Timothy Lutheran Church in Livonia plans to use the money for a trip to Toronto.

Busy, busy: Members of Girl Scout Troop 1805, Rachel Feathers (left) and Erin Mul-downey, both of Livonia, worked together in wrapping a present for a customer at the Scouts' gift wrapping booth in Wonderland Center.

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

Listings for the Religious News should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. Call (734) 953-2131.

NEW BEGINNING

"Making It Through the Holidays" will be the topic when New Beginnings, a grief support group meets at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, east of Merriman, Livonia, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3. The program is for people suffering as the result of the death of a loved one. There are no fees. Anyone may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need. Call the church office at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkins at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (734) 462-3770.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

The Livonia Churchill High School Choralists will present a one-act musical, "Scrooge," at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and 2 p.m. Dec. 6, in Guthrie Hall of Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Tickets cost \$10. Proceeds will benefit the Newburg Youth Choir tour. Call (734) 422-0149.

The children and youth of Newburg United Methodist will present "The First Christmas Present Ever" by Sherry Sanders at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the church. The children will retell the story of Jesus' birth and carols will be sung.

CHOIR CANTATA

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

will present a choir cantata, "Lord of Light - Prince of Peace," at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 20805 Middlebelt Road at Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

The church also is having Advent services at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 9 and 16. The sermon topic will be "Christmas Is for Giving" on Dec. 9, while the St. Paul's Christian Day School will present "Carriers of the Light," with special music, choirs and handbells, on Dec. 16. Call (248) 474-0675.

HELPING HONDURAS

Plymouth Seventh-Day Adventist School is selling Florida fruit to raise money for victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras. Oranges and grapefruit are available by the case or half case. Oranges are \$18 per case (4/5 bushel), and grapefruit are \$16 per case. December orders must be placed by Dec. 3 with pick-up scheduled for 12:30-4 p.m. Dec. 13, at the school, 4295 Napier Road (between Ann Arbor and Warren roads), Plymouth. Call (734) 459-8222 or (248) 349-5683.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth has opened its new location at 494 N. Mill St., one block north of Plymouth Road, Plymouth. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Call the store at (734) 459-1250 or e-mail the church at fpcp@juno.com.

'GLORY OF CHRISTMAS'

Temple Baptist Church will present its annual Christmas program, "The Glory of Christmas," at 7:30 p.m. Fridays Dec. 4, 11 and 18, and 6 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20. Interpretation for the deaf and hearing-impaired will be provided on Dec. 4. Tickets are \$6, \$8 and \$10 for reserved seating. To order tickets, call (734) 414-3980. For reservations for the hearing-impaired performance, call TTY (734) 414-3992. The church is located at 49555 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth.

ANNUAL AUCTION

Garden City First United Methodist Church will hold its third annual auction Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the silent auction beginning at 6:45 p.m. A live auction as well as hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages and entertainment will be a part of the evening's festivities. Tickets cost \$15 each or \$25 per couple and are available in advance by calling (734) 421-8628. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

COMMUNION BREAKFAST

The Detroit Presbyterian Men's Council's 18th annual Advent Communion Breakfast will be 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, 24110 Cherry Hill Road, at Telegraph Road, Dearborn. The speaker will be Youngil Cho, a resident of Raleigh, N.C., and an elder and member of the DuRaleigh Presbyterian Church. His topic, "The New Beginning," will focus on the present state of the denomination and what God is doing and wants to do to renew the spiritual vigor of the men's mission, ministry and witness.

Cho is a professor and associate dean at North Carolina Central University, past president of the National Council of Presbyterian Men, a member and past moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly Council. Tickets cost \$6 each and are available through the Detroit Presbytery Office at (313) 345-6550 or George Irwin at (734) 425-3024.

COOKIE WALKS

St. Michael's Orthodox Church will sell cookies by the pound during its annual cookie walk, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the church, 26355 W. Chicago Road, between Inkster and Beech Daly roads, Redford. Cookies will be sold by the pound, so come early for the best selection.

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church will have a Christmas cookie walk beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the church, 36075 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia. There will be an assortment of Greek, Ukrainian, Russian, Italian and other ethnic cookies, homemade pierogi, stuffed cabbage, sweet breads and nut apricot and poppy seed rolls for sale. Call (248) 476-3432.

The United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church in Garden City will have a cookie walk and mini bazaar 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 12, at the church, 6443 Merriman Road. Cost will be \$8 for a large tin and \$6 for a medium tin. Call (734) 421-8628.

ADVENT RETREAT

Madonna University will hold an Advent retreat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Founder's Room and University Chapel in the Residence Hall on campus, Schoolcraft and Levan roads, Livonia.

This year's theme will be "Embody Christ." The Rev. Dave Cornett, a missionary of the Divine Word, will lead the activities, which include prayer, quiet reflection, conferences, lunch, a reconciliation service and liturgy. The cost of the retreat is \$12 for the entire day. Reservations can be made through Dec. 3 by calling Deacon Gene Desjarlais at (734) 432-5419.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance to divorced and separated Christians, will have a dance at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, West Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. Cost is \$8 and includes refreshments. Participants should bring a hat or pair of gloves for the poor. For more information, call Rose at (734) 464-3325.

CHRISTMAS MUSICALS

The congregation of Merriman Road Baptist Church will kick off the holiday season at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, with the first of three musical presentations, the Children's Department's "www.christmasonline.com."

The Youth Department takes over on Sunday, Dec. 13, with its 7 p.m. presentation of "Christmas Crossroads," while the Adult Choir has scheduled two performances of "The Father's Gift of Love" at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and Sunday, Dec. 20. The musical focuses on the events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ as told by those who were

present.

Merriman Road Baptist Church is at 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. For more information, call the church office at (734) 421-0472.

GOSPEL SERVICE

The Chapels Gospel Group from Plymouth will perform at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter Road, Westland. Free-will offering will be taken. Call Anna at (734) 729-8842.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church is hosting "Christmas Around the World," a Christmas walk 5-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the church, 9601 Hubbard Ave., Livonia. Admission is free. To make reservations, call (734) 422-0494.

The church's Children's Christmas Pageant will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, featuring The Children's Pageant Choir performing "The Cow Said and the Donkey Replied" as written by church member Dixie Elam.

SILVER STRINGS CONCERT

The Silver Strings will be in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City. The free concert will feature holiday music played on the lap and hammer dulcimer, guitar and other instruments. Call (734) 427-3660.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

St. John's Lutheran Church

Please see BELLISON, B6

Family Channel to air Lutheran Hour's 'Boots'

The engaging story of a bitter shoemaker who is visited by an angel on Christmas Eve will once again charm audiences of all ages this holiday season in the classic animated television special, "Red Boots for Christmas."

Produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries, the award-winning program is set for broadcast at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, on cable's Fox Family Channel.

Through the 30-minute family special, LHM hopes to deliver the "true" message of Christmas. Following the broadcast, viewers will be given the opportunity to

call a toll-free number to receive a free children's storybook version of "Red Boots for Christmas."

In addition to the television special, the grumpy but lovable shoemaker named Hans and his pet cow, Aldo, also appear in full color at (www.org/redboots), offering visitors an electronic storybook, broadcast information, a free book offer and information about the program.

For more information about "Red Boots for Christmas" and other programs from Lutheran Hour Ministries, visit the "Wired with the Word" at www.lhm.org or by calling (800) 442-0324.

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Religion from page B7

will have its holiday boutique following the 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, Dec. 6, at the church, 13542 Mercedes, east of Inkster Road and south of the I-96 freeway. Holiday baked goods and craft items will be sold. The church also will have its annual Little Christmas ethnic festival at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8. The evening will include a worship service with hymns and music from several ethnic heritages and a dessert buffet with ethnic specialties. Call (313) 538-2660.

CRAFT-STORY HOUR

Newburg United Methodist Church will have a Christmas craft and story hour for preschoolers ages 2 1/2 to 5 and their parents 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, in the west end of Guthrie Hall. There will be child care available in the crib room for younger siblings. Call (734) 422-0149. Newburg United Methodist is at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Plymouth Baptist Church will present the concert "The Gift of Christmas," at 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 11-13, at the church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, 1/2 mile west of Haggerty Road, Plymouth. The concert features traditional and contemporary Christmas music in a "small-town" setting.

There is no admission charge.

however, a Salvation Army kettle will be available for donations. Children younger than age 5 will not be admitted into the auditorium. Full nursery and preschool care will be provided. Call (734) 453-5534.

ASP BENEFIT

A spaghetti dinner and basket auction at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, will benefit the Appalachia Service Project, which sponsors youth and young adult work trips to Appalachia. Tickets - \$6.50 for adults, \$4 for children ages 3-12, and \$20 for a family of two adults and two children - for the auction will be on sale through Sunday, Dec. 6, or games for a rainy day. Call the Rev. Melanie Lee Carey at (734) 422-0149 or visit <http://www.gbpm-umc.org/newburgumc>.

MUSICAL DRAMA

Covenant Community Church will present the musical drama, "The King: The Long Awaited Promise," at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 25800 Student St., at Beech Daly Road, Redford. The musical drama unfolds the life of Benjamin, a fictitious first century rabbi who considers the claims of Christ. Call (313) 535-3100.

Alpha Baptist to build family center

Alpha Baptist Church in Livonia is expecting, so to speak, in the spring. That's the tentative completion date of its new 6,000-square-foot Family Life Center.

"We've looked forward to this day for a long time," said the Rev. Benson Kern, senior pastor at Alpha Baptist. "As our congregation grows, so does our need for a place where we can all gather in fellowship."

Ground was broken for the new center in October. The facility will include a gymnasium, changing rooms, kitchen and several classrooms.

According to Kern, the center will be used for indoor athletic events, concerts, drama presentations, dinners and Sunday school classes.

"Our championship softball, basketball and volleyball teams have been begging for a place to practice during the winter months," Kern added. "This new Family Life Center promises to meet these needs and much more."

Alpha Baptist was founded in 1939 when Coronado Baptist Church was asked to sponsor a Sunday School in the neighborhood of the Dutcher home on Sherwood Lane in Livonia.

By January 1940, a formal meeting was called to organize the members of the Sunday School as a church.

By August 1941, lots were purchased at the corner of Grant-



land and Arcola and the basement church was built. It was dedicated in October 1942.

The sanctuary was erected on the basement church in 1950, but by July 1952, the growth of the church made it necessary to sell the old church and once again meet in a school.

In September 1953, ground was broken for a new church at its present location, 28501 W. Chicago, west of Inkster Road, Livonia, and in November 1953 the name was changed to Alpha Baptist.

The new sanctuary was completed in July 1954, with a new educational facility and expanded sanctuary started in 1963. Further remodeling was undertaken in 1972 to make better use of the church facilities.



By the shovel: The Rev. Carl Young, pastor of Alpha Baptist Church from 1952 to 1987, assists the Rev. Benson Kern, pastor since 1995, with groundbreaking for the new 6,000-square-foot Family Life Center that's expected to be completed in the spring.

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OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Davey sparkling

Right-hander Tom Davey (Plymouth Salem) has cracked the Toronto Blue Jays' top 10 prospect list compiled by Baseball America and is on track to reach the majors in a season or two, if he continues to progress.

Davey, 25, saved 13 games last season while both starting and relieving for Double-A Knoxville in the Toronto farm system. He was 5-3 with a 3.87 ERA in 48 games, nine of them starts.

He just completed a stint in the Arizona Fall League, where teams send some of their top prospects to refine their skills.

The 6-foot-7 Davey throws a fastball in the mid-90s and is working on a split-finger to use as an offspeed pitch. He still needs command of the split-finger and greater consistency of his hard curve, but is in a position to have a breakthrough season.

Baseball America magazine said Davey has the stuff to be a dominant closer, which could happen once he completes the transition from thrower to pitcher.

Abraham honored

Amanda Abraham, a Plymouth Salem HS graduate and a freshman at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., was named Patriot League Rookie of the Week after collecting 13 points and two assists in 16 minutes of action in the Crusaders' 93-63 rout of Tulsa last week.

Abraham hit 3-of-4 floor shots and 7-of-8 free throws in the victory. Holy Cross played at No. 1-ranked Connecticut Tuesday.

Anyone interested in submitting items to Sports Scene or Sports Roundup may send them to sports editor C.J. Risak, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150, or may FAX them to (734) 591-7279.

Young, but growing

New coach has high hopes for Canton program

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR
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New coach, new beginning.

Same old results? Don't count on it.

Plymouth Canton's rookie wrestling coach, John Demsick, isn't exactly new to the program. He served as Ernie Krumm's assistant last year. And if there's one thing that can be said for Demsick, it's that he is experienced.

Perhaps his picture was spotted by some local readers in the July 28 section of Sports Illustrated's Faces in the Crowd. Demsick was being recognized for capturing his third consecutive Masters Division title at the AAU Nationals, this one coming in the 40-and-over folk-style division. The current Canton coach also placed second in the 30-and-over folk-style division.



John Demsick
new Canton coach

His knowledge of the sport, therefore, is a given. "I think (my accomplishments) help," he said.

"Some of the kids don't realize how much it takes to be a national champion. It's a very difficult thing to do."

"But for a lot of them, they realize this guy has a lot to offer. Our other coaches do, too, and together we can take them a long way, if they want to come with us."

True, this isn't a team over-stocked with talent. But the Chiefs' cupboard is hardly barren, either.

In fact, Demsick needn't look any further than his own household. Last year, two of the top Canton wrestlers were Demsicks: John-Peter, who graduated after an injury-riddled senior year (he was 12-2, with 10 pins), and Rob, now a senior who led Canton with 25 wins (against 13 losses) last season. Rob is one of a handful of experienced and/or talented wrestlers his father will build this year's



Leadership roles: Two wrestlers expected to fare well for Canton this season are Rob Demsick (left) and John Pocock. Demsick led the Chiefs in match wins last season with 25; Pocock was a state regional qualifier who collected 18 victories.

team around; John-Peter is now attending University of Michigan and helping coach the current Chiefs.

Coming up the ladder is Doy, a 15-year-old freshman at Canton who will compete in the 112-119 divisions.

"We have a young team," the elder Demsick said. "There are a lot of freshmen and sophomores wrestling for us, and even the seniors only have one

year of wrestling experience."

Joining Rob Demsick, who will compete at 160 pounds, as a team cornerstone are senior Kevin Stone (145-152 pound weight classes) and junior John Pocock (135). Like John-Peter Demsick, Stone was injured early last season (he won eight matches at 140), suffering a broken ankle that required

Please see CANTON PREVIEW, C4

Druken lifts Whalers



ough Petes could handle.

Druken, the Ontario Hockey League's leading scorer, knocked in three goals and added an assist to lead the Plymouth Whalers to a 6-3 victory over the Petes at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

The win kept the Whalers atop the OHL's West Division with a 20-4-2 record; Peterborough dropped to 14-11.

Harold Druken offered more offense himself than the Peterborough

Druken scored his first goal on a power play just 3:21 into the game; he added two more in the second period, giving him 33 for the season. Adam Colagiaco and Julian Smith added a goal and an assist apiece, with Jamie LaLonde also getting a goal. David Legwand and Shaun Fisher contributed two assists each.

Detroit led 2-0 after one period and, thanks to Druken's hat-trick, 4-1 after two. Two quick goals by the Petes early in the final period narrowed the Whaler lead to 4-3, but Smith and LaLonde both scored in the last six minutes to insure the win.

Robert Holsinger was in goal for the Plymouth win; he made 28 saves. Mike Pickard made 24 stops for Peterborough.

Ambassadors still No. 1

Two more wins in their weekend games assured the Compuware Ambassadors they would remain in first place overall in the North American Hockey League.

The Ambassadors improved to 18-4-1 with a 5-0 win over Team USA in Ann Arbor Friday and a 4-2 triumph over the St. Louis Sting Saturday at Compuware Arena. Five different players scored in the win in Ann Arbor

Please see WHALERS, C5

CC claims state crown

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
skowalski@oe.homecomm.net

Put Redford Catholic Central senior quarterback Dave Lusky indoors and he reaches for his security blanket.

Strange as it seems, Lusky's most reliable receiver in the Pontiac Silverdome has become senior Derek Andersen, who

FOOTBALL

caught one pass in nine games played outdoors.

Andersen caught a 70-yard touchdown pass from Lusky with 5:04 left to erase a 23-21 deficit and give CC its second-straight Class AA state championship Saturday afternoon, 27-

23, over Rockford.

Exactly a month earlier at the Silverdome, the two connected on a 21-yard pass on fourth down and 20 to set up the winning touchdown in a 22-15 win over Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the Catholic League championship.

Lusky, who as a kid used trees

Please see STATE CHAMPS, C3

Back on top: Catholic Central co-captains Dave Lusky (left), Lou Willoughby (center) and Justin Cessante hoist another state championship trophy toward the Silverdome roof after Saturday's come-from-behind win over Rockford.



PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

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2nd-half collapse dooms Crusaders

Good for a half, anyway. Madonna University's six-point lead at halftime of its men's basketball game at Albion College melted away quickly as the Britons buried the Fighting Crusaders under a 53-25 second-half point avalanche, on their way to an 85-63 triumph Tuesday.

The loss dropped Madonna to 2-5 overall; Albion is 3-1.

The Crusaders' halftime lead was largely the result of strong first-half shooting: They converted 15-of-28 shots (53.6 percent) to Albion's 14-of-32 (43.8 percent). But the Britons were not to be denied.

Led by Tim Czarnecki's 25 points on 12-of-13 floor shooting, Albion was a remarkable 22-of-27 from the field in the second half (81.5 percent). The Brits were equally dominant on the boards, outrebounding Madonna 34-21 — which included 13 offensive rebounds compared to the Crusaders' 12 defensive boards.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Michael Massey's 11 points was best for Madonna; Mike Maryanski and Narvin Russaw added nine points each and Nick Hurley (from Plymouth Canton) had eight. Russaw and Hurley also had three assists apiece.

Erick Shaffer and Steve Conger chipped in with 10 points each for Albion.

S'craft blasts Tyndale

Schoolcraft College coach Carlos Briggs has conducted more competitive

practices than Saturday's game against William Tyndale College.

The Ocelots got up quickly and never relented in a 153-39 bombardment of Tyndale. The win kept SC's record perfect through five games.

Six players reached double-figures for the Ocelots, who led 96-14 at halftime: Dashawn Williams with 21 points (and 14 rebounds); Quentin Mitchell with 16; Dwayne Holmes with 13; Mario Montgomery with 12; and Lamar Bigsby and Mike Murray with 11 apiece. Matt Bauman (Livonia Franklin) and David Jar-

rett (Westland John Glenn) added nine points each.

Williams' all-around effort earned him MCCA Eastern Conference player of the week honors.

Jacob Stamm's 20 points was best for Tyndale.

"We played up to our capabilities," said Briggs. "We didn't let down. There's a tendency in games like this to let down and play to the level of the competition. We didn't do that."

There won't be any other games like this on the Ocelot schedule.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Coming up short

Poor shooting plagued both teams at Saturday's Tartar Classic women's basketball final between host Wayne State and Indiana-South Bend, but South Bend survived to post a 60-55 victory.

The Tartars, now 1-4, fell behind 32-21 at halftime and could not recover. Sarah Warnke, a junior forward from Plymouth Canton HS, was one of their few bright spots; she led them with 19 points (on 7-of-13 shooting) and 16 rebounds; Warnke also had three steals. Her efforts, combined with her 17-point, 19-rebound performance in WSU's 72-40 win over University of Michigan-Dearborn in their Classic opener, earned her a spot on the all-tournament team.

Marzolf a starter

Melissa Marzolf, a freshman at Northwood University from Plymouth Canton HS, has earned a starter's role as point guard for the rebuilding Timberwolves.

Marzolf, who started through-

out her four-year career at Canton, is averaging 29 minutes a game. She leads the team in assists (4.7 per game) and is second in steals (1.9), and she ranks sixth in scoring (4.0) and fourth in rebounding (5.3).

Northwood was 2-5 through its first seven games.

Four letters

There were 15 athletes this fall season at Hope College who earned their fourth letters in their sport, and former Plymouth Canton HS standout Lance Fellow is one of them. Fellow was one of three seniors on the men's soccer team to letter four-straight seasons.

Greg Kilby, a junior defender at Hope from Plymouth Canton, picked up his third letter this fall. There were seven others who did the same, meaning the Flying Dutchmen should have an experienced group returning next season.

Shark strike

The Plymouth-Canton Shark Attack, avenging an earlier tournament loss, defeated Garden City 5-2 in the final to win the Little Caesars Hockey Thanks-

giving Tournament's Mite B Division last weekend.

Leading the Shark Attack were tournament most valuable player Kyle Powell, Jayson Payne, Lauren Maxwell, Brad Plieman, Pat Killian, Pat Theisen, Kody Laho, Justin Bower, Zach Haar, John Eckley, Dave Knuth, John Maurer, Justin Ownen, Drinnin Sante, Riley Groenewoud and Zack Nowak.

Used sports stuff

The annual used sports equipment sale, sponsored by the Canton Parks and Recreation Services, will be Saturday at Pleasant Run Golf Club's clubhouse, located at 46500 Summit Parkway in Canton.

The public is invited to both sell and buy. Those wishing to sell may drop off their items between 6-9 p.m. today (Dec. 3) at the Pleasant Run clubhouse. Sellers set their own prices; volunteers will handle all sales, with those dropping off items to be sold collecting the profits (minus 15 percent for the Parks and Rec department).

For further information, call

the Parks and Recreation department at (734) 397-5110.

AAU hoop tryouts

Tryouts for the Oakland Lady Hawks 14-year-old girls AAU basketball team will be held 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8 at the Evans Rec Center and on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Royal Oak Township Recreation Hall.

The Evans Rec Center is on 13950 Joseph Campau, between McNichols and Davison Freeway. The Royal Oak Township Rec Hall is on 21272 Mendota.

There is a \$10 fee each day.

Call Loretta Tindle at (248) 548-8869 or Linda Tate at (313) 893-5482 for more information.

Baseball tryouts

The Michigan Yankee Rebels will hold tryouts for its 1999 Little Caesars travel team for 10 year olds and under at 3 p.m. Dec. 13 and 20 at the Sports Academy in Northville.

The team plans to play 5-6 tournaments including trips to Knoxville, Tenn., and Chicago in a schedule of some 50 games.

To register or for more information call Bob Ramsey at (313) 928-5691 or (313) 562-4667.

Anyone interested in submitting items to Sports Scene or Sports Roundup may send them to sports editor C.J. Risak, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150, or may FAX them to (734) 591-7279.

Murray's point spree sparks Madonna to easy win over Albion

A strong first-half defensive effort and Mary Murray's superb all-around effort helped Madonna University's women's basketball team rebound from its first loss of the season to win easily at Albion College, 80-62 Tuesday.

The win pushed the Lady Crusaders' record to 5-1. Albion is 1-3.

WOMEN'S HOOP

Madonna opened up a 42-29 lead by halftime to take control. Part of the Crusaders' success was due to a defense that limited the Britons to 11-of-35 floor shooting (31.4 percent); Madonna made 17-of-39 in the opening half (43.6 percent).

Murray didn't miss much at any time. The senior forward converted 10-of-13 floor shots and 5-of-6 free throws, scoring 26 points to lead all scorers. Murray also grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds, dished out three assists and had three steals.

Other major contributors to the Madonna victory were Lori Enfield and Michelle Miela with 10 points apiece; Chris Dietrich with nine; Kristi Fiorenzi (from Plymouth Canton) with six points and 10 boards; and Carissa Cizicki

with five points and five assists.

Kacy Davidson's 12 points and eight rebounds paced Albion; Meagan Madej contributed 10 points and seven boards.

Madonna converted 33-of-76 shots in the game (43.4 percent) to Albion's 22-of-59 (37.3 percent). The Crusaders also had a commanding edge on the boards, outrebounding the Britons 50-39.

Last Saturday at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., two unbeaten teams clashed: Rollins was the team to survive, pounding Madonna 98-59 to improve its record to 6-0.

With five minutes elapsed in the game, the Crusaders were down 16-12. That's when the roof collapsed, as Rollins put together an 18-2 run to increase its lead to 20. Madonna trimmed that deficit to 48-34 by halftime, but the Crusaders were never able to completely recover.

Murray's 13 points was best for Madonna; Enfield added 10.

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Observer & Eccentric

Dou

Redford Catholic team gave the cheer on Saturday tory over Dearborn ford Ice Arena.

The win came on football team won Class AA state title over Rockford at dome.

CC goaltender B shutout with 27 saves improved to 3-0 over CC junior forward

State

as targets when one around to play couldn't find his R foot-5, 255-pound Brzezinski — or Rogowski open.

Andersen was the "It was actually to Casey and they and Derek was the receiver," Lusky me in the huddle covering him. H work, I just laid it

The ball appeared gone through the Rockford corner step for step with catch was made and Andersen ran the way to the end

"I just know we pretty darn well coach Ralph Mung The play stunned 17,150 and capped off rally by the St found themselves

MEN'S COLLEGE Friday, 1 Oakland CC vs at Orchard Ridge (Transylvania, Madonna vs. Trans Saturday, Transylvania Tour WOMEN'S COLLEGE Friday, 1 (Concordia Class Madonna vs. Mar

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TOYS FOR drop

Double-winner: Shamrocks blast Falcons

Redford Catholic Central's hockey team gave the school's fans more to cheer on Saturday night with a 7-0 victory over Dearborn Divine Child at Redford Ice Arena.

The win came only hours after the CC football team won its second-straight Class AA state title with a 27-23 win over Rockford at the Pontiac Silverdome.

CC goaltender Ben Dunne earned the shutout with 27 saves as the Shamrocks improved to 3-0 overall.

CC junior forward David Moss had a

HOCKEY

hat trick and sophomore linemate David Spiewak added two goals.

The Shamrocks, who led 3-0 after one period and 6-0 through two, had four power play goals.

Brad Holland and Matt VanHeest had the other CC goals.

Todd Bentley and Keith Rows collected three assists each and Chris Morelli two. Van Heest, Ryan Yost, Nick

Lewarne, Sean McGowan and Spiewak assisted on one goal each.

"Any time you get four (power play goals) in a game, that's OK," CC coach Gordie St. John said. "They're still young, got a lot to learn, got to learn the discipline of the game."

Each team picked up 16 penalties, "which is too many", according to St. John.

St. John said he doesn't have a No. 1 line among his four but Moss, Spiewak and Bentley are sure playing like it.

"They are playing very well," St. John

said. "We try to keep it as equal as possible. If you can throw out four equal lines, you wear out opponents who are only using three. We don't have a first line and if we did I'd switch it around to get equality."

A recent 6-4 win over the Red Wings Old-Timers, whose roster included Gary Bergman, Alex Delvecchio and more recent NHL players John Ogronick and Mark Hamway, helped St. John reach the 100 win mark in his sixth season as CC coach.

St. John downplayed the win because

he remembers the Shamrocks' 1997 Class A state champion team getting

whipped by the Red Wings Old-Timers. "I don't think (the Red Wings old-timers) had been skating that long," St. John said. "You play them in January and they'd be a whole lot stronger."

St. John, who says he's 39 but is probably a couple decades older, isn't planning on retiring any time soon.

"Now I'm working on my 200th," he said. "I'm 39 and I'm going to coach until I'm 100."

State champs from page C1

as targets when there was no one around to play catch with, couldn't find his Red Wood - 6-foot-5, 255-pound tight end Nick Brzezinski - or fullback Casey Rogowski open.

Andersen was the next option.

"It was actually supposed to go to Casey and they had it covered and Derek was the secondary receiver," Lusky said. "He told me in the huddle they weren't covering him. He did all the work, I just laid it in for him."

The ball appeared to have gone through the hands of the Rockford cornerback, who was step for step with Andersen. The catch was made around the 30 and Andersen raced the rest of the way to the end zone.

"I just know we had it covered pretty darn well," Rockford coach Ralph Munger said.

The play stunned the crowd of 17,150 and capped another play-off rally by the Shamrocks, who found themselves down 23-14

after a nine-yard run by Rockford's Keith Wurn with 1:38 left in the third quarter.

Rockford, a heavy underdog, finished 11-2 overall record, its only losses coming to Detroit Catholic League opponents. Birmingham Brother Rice beat Rockford, 41-14, in the regular season finale, but this was a far different Rams' team.

The Shamrocks, 12-0 overall, are the first back-to-back champions in AA. This was their sixth state title in school history, fifth in the 1990s.

Rockford used some flea-flicker plays that you'd find in a backyard touch football game to confuse a CC defense that had surrendered an average of 10 points per game.

Rockford opened the scoring when quarterback Dan Richard (13 for 21 for 109 yards) completed a 35-yard touchdown pass to Courtney Yon, who didn't have a CC player within 20 yards of

him, with 6:55 left in the second quarter.

Richard started the play with a hand-off to the halfback, who pitched the ball to a receiver. The ball then was lateralled back to Richard, whose pass to Yon gave the Rams a 6-0 lead.

"I wasn't surprised, I think anxious was the better word," said the Rockford quarterback. "That play usually works. I was first worried about catching it. I throw it all the time."

Rockford raised the lead to 9-0 when Luke Greenland kicked a 19-yard field goal with 3:47 left in the half following a fumble recovery by the Rams at CC's 8.

Three running plays resulted in seven yards but Rockford chose to try the field goal attempt by a straight on kicker from the left-hash mark on fourth down.

"I'm a midwest coach and if I had my druthers I'd pound on you (with the running game) but

if you have tough guys inside you have to find another way," Munger said. "It can backfire on you too."

Lusky completed six of 11 passes for 162 yards and two touchdowns, which ties a Class AA finals game record.

Brzezinski's 12-yard touchdown catch and the first of Mike Sgroi's three extra points with 1:45 left in the first half cut Rockford's lead to 9-7.

But Rockford took a 16-7 lead into the locker room, scoring on a one-yard run by Tony Savickas after a 52-yard return on the ensuing kickoff.

CC junior fullback John Kava, who had 83 yards in 22 carries, capped an 80-yard drive to start the second half with a one-yard

run to cut Rockford's lead to 16-14. Jeff Potts' 30-yard catch to the Rockford 3 keyed the drive.

The Rams seemed to regain the momentum after Wurn capped a 10-play 80 yard drive with a run off a lateral from Richard that seemed to be designed as another flea flicker pass. Wurn faked a throw inside the 10, causing the CC defender to jump, and ran around the end untouched.

The score made it 23-14 in Rockford's favor but the Shamrocks answered again with a nine-yard run by Rogowski to end a 79-yard drive. Lusky's 35-yard pass to Brzezinski gave the Shamrocks a first down at Rockford's 29 and Rogowski scored three plays later to cut the Rock-

ford lead to 23-21 with 11:56 left.

"We were down the whole game and fighting back," Lusky said. "It was an exhausting game, a great football team we beat and this is the best feeling in the world."

The Shamrocks had 17 first downs to Rockford's 13 and out-gained the Rams 313-237. Nick Kato and Jeremiah Hicks had one sack each and Mike Wilk and Lou Willoughby shared a sack. Rogowski led with 10 tackles.

"It was a tremendous high school football game and both teams deserve a great deal of credit," CC coach Tom Mach said. "We knew coming in they presented problems the way they spread you out."

THE WEEK AHEAD

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 4

Oakland CC vs. Lansing CC at Orchard Ridge, 7:30 p.m.

(Transylvania, Ky. Tourney)

Madonna vs. Transylvania, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Transylvania Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 4

(Concordia Classic Tournament)

Madonna vs. Manchester (Ind.), 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

(Concordia Classic Tournament)

Madonna vs. Mt. St. Joe's, 1 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Oakland CC vs. St. Mary's JV at South Bend, Ind., 6 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Friday, Dec. 4

Ply. Whalers vs. Windsor at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Ply. Whalers vs. London

at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Thursday, Dec. 3

Redford Union vs. Farmington at Redford Ice Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4

Churchill vs. E. Kentwood, Franklin vs. Farmington at Edgar Arena, 4 & 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Redford Union vs. Churchill at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.

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CC could be strong enough to challenge for state title

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

Redford Catholic Central may want to keep the celebration going.

After repeating as the state's Class AA football champions last weekend, the Shamrocks may have another state title to boast.

Backed by a strong returning cast, CC has a good chance this season of winning the state title in wrestling.

The Shamrocks, a perennial power which has won the Catholic League wrestling title the past seven seasons, haven't won the state title since 1988.

That 10-year drought may end as CC returns three first-team All-Area performers: Casey Rogowski, the outstanding Observerland wrestler of 1998, Brocc Naysmith and Mitch Han-

MAT PREVIEW

Is it a coincidence that the wrestling squad may be able to match the football team's feat? Not necessarily, according to CC coach Mike Rodriguez.

"I think the two programs complement each other," he said. "I think the tenacity they get from wrestling helps them in football. And the good winning attitude and competition from football helps them in wrestling."

Rodriguez isn't too concerned about some of his star wrestlers starting late.

"This is not the first time the football team has gone this far and we've had wrestlers start

late," he added. "The football season was long and will certainly drain them physically at the beginning of the wrestling season. Luckily we have a long season and they should all be ready come time for March (the state tournament)."

Some came to practice for the first time Monday as a result of the football team's title run. One of those to walk in was senior Casey Rogowski, who won the state title last season at heavyweight.

Rogowski, now in his second year at heavyweight, went undefeated in 45 matches last season despite not being ranked in a statewide poll throughout the year.

Rogowski is 100 percent after suffering a broken leg early in football season and his goal for

the season is simple.

"To repeat as state champ," Rodriguez said. "That's the only direction Casey knows."

Also walking in to practice for the first time was senior Brocc Naysmith. The 215-pounder walked right back out of the room, according to Rodriguez.

"He was smart," Rodriguez said. "It's a different atmosphere to change uniforms from one sport to another."

Naysmith, Rodriguez's grandson, posted a 40-4 record last season and has a 99-12 career mark. He will attempt to win his fourth consecutive Catholic League title this season.

Another returning grappler is junior Mitch Hancock, a two-time first-team All Area wrestler. He finished 44-6 last season and fourth in the state

after losing to the eventual 135-pound champion by a mere point in the semifinals.

This season, Hancock will wrestle at 152 and try to improve his career mark of 92-8.

"Mitch is bigger and stronger this season and a state title is not out of his reach," Rodriguez said.

Senior John Abshire, another state qualifier and a third-team All-Area wrestler, returns at 189 pounds. Waiting in Abshire's wings will be junior Andrew Conlin.

Arguably CC's smartest wrestler, junior Jess Norman, will compete at 171 pounds. Norman is also a member of CC's Quiz Bowl team.

At 160 pounds, two freshmen will compete for time: Brian Jackett and Blake Naysmith.

Junior Sean Bell, a third team All-Area wrestler last season, will wrestle at 145.

"Sean lost in the districts last season, and has been ready to get back out there and atone for that loss," Rodriguez said. "He even snuck into the wrestling

room during football season."

Sophomore Mike Werner, who won the district title as a freshman, will compete at 140.

Rodriguez has a problem at the 135 class - too much talent. The foursome of seniors Ron Sarata and Jeff Wheeler, sophomore Andy Lendrum and freshman Jay Abshire will compete for time.

Other wrestlers for CC include: junior Peter Mazzaresse at 130; and sophomores Chris Petersen at 125, Josh Crawford at 119, Tom Buddenborg at 112 and Chris O'Hara at 108.

"This is the year we've been waiting for here," Rodriguez said. "There will be very tough competition as usual, but this is by far one of the best teams we've had here in 10 years. We've been waiting for this type of talent to stay around for four years and compete as seniors."

If Rodriguez has a concern, it will be at the lower weights, but the coach has had fewer things to worry about thanks to coaching additions Sam Amine and his two sons, Dave and Chris.

Canton preview from C1

the insertion of a pin; as a sophomore, he was a state regional qualifier.

Pocock showed "tremendous improvement" last season while posting an 18-15 match record and qualifying for the state regional tournament.

Others to watch are brothers Dan and Jim Shelton (145-152), seniors who have both "gotten a whole lot more serious about their wrestling," according to Demsick; senior Jared Chapman, a second-year competitor at 215/heavyweight who has the ability to do extremely well "if he applies himself"; and sophomore Kyle Pitt, a 103-pounder who has grown into his weight class. As a freshman, Pitt competed at 103, but weighed only 87 pounds.

What Demsick has been able to do is create an interest in his sport. He estimated that perhaps 60 kids came out for the team. The current roster has 34 mem-

bers; Demsick plans to keep 30, at a minimum.

He also has a coaching staff of six (including John-Peter) to help with the training, several with varsity coaching experience.

"We're not going to be a big dual-meet team," said Demsick. "Last year, our goal was to get out of the bottom three at tournaments, and we did that. This year, we want to get to the middle of the pack."

Modest goals, perhaps, but Demsick is attempting to build the program from the bottom up, and he realizes it may take time. "We're trying to be a team that has a lot more conditioning than in the past," the Canton coach said. "And we're going to stress drilling, too, and strength management and strength building."

It's a tough trail, but it's no more difficult than that traveled by Demsick himself in pursuit of a national championship.

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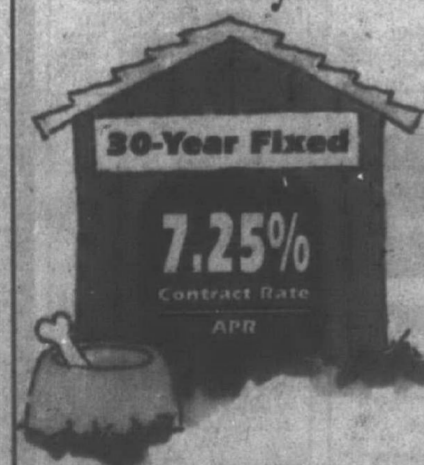
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BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
skowalski@ecm.com

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Borgess stops Sandusky in quarters

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
skowalski@oe.homedomain.net

Hampton Inn is a popular motel chain, but on Tuesday night it was a phrase often heard from the mouth of Redford Bishop Borgess girls basketball coach Dave Mann.

"Hampton, inn," is what Mann would say when he'd need a spark off the bench from freshman forward Raechelle Pleasant, the site of the Final Four. Borgess, the defending Class C state champion with a 16-10 record and 10-game winning streak, meets Freeland in a semifinal at 2:50 p.m. Thursday at Central Michigan University's Rose Arena.

Freeland, a 52-44 winner over Grand Rapids Baptist in another quarterfinal, is 23-2 overall. The final is at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Hampton doesn't care if she sits or plays, but was glad to contribute.

"If me sitting on the bench

makes us win, I'll do it," she said. "I played more than I expected tonight."

Hampton and another freshman, 6-foot-1 center Joel Clyburn, should form a formidable frontline in the future.

"Raechelle really gave us a lift and when she scores it's a bonus," Mann said. "I didn't play her last week, not because she's not playing well or because I don't have confidence in her, but because the kids I had on the floor I was comfortable with."

Mann couldn't get comfortable against Sandusky until late in the third quarter when consecutive baskets by senior guard Tiffany Simon gave the Spartans a 35-26 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

Borgess started the fourth quarter on a 12-2 run, highlighted by three layups off steals by sophomore guard Michelle Catchings, for a commanding 47-28 lead.

The run also included a basket after a delay in the half-court offense by Simon and two buckets in the paint by sophomore forward DeShawna Hoskins.

"They're so aggressive and physical, we just couldn't handle it," Sandusky coach Al DeMott said. "I still had a good feeling (down 31-26) but a couple quick turnovers turned into layups. That's what concerned us, their scoring off defense."

"We hit our peak at the end of the year and I'd like to go one more step (in the state playoffs) but I'm extremely proud of them."

The teams were tied at 8 after one quarter before Borgess had scoring runs of seven and six points in the second quarter to enjoy a 21-14 halftime lead.

Sandusky's best players are juniors, Marcy Bissett and Julie Guttowski. Bissett led the Redskins with 13 points, 11 after halftime. Guttowski had all eight of the Redskins' first-quarter points and 12 overall.

Guttowski didn't play in last year's quarterfinal because of an injury.

"I said (to his players) 'Their guards

can all shoot and 32 (Guttowski) is back in full force," Mann said. "Al is such a great coach, one of the best in the state, and there are certain coaches that no matter how athletic we are, they are good enough to negate the things we do. They frustrate you and hold the ball so long."

Simon had 16 to lead Borgess and Catchings added 14, 10 in the second half. Hoskins added eight and Amber Taylor six.

Sophomore forward Stacy Cobbs had a handful of rebounds and one point, totals that are shy of her averages.

She also had an excuse.

"I got my immunization shots today and my arm is a little lazy," she said. "I got three in this arm today and it's still aching."

Cobbs wore a Band-Aid over the shots, which must have been another distraction for opponents. Remember, she's already wearing an ear plug in one of her ears to keep it from popping.

Whalers from C1

Friday, and goalie Craig Kowalski had 25 saves in earning his second shutout of the season.

In Saturday's win over St. Louis, Troy Milam and J.J. Swistak each got their second goals of the weekend. The Sting's Aaron Smith scored in the first period to end his team's string of 167 consecutive scoreless minutes against Compuware.

Whalers from C1

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IN GIRLS BASKETBALL

victory at Troy Athens.

Sandusky, 20-4 overall, has lost to Borgess in three of the last six quarterfinals, including last year's.

The win means the Spartans could make reservations (at the Hampton Inn, just for good luck?) again for Mount Pleasant, the site of the Final Four. Borgess, the defending Class C state champion with a 16-10 record and 10-game winning streak, meets Freeland in a semifinal at 2:50 p.m. Thursday at Central Michigan University's Rose Arena.

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SPORTS NEWS

PCJBA sign-up

The Plymouth-Canton Junior Basketball Association will have its high school registration from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 5 at East Middle School.

This registration is for boys and girls in grades 9-12. Cost is \$100 per person.

Shock registration

The Detroit Shock will have tryouts for girls AAU basketball teams from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Oakland Community College-Auburn Hills campus. Tryouts will be for girls in four age divisions: those born in 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986. Coaches for the Shock teams have experience in taking their squads to the AAU Nationals.

There will be a \$5 registration charge at the door. For more information, call: Rich (1983 age group) at (810) 786-1417; Larry (1984 group) at (248) 620-0238; Stacy (1985 group) at (810) 636-2006; or John (1986) at (248) 693-8943.

Gymnastics invitational

The Michigan Academy of Gymnastics is hosting its 20th Christmas Classic Invitational competition Dec. 11-13 at the gymnastics facility.

Girls 8-18 from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan will compete for individual and team awards in Compulsory Levels 5 and 6 plus Optional Levels 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Michigan Academy, owned and operated by Douglas Rowe, is at 5870 North Hix, between Ford and Warren Roads. For more information, call 721-4001.

Poglits impressive

Freshman Sarah Poglits (Livonia Ladywood) of Loyola University Chicago was named to the All-Newcomer women's volleyball team and Second Team in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference.

Poglits ranked in the MCC's top 10 in kills per game with a 3.02 per-game average and had a .269 regular season hitting percentage good for seventh in the league.

She also had 112 total blocks with a single-game high of nine and averaged 1.66 digs per game.

The Ramblers were second in the MCC tournament Nov. 23 and Poglits was one of two team members selected to the All-Tournament squad.

Anyone interested in submitting items to Sports Scene or Sports Roundup may send them to sports editor C.J. Risak, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150, or may FAX them to (734) 591-7279.

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Outgoing DWCM, 38, 5'7", 110lbs., a green-eyed blonde, who enjoys working out, dining out, movies, reading and the outdoors, is looking for a handsome SWCM, 37-45. Ad# 5165

GIVE LOVE A CHANCE

SWF, 35, enjoys gardening, animals and spectator sports. She would like to meet a SWM, N/S, who likes meaningful conversations. Hopefully, a serious relationship will develop. Ad# 3693

GOOD LISTENER

Here's a laid-back, but fun DB mom, 34, 5', who's waiting to hear from a SBM, 32-42, who loves children and going to church. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, long conversations and dining. Ad# 1234

THOUGHTFUL

Catholic DWF, 56, 5'2", a green-eyed blonde, seeks a loving WWWW, 51-60, N/S, who enjoys picnics in the park, travel, family barbecues, dining out, music and more. Ad# 1863

THE POWER OF LOVE

SWF, 57, 5'4", full-figured, who enjoys music, traveling, movies, long walks and more, is looking for a sincere, compassionate SWM, 52-62. Ad# 7141

FRIENDSHIP

Catholic SWF, 31, 5'2", with red hair and green eyes, is seeking a Catholic SWM, 30-38, who enjoys movies, the theater, music, biking, rollerblading and more. Ad# 1010

KINDRED SPIRIT

Outgoing, friendly DWF, 50, 5'6", medium-built, with blonde hair, who likes jazz and R&B music, concerts, dining out and quiet nights, is seeking an honest SCM, 50-64, for a long-term relationship. Ad# 4224

SHARE MY WORLD

Catholic SWF, 48, 5'3", is looking for a Catholic SWM, 40-55, without children at home, for fun and a possible relationship. She likes bowling and social events. Ad# 9642

MEANT TO BE

Sincere SWF, 49, 5'4", with green eyes, is looking to share interests and friendship with a caring, considerate SWM, 50-54. Ad# 3161

QUIET EVENINGS

Never-married SWCF, 33, 5'8", with brown hair and blue eyes, loves the outdoors, concerts, movies and line dancing. She seeks a never-married SWCM, 28-36. Ad# 2933

TAKE NOTE

Professional SWF, 28, 5'6", slender, is looking to share interests and a long-term relationship with an adventurous, level-headed SWM, 24-31. Ad# 3656

THE MARRYING KIND

SWCF, 35, 5'9", who enjoys dining out, movies, concerts, traveling and church activities, is seeking a SWCM, 30-45, for friendship first, possible long-term relationship. Ad# 2436

FAMILY-ORIENTED

Catholic DWF, 49, 5'7", with brown hair/eyes, who enjoys sports, concerts, movies, dining out and the outdoors, seeks an honest, sincere, Catholic D/WWW, 45-55, N/S. Ad# 5689

IS THAT YOU?

Secure Catholic DWF, 48, 5'1", who enjoys long walks and weekend getaways, is seeking a warm, compassionate SWM, 46-54, who enjoys life. Ad# 2223

DO YOU QUALIFY?

Caring, petite SWF, 70, who enjoys playing cards, dancing, bowling, traveling and dining out, wants to meet a happy SWM, 68-72, N/S, to spend time with. Ad# 7127

SIMPLY MARVELOUS

Down-to-earth, Born-Again DWCF, 44, 5'3", with blonde hair and blue eyes, N/S, enjoys bicycling, Bible studies, dancing and more. She is seeking a compatible Born-Again DWCM, 35-50. Ad# 4240

TOO MUCH TO LIST

DWF, 39, 5'1", with brown hair and green eyes, who enjoys camping, fishing, bowling, dancing and sports, is seeking a SWM under 50, to spend time with. Ad# 6345

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST

Professional and spontaneous DWF, 41, 5'3", with blonde hair and blue eyes, is seeking a SWM, 38-48, who enjoys dining out, music and movies, the outdoors and more. Ad# 2375

TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL

This Born-Again SWCF, 30, 5'6", 125lbs., with blonde hair and blue eyes, enjoys Bible study, is hoping to get together with a SWM, 25-45, for a possible relationship. Ad# 4956

AMAZING GRACE

Pretty WWWCF, 50, 5'3", slender, with blonde hair and green eyes, enjoys dancing, movies, bowling, country drives. She seeks a tall, handsome DWCM, 45-50, 5'10", without kids at home. Ad# 2130

HOPES & DREAMS

Soft-spoken DWF, 21, 5'2", with blonde hair and green eyes, enjoys the outdoors, theater, music and more. She is looking for a romantic SWM, 20-33, who likes children. Ad# 5253

SHARE HER DREAMS

Energetic, educated DWF, 27, 5'8", with blonde hair and blue eyes, who enjoys bicycling, working out, swimming and horseback riding, seeks a SWCM, age unimportant. Ad# 3919

FIT AND TRIM

Professional, educated SWCF, 34, 5'1", with brown hair/eyes, who enjoys outdoor activities, church functions and dining out, is seeking a SWCM, 30-45. Ad# 2164

STRESS FREE LIVING

Professional SWCF, 32, 5'3", who enjoys dining out, movies, traveling, music, cooking and gardening, is seeking a SWCM, 28-39, to share life with. Ad# 7286

EXTRA NICE

Pleasant and employed WWWCF, 63, 5'4", with blonde hair and blue eyes, who loves walking, cooking, country music, and is active in Bible study. She is looking for a WWWCM, 56-65, with similar interests. Ad# 3824

FRIENDS FIRST

Meet this energetic, outgoing, full-figured, well-employed SBC mom, 38, 5'3", who enjoys long moonlit walks, dining out and meaningful conversation, is in search of a SBCM, 30-45, who likes children. Ad# 1437

FRIENDS FIRST

Attractive DWCF, 48, 5'3", is in search of a SWCM, 44-55, who enjoys dining out, sports and long romantic walks. Ad# 7081

NEW BEGINNINGS

Sincere DWCM mom of one, 40, 5'4", who enjoys art, movies and romance, is looking for a SWCM, 40-51, with similar interests. Ad# 9135

AT THIS POINT OF LIFE

Are you interested in meeting a special lady? I'm an outgoing, friendly SWF, 34, 5'5", who enjoys photography, art, a variety of music and movies, going to church and all outdoor activities. I would like to enjoy the company of a SWM, 33-38. Ad# 6155

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Affectionate, caring Catholic DWF, 50, 5'4", who enjoys dancing, gardening, movies, indoor and outdoor activities, is in search of an affectionate, Catholic SWM, 45-55, with good morals. Ad# 1217

DIVERSE INTERESTS

DWC mom of two, 47, 5'3", with dark hair, who enjoys the outdoors, biking, reading, music, Bible study and the outdoors, is seeking a SWCM, for a possible relationship. Ad# 7388

SPECIAL LADY

You'll have a great time with this outgoing, loving SWF, 35, 5'9", N/S, who enjoys church, movies, concerts, sporting events, quiet times and more. If you are a secure SWM, 35-42, N/S, who shares similar interests, call now. Ad# 1963

TRUE BLUE

She's an outgoing, attractive SBCF, 45, 5'4", 135lbs., who enjoys personal growth, traveling, reading and is in search of a spiritual, educated SBCM, 40-53, with similar interests. Ad# 1652

MY SPECIAL SOMEONE?

Professional, brown-eyed WWWF, 51, 5'3", who enjoys traveling, the outdoors and quiet evenings at home. She seeks a caring, romantic SWM, under 58, for a possible relationship. Ad# 4641

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Tall, dark, handsome SWM, 40, 5'10", who enjoys sports and physical activities, is looking to share interests and a meaningful friendship with an outgoing, sincere, attractive SWF, age unimportant. Ad# 3931

HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY Pick up the phone and call this easygoing Born-Again DWCM of one, 36, 6'2", with brown hair and blue eyes. He enjoys boating, swimming, romantic times and is hoping to start a relationship with an honest DAF, 30-45, children definitely welcome. Ad# 6683

SAYING MY PRAYERS

Outgoing, family-oriented, Catholic SWM, 24, 5'3", never-married, who enjoys the outdoors and sports, wants to meet a compatible, Catholic SWF, 21-28. Ad# 4322

JUST LIKE YOU

Professional SBCM, 36, 5'5", 155lbs., is seeking a humorous, outgoing, never-married SCF, 27-38, N/S, childless, who loves the Lord. Ad# 7474

GO OUT WITH ME

Caring, affectionate and educated DWCM, 38, 6', is looking to meet a SWCF, under 38, who likes dining out, watching movies and going to plays. Ad# 1991

MONOGAMOUS

Catholic DWM, 42, 5'9", who enjoys dining out, movies, the outdoors and more, seeks a Catholic SWF, 33-48. Ad# 2753

CAN YOU RELATE?

He's a Catholic SWM, 42, 5'8", with brown hair and blue eyes, who's educated, employed and outgoing. He enjoys music, the arts and being around family and friends. He seeks a passionate and caring SWF, 27-42, who enjoys similar interests. Ad# 4242

FRESH START

Humorous SWM, 38, 6', with dark hair and blue eyes, who enjoys reading, dining out, golf and more, is looking for an attractive SWF, 25-40, who has good values, for a possible relationship. Ad# 8860

DEDICATION OF LOVE

Never-married SWM, 41, 6', who enjoys dining out, movies, sports, working out and outdoor activities, is seeking a slender D/SWF, 25-40, with similar interests. Ad# 2799

JUST YOU AND I

Catholic SWM, 40, 6'1", 195lbs., with brown hair/eyes, is searching for a SWF, 29-39, to share laughter, photography, music, movies and more. Ad# 1907

IT COULD BE YOU!

SBCM, 28, 5', who enjoys dining out, sporting events and good conversation, is seeking a SBCF, 18-30, who enjoys life. Ad# 7453

SOMEONE JUST LIKE YOU

Down-to-earth, attractive, family-oriented DWM, 45, 6', 185lbs., is in search of a SF, age unimportant, who enjoys the outdoors, exercise, the arts and more. Ad# 1050

DELIGHTFUL

You might want to meet this never-married Catholic SWM, 50, 5'11", 180lbs., who is active in his church choir. He also enjoys kids, dancing, walking, movies, music and good conversation. He wants to meet a good SWCF, under 50, for possible marriage. Ad# 3580

ALL IN TIME

Outgoing, professional SWM, 34, 5'9", who enjoys outdoor activities and good conversation, is in search of a SF, under 40, who enjoys life. Ad# 1478

NEED A COUNTRY GAL

Financially secure, fun DW dad, 38, 6'4", 215lbs., whose hobbies include baseball and boating, seeks a SWF, 28-40. Ad# 7234

ENJOY LIFE WITH ME

Handsome SBCM, 24, 5'9", is seeking a beautiful, caring SBCF, 22-35, who enjoys dining out, spending time with friends, the outdoors and more. Ad# 3615

WAITING IN BELLEVILLE

This open-minded, exuberant 45-year-old SBCM, 5'11", 185lbs., N/S, drug-free, never-married, is in search of an attractive, sincere, slender to medium-built SCF, 21-45, for a possible serious relationship. Ad# 2730

SHARE MY WORLD

SWC dad of one, 43, 6', a professional, who enjoys dining out, music and movies, the outdoors and family activities, is searching for a SWCF, under 40, for a lifetime of happiness. Ad# 2100

SEARCHING

SWM, 60, 5'5", 165lbs., with brown hair/eyes, who enjoys long walks, movies, flea markets and art galleries, seeks a medium-built SWF, 54-62. Ad# 2526

HEART TO HEART

Outgoing, friendly SWCM, 34, 5'9", is searching for a SWCF, over 24, who enjoys the outdoors, good conversation and old-fashioned fun. Ad# 4163

FOCUS HERE

I'm a well-built SWM, 27, 6'3", 240lbs., with brown hair and eyes, who enjoys quiet times. I'm seeking a loving, humorous SWF, 23-35, for possible relationship. Ad# 5150

SOMEONE SPECIAL FOR ME

He is a fun-loving, sincere, passionate, romantic, athletic SWM, 26, 6'2", who enjoys movies, dining out and spending time with friends. He is searching for a slender SWF, 22-45. Ad# 2222

JUST YOU AND I

Catholic SWM, 44, 6', who enjoys youth ministry, seeks a slender, Catholic S/DWF, 25-40, who is marriage-minded, fun-loving and sincere. Ad# 4232

IT HAS TO BE YOU

Handsome SWM, 44, 6'1", 190lbs., who enjoys outdoor activities, dining out and quiet times at home, is searching for a slender, romantic SWF, 28-44. Ad# 1313

A TRUE GENTLEMAN

Hardworking Catholic SWM, 29, 6', is searching for a Catholic SWF, over 23, who is romantic and kind, patient with children and the elderly, loves horses and puppies. Ad# 3208

A TRUE ROMANTIC

SWM, 46, 6'1", with brown hair and green eyes, is seeking a SWF, 36-49, who enjoys music, movies, camping, family activities and sports. Ad# 3121

FRIENDLY NATURE

Professional, Catholic SWM, 36, 5'10", with a good sense of humor, enjoys working out and romantic dinners. He is in search of a fit, Catholic SWF, 23-36, with similar interests. Ad# 7001

JUST YOU AND I

Handsome SBM, 35, 5'5", 155lbs., seeks a SCF, 25-37, with a great personality. He enjoys Bible study, bowling and playing tennis. Ad# 8989

OLD-FASHIONED

Friendly DBC dad of two, 47, 6'4", who enjoys singing in church choir, Bible study, sports and cooking, seeks a family-oriented, honest SBCF, 36-48, who puts God first. Ad# 1115

NEVER-MARRIED, CHILDLESS

Born-Again SWCM, 35, 5'10", 165lbs., blond with blue eyes, is a drug/alcohol-free N/S. His interests are Bible study, working out and rollerblading. He's searching for a physically fit, open, caring SWCF, 29-35, who truly loves God. Ad# 6335

SENSE OF HUMOR INCLUDED

Energetic, professional DWCM, 42, 5'11", enjoys social activities, traveling to Las Vegas, antiques and dining out, looking to meet an honest, sincere SCF, who has similar interests, age unimportant. Ad# 9009

ON THE LEVEL

If you want to know more about me, respond to my ad. I'm a SWCM, 42, 5'6", with dark hair and eyes. I enjoy a variety of interests. I'm seeking a SWF, for friendship, and companionship. Ad# 5245

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OUTGOING

This friendly SWCM, 58, 6', 195lbs., brown hair, green eyes, would like to meet a slender SWCF, 50-65, who's interested in a long-term relationship. Ad# 1546

STILL LOOKING

SBC dad, 20, 6', who enjoys basketball, is seeking a compatible SBCF, 22-40, preferably never-married and childless. Ad# 1470

BORN-AGAIN

Outgoing and friendly, he's a professional DBC dad of two, 42, 6'2", 182lbs., who enjoys Bible study, travel, golf, music and seeks an attractive, fit, mature SCF, 28-40, without children, for fellowship which may lead to more. Ad# 1204

BACK TO BASICS

Outgoing SBC dad, 20, 6', who enjoys music, movies and family activities, seeks a SWF, for friendship and fun. Ad# 1564

COMMON BOND

Outgoing and friendly, he's a professional WWCW, 59, 6'2", whose interests include Bible study, golf, reading, theater, dining out and lots of laughter. He's seeking a special SWCF, 50-60, for companionship. Ad# 5845

ANGELS WELCOME

This attentive Catholic SWM, 44, 5'10", who is a good conversationalist and has a wide variety of interests, is in search of a caring, affectionate Catholic SWF, 33-49. Ad# 4455

BACK TO THE BASICS

Here's a DWCM, 40, 5'11", looking for a SWCF, 34-50, who enjoys outdoor activities, dining out, movies, and travel. Ad# 1001

IF GIVEN THE CHANCE...

I could be the one you've always dreamed of. I'm an handsome, professional SBCM, 37, 6'2", 215lbs., in search of an attractive, established, emotionally mature SWCF, 24-43. Ad# 1998

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M Male B Black
D Divorced F Female
H Hispanic C Christian
W White A Asian
S Single WW Widowed
N/S Non-smoker
NA Native American

Service provided by
Christian Meeting Place, Inc.
5678 Main Street, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221

Christian Meeting Place is available exclusively for single people seeking relationships with others of common faith. We reserve the right to edit or refuse any ad. Please employ discretion and caution. Screen respondents carefully, avoid solitary meetings, and meet only in public places. GF LG

CAUTION!

Observer & Eccentric

To place your FREE Personal Scene ad, call 1-800-518-5445 or mail us the coupon

To listen and respond to any Personal Scene ad, call 1-900-773-6789

Call costs \$1.98 a minute. You must be 18 or older. Follow the simple directions and you will be able to hear more about the people whose ads interest you. Or, you can browse ads by category. With one call you can leave as many messages as you like. You may call any time, 24 hours a day. Service provided by TR: 1-800-518-5445.

Respond to Personals instantly using your **CREDIT CARD!**
call 1-877-253-4898
Call costs \$1.98 per minute.
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Call from any phone, anywhere, anytime. Must be 18 or older.

ing
9-3639
ur Own Ad
FREE!
4 Hours a Day
7 Days a Week

ing,
lonal,
SWM, 29,
s, with light
r and blue eyes,
orts, biking, music
like to meet a slen-
F, 23-32, who has
ps. Ad#8866.

OUTGOING
dy SWCM, 58, 6',
own hair, green eyes,
to meet a slender
-65, who's interested
g-term relationship.

ILL LOOKING
20, 6', who enjoys
is seeking a compat-
F, 22-40, preferably
ried and childless.

BORN-AGAIN
and friendly, he's a
al DBC dad of two,
182lbs., who enjoys
y, travel, golf, music
as an attractive, fit,
CF, 28-40, without chil-
dren, relationship may
be. Ad#1204

CK TO BASICS
SBC dad, 20, 6', who
isic, movies and fami-
s, seeks a SWF, for
and fun. Ad#1564

COMMON BOND
and friendly, he's a
al WWCM, 59, 6'2",
interests include Bible
y, reading, theater, din-
and lots of laughter.
ing a special SWCF,
for companionship.

GELS WELCOME
ntive Catholic SWM,
who is a good conver-
t and has a wide vari-
ety, is in search of a
affectionate Catholic
49. Ad#4455

CK TO THE BASICS
DWCM, 40, 5'11",
or a SWCF, 34-50, who
enjoys outdoor activities, dining
ovies, and travel.

EN THE CHANCE...
be the one you've
dreamed of. I'm an
e, professional SBGM,
215lbs., in search of an
established, emotion-
ure SWCF, 24-43.

ad by recording your voice
call 1-800-773-6789, 24
hours a day!

ads or leave your message
23-1118, \$1.98 per minute.

through personal voice
call 1-800-933-1118, \$1.98 per
option 2.

on to messages, call
3638, enter option 2, once a
FREE, or call 1-800-933-1118,
minute.

o or, if you choose, leave a
for your Suitable System
call 1-800-933-1118, \$1.98 per

ete confidentiality, give your
al Mailbox Number instead of
the number when you leave a
call 1-800-933-1118, \$1.98 per
listen to responses left for you
when your replies were picked

change or cancel your ad, call
service at 716-633-3209.

h your local phone company
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ling the 900s.

was deleted, re-record your
remembering NOT to use a
one. Also please do NOT use
uage or, leave your last name,
telephone number.

ad will appear in the paper
after you record your voice

Service provided by
riton Meeting Place, Inc.
Street, Williamsport, N.Y. 14221

Meeting Place is available
for single people seeking rela-
tionships of common faith. We
the right to edit or refuse any
respondents carefully, avoid sol-
utions, and meet only in public
places.

1127

WWW.ADVILLAGE.COM

AD OF THE WEEK

STARGAZER

Shapely WF, 48, brunette, no depen-
dencies, seeks intelligent, educated
WM, who enjoys looking at the stars,
enjoying on weekends, and lively con-
versations. Friends list. Rochester
area. #17172

LOVELY IN WESTLAND

Franchised, active SWCF, 50, 5'4",
slightly overweight, blushing down,
NYS, ND, seeks SWCM, 40-45, for
franchise and companionship. possi-
ble LTR. #17181

LET'S PLOW TOGETHER

This fabulous blue-eyed blonde would
love to take a ride in a truck. 30-
40, who loves kids, is and attractive
and outgoing. #17182

LOOKING FOR SAITA

SWF, 44, 5'7", brown hair, NYS, enjoys
sports, jazz, C&W, quiet times at home.
Seeking romantic, honest, family-or-
iented SWCM, 38-54, 5'7", NYS. All
calls will be answered. #17183

GREAT PERSON

Attractive SF, 50, 5'7", 150lbs, NYS, edu-
cated, employed, no dependents, seeks
one great male, 40-55, HW propo-
sition. NYS a must, for monogamous
relationship. Please open, must live
close. #17184

WHAT A COMEYATION

Tall, thin, fiery-tempered SF, 30,
blonde/brunette, passionate lover, great
friend. Impressive to look at. Even bet-
ter to converse and/or debate with. Did
I mention confident? Call me. #17185

PROVERBS 3-15

41, 5'10", 150lbs, NYS, non-drinker,
Christian, successful, dealer company of
quality gentlemen, for sharing and car-
ing. Bloomfield area. #17186

GREAT PERSON

Black female, 40, 5'0", 150lbs, NYS, edu-
cated, employed, no dependents, seeks
one great male, 40-55, HW propo-
sition. NYS a must, for monogamous
relationship. Please open, must live
close. #17187

SWF BUILT TO LAST

1963 limited edition, Shapely, sporty
model, enjoys romance, spontaneous
excursions, or taking back in neutral.
Think Corvette, Honda Accord, book-
crazy, yoga mat. Seeking ambitious
SWM, to co-pilot across his roads.
#17188

SLEEPLESS IN LYONIA

DWCF, 27, 5'3", fun-loving, caring, loves
movies, dining, bowling, Red Wings.
Seeking a fun-loving, caring gentleman,
28-35, for a relationship. #17189

MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

DWCF, 44, financially secure, profes-
sional musician, easy, classy, blonde/
brunette, seeks romantic, outgoing,
secure, college-educated SWCM, 32-
50, passion for life, for a possible LTR.
#17190

BEAUTIFUL SMILE

Very slender, blonde, slender, de-
greded DWCF, 47, enjoys sports, con-
certs, movies, laughter. Seeking tall, at-
tractive, healthy, decent, spontaneous,
sporty, confident, DWCF, 48-54, with
sense of humor. Birmingham area.
#17191

I WOULDN'T

ask anyone to do anything that I couldn't
do. Imaginative, educated SF, mid-50s,
5'6", blonde/green, slim, sweet dispo-
sition, self-supported. Bakes good Tooty
Fruity cookies. DWCF, 48-54, Real and
fun conversation. Commitment if right
#17192

WAITING FOR YOUR CALL

Widowed WF, 52, blonde/brunette,
NYS, social drinker, financially indepen-
dent, seeks romantic, caring man,
40-55, good sense of humor. #17193

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Widowed WF, 52, blonde/brunette,
NYS, social drinker, financially indepen-
dent, seeks romantic, caring man,
40-55, good sense of humor. #17194

COULD CONNECT...

with tall, HW professional, secure, de-
greded DWCF, 47, with hair. Pretty,
dark-haired SWCF, 40s, 5'4", 115lbs,
with varied interests, great legs
and good hair, would like to talk with
you. #17195

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE LADY

European-born, refined, giving, loving,
educated, young 50s, 5'7", good leg-
s, NYS, many interests, seeks gen-
tleman, 40-55, with sense of humor, car-
ing, intelligent, secure, NYS, for lasting
relationship. #17196

BUSINESS OWNER WANTED

by very pretty, full-figured, blue-eyed,
blonde SF, youthful 48, 5'6", smoker,
lives in Troy, seeks someone for co-
operation, for business. #17197

PRETTY LADY

Classy, slender, youthful, playful, in-
telligent, professional SWF, 5'2", brown/
brunette, non-smoker, seeks educated PM,
40s, emotionally/financially secure,
LTR interest for coffee and see what hap-
pens. #17198

COMPANION A BEST FRIEND

SWCF, 45, 130lbs, blonde, NYS, seeks
SWCM, 40-54, young, seeks SWCM, ex-
ercise, like myself. A little bit of humor as
a little bit of humor. #17199

GENTLEMAN ONLY

I'm pretty, slender, tall, very intelligent,
refined, fun, smoker, 52. Seeking in-
telligent, tall, articulate, classy, confident,
gentleman, 30-40, seeking someone for
cozy dinner dates with good con-
versation. #17200

A PRINCE OF JUNGLE FEVER

Complete preference, not novelty. DWCF,
30, pretty, independent, happy, seri-
ous woman of substance, seeks fran-
chisably/romantically secure black gen-
tleman, late 30s, for monogamous, phys-
ical and mental health. #17201

STARTING OVER

DWCF, 43, 5'10", NYS, HW propo-
sition, seeking romantic, South Lyon Area,
enjoys swimming, sailing, boating, can-
tas, traveling. Seeking honest, loyal
SWM, NYS, NYS. #17202

FRIENDSHIP SEARCH

SWCF, 40s, blonde, NYS, loves
laughing, home movies, long drives.
Seeking someone with whom to share
friendship, possible LTR. #17203

THE CALL YOU WON'T REGRET

Maternal, kind-hearted, quiet SWF, 52, 5',
160lbs, enjoys books and movies,
seeks ambitious SWCM, 24-30, for friend-
ship and romance. #17204

WANT TO FALL IN LOVE?

SWF, 38, brown hair, enjoys cooking,
going to North, boating, dancing, seeks
humorous, trustworthy, sensitive, phys-
ically fit, Catholic SWCM, 28-40, 6', NYS,
for friendship, possible LTR. #17205

STILL LOOKING

SWF, 38, 5'7", enjoys doing out, dirt,
bike, enjoys movies, dancing, seeking
SWCM, 28-35, who is not afraid of a com-
mitment. #17206

TAKE A CHANCE

Widowed lady, young 50s, blonde/blue,
NYS, HW propo, seeks romantic, NYS,
active, seeking someone, serious, work-
ing, two kids, seeks someone, serious,
free to spend with loving, caring white
gentleman, 30s. #17207

LOVELY IN WESTLAND

Franchised, active SWCF, 50, 5'4",
slightly overweight, blushing down,
NYS, ND, seeks SWCM, 40-45, for
franchise and companionship. possi-
ble LTR. #17208

WHERE ARE YOU?

Employed, active DWCF, 58, 5'4", 145lb,
with varied interests, has searched for
and waits for a SWM interested in LTR.
I haven't found you yet. #17209

TURNED OF BEING LOVELY?

Attractive DWCF, 50, 5'4", brown/
blue, NYS, financially secure, seeks
SWCM, 40-55, who enjoys sports, travel,
and romance. Seeking attractive, hon-
est, caring, compassionate SWCM, 40-
55, for friendship, for friendship,
leading to LTR. #17210

SHARE MY LIFE

Early, easygoing, independent, cre-
ative, young-at-heart SWCF, 48, 5'10",
enjoys sports, dining, sports, travel,
and romance. Seeking attractive, hon-
est, caring, compassionate SWCM, 40-
55, for friendship, for friendship,
leading to LTR. #17211

EXPRESSIVE

Youthful, active, energetic, outgoing
SWF, 47, 5'7", 125lb, pretty, great
sense of humor, enjoys romance, laugh-
ing, fun in the sun. Seeking tall, hand-
some, secure SWCM, 40-55, who's not
afraid of commitment. HW or al-
cohol. #17212

COMPANION FOR HOLIDAYS

Pretty, proportionate, 54 years young
lady who loves life, travel, earth, ocean.
Self-believe in kindness and sharing.
Seeking tall, intelligent, emotionally
franchised, healthy gentleman to
enjoy the wonders of life with. #17213

PASSIONATE DOCTOR

Vivacious, SF, 30-something, 5'7",
170lbs, seeks monogamous relation-
ship, with an educated, financially se-
cure, gentleman. #17214

FRIENDS FIRST

DWCF, 31, red/green, 5'2", enjoys
some sports, Nascar, dancing, quiet
nights, and time with son. Seeking SF,
DWCF, 28-38, HW propo, with same
interests, for friends first, possi-
ble LTR. #17215

LET'S HONOR AROUND...

Urban courtier, 40, 5'7", blonde, water/
brown, home owner, NYS, loves vol-
leyball, wally ball, cross-country skiing,
hiking, travel. Seeking tall, fit male,
25-45, who is fun, for friendship. #17216

BOUNCE SEARCH

Attractive, passionate SF, seeks one
special man, 35+, to be friend, lover,
and companion. I know you are out there
seeking me. #17217

R U SELECTIVE?

Tall, attractive lady, HW propo, with
great sense of humor and lots of
TLC to share. Seeking tall, intelligent,
romantic, quality male, 35+, with
standards, who enjoys various activities.
#17218

LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT

Educated, financially secure SWCF,
Widowed, 40, 5'7", blonde/brunette,
NYS, social drinker, financially indepen-
dent, seeks romantic, caring man,
40-55, good sense of humor. #17219

COULD CONNECT...

with tall, HW professional, secure, de-
greded DWCF, 47, with hair. Pretty,
dark-haired SWCF, 40s, 5'4", 115lbs,
with varied interests, great legs
and good hair, would like to talk with
you. #17220

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE LADY

European-born, refined, giving, loving,
educated, young 50s, 5'7", good leg-
s, NYS, many interests, seeks gen-
tleman, 40-55, with sense of humor, car-
ing, intelligent, secure, NYS, for lasting
relationship. #17221

BUSINESS OWNER WANTED

by very pretty, full-figured, blue-eyed,
blonde SF, youthful 48, 5'6", smoker,
lives in Troy, seeks someone for co-
operation, for business. #17222

PRETTY LADY

Classy, slender, youthful, playful, in-
telligent, professional SWF, 5'2", brown/
brunette, non-smoker, seeks educated PM,
40s, emotionally/financially secure,
LTR interest for coffee and see what hap-
pens. #17223

COMPANION A BEST FRIEND

SWCF, 45, 130lbs, blonde, NYS, seeks
SWCM, 40-54, young, seeks SWCM, ex-
ercise, like myself. A little bit of humor as
a little bit of humor. #17224

GENTLEMAN ONLY

I'm pretty, slender, tall, very intelligent,
refined, fun, smoker, 52. Seeking in-
telligent, tall, articulate, classy, confident,
gentleman, 30-40, seeking someone for
cozy dinner dates with good con-
versation. #17225

A PRINCE OF JUNGLE FEVER

Complete preference, not novelty. DWCF,
30, pretty, independent, happy, seri-
ous woman of substance, seeks fran-
chisably/romantically secure black gen-
tleman, late 30s, for monogamous, phys-
ical and mental health. #17226

STARTING OVER

DWCF, 43, 5'10", NYS, HW propo-
sition, seeking romantic, South Lyon Area,
enjoys swimming, sailing, boating, can-
tas, traveling. Seeking honest, loyal
SWM, NYS, NYS. #17227

FRIENDSHIP SEARCH

SWCF, 40s, blonde, NYS, loves
laughing, home movies, long drives.
Seeking someone with whom to share
friendship, possible LTR. #17228

THE CALL YOU WON'T REGRET

Maternal, kind-hearted, quiet SWF, 52, 5',
160lbs, enjoys books and movies,
seeks ambitious SWCM, 24-30, for friend-
ship and romance. #17229

PRETTY NATURE LOVER

SWF, 42, 5'7", 127lbs, enjoys doing
active medicine, into soul growing, woods
walking, singing, natural health, laugh-
ing, spending time, 50s, I'm sporty,
unique, loving. Seeking NYS, and con-
nection SWM, 28-40. #17230

R U A ME?

DWCF, 57, 5'4", 125lb, long blonde,
enjoys movies, restaurants, crafts,
dancing, reading. Seeking SWCM, 50-
65, with similar interests. Friendship first,
possible LTR. #17231

LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT

Enjoys DWCF, 51, 5'7", medium
build, dark hair, never married, two
daughters (4 and 8). Seeking caring
SWCM, 40-55, for friendship, possible
LTR. #17232

WOMAN WITHOUT BAGGAGE

Attractive DWCF, 40, 5'7", blonde, NYS,
5'7", no dependents, ready to date, NYS,
enjoys animals, sports, outdoors,
humor, the zoo, romance. Seeking
franchised man in a SWM, 28-40, for
LTR. #17233

LOOKING FOR

THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE
SWCF, 51, 5'7", 125lb, brown eyes,
franchised, secure, enjoys outdoors,
travel, quiet at home evenings, seeks
SWCM, 40-55, who enjoys sports, travel,
and romance. Seeking attractive, hon-
est, caring, compassionate SWCM, 40-
55, for friendship, for friendship,
leading to LTR. #17234

CAMEL COMPLETED

College-educated African American
female, 35, financially secure, no chil-
dren, enjoys dining, movies, concerts.
Seeking SWM, 28-37, 6'4", for a LTR.
#17235

I AM WHO I AM

Full-figured DWCF, 40, brown/green,
smoker, hard-working, seeks an employ-
ment, ageless, independent, tall, caring,
for dining, travel, quiet times. #17236

LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT

SWF, 58, 5'4", 145lb, blonde/brunette,
NYS, social drinker, financially indepen-
dent, seeks romantic, caring man,
40-55, good sense of humor. #17237

ENTREPRENEUR

Pretty, successful, humorous, charming,
interesting, giving female, 52, enjoys
movies, plays, concerts, live dining,
cooking, boating, loves people. Seeking
suitable man in a SWCM, 40-55, for
LTR. #17238

DRAWN TO WIDOWERS

Real, pretty, smart, attractive female, 51,
red/blonde, enjoys movies, reading,
honest, moral, dignified, family, hon-
esty, dining, gardening, reading, walk-
ing. Seeking tall, intelligent, romanti-
cally, financially secure, NYS. #17239

PRETTY, FIT, AND HONEST

Humorous, romantic lady, 44, 5'4",
125lb, blonde/brunette, with a big heart,
but not too big or controlling. Seeking
a very handsome, fit, and honest gen-
tleman. #17240

ARE YOU READY TO GO...

on eagles wings? Do you believe all
things are possible including finding that
special someone? If you do believe
God call and let's fly together. Seeking
SWCM, 40-48, #17241

LADY IN WAITING

Good-looking, 40, DWCF, 5'7", 140lb,
NYS, enjoys traveling, movies, read-
ing, exercising, outdoor activities. Seeking
SWCM, NYS, with similar interests, for
friendship, possible LTR. #17242

SWF, 28, seeks mature, responsible

SWM, 28-35, for LTR only, must enjoy
music, romance and animals. Serious
relationship. #17243

INTROUING, IMPETUOUS

WF, 50s, 5'6", seeks a tall WM, 55+,
impulsive, creative, kind-hearted, who
enjoys the river, mountains, pine trees,
Chopin and Verdi. #17244

BEAUTIFUL

Big and beautiful DWCF, 40, NYS, ex-
quisite taste and light-hearted attitude
describe you and I, so let's meet
#17245

LIVE, LOVE, LAUGH

Attractive, full-figured DWCF, 45, 5'11",
enjoys traveling, and new adventures.
Seeking honest, caring, sincere, in-
telligent, fun loving, open minded SWM,
40-55, drug free, for possible LTR. #17246

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Pretty SWF, 28, 5'10", short brown
hair, enjoys dining, reading, movies,
theater, concerts, outdoor summer ac-
tivities, seeks SWCM, 28-35, with no
game, for friendship, relationship, possi-
ble marriage. Let's talk! #17247

WANTED: MAN IN UNIFORM

Lat-acted, caring DWCF, 24, enjoys mo-
vies, dancing, concerts, walks, dining
out. Seeking uniformed SWCM, 22-30,
for friendship, possible LTR. Kids ok

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

(To submit items for consideration in the Observer & Eccentric's Outdoor Calendar send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; fax information to (248) 644-1314 or send E-mail to bparker@oe.homecomm.net)

ARCHERY

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Western Wayne County Conservation Association will hold a 30-target 3D shoot on Sunday, Dec. 6, on its walk-through course in Plymouth. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Toys for Tots program. Call (313) 453-9843 for more information.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 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.

CLASSES

BASIC SKI TUNING

An instructional clinic covering the basics of edge and base conditioning, waxing and detuning your alpine or nordic skis begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, at REI in Northville. REI is located at 17559 Haggerty Road (at Six Mile). Call (248) 347-2100 for more information.

ICE FISHING

Bob "Hangman" Mitchel, of Redford, will give a seminar entitled, "Everything You Want to Know About Ice Fishing," beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at the monthly meeting of the Huron Valley Steelheaders at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for more information.

FLY TYING

Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tyers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

ACTIVITIES

GANATCHIO TRAIL

Come and explore the Ganatchio Trail, which runs from Windsor to Tecumseh parallel to the Lake St. Clair shore, during this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27. The event is sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Group Sierra Club. Participants should meet at the tourist information center on Route 3, south of the bridge in Windsor. Call (313) 581-7579 for more information.

CLUBS

SOLAR

The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), 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.

CLINTON VALLEY BASS

Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. 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 - 9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center. Refreshments will be served and visitors are welcome. For information call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843.

FISHING BUDDYS

Fishing Buddys Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. The meetings are open to all anglers. Call (248) 656-0556 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION

The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for more information.

MEETINGS

NRC

The monthly meeting of the state Natural Resource Commission will be Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 9-10 at the Lansing Center (Wednesday) and the Steven T. Mason Building (Thursday) in Lansing. Persons who wish to address the commission or persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact Teresa Golden at (517) 373-2352 one week in advance.

SEASON/DATES

DEER

The second archery season runs Dec. 1-Jan. 3. The muzzleloading season runs Dec. 4-13 in Zone I (Upper Peninsula) and Dec. 11-20 in zones II and III (Lower Peninsula). There are several other special seasons. Check the 1998-99 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for details.

DUCK

The open season on ducks, mergansers, coots and gallinules runs through Dec. 8 in the South Zone.

ELK

The late elk season will be held Dec. 8-14, by special permit and in designated elk management units only.

GOOSE

There will be a special late Canada goose season Jan. 9-Feb. 7 in the southern Michigan Goose Management Unit. Check the 1998-99 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for specific boundaries.

GROUSE

A special late season will be held Dec. 1-Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

PHEASANT

There is a special late season in southern Michigan, which runs Dec. 1-15. Check the 1998-99 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for exact boundaries of the December hunt.

RABBIT/HARE

Rabbit/hare season run through March 31 statewide.

SQUIRREL

Squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN

Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Range hours through Dec. 31 are 10 a.m. to sunset Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. On Mondays and Tuesdays only the sporting clay course is open, noon to sunset. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenshield Rd., which is three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills off M-24. Call (248) 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 (248) 666-1020 for more information.

tion.

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 at the following numbers: 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 (\$8 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call 1-800-47-PARKS for more information.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Huron-Clinton metroparks are serving as collection spots for the Toys for Tots program. The program is conducted annually by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to serve needy children in local communities by providing them with new, unwrapped toys during the holiday season. Anyone wishing to donate a new unwrapped toy that has no violent connotations can drop them off at park offices of the HCMA Administrative Office through Dec. 16. Call (800) 477-2757 for more information.

SNACKS WITH SANTA

Spend some time with Santa, enjoy a snack and a hayride and sing some holiday songs during this program, which will be held Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5-6 and Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12-13 at Kensington. Several sessions will be held each day and admission is by advanced ticket purchase only. Tickets are

\$5 per person. Call (800) 377-3178 to register. A similar program will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12, at Indian Springs.

SALT DOUGH ORNAMENTS

Make your own holiday decorations with dough and a little creativity during this craft pro-

gram, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at Kensington.

WINTER WEED WALK

Learn how to recognize summer and fall flowers during the wintertime during this naturalist-led hike, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Kensington.

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford presents "A Chorus Line" 8 p.m. at the theater, 15138 Beech Daly, Redford. Tickets \$12 adults, \$11 seniors and students, (313) 531-0554.

SATURDAY



You'll find a variety of gifts for everyone on your list at the third annual Village Potters Guild Holiday Show and Sale 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 340 North Main, south of Mill St. (Lilley), behind the Plymouth Landing Restaurant, (734) 207-8807.

SUNDAY



The Michigan premiere of "Resident Alien" by Stuart Spencer opens 7:30 p.m. at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre, lower level of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Tickets \$13 to \$23, call (248) 788-2900.

FREE
TICKET



Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester will delight guests of every age with "Picture Perfect Holidays" through Sunday, Dec. 6. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission for the Holiday Walk is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 13, \$6 for Oakland University affiliates with I.D., (248) 370-3140.

Noel Night

offers a wonderland of sounds and sights

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Dressed in Victorian coats and capes, Sharon Thomas and Kevin Finke take to the streets of Detroit's Cultural Center in a holiday celebration of caroling and live theater with the Festival Singers on "Noel Night" Dec. 5. Thomas, a Waterford voice teacher, Finke of Royal Oak, and nine other members of the Festival Singers, including Thomas' husband Stephen, play 28 characters from Charles Dickens' classic tale "A Christmas Carol" with the Detroit Institute of Arts as a backdrop. They will be among the hundreds of handbell ringers and choirs joining in the event for an evening alive with singing, children's activities, a tree lighting ceremony, and horse-drawn carriage rides.

The 26-year-old tradition of "Noel Night" transforms the area into a holiday wonderland of sights and sounds, and nearly all of it is free. From puppet shows to mini dance performances of "The Nutcracker," 23 participating institutions offer an array of activities such as a Kwanzaa Card Workshop and an exhibit of dolls from around the world. The evening concludes with a community sing-a-long led by the Salvation Army Band.

"We love Noel Night," said Thomas, who majored in music at Oakland University in Rochester and began performing with community theaters such as the Bloomfield Players 20 years ago. "We think it's great that all of these arts and performing groups come together for this event."

Thomas, director of the 11 Festival Singers, founded the group four years ago to entertain crowds at the Dickens Old Fashioned Christmas Festival in Holly which runs weekends through December with singers, jugglers and fire eaters. In addition to playing Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and the Ghost of Christmas Past, members of the group sing songs from the more than 40 in their repertoire at 6:45 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. in the Detroit Institute of Arts' Kresge Court. In between belting out "Silver Bells" and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," the Singers perform Thomas' street theater rendition of "A Christmas Carol" outside on Woodward Avenue with audience participation sought for Marley's Ghost and the Ghost of Christmas Future. The Singers, age 24 to 41, hail from



Featured performers: The Festival Singers will light up Detroit's University Cultural Center with carols and street theater on Noel Night.

"NOEL NIGHT"

WHAT: The 26th annual event to ring in the holidays features carols, choirs, street theater, dance, hands-on art, a tree lighting ceremony, and horse-drawn carriage rides. Festivities conclude with a community sing-a-long led by the Salvation Army Band 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Woodward Ave.

WHEN: 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

WHERE: Detroit's Cultural Center (bounded by Ferry Street on the north, Forest on the south, Brush on the east, and Cass Avenue on the west). For more information or a schedule of events, call (313) 577-5088.

■ Parking is available in the Cultural Center and Detroit Science Center lots on John R, underground garage off Woodward at Farnsworth, and Rackham parking garage on Warren east of Woodward. Free shuttles run continuously throughout the evening.

Rochester, Troy, Royal Oak, Clarkston, St. Clair Shores, and Ypsilanti.

"We do everything acapella with five and six part arrangements," said Thomas. "For the street theater, we encourage audience participation. They help us do the sounds of Jacob Marley's ghost like rattling the chains."

Finke first enjoyed street theater during his college days when he played Davey Crockett at Disney World's Frontierland in Orlando. An account executive for the Momentum Group, a division of McCann Erickson in Troy, Finke has performed with Stagecrafters and the Avon Players, to name a few.

"It's street theater and we interact with people," said Finke. "You maintain that character with the people you meet. I enjoy lighting up people's face and getting them into the holiday spirit. On Noel Night, there's a great pool of arts talent from all different cultures around Detroit. And I enjoy being part of that, making people smile and happy."

Some of the highlights of "Noel Night"

- The Boys Choir of Ann Arbor kicks off the festivities at 4:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward.
- Photos with a Toy Soldier (\$2) at the Children's Museum, 67 East Kirby
- The Mosaic Youth Theater and St. Paul Royal Oak Lutheran Bell Choir at the Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward

■ Horse-drawn carriage and sleigh rides depart every 10 minutes from the Park Shelton on East Kirby at Woodward, \$6 adults, \$3 children.

■ Children's Ballet Theatre presents the "Butterfly Ball" and ensembles from the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra perform throughout the evening in the Prentiss Court at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward

■ Pippin Puppets perform "Rudolph, Rudolph! Where's Your Nose?" at 6 p.m., and the Foreign Language Immersion Choir sing holiday songs in several languages throughout the evening in the Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward

■ At the Detroit Science Center, Sesame Street's "Art from the Fuzzy and Famous" exhibit celebrates 30 years of Big Bird, Cookie Monster and the rest of The Muppets, 5020 John R

■ Kwanzaa Card Workshop, Adrinka Stamping on cloth, storytelling, 6-9 p.m. at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 East Warren

■ Pre-"Noel Night" entertainment takes place 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at a Young People's Concert, "Holiday Songfest," under conductor Yuhui Wang at Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, and during the event there's "Go Baroque," a Classical Series concert with conductor Nicholas McGegan at 8:30 p.m. Call (313) 576-5111 for ticket information.

■ The 85th annual Gold Medal Exhibition and Holiday Sales Show at the Scarab Club, 217 East Farnsworth

■ The Wayne State University dance department present excerpts from "The Nutcracker" every half hour in the Old Main Building on Cass Avenue, also view the exhibit "Metaphors" by Yvette Smith in the Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, enter at 480 West Hancock

■ Shop for the holidays at 14 different locations including Center for Creative Studies, Detroit Institute of Arts Museum Shop, Museum of African American History Gift Shop, and Detroit Historical Museum Old Detroit Shop

■ Make an evening of it by having dinner downtown at the Scarab Club, Detroit Institute of Arts' Kresge Court, or soups, sandwiches and desserts at the International Institute's "Taste of the World"

HOLIDAY MUSIC

Judy Collins brings her 'Amazing Grace' to Southfield

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
hwygolik@oe.homecomm.net

If she could, Judy Collins said she would like to do holiday concerts year-round. "I like the material," said Collins in a telephone interview from New York City. "It's a very special time of year."

She'll be in Southfield on Tuesday, singing some of her favorite holiday tunes, along with "Amazing Grace," "Someday Soon," "Both Sides Now," and other songs that have made her a legend. The 8 p.m. concert is part of the City of Southfield's new Celebrity Series.

"I saw her last year and I fell in love," said Nimrod Rosenthal, director of Community Relations for the City of Southfield. "When she sang 'Amazing Grace,' I had tears in my eyes. She was

Please see COLLINS, E2

Judy Collins Special Holiday Concert

WHEN: 8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 8

WHERE: Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road (south of 10 Mile Road). Concert is part of the City of Southfield's new Celebrity Series and will include traditional and new songs.

TICKETS: \$30 and \$35 per person, available weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Southfield City Hall, Main Reception Desk, 26000 Evergreen Road or the Parks and Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, evenings 5-7 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Tickets also available at all Ticketmaster Ticket Centers including Hudson's and Harmony House stores. Call (248) 354-4854 for more information. To charge tickets, call (248) 645-6666.

HIGHLIGHT: Special pre-concert dinner, \$25 per person, offered by the Golden Mushroom Restaurant, 18100 W. 10 Mile Road (at Southfield). Call the restaurant (248) 559-4230 for reservations/information.

Mark your calendar

The Southfield Celebrity Series at Southfield Centre for the Arts will feature Nancy Wilson, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 24. Tickets are \$30 and \$35 per person, available at Southfield City Hall or the Parks & Recreation Building, and Ticketmaster Ticket Centers.



Folk legend: This photo of Judy Collins is from her new CD "Both Sides Now," released this fall by Platinum Entertainment.

Collins from page E1

enchanting."

After the concert, "A Judy Collins Christmas at the Biltmore Estate," which Rosenthal watched on TV, he went to work to see if Collins would be available to perform at the Southfield Centre for the Arts. "She's wonderful," he said.

Collins will be accompanied by the Southfield-Lathrup Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Robert A. Martin. The concert will include traditional holiday songs and new songs for Christmas and Hanukkah.

To make it an especially memorable evening, the Golden Mushroom Restaurant is offering a special pre-concert dinner at 6 p.m. before the concert. The dinner is \$25 per person and begins with chilled smoked chicken breast on mixed field greens, red wine vinaigrette, crumbled blue cheese and avocado.

Diners can choose between two main courses — smoke-roasted beef tenderloin with roasted garlic whipped potatoes, grilled vegetables and wild mushroom gateaux, or bronzed Atlantic salmon on lemon risotto with artichokes and tomatoes.

Dessert will be a chocolate flourless torte with strawberry sauce and mint cream.

Southfield is just one of Collins' many concert stops this month. She'll also be performing in Sacramento, Calif., Cincinnati, Milwaukee, and Syracuse, N.Y. A self-described "road warrior," Collins said she enjoys touring — "I've got to make a living," she said. But there's more, "I love it (performing) it's a tremendous gift. I've had a successful career, it's been wonderful."

While most of us are fretting about holiday gifts, Collins is on the road bringing holiday cheer to millions of fans. Her fondest holiday memory is of standing around the piano with her brothers and sisters on Christmas Eve and singing carols. Her favorite is "The Holly and the Ivy."

After singing carols, led by her father, Chuck Collins, a singer, composer and radio broadcaster, the family would



Legendary singer: Judy Collins will be presenting a special holiday concert at the Southfield Centre for the Arts on Southfield Road.

sit down to a big dinner.

If you're not able to attend the concert in Southfield on Dec. 8, you can tune into the A&E Network 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, and watch "A Judy Collins Christmas at the Biltmore Estate" on TV. You can also learn more about her latest projects, including a new release of Christmas songs from the Biltmore Estate concerts, on the Web at www.judycollins.com. Collins has released 30 albums, many of them certified platinum and gold, over her career which spans 3-1/2 decades.

Trained as a classical pianist, Collins began taking piano lessons at age 4. Her repertoire includes folk, rock, spiritual and Broadway show tunes.

In 1969 Collins made her stage debut as an actress at the New York Shakespeare Festival where she played Solveig in

"I've got to make a living. I love it (performing). It's a tremendous gift. I've had a successful career; it's been wonderful."

Judy Collins

at Southfield Art Center

"Peer Gynt" opposite Stacy Keach.

She also appeared in the Arnold Schwarzenegger film, "Junior," the CBS series "Christy," and has a cameo in the soon-to-be-released remake of a Rod Serling story, "A Town Has Turned to Dust," directed by Ron Nilsson.

This fall she released "Singing Lessons: A Memoir of Love, Loss, Hope and Healing" (A Pocket Books Hardcover, \$24). In the book, Collins looks back on her life and career, the triumphs and mistakes. Each chapter is separated by meditations she wrote in the period after her son Clark's suicide. He was 33 years old. A CD with a new song, "Singing Lessons," is included in the book.

"Singing and writing helped me heal," said Collins. "I sang my way through the pain and began to write daily prayers, which I included in this book."

"My song writing and prose writing are interconnected, one feeds the other."

A tireless performer and writer, Collins said she "feels very grateful to have had this much career."

But she's not ready to slow down. "I'm always looking for new projects."

"Both Sides Now," a new Platinum Entertainment release of new recordings of songs that have made Collins famous such as "The Times They Are A-Changin'," "Morning Has Broken" and "Blowin' in the Wind," includes a tribute to her dear friend the late John Denver.

"I never recorded any of his songs," she said. "I'm glad to have had the opportunity."

Hilberry 'Scapin' delights

Wayne State University's graduate theatre company present Moliere's "Scapin" in rotating repertory through Feb. 3 at the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Avenue and Forest on the Wayne State campus in Detroit. Tickets are \$10-\$17. Performances are scheduled 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19. For reservations, call (313) 577-2972.

**BY SUE SUCHITTA
SPECIAL WRITER**

Molier's "Scapin" is a comic romp with as many plot twists and turns as there are pratfalls and tumbles. The humor is both intellectual and physical, as clever wordplay is liberally interspersed with comically timed trips and flips.

Scapin is a street-smart servant who plays his masters like a game of chess, both for amusement and thrill. When the sons of two wealthy fathers fall in love with unapproved women when the fathers are out of town, Scapin agrees to not only help the young men gain their fathers' approval of the matches, but to bamboozle them out of the funds the young men need to finance their romantic endeavors. Scapin, who loves a challenge and survives by his wits, sets in motion a hilarious series

of escapades, and defends his own honor along the way.

Fred Shahadi is captivating as the clever Scapin. He artfully handles the subterfuges his character employs to pull off his scams, playing the humble, contrite servant one minute, and a fast-talking schemer the next, while cleverly planting ideas in his dupes' minds. Shahadi's fast pace and excellent timing used Moliere's clever script to its full comic advantage. Shahadi also used multiple characters and accents in rapid succession as part of the ruse, a challenge he pulled off without missing a beat, much to the delight of the audience.

Octave and Leandre, the love-smitten sons, played by Mike Schraeder and Erik Gratton, were fun to watch as the earnest and gullible swains, easy prey for Scapin's manipulations.

The fathers, on the other hand, presented more of a challenge to Scapin. He needed them until he found their Achilles heel, then exploited it.

Garante, Leandre's father and a notorious tightwad, was played with penurious perfection by Aaron Lake. Lake captured the character's fiscal distress with laughter-provoking physical reactions as well as verbal chagrin.

Likewise, Octave's father, Argante, played by Lucas Caleb Rooney, captured the dilemma of parting with his hard-earned fortune in both physically and verbally entertaining ways. Proud and pompous, Rooney's Argante held on to his control and dignity for as long as possible before unraveling under the unrelenting ruses of the clever Scapin.

Orestes Arcuni as Silvestre, a hapless servant and Scapin's reluctant accomplice, drew his share of laughter for his many pratfalls and woebegone expressions. Hyacinthe, Octave's lady love, played by Sara Wolf, and Zerbinette, the sexy Gypsy desired by Leandre, played by Tanisha Gonzalez, began as polar opposites and ended up having startling similarities. Both used exaggerated feminine wiles to garner laughs.

The set was a colorful explosion of undersized and rakishly angled doorways. The costumes also accentuated the absurd. Scapin was dressed like a well-tailored clown, with keyboard trim on his clothing alluding to his ability to play people like a piano. For Scapin is a master manipulator producing laughter not only for what he does, but for the gullibility he expresses in others.

Show boasts knowledgeable hosts

**BACKSTAGE
PASS**



**ANN
DELISI**

I realize that everyone is probably missing Backstage Pass, but we are off the air temporarily for a good reason, the annual winter Pledge Break. Please don't forget to call and make a donation to Detroit Public Television, because it's the viewers that make shows like Backstage Pass possible. So the winter pledge left me with a dilemma, what to write for this week. Then it came to me, of course, I should have thought of this before. I am going to introduce and give some background on the hosts I mention in the columns every week. There are more hosts than there is

room in this newspaper, so I am going to pick a few then focus on the rest next time.

Gerry Craig is a visual artist and writer. She graduated from Cranbrook Academy of Art with an MFA and from the University of Kansas in 1982 with undergraduate degrees from Art History and Textile Design. She was executive director at the Detroit Artists Market from 1990 to 1995 and previously worked for the Detroit Institute of Arts and Cranbrook Art Museum. Gerry's art has been exhibited throughout the United States, Japan, England, Australia, Mexico and Canada. Her writings have also been published in many art publications.

Lex Kuhne is a lawyer by training, but has a role on Backstage Pass as pop culture provocateur. Lex was a Metro Times columnist for more than eight years, with the popular "Word of Mouth" column. He also developed the format for 89X and was pop culture commentator both there and later for The Planet 96.3. Lex is a graduate of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Wayne State University Law School.

Kim Hunter is a native and lifelong Detroit. Kim graduated from Wayne State with a degree in radio, television and film. Kim enjoyed a five-year

stint as the host and producer of Radio Free Earth, a nightly, multi-cultural music program that ran on Detroit Public Radio. Kim also finds time for another favorite, writing. His music reviews and poetry have been published locally and nationally. He is currently the music reviewer for Against the Current magazine.

Marsha Miro has long been a recognized and respected voice in Detroit art scene. She attended the University of Michigan as an undergraduate, concentrating in political science with an art history minor. She then attended the London School of Economics before focusing on art, returning to Detroit to earn an MA in art history from Wayne State. Marsha has been an instructor at Oakland Community College at the Cranbrook Academy of Art and at the Center for Creative Studies. Marsha is currently the writer and documentarian of new architectural additions, working on both the book and film "Cranbrook: Evolution of a Dream" for the Cranbrook Educational Community. She writes criticism for Glass magazine and has published articles in American Ceramics.

Reading the long list of credentials the hosts on Backstage Pass possess I realized we are a very lucky group.

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Monday Dec 21st OPEN 9-10	Tuesday Dec 22nd OPEN 9-10	Wednesday Dec 23rd OPEN 9-10	Thursday Dec 24th OPEN 9-5	CLOSED Merry Christmas	Saturday Dec 25th OPEN 10-9	Sunday Dec 27th OPEN 10-6

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Starts December 25th At Theatres Everywhere

Talented cast steps up to challenge of 'A Chorus Line'

The Theatre Guild of Livonia Redford presents "A Chorus Line," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5 at the playhouse 15138 Beech Daly, Redford. Tickets \$12 adults, \$11 seniors and students, call (313) 531-0554.

By BOB WEIBEL
SPECIAL WRITER

They step, they kick, they touch, shimmy and shake. They are the talented singer/dancers in the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford's spirited production of "A Chorus Line."

With music by Marvin Hamlisch, this Tony Award winning show tells of the chaotic, inse-

curable life of theatrical performers. The show features an uninhibited, free-form that was new to musical theatre when "Chorus Line" premiered on Broadway in 1975. There are no lavish sets or costumes (except white tuxedos and top hats for the finale). There is no plot per se.

Rather, there is a bare stage upon which dancers in rehearsal outfits warm-up an audition. The director barks out, "Tell me about yourself, why do you want to be in this show?" Some are hesitant, others embarrassed.

No matter how much they reveal, the director badgers them for more. Which leads to person-

al stuff (and adult language and subject material) which in context of the show is not offensive.

Mark Hammell, as the director, gives a convincing performance as a hard taskmaster. Yet, we see his soft side, when we learn of a personal relationship with one of the dancers, Christine Maurer, a former star, creates a high-voltage moment as she begs for a job as just a member of the chorus.

The director has to be tough, because Broadway is a tough business. Only eight of 16 dancers will be cast; the others rejected. That's the nature of show business. As we hear their

stories, we are as happy for those who succeed as we are sad for those who don't make it.

Each story begins differently, but all end the same - dancers desperately needing the applause, the approval of an audience. They will pay any price, make any sacrifice to dance. That's the context of the show's hit song, "What I Did For Love" sung beautifully by Jenny Florkowski.

Mathew Leland is most appealing as a young man following his sister's footsteps in an acrobatic "I Can Do That." Rubber-faced, Marci Mitchell, is a comic delight as one who wanted

to be Doris Day, but cannot sing a note.

Valerie Mangrum scores as a sassy babe near the end of her career.

In a riveting whispered soliloquy, Alonzo Luzod, recounts his search for dignity and the embarrassment of having his parents learn he is dancing in a gay bar. On the lighter side, John Luther, all decked out in puce, is a scream telling us he was always "a strange one" - "breaking into people's houses, not to steal anything, but to rearrange the furniture."

Other cast members include: Justine Blazer, Anna Bonde,

James Cargill, Alicia Christoff, Nicole Gauvin, D.J. Oliver, Jamie-Lynn Perry, Darren Pier-son and Emily Tyrbon. The whole cast marvelously strut their stuff in the show's big production number, "One (Singular Sensation)." Ken Pletzer impressively provides full orchestration via computer and digital piano for two hours. There is no intermission.

Director/Choreographer Stephanie Stephan makes good use of the Guild's smallish area in staging complex pieces such as "At the Ballet" and "Hello Twelve, Hello Thirteen, Hello Love."

Meadow Brook Theatre creates animated Christmas card

"A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, adapted by Charles Nolte. Through Sunday, Dec. 27. Meadow Brook Theatre, Wilson Hall, Oakland University campus, Rochester. Performance times vary, call for information. Tickets: \$25-\$30.50; (248) 377-3300, or (248) 370-3316.

By FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER
fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net

The genius of "A Christmas Carol" is not only the layers upon layers of allegory and parable, but the sheer message of eternal hope in the face of the impulse to buy, buy, buy. Certainly, the notion of worship takes on an entirely material connotation during retailers' most blissful season.

Of course, material gain - as the plight and redemption of Ebenezer Scrooge teaches - is not a substitute for spiritual sustenance.

And who could argue that that's a lesson worth learning, again and again.

Appropriately, during the busiest shopping time of the year, Meadow Brook Theatre's annual homage to Charles Dickens and the true spirit of Christmas is a priceless counterbalance to the nausea caused by conspicuous consumption.

Indeed, attending Meadow Brook Theatre's 16th annual production might be a perquisite before stepping into a mall to do your duty. Or at least before the electronic strip on your plastic credit card runs thin.

Thanks to Charles Nolte's

Booth Colman not only looks the part but adds subtle touches that make Scrooge look less than a lump of coal and more like a person whose insecurities and emotional vacuousness sowed the seeds of his desolation.

adaptation, the production is as timeless as Dickens' tale. Under Nolte's direction, "A Christmas Carol" blends high theatrics, calculated pyrotechnics and measured doses of melodrama into a perpetual animated Christmas card.

At times, however, the mawkish spirit of the season drips like sap onto the carpet.

The sugary feeling gets a little out of hand during the Cratchit's Christmas dinner, which comes complete with a tiresome description of holiday food, prayers, song and toast.

The emotional gush, much like an overbearing uncle, is bearable given the relentless holiday cheer. And hey, if you can't get overly sentimental at the holidays then you might have the heart of a wet log.

And speaking of moribund souls, there's little doubt that for two hours the body and soul of Scrooge has been transferred to veteran actor Booth Colman, who has performed the role at Meadow Brook more than 600 times since 1981.

Colman not only looks the part, but adds subtle touches that makes Scrooge look less than a lump of coal, and more

like a person whose insecurities and emotional vacuousness sowed the seeds of his desolation.

But "A Christmas Carol" isn't O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh." Rather, the Dickens' classic is about rediscovering those feelings of youth that made life more of a magical mystery, than a onerous task. And clearly at Meadow Brook, the cast is up to the challenge.

Particularly, Paul Hopper in the dual roles of the earnest Bob Cratchit and the daffy Fezziwig; and, Geoffrey Beauchamp as the Ghost of Jacob Marley recall the transcendental appeal of the story to be both a high moral lesson and pleasingly entertaining.

Meanwhile, director Nolte has added enough surprises to keep audiences searching for the next appearance of the ghosts and special effects. All made possible, of course, by the intricately magical scenic design of Peter Hicks and the jewel-tone period costumes of Barbara Jenks.

Ironically, Meadow Brook's "A Christmas Carol" has become as much of an annual tradition as those last-minute shopping trips to the mall.



Holiday classic: Booth Colman (left) and Richard A. Schrot in a scene from Meadow Brook Theatre's production of "A Christmas Carol."

CATCH THESE GREAT ACTS!

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It takes more than a few million watts to brighten someone's face.

### WILD LIGHTS

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## Delights

likewise, Octave's father, played by Lucas Caleb, captured the dilemma of living with his hard-earned fortune in both physically and verbally entertaining ways. Proud pompous, Rooney's Argente, as long as possible before traveling under the unrelenting ruses of the clever Scapin.

Argente's Arcum as Silvestre, a valet and servant and Scapin's constant accomplice, drew his share of laughter for his many falls and weebone expressions. Hyacinthe, Octave's lady friend, played by Sara Wolf, and Binette, the sexy Gypsy, played by Leandre, played by Nisha Gonzalez, began as opposites and ended up with startling similarities. The used exaggerated feminine to garner laughs.

The set was a colorful explosion of oversized and rakishly angled doorways. The costumes were so accentuated the absurd. Scapin was dressed like a well-dressed clown, with keyboard on his clothing alluding to his ability to play people like a piano. For Scapin is a master manipulator producing laughter only for what he does, but for his gullibility he expresses in his.

## able hosts

at as the host and producer of Radio Free Earth, a nightly, multi-cultural music program that ran on Detroit Public Radio. He also finds time for another favorite, writing. His music reviews and poetry have been published locally and nationally. He is currently the music reviewer for Against the Current magazine.

Marsha Miro has long been a recognized and respected voice in the Detroit art scene. She attended the University of Michigan as an undergraduate, concentrating in political science with an art history minor. She then attended the London School of Economics before focusing on art, returning to Detroit to earn an MA in art history from Wayne State. Marsha has been an instructor at Oakland Community College at the Cranbrook Academy of Art and at the Center for Creative Studies. Marsha is currently the writer and documentarian of new architectural additions, working on both the book and film "Cranbrook: Evolution of a dream" for the Cranbrook Educational Community. She writes criticism for Glass magazine and has published articles in American Ceramics.

Reading the long list of credentials the hosts on Backstage Pass, I realized we are a very lucky group.

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# 8 days a week

## A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

### THEATER

**DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE**  
"Ad Altare Dei (Unto the Altar of God)," through Dec. 31, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday. \$15, (313) 863-1347 or DetRepTh@aol.com

**GEM THEATRE**  
"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," through Jan. 3, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays (\$27.50), 8 p.m. Thursdays (\$27.50), 8 p.m. Fridays (\$32.50), 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays (\$32.50), 2 p.m. Sundays (\$27.50) and 6 p.m. Sundays (\$19.50). (313) 963-9800

**JET**  
"Resident Alien," an intergalactic comedy of love and acceptance by Stuart Spencer, through Sunday, Jan. 3, at the theater, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. (248) 788-2900 or <http://comnet.org/jet>

**MEADOW BROOK THEATRE**  
"A Christmas Carol," continues to Sunday, Dec. 27, Wilson Hall, Oakland University campus, Rochester. \$25-\$36. (248) 377-3300

### COLLEGE

**EMU THEATRE**  
"Ghost of the River House," an 11-year-old and her grandfather search for adventure in this play by Max Bush of Michigan, for ages 7 and up, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, and 8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 4-5, Quirk Theatre, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. \$7 Thursday, \$12 Friday-Saturday, \$10 Sunday matinees. (734) 487-1221

**ORCHARD RIDGE PLAYERS**  
"Shorts: A Theatrical Potpourri," featuring works by Edward Albee, Neil Simon, 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 10-11, in Smith Theater on the Oakland Community College campus, Orchard Lake Road and I-696, Farmington Hills. \$8, \$5 students. (248) 471-7667

**UD MERCY THEATRE COMPANY**  
An evening of "Chekhov," through Dec. 6, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sundays, Earl D.A. Smith Studio Theatre, McNichols Campus, Detroit. \$10, \$8 students/seniors/UD Mercy employees, alumni. (313) 993-1130

**UM THEATRE AND DRAMA**  
"Volpone," 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 3-5, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, Power Center, Ann Arbor. \$18, \$14, \$7 student with ID. (734) 764-0450

**WSU BONSTELLE THEATRE**  
"Little Women" 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, Dec. 11-12, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6 and 13, Saturday, Dec. 12, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$8-\$10; ages 5-12, \$6. (313) 577-2960.

**WSU HILSBERRY THEATRE**  
"Scapin," in rotating repertory to Feb. 3, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$10-\$17. (313) 577-2972

### COMMUNITY THEATER

**LIVONIA-REDFORD THEATRE GUILD**  
"A Chorus Line," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, 15138 Beech Daly, Redford. \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, students. (313) 531-0554

**ST. DUNSTON'S THEATRE GUILD OF CRANBROOK**  
"The Sleeping Beauty," a production for children and their families, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, and 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 at the playhouse, 400 Lone Pine Road, on the grounds of the Cranbrook Educational Community, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$6 each, 50 percent of net profits from all six performances benefits Old Newsboys Goodwill Fund of Detroit. Call (248) 644-0527 for tickets.

### DINNER THEATER

**BACI ABBRACCI ITALIAN CHOPHOUSE**  
"Tony n' Tina's Wedding," 40 W. Pike St., Pontiac. 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 2 p.m. and 7:30 Saturday, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. \$50 Thursdays and Sundays, \$55 Fridays and Saturdays, in advance at 8 W. Lawrence St., Pontiac. (248) 745-8668/(248) 645-6666

**GENTILI'S HOLE-IN-THE-WALL**  
Live interactive children's theater program, "Santa's Workshop," Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 5-6, Friday, Dec. 11, and Saturday-Wednesday, Dec. 12-23, 108 E. Main St., Northville. \$9.65 for children, \$11.65 adults, includes lunch, show, tax and gratuity. (248) 349-0522

### YOUTH

**AMERICAN FAMILY THEATRE**  
"Cinderella," 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road. \$6, reservations. (248) 424-9022

**EMU THEATRE**  
"Ghost of the River House," an 11-year-old and her grandfather search for adventure in this play by Max Bush of Michigan, for ages 7 and older, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, and 8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 4-5, at the Quirk Theatre, on the Eastern Michigan University campus in Ypsilanti. \$7 Thursday, \$12 Friday-Saturday, \$10 Sunday matinees. (734) 487-1221

**MARQUIS THEATRE**  
"Cinderella," through Jan. 3, 135 E. Main St., Northville. 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19 and 26, and Jan. 2; 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 6, 13, 20, and Jan. 3; and 2:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Dec. 29-31. \$8.50. (248) 349-8110

**NEW MILLENNIUM YOUTH THEATRE**  
Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale



**Holiday memories:**  
Jillian Roettenberger, 9 and her brother, Alex, 3 of Troy look through a Dodge family album at Meadow Brook Hall where "Picture Perfect Holidays" continues through Sunday, Dec. 6. Original Dodge and Wilson family photographs are part of the elegant holiday decorations at the magnificent 100-room mansion on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Knole Cottage is open during daytime hours only. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 13, \$6 for Oakland University affiliates with I.D. Knole Cottage admission is \$1 for all ages. Call (248) 370-3140 for information.

"The Snow Queen," 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 and 19, Millennium Center, 15600 J.L. Hudson Drive, between Eight and Nine Mile roads, Southfield. (248) 552-7000/(248) 552-1225

**NOVI THEATRES**  
"The Nutcracker," a play with dancing by June Walker Rogers, adapted by Mary Kay Davis, performed by Children's Annex Company, 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. \$8, \$7 advance. (248) 347-0400

**PAPER BAG PRODUCTIONS**  
"Cinderella," Saturdays-Sundays through Dec. 20, Historic Players Club, 3321 E. Jefferson, between Mount Elliott and McDougall, Detroit. Saturday programs start with lunch at noon and performances at 1 p.m., Sundays with lunch at 1 p.m. and performances at 2 p.m. \$7.50, \$6.50 groups of 20 or more. (810) 662-8118

**PUPPETART**  
"Close the Window...or, a Chelm Story," a folk tale inspired by Isaac Bashevis Singer from old Russia, 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Detroit Puppet Theater, 26 E. Grand River, (between Woodward Avenue and Farmer Street), Detroit. \$6.50, \$5 children. (313) 961-7777/(248) 557-8599

**STAGECRAFTERS YOUTH THEATRE**  
Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale, "The Snow Queen," 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 10-11, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, and 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. \$5, all seats reserved. Patrons are also asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to benefit the Salvation Army's Toy Drive for needy children. (248) 541-6430

**WHISTLE STOP PLAYERS**  
"The Velveteen Rabbit," 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5-Sunday, Dec. 6, Plymouth Community Arts Council, Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth. \$5, (734) 416-4278

**WILD SWAN THEATRE**  
"The Cricket in Times Square," through Saturday, Jan. 2, Anderson Theatre at Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn. (734) 763-TKTS/(734) 995-0530/(248) 645-6666

### HOLIDAY EVENTS

**"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"**  
Presented by the Nebraska Theatre Caravan, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Garfield Road and Hall (M-59), Clinton Township. \$22, \$20 students/seniors. (810) 286-2222/(800) 585-3737

**BERKLEY HOLIDAY FEST**  
Immediately following parade, 1-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in the downtown shopping district, 12 Mile between Coolidge Highway and Greenfield Road. (248) 548-8881

**"BLACK NATIVITY"**  
Langston Hughes' musical drama presented by Cass Technical High School Drama Department, 10 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 8-10, and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, at the Southfield Center for the Arts. \$3 matinees, \$8 evening. (313) 598-3900, ext. 211

**"CANDLELIGHT HOLIDAY DINNER"**  
With Johnny Trudell Orchestra, Sunday, Dec. 6, Italian American Club Banquet Center, 39200 Hix Road, Livonia. \$36, includes full course dinner, cappuccino and espresso, and music. (248) 349-8880

**CHELSEA FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**  
Featuring Santa's workshop, kids' crafts, window displays, hayrides, cookie decorating, reenactments of German Christmas stories, festival of lessons and carols, Friday-Sunday, Dec. 4-6, throughout downtown Chelsea, I-94 exit 159 (north-Chelsea/Manchester exit). Free. (800) 265-9045 or <http://www.ypsilanti.org>

**CHRISTMAS WALK**  
The Friends for the Development of Greenmead presents its walk featuring seven homes decorated for the holidays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in Livonia. \$7 advance, \$8 on day of the walk, proceeds go toward restoration and preservation of Greenmead Historical Village at Newburgh and Eight Mile roads. (734) 425-4855/(734) 464-2741

**COBO CARNIVAL**  
Featuring a full-scale midway including games, rides and family entertainment, noon to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, and Saturday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, Cobo Conference and Exhibition Center, Detroit. Free admission but a charge for rides and games. \$15 ride-all-day wristband. (313) 877-8111

**DIA WASSAIL FEAST**  
Travel back 400 years to celebrate the holiday season in a re-creation of the legendary Winter Court of England's Queen Elizabeth I, vegetarian menu also available, 6:30-10 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, Dec. 10-12 and 17-19, in the Kresge Court at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue. \$135 Thursdays, \$150 Fridays-Saturdays, proceeds to benefit the museum's general operating fund. (313) 833-4005

**DEXTER'S VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS**  
Featuring free street performances, horse-drawn sleigh rides, carolers and musicians throughout town, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and Saturday, Dec. 12, in the village, northwest of Ann Arbor. (734) 426-5514, or <http://members.tripod.com/~Dexter42> or [ebtek@hotmail.com](mailto:ebtek@hotmail.com)

**FIESTA NAVIDAD**  
A festive Mexican Christmas celebration with dancers and the "Los Arrieros" Mariachi band, 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Garfield Road and Hall (M-59), Clinton Township. \$24, \$22 students/seniors. (810) 286-2222/(800) 585-3737

**FRIENDS OF BELLE ISLE**  
Wassail Party, 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, with performance of 16th century court dances by Renaissance Dance Company of Detroit, at the Belle Isle Casino, Detroit. \$15. (313) 331-7760

**IRISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**  
Will Miller's Celtic Christmas, Miller is formerly of the Irish Rovers, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Garfield Road and Hall (M-59), Clinton Township. \$24,

\$22 students/seniors. (810) 286-2222/(800) 585-3737

**"LIGHT ONE CANDLE"**  
A Chanukah program especially for children ages 5-10, educational program and craft (each family creates their own Chanukah menorah), 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 (West Bloomfield) and Thursday, Dec. 10 (Oak Park), at the Jewish Community Center. Optional 6:30 p.m. Kosher pizza dinner (\$3). Reservations by Friday, Dec. 4, (248) 661-7649 (Dec. 9 program), (248) 967-4030 (Dec. 10 program)

**"NOEL NIGHT"**  
The 26th annual event to ring in the holidays features carolers, choirs, street theater, dance, hands-on art, a tree lighting ceremony, and carriage rides, 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, festivities conclude with a community sing-a-long led by the Salvation Army Band 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Woodward Avenue, in Detroit's Cultural Center bounded by Ferry Street on the north, Forest on the south, Brush on the east, and Cass Avenue on the west. Free. (313) 577-5088

**"THE NUTCRACKER"**  
"A Spectacle on Ice" performed by Russia's St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Garfield Road and Hall (M-59), Clinton Township. \$28, \$24, \$22 students/seniors. (810) 286-2222/(800) 585-3737

**SANDI PATTY CHRISTMAS**  
Concert, 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Garfield Road and Hall (M-59), Clinton Township. \$29, \$27, \$24 students/seniors. (810) 286-2222/(800) 585-3737

### CHORAL

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH**  
With the UMS Choral Union and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, Hill Auditorium, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. \$10-\$18. (734) 764-2538/(800) 221-1229 or <http://www.ums.org>

**MADISON CHORALE**  
Present two Holiday Cabaret Concerts, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 and Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Wilkinson Middle School, 26524 John R., Madison Heights. \$10 donation, \$8 seniors/students (advanced sales). (248) 330-3589

**THE MADONNA CHORALE**  
"Christmas Choral Concert," 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in the Felician Sisters' Motherhouse Chapel, Madonna University, 36800 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. Admission by donation to the music scholarship fund. (734) 432-5708

**MADRIGAL CHORALE OF SOUTHFIELD**  
"Holiday Concert," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Old St. Mary's Church, St. Antoine and Monroe streets, Detroit's Greektown. \$15, \$12 students and seniors. (810) 445-6199

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY**  
The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance presents its popular show choir, The Meadow Brook Estate Ensemble, in an International Holiday Spectacular 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5; 2 p.m. and 7:30

p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in Varner Recital Hall on the campus in Rochester. \$12, \$10 seniors, \$6 students. (248) 370-3013/(248) 645-6666

**PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS**  
"Joy," a Christmas Concert, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, Plymouth Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton. \$9 donation. (734) 455-4080

**SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHOIR**  
Holiday concert, 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 W. Church St., at Main Street, Plymouth. \$4. (734) 462-4435

### HOLIDAY MUSIC

**FARMINGTON COMMUNITY BAND**  
A "Holiday Collage" concert opens the band's season with holiday and classic band music 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Harrison High School on 12 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills. \$3 adults, \$2 students, \$8 family. (734) 261-2202

**GALLIARD BRASS ENSEMBLE**  
Annual Holiday Concert, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at Pease Auditorium, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. Free. (734) 487-1221

### CLASSICAL

**BIRMINGHAM MUSICALE CHORALE ENSEMBLE**  
Under the direction of Judith Premin perform Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" with guest harpist Allegra Lilly 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Central Woodward Christian Church on the southeast corner of Adams and Big Beaver roads. Free. A festive tea follows the concert. (248) 475-5978

**CHAMBER MUSIC AT SCARAB CLUB**  
The series begins with music by Villa-Lobos and Piazzola featuring soloist Peter Soave (South American music), and string quartet comprised of Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the club, 217 Farnsworth, behind the Detroit Institute of Arts. \$15, \$10 students/seniors. (313) 831-1250

**LIVONIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
Rings in the "Sounds of the Season" when they perform with flutists Ervin Monroe, principal with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Alexander Zorjic and his jazz ensemble, also on the guest list is the Churchill High School Choir singing songs from the movie "Home Alone" and "Twas the Night Before Christmas," 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia. \$15, \$12 children. (734) 421-1111

**LYRIC CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**  
Perform opera choruses that have a sacred theme 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, scenes will be introduced by Dr. Wallace Peace, a frequent lecturer for the Michigan Opera Theatre, at Christ Church Detroit. \$15, \$12 seniors/students. (248) 357-1111

**SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE**  
Violinist Stephen Shipp, accompanied by pianist Anton Nel, performs selections by Debussy, Ravel and Franck noon Wednesday, Dec. 9 in the Forum Building Recital Hall at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile, Livonia. Free. (734) 462-4400, ext. 5218

### ORGAN

**MIKE ECCARD**  
Presents a Lowrey Organ Concert, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Evola Music Store in the Livonia Mall, Seven Mile and Middlebelt. Free, but donations of canned goods accepted for the Franciscan Poverty Program. Reservations, (248) 442-9682

### POPS/SWING

**JUDY COLLINS**  
Performs holiday songs with the Southfield-Lathrup Madrigal Singers, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road, Southfield. \$30 and \$35, available at the Southfield City Hall, 26000 Evergreen Road, the Parks and Recreation office, or Ticketmaster outlets. (248) 645-6666/(248) 354-4854; Pre-concert dinner at the Golden Mushroom, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8. \$25. (248) 559-4230

**SHAKEN NOT STIRRED**  
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, Karl's, 9779 Gifford Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (734) 455-8450 (swing/rockabilly)

**T. TURNER**  
Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, at D.L. Harrington's Roadhouse, 2086 Crooks Road and M-59, Rochester Hills. (810) 852-0550

### AUDITIONS

**AVON PLAYERS YOUTH THEATRE**  
Open auditions for sixth to 12th graders for "The Wizard of Oz," Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 8-9, registration at 6:30 p.m., auditions at 7 p.m., at the playhouse, 1185 Tienken Road, east of Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. For four performances Jan. 29-31. \$20 membership fee required to be part of production. (248) 542-8447

**JACKSON PRODUCTIONS**  
Auditions for Jackson Productions and Trenton Community Players "South Pacific," 7-10 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 8-9, Trenton Theatre, 2447 W. Jefferson, Trenton. Showdates are Feb. 25-28, and March 5-7. (734) 332-9166

**NOVI THEATRES**  
Auditions for ages 7-97 for "The Wizard of Oz," 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 8 and 10, at the Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 West 10 Mile, Novi. All actors must pay a participation fee of \$125 once cast. For performances March 5-6 and 12-13. (248) 347-0400

**VOCAL ARTS ACADEMY**  
Auditions by appointment only for second semester 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, in Varner Hall, Room 134 at Oakland University, Rochester. (248) 625-7057

### JAZZ

**DWIGHT ADAMS TRIO**  
8 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Dec. 10, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (trumpet/piano/bass)

**GARY BLUMER TRIO**  
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (piano/bass/drums)

**JUDIE COCHILL TRIO**  
8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Fridays, Dec. 4 and 11, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (vocals/piano/bass)

**COLEMAN-RHOADES DUO**  
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 and Friday, Dec. 11, at Duet at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue at Mack, Detroit. Reservations (313) 831-3838 (r & b)

**BUDDY GRECA AND ANNA MARIA ALBERGHETTI**  
1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. \$24, \$22 students and seniors. (810) 286-2222

**HEIDI HEPLER & MICHELE RAMO**  
6-10 p.m. Mondays at Too Chez, 27155 Sheraton Dr., Novi. (248) 348-5555; 7-10 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays at Encore in the Quality Inn, 1801 S. Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 335-3790; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, at Vic's Market, 42875 Grand River Ave., Novi. (248) 305-7333 (vocal/piano/bass)

**JUBILATION RUN**  
The Dixieland jazz band in cooperation with the New Windsor/Detroit Jazz Club presents jazz/ragtime, 3-6 p.m. Saturdays, at Steak 'n Ale, 32750 Concord, east of I-75 north, south side of 14 Mile, Madison Heights. \$3 cover. (248) 588-4450

**KATHY KOSINS**  
8-11 p.m. Friday-Saturdays, Dec. 4-5 and 11-12, Giovanni's Cafe Italiano, 31 N. Saginaw St., at Lawrence Street, Pontiac. Free. All ages. (248) 334-5241; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Dec. 8, 15, 22 and 29, at Duet at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue at Mack, Detroit. Reservations (313) 831-3838

**SHEILA LANDIS AND RICK MATLEY**  
9:30 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Dec. 10, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5080; 7:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, The Coffee Beanery, 152 N. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. All ages. (248) 646-6022

**BEN LEMPERT TRIO**  
8-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Espresso Royale Cafe, 214 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Free. All ages. (734) 668-1838 (jazz standards)

**MATT MICHAELS TRIO**  
With Paul Vornhagen, sax, 8-11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3; with Louis Smith, trumpet 8-11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills. (248) 474-4800

**JEANNINE MILLER**  
With Vincent Shandor Trio, 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. \$5, 21 and older. (734) 662-8410

**HIDEKO MILLS**  
With Surrogate Earth, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Amer's First Street Grill, 102 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$6, 21 and older. (734) 213-6000

**MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY**  
8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 3-4, Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 9-10, at Duet at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue at Mack, Detroit. Reservations (313) 831-3838

**ROBERT PIPHO**  
8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at Duet at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue at Mack, Detroit. Reservations (313) 831-3838

**GARY SCHUNK TRIO**  
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (piano/bass/drums)

**URSULA WALKER AND BUDDY BUDSON**  
With Dan Kolton, 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursdays at Forte, 201 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 594-7300

**SUNNY WILKINSON**  
9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. \$5, 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

**ALEXANDER ZONJIC**  
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and Dec. 4-5, and Friday, Dec. 11, Baci, 40 W. Pike St., Pontiac. Free. All ages. (248) 253-1300; With Ervin Monroe, DSO principal flutist, Margaret Kapes, concert pianist, Barb Ogar and her Student Flute Choir, The Whitfield Company, Heart and Soul, and GHLW personalities Cam Gardiner and Lisa Williams, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, as part of The Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse of Windsor and Essex County's Pipers' Holiday concert at Chrysler Theatre at Cleary International Centre, 201 Riverside Dr. W., Windsor. \$40

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### GOSPEL/C

**GAITHER CHRISTMAS**  
With Gaither Vocal Band, Larry Ford, Goodmans, Anthony Martins, Candy Ch, Amy Lambert, Mark Bob Cain, Jussy D, and others, 7:30 p.m. The Palace of Auburn, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. \$12, \$10 seniors, \$6 students. (248) 370-3013

**"SANDI PATTY CHRISTMAS"**  
7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at the Performing Arts Center, Clinton Township. \$24, \$22 students and seniors. (810) 286-2222

### WORLD

**"FIESTA NAVIDAD"**  
Featuring dancers 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Performing Arts Center, Clinton Township. \$24, \$22 students and seniors. (810) 286-2222

**HART-ROUGE**  
3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Performing Arts Center, Clinton Township. \$24, \$22 students and seniors. (810) 286-2222

**PINO MARELLI**  
7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at Luciano's 3900 W. 10 Mile, Detroit. \$10, \$8 students. (810) 263-6100

**Dec. 8, at Benedetti's, 8101 E. Warren, Detroit. (313) 845-6314**

**"WILL MILLAR'S ROVER"**  
Former Irish Rover O'Connell and Aer, Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Performing Arts Center, Clinton Township. \$24, \$22 students and seniors. (810) 286-2222

### DA

**CONTEMPORARY**  
Rose Marie Floyd, Christopher Stow, Francisco Ballet, Dec. 13, at the St. Antoine Auditorium in Macomb Township. \$24, \$22 students and seniors. (810) 286-2222

**CONTRA DANCE**  
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Pittsfield Grange, Saline Road, Southfield. \$7. (734) 332-9000

**DETROIT SYMPHONY**  
With Ballet Int'l, "The Nutcracker," Dec. 10, at the Detroit Opera House. (313) 576-1111

**Full Circle Dance**  
Annual Children's "Food for Thought" Revue brought "Banana," 7 p.m. p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. \$24, \$22 students and seniors. (810) 286-2222

**"THE HARLEM NIGHTS"**  
Through Sunday, House, 1526 Bk. \$50. (734) 764-0000 or <http://www.lakesarea.com>

**LAKES AREA COUNTRY**  
With guest artists, Winnipeg Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Lakes Area Country Club, 5101 E. Warren. (313) 845-6314

**"THE HARLEM NIGHTS"**  
Through Sunday, House, 1526 Bk. \$50. (734) 764-0000 or <http://www.lakesarea.com>

**LIVONIA CIVIC CENTER**  
The official ball of Livonia presented by the Livonia Civic Center, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec.

# 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 (734) 591-7279

Continued from previous page

with reception. \$12-\$20 for general seating (Canadian prices). (519) 252-6579

## GOSPEL/CHRISTIAN

**GAITHER CHRISTMAS HOMECOMING**  
With Gaither Local Band, Janet Paschal, Larry Ford, The Happy Goodmans, Anthony Burger, The Martins, Candy Christmas, Jake Hess, Amy Lambert, Mark Lowry, Ben Speer, Bob Cain, Jessy Dixon, The Easters, and others. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills. \$17.50 reserved, Superfan seating is available. Seniors ages 60 and older receive \$3 off reserved seating and children ages 12 and younger receive \$8 off reserved seating. Group rates are also available. (248) 377-0100

**"SANDI PATTY CHRISTMAS"**  
7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. \$27, \$24 students and seniors, \$29 gold circle. (810) 286-2222

## WORLD MUSIC

**"FIESTA NAVIDAD"**  
Featuring dancers and a mariachi band. 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. \$24, \$22 students and seniors. (810) 286-2222

**HART-ROUSE**  
3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Southfield centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road. \$8. (248) 424-9022. (French/English)

**PINO MARELLI**  
7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3 and 10, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, at Luciano's 39031 Garfield, Clinton Twp.. (810) 263-6540; 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Benedetto's, 15505 15 Mile, Clinton Twp. (810) 790-1010 (English/Italian/Spanish)

**"WILL MILLAR'S CELTIC CHRISTMAS"**  
Former Irish Rover with Robbie O'Connell and Aengus. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. \$24, \$22 students and seniors. (810) 286-2222

**DANCE**  
**CONTEMPORARY CIVIC BALLET**  
Rose Marie Floyd is joined by Christopher Stowell of the San Francisco Ballet 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Scottish Rite Cathedral Auditorium in Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, Detroit. \$5. A second performance takes place 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at Troy High School. \$8. (248) 641-9063 or (248) 546-7484

**CONTRA DANCE**  
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, open jam for musicians of all levels 4-6 p.m., at the Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor. Saline Road, south of I-94, Ann Arbor. \$7. (734) 332-9024

**DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
With Ballet Internationale dance "The Nutcracker" Dec. 10-13 and Dec. 17-20 at the Detroit Opera House. \$16-\$35. (313) 576-1111 or through the DSO Web site at [www.detroitso.com](http://www.detroitso.com)

**FULL CIRCLE DANCE COMPANY**  
Annual Children's Dance Concert. "Food for Thought Song and Dance Revue" brought to you by "Top Banana." 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, in Adray Auditorium, MacKenzie Fine Arts Building, Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn. \$5. (313) 845-6314

**"THE HARLEM NUTCRACKER"**  
Through Sunday, Dec. 6, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. \$15-\$50. (734) 764-2538/(800) 221-1229 or <http://www.ums.org>

**LAKES AREA CIVIC BALLET**  
With guest artist James Toth of the Winnipeg Royal Ballet in Manitoba, Canada, Saturday, Dec. 12 (school group matinees Thursday-Friday, Dec. 10-11) at West Bloomfield High School, 4925 Orchard Lake Road. \$8.50-\$10. (248) 666-1971

**LIVONIA CIVIC BALLET COMPANY**  
The official ballet company of the City of Livonia presents "The Nutcracker" 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 at Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt Road, south of Eight Mile Road, Livonia. \$12. \$9 seniors/students, \$6 children ages 9-7. (734) 427-9103

**MICHIGAN CLASSIC BALLET CO.**  
"The Nutcracker." 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, Mercy Auditorium, 29300 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. (248) 334-6964

**OAKLAND DANCE THEATRE**  
"Leaving Ground," a concert featuring works Oakland University students, faculty and guest artists, directed by Laurie Eisenhowe. 8 p.m. Thursday, Saturday, Dec. 3-5, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in the Varner Studio Theatre on the Oakland University campus, Rochester. \$10, \$8 seniors, \$5 students. (248) 370-3013

**PLYMOUTH CANTON BALLET COMPANY**  
More than 150 musicians from the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and the Plymouth-Canton Ballet come together to perform "The Nutcracker" with guest artists Dawnell Dryja and Cameron Caldwell from the Cincinnati Ballet Company. 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11 and 3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 12-13 at the Plymouth-Salem High School

Auditorium, 46181 Joy Road, Canton. \$17, \$10 students K-12th grade, \$5 Sugar Plum Tea. (734) 451-2112

**RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR**  
Featuring the Rockettes, through Wednesday, Dec. 30, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10-\$22.50. (248) 645-6666

**"SPIRIT OF THE DANCE"**  
Produced by Dublin Worldwide Dance Productions in the tradition of Riverdance, features Russian Cossacks, Flamenco Fiesta and Irish routines. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Garfield Road and Hall (M-59), Clinton Township. \$29, \$26 students/seniors. (810) 286-2222/(800) 585-3737

**COMEDY**  
**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB**  
Paul O'Angelo, Robert Mack and Rich Higginbottom, Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 3-5 (\$12); Ross Amicucci, Jim Hamm and Rich Higginbottom, Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 9-10 (\$12); Jeff Dunham and Joey Bielaska, Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12 (\$20), at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 8 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Third Level Improv and new talent nights, 8 p.m. Sundays (\$5). (734) 261-0555

**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S**  
Randy Lubas, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3 (\$8, \$20.95 dinner show package), 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5 (\$10 and \$22.95), and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6 (\$8, \$20.95 dinner show package); John Di Crosta, 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12 (\$12, \$24.95 dinner show package), and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 (\$10, \$22.95 dinner show package), at the club, 5070 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885

**MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE**  
Jack Mayberry and Jeff Margrett, Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 3-6; "Christmas Comedy Event" with Joey Bielaska, Alyce Faye and Frank Turner, 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7. \$5 off ticket price with donated toy. \$10 with toy, \$15 without toy, toys will be distributed to disadvantaged children for the holidays; Bob Zany and Mark Boyd, Wednesday-Sunday, Dec. 9-13, at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays (\$5), 8:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday (\$6), 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays (\$12), and 7:30 p.m. Sundays (\$6). Prices subject to change. (248) 542-9900 or <http://www.comedycastle.com>

**SECOND CITY**  
"Daimlers are a Girl's Best Friend," a fifth anniversary celebration show retrospective, 8 p.m. Wednesday-Sundays with additional shows at 10:30 p.m. on Friday-Saturdays through Feb. 7, at the club, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10 Wednesday, Thursdays, Sundays, \$17.50 on Fridays, and \$19.50 on Saturdays. (313) 965-2222

**JOHN VALBY**  
7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$15, 18 and older. (313) 961-5451

**MICHAEL WINSLOW**  
Star of "Police Academy" movies, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Farmington Civic Theatre, 33332 Grand River Ave., Farmington. \$25 and \$20. (248) 473-7777

**MUSEUMS AND TOURS**  
**CRESTWOOD PLANETARIUM**  
"Off to an Asteroid, Mars and a Comet," the journeys of Deep Space 1, the two Mars Surveyor '98 spacecraft and Stardust beginning their flight this year. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 8-10 Crestwood School District Planetarium, 1501 N. Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights. \$1 adults, 75 cents for students and children. Reservations necessary. (313) 274-3711

**DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
"Frontiers to Factories: Detroiters at Work 1701-1901," formerly known as "Furs to Factories," with a new Land Office, a "Wheel of Fortune" style land acquisition interactive, three new video screen interactives, a documentary video, a new Heavy Industry section and a display explaining Detroit's move from "Stove Capital of the World" to the Motor City, automobile capital of the world, opens Saturday, Dec. 5; "The Fantasy World of Doll Houses," through Jan. 31; "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, 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 or <http://www.detroithistorical.org>

**DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER**  
IMAX movies include "Tropical Rainforest" at 10 a.m. Mondays-Fridays, "Special Effects" at 1:10 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and "Everest" multiple showings seven days a week at the center. 5020 John R. (at Warren), Detroit. Admission to Exhibit Hall is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 3-15 and adults ages 60 and older, free for children ages 2 and younger. IMAX films are additional \$4. (313) 577-

**8400 HISTORIC CHURCH TOURS**  
Featuring St. Peter-St. Paul Jesuit, Christ Episcopal, Second Baptist, St. Dominic Roman and St. Paul Cathedral Episcopal churches, Monday, Dec. 7, leaves from the Detroit Historical Museum's parking lot at 10 a.m. \$11 Detroit Historical Society members, \$16 non-members, includes bus, tour and luncheon. (313) 833-1405 or <http://www.detroithistorical.org>

**HOLIDAY HOMES OF HISTORIC YPSILANTI**  
Tour of homes, Christmas carols by the Sweet Adelines, homemade Christmas cookies, Festive Tables decorated by community members, 1-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, \$13, available at Remington's By Design, Me 'N' My Sister's Country Store, and Tea, Thyme and Treasures in Historic Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Benefits Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels and historic preservation in Depot Town. (734) 485-2164 or <http://www.ypsilanti.org>

**GREENMEAD HISTORICAL VILLAGE**  
Tour 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, free concert by Livonia Civic Chorus at the church in the village, 20501 Newburgh, south of Eight Mile, Livonia. Tours \$2, \$1 children. (248) 477-7375

**MEADOW BROOK HALL**  
"1998 Holiday Walk - Picture Perfect Holidays," through Sunday, Dec. 6, at the mansion, Oakland University, Walton Boulevard and Adams Road, Rochester. (248) 370-3140

**POPULAR MUSIC**  
**ANADA**  
9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

**ALL HAIL ME**  
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. \$5. 21 and older. (313) 875-6555 or <http://www.lilis21.com> (rock)

**THE ALLIGATORS**  
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, Karl's, 9779 Grotferson Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (734) 455-8450; 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Ford Road Bar and Grill, 35505 Ford Road, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 721-8609 (blues)

**JOCELYN B. AND DETROIT STREET PLAYERS**  
9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12, Sisko's, 5855 Monroe Boulevard (at Van Born), Taylor. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 278-5340 or <http://www.siskos.com> (blues)

**BAKED POTATO**  
With Deep Space Six, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or <http://www.alvins.xtcom.com> (funk)

**BUGS BEDDOW BAND**  
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, Bad Frog Tavern, 555 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 642-9400; 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Shark Club, 6650 Highland Road, Waterford. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 666-4161 or <http://www.bugsbeddow.com> (blues)

**GORDON BENNETT**  
9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Thursdays Dec. 3 and 10, Hamlin Pub North, 741 S. Lapeer Road, Lake Orion. Free. 21 and older. (248) 814-8109; 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Hamlin Pub, 1988 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. Free. 21 and older. (248) 656-7700 (rock)

**"BLIND PIG SHOWCASE"**  
With Pamela West, Sweet Kelly, The Element and Lurch, 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Free. 21 and older. (734) 996-8555 (variety)

**THE BOMB POPS**  
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. \$5. 21 and older. (313) 875-6555 or <http://www.lilis21.com> (rock)

**BILLY BRAGG AND THE BLOKES**  
With Corey Harris, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$22.50 in advance. All ages. (734) 761-1800 or <http://www.a2ark.org> (pop)

**BUFFALO TOM**  
8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$8.50 in advance. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com> (pop)

**BURNER**  
With Exploration, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, JD's Macomb Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. 18 and older. (810) 913-1921 (rock)

**BUSTERS BLUES BAND**  
9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, Giovanni's Cafe Italiano, 31 N. Saginaw St. (at Lawrence Street), Pontiac. Free. All ages. (248) 334-5241 (R&B)

**CANDLEBOX**  
With The Hunger and Blue Plate Special, perform as part of radio station WQBR's "Rockin' for the Hungry" concert, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. \$21.03, \$27.50 limited superfan seating includes afterparty ticket. (734) 763-TKTS/(248) 645-6666 (rock)

**CLOUD CAR**  
With The Numbers, formerly known as Big Block, and Scmads, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or <http://www.gold-dollar.com> (rock)

**JAMES CLOYD GRIP**  
9 p.m. Thursday, Sisko's, 5855 Monroe Boulevard, Taylor. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 278-5340

or <http://www.siskos.com> (blues)  
**CULTURE BANDITS**  
With Ghettoillies, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. \$5. 21 and older. (313) 875-6555 or <http://www.lilis21.com> (rock)

**RONNIE EARL AND THE BROADCASTERS**  
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$17 in advance (each night). 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or <http://www.themagicbag.com> (blues)

**EARTH CRISIS**  
5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$11. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com> (rock)

**GLEN EDDIE**  
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, Bobby J's Music Cafe, 29 Front St., Lake Orion. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 814-8550; 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

**FACTORY 81**  
With Slave 1, Flinch and Tap Root, 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, JD's Macomb Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. All ages. (810) 913-1921 (rock)

**THE REV. MARC FALCONBERRY**  
Hosts acoustic blues jam, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sisko's, 5855 Monroe Boulevard (at Van Born), Taylor. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 278-5340 or <http://www.siskos.com> (blues)

**TIM FLAHERTY TRIO**  
Hosts blues jam, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursdays, Frigate's Inn, 14 Mile Road (at East Lake Drive), Walled Lake. (248) 624-9607 (blues)

**FUNKTELLIGENCE**  
9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, as part of Mood Indigo night at Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 21 and older. (734) 662-8310 (funk)

**GHETTOBILLES**  
With Joey Skidmore, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or <http://www.alvins.xtcom.com> (rock)

**STEVE GORNALL**  
9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, Sisko's, 5855 Monroe Boulevard, Taylor. Tickets at Ticketmaster. 21 and older. (313) 278-5340 (blues)

**HAL 9000**  
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or <http://www.golddollar.com> (hardcore rock)

**MICHAEL HILL'S BLUES MOB**  
10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Amer's First Street Grill, Ann Arbor. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. 21 and older. (734) 213-6000 (blues)

**"HOLIDAY HOOTENANNY"**  
Featuring the Goo Goo Dolls, DC Talk, Semisonic, Better Than Ezra and Edwin McCain, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Cobo Arena, Detroit. Tickets at Ticketmaster. All ages. (248) 645-6666 or <http://www.ticketmaster.com> or <http://www.planet963.com> (pop)

**THE HOPE ORCHESTRA**  
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Cafe Zola, 112 W. Washington St., Ann Arbor. Free. All ages. (734) 769-2020 or <http://www.concentric.net/~hopeorch> (pop)

**LISA HUNTER**  
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Six String Coffee House inside the Michigan League, University of Michigan campus. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 763-4652 (acoustic rock)

**THE INCURABLES**  
With 1959, a Buddy Holly tribute band, play a benefit concert for 11-month-old Brittany Long, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 105 S. Wayne Road, Westland. \$5, free for those ages 5 and younger, includes pizza and pop. All ages. Long was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and is undergoing chemotherapy. (734) 722-8743 or <http://www.incurables.com> (rock)

**NIKKI JAMES AND THE FLAMETHROWERS**  
9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, Giovanni's Cafe Italiano, 31 N. Saginaw St. (at Lawrence Street), Pontiac. Free. All ages. (248) 334-5241 (blues)

**THE KINGSNAKES**  
10 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 4 and 11, Mr. Sports, 13090 Inkster Road, Redford. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 534-7420; 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Rivertown Saloon, 1977 Woodbridge, Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 567-6020 (rock)

**KNEE DEEP SHAG**  
With Sugar Buzz, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (funk)

**MASCHINA**  
With Papa Vegas and Paper Plate, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)

**DAVE MATTHEWS BAND**  
With Maceo Parker, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Sold out. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or <http://www.palacenet.com> (rock)

**STONE MAZAR AND THE WESTSIDERS**  
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

**MERGE**  
With Bliss, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, JD's Macomb Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. 18 and older. (810) 913-1921 (rock)

**MIGHTY JOE YOUNG**  
9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Amer's First Street Grill, 102 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. 21 and older. (bluesy rock)

**"N SYNC**  
With Britney Spears, 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills. Sold out. All ages: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets, \$35 and \$24.50, go on sale at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, (248) 377-0100 or <http://www.palacenet.com> (pop)

**ROBERT NOLL BLUES MISSION**  
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Ford Road Bar and Grill, 35505 Ford Road, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 721-8609; 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty St., Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 451-1213 (blues)

**N-2 SUBMISSION**  
Featuring The Impaler, with The Shakes, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or <http://www.golddollar.com> (synth pop)

**THE OFFSPRING**  
With Unwritten Law, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Sold out. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com> (rock)

**OFIE'S DREAM**  
With Shout, the Beatles tribute band, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, JD's Macomb Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. 18 and older. (810) 913-1921 (rock)

**ROBERT PENN**  
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 24 Karat Club, 29449 Joy Road (two blocks east of Middlebelt Road), Westland. Cover charge. 18 and older. (734) 513-5030 (blues)

**PUSHPER**  
With Kuz and The Triggers, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$4. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)

**PUMMEL**  
With Swag and Broadzila, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or <http://www.alvins.xtcom.com> (rock)

**PUSHMONKEY**  
With Puya, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$5.01. All ages. (248) 335-8100 or <http://www.961melt.com> (rock)

**? AND THE MYSTERIANS**  
9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Magic Stick in the Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets at Ticketmaster. 18 and older. (313) 833-POOL (rock)

**THE REV. HORTON HEAT**  
With Flat Duo Jets and The Amazing Crowns, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$15. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com> (rock)

**SKINFLOWER**  
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or <http://www.alvins.xtcom.com> (rock)

**SOLID FROG**  
With Slide Off Saturn and Sugar Pill, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)

**STEVE SOMERS BAND**  
With Valerie Barrymore, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec

# ny 'Home Fries' will satisfy your appetite for something fun

LY WYONIK  
STAFF WRITER  
kwyonik@homecomm.net

romantic, and somewhat stupid, "Home Fries" satisfies serious movie-goers, but if you're looking for something fast and fun, this

Sawyer (Drew Barrymore) works the drive-through at the Burger-Matic in town. That way nobody knows she's pregnant, by a

married man, heaven!

**'Home Fries' isn't a gourmet meal, but if you're looking for a night of laughs, and maybe even a little romance, you'll be satisfied.**

But Sawyer, who has a heart as big as Grand Canyon, had no



Romantic: Drew Barrymore and Luke Wilson star in the off-center romantic comedy, "Home Fries."

idea her Henry (Chris Ellis) was married, until it was too

late. Henry's wife, Mrs. Lever (Catherine O'Hara) knows about the other woman, and "can feel her." Sometimes Mrs. Lever even dreams about her, and in her dreams "she looks like a big black ant."

"Home Fries" is definitely junk food for the mind, except unlike McDonald's, you don't know exactly what you're getting. This movie has more twists and turns than a roller coaster at Cedar Point. It's totally unpredictable, until near the end.

Henry pulls into Burger-Matic to see his girl, and order his favorite — a vanilla milkshake — "very cold, very tall." Sally's not happy, and won't agree to see him after her shift. On the way home, Henry, the rascal, takes his wedding ring out of the car ashtray, and puts it back on.

He's in for a surprise of his life. Mrs. Lever's two sons by a previous marriage, Dorian (Luke Wilson) and Angus (Jake Busey) are both Army National Guardsmen and Cobra helicopter pilots. Mom wants them to scare a little sense into Henry.

Things get a little out of hand, as Henry runs for his life with the helicopter hovering overhead. Sally's working the night shift, and starts to pick up the helicopter's frequency on her headset. She doesn't pay attention, because she's too busy arguing with her co-worker over who will clean out the milk shake machine.

The brothers don't know that, and they didn't know Henry had a weak heart either. When he ends up dead, sitting upright in the middle of a field, it sets off a whole chain of crazy events more fun than a Happy Meal.

O'Hara's hilarious as the woman done wrong. Her sons, who are in their 20s, act a whole lot younger. They sleep in bunk beds, bicker like little kids, and vie for mom's attention. Angus is crushed when Mrs. Lever tells Dorian, "you're my favorite."

As the older brother, Angus decides it's best to eliminate Sally just in case she heard something on her headset. Dorian didn't count on falling in love with her.

Set in a small town that could be anywhere U.S.A. there's a lot to like about this movie. Dorian goes to work at Burger-Matic, on a mission to find out more about Sally. He becomes a hero when her drunken father shows up with a shot gun at Burger-Matic during a birthday party for Sally's younger brother. "When he gets drunk he gets stupid," says Sally in defense of her dad. Angus isn't happy, "we don't need the publicity," he says.

Shelly Duvall is perfect as Sally's mom, Ms. Jackson, who baits her husband out of jail time and time again, and loves her children unconditionally.

Sweet Sally wants Mrs. Lever to know the truth about her husband. "I didn't know he was married until after I conceived," she explains to Dorian. "He lied to me, and he's been lying to her too. She needs to know."

Wilson and Busey are believable as the squabbling brothers choking on mom's long apron strings who will do anything to make her happy.

Mrs. Lever's family's breaking apart, and Sally's is just starting — "I know how I look to everyone," she says. "I was raised right, I can't help the rest, but I'm going to be a really good mother."

"Home Fries" isn't a gourmet meal, but if you're looking for a night of laughs, and maybe even a little romance, you'll be satisfied.

## SHARE YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY MOVIE MEMORIES

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
STAFF WRITER  
lrogers@homecomm.net

With shopping, parties and other assorted merrymaking, the holidays can be a very hectic time.

Sometimes it's nice to take a breather — to put your feet up and relax with a video. Movies, seasonal or not, are part of our collective memories.

There are some obvious traditional films people enjoy watching around the holidays. Like "It's a Wonderful Life" or "Miracle on 34th Street" — the latter a particular favorite of mine since childhood. There are the myriad of "A Christmas Carol" adaptations — my personal favorite is the one with George C. Scott although my seven-year old niece was quite amused by the Looney Tunes version.

Some of the other choices may not be so obvious. Another Christmas season favorite in our family was "The Shop Around the Corner." The 1939 romantic comedy starring James Stewart and Margaret Sullivan tells the story of bickering co-workers who don't realize they're lovelorn pen pals. (The e-mail version "You've Got Mail" is due in theaters shortly.) Everything gets resolved on Christmas Eve.

Another fun holiday movie is "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" the 1987 comedy in which uptight businessman Steve Martin and shower curtain ring salesman John Candy encounter all sorts of obstacles, calamities and annoyances in an effort to get back home for Thanksgiving. The version shown on television is very funny but the uncut video version is even funnier.

While probably not a film that immediately comes to mind around the holidays, there is always "Meet Me in St. Louis," the 1944 musical that manages to hit most of the major holidays during the year leading up to the opening of the 1903 World's Fair. Among the terrific songs is Judy Garland singing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

An important rule in life is "know your audience." That's especially true if you are going to show a movie to a collection of friends and relatives of varying ages and tastes. I recall spending a holiday with friends when one of the siblings pulled out a copy of "Angel Heart," a terrific but quite violent film. As one synopsis summed it up "Absolutely not for the squeamish or children." A shockingly bad choice for a family gathering.

We'd like you to share your memories and thoughts about your favorite holiday movie viewing over the years. E-mail your comments with your name, age and

hometown to: kwyonik@homecomm.net or fax at 734-591-7279 no later than Dec. 17. We'll run a sampling of your responses in our Dec. 24 edition.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 4

### "PSYCHO"

A scene-by-scene remake of the 1960 Alfred Hitchcock classic. Stars Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche.

Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 11

### "JACK FROST"

Fantasy adventure about a man who becomes a real father after returning to life as a cooler guy than he ever imagined possible — below freezing to be precise. Stars Michael Keaton, Kelly Preston.

### "WAKING NED DEVINE"

A comedy fable about the true meaning of fortune. Someone in a small Irish town wins a lottery and the towns people want to share.

### "HARD CORE LOBO"

Exclusively at the Landmark Main Art Theatre. The story of four characters who struggle to reconcile their mythic punk rock past with the hangover realities of the present. A tale of lost dreams, the lure of the open road and memories of youth that fade in the rearview mirror.

Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 18

### "THE LAST EMPEROR"

Bernardo Bertolucci's director's cut of the Academy Award-winning drama based on the life of Pu Yi, the child who was the last emperor of China.



Family feature: Joseph Cross and Michael Keaton in a scene from "Jack Frost," opening Dec. 11 at metro Detroit movie theaters.

# F-111 se



CHRISTINA FUOCO

If Andrew Goldstone of F-111 Records has his way, the Detroit-based band Control Freq. and its debut album "Freq. Show" will be huge. "We really feel like it's a mainstream (release) or can be a mainstream pop record. At the same time, we're going to attempt to cultivate some interest on the underground," said Goldstone, co-director of the Warner Bros.-affiliated label F-111.

"It's not a Spice Girls Record. It's got a lot more musicality to it." Control Freq. is the latest project from singer/leader Dennis White, keyboardist Ken Roberts and guitarist Steve Zuccaro, all of whom are former members of Charm Farm. The band, whose album is due out in March, officially inked the deal recently. Control Freq. signed to F-111 after former CIMX-FM DJ and Hits Magazine writer Caeri Bertrand referred the band to Goldstone.

"She told me about Dennis, and I used to run Astralwerks (Records). Dennis was doing

# Offspring

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER  
cfuoco@homecomm.net

After hitting megastar status with the albums "Smash" and "Ixnay on the Hombre," the Offspring is finding time to be a band.

"We're practicing this week for the live show. It's been fun. We didn't practice yesterday. We just did interviews and photos. It was one of the funnest days I remember having in a long time," said guitarist Noodles, via telephone from his Orange County, Calif.

"We were cracking each other up, and playing and having fun. Everything is coming together really well."

The Offspring's "Americana" (Columbia) is poised to be just as successful thanks to the first single, the instantly memorable "Pretty Fly (For a White Guy)" and its catchy line "Give it to me baby."

"We had a lot of fun doing that, actually. It all came together once we were laying all the different layers down and all the different voices," Noodles

"Blistering, %@!!!"  
"Sarageely funny!"  
"They've been bad"



CHRISTIAN SLATER  
VERY BAD

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NOW SHOWING  
AMC LIVONIA 20  
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STAR GRATIOT  
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FOR THEATRES & SHOWTIMES CALL

# F-111 sees big things for Control Freq.



CHRISTINA FUOCO

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Control Freq. signed to F-111 after former CIMX-FM DJ and Hits Magazine writer Caeri Bertrand referred the band to Goldstone.

"She told me about Dennis, and I used to run Astralwerks (Records). Dennis was doing

more techno stuff on the side and we met up at the Winter Music Conference two years ago," Goldstone explained.

"When he sent me a tape of five songs, it was mostly just to say, 'Hey, this is what I'm up to.' He didn't know I was about to make a move to go to Warner Bros."

As soon as Goldstone heard the demo, he knew he had to have them.

"We're very happy to have them. It was pretty much the first thing we signed. They weren't officially signed until relatively recently. But it was a done deal shortly after we came aboard at Warner Bros. in March."

Control Freq. just returned from New York where it did a photo shoot at a "serious prop house," according to guitarist Zuccaro. For the shoot, the band used props from "Back to the Future."

"We were inside a spaceship and in a cockpit. We got all these fresh shots that we'll probably use for promo photos and the record," he said.

Charm Farm released an album, "Pervert," on Mercury Records and had a hint of success with the song "Superstar." The band was dropped shortly thereafter.

Guitarist Zuccaro said that already he's pleased - but cautious - about working with F-111 and Warner Bros.

"I'm not really as excited as before. I know what can happen. I'm kind of just like ho-hum about it because of what happened last time."

## Rubbing elbows

Country singers Joseph James of Rochester Hills and Carl Larson of Farmington rubbed elbows with some of their genre's top singer/songwriters at the three-day prestigious songwriter retreat in Nashville.

"It was a great experience," James said. "If you're a songwriter, you're sort of in your element. We also had three days of working on even better songs."

During the three-day retreat, James and other songwriters worked on improving their songwriting ability by interacting with fellow songwriters and breaking into small groups.

"We were whisked off from downtown Nashville at 8 in the morning on Greyhound buses. We were taken to an inn, an old Victorian home built 70-80 years ago," he explained.

The leaders of the group would perform the participants' songs and afterward critique them.

Songwriters were chosen to

participate based on a tape of two songs that they were required to send.

In 1996, James released his debut CD "Back in Love," which featured the song "Car Country." The song hit No. 1 on two of the independent charts. Earlier this year, he performed a showcase at the Opryland Hotel during the Country Radio Seminar.

James, who also hosts "The Money Show" at 3 p.m. Saturdays on WCM-AM 990, is due to release his sophomore effort early next year. To hear samples of his new disc, visit <http://www.joseph-james.com>.

## Big winners

The hard pop band Sensitive Clown has reason to celebrate. It was named one of the four first-prize winners of Sony Music's DEMOlisten Derby battle of the bands.

Each member of the band - guitarist/singer Todd Wicks, drummer Joel Wicks, guitarist Rock McClain, and bassist Lawyer Ned Friendship - received a Sony mini-disc player.

Todd Wicks, a Rochester Hills resident, entered the contest after stumbling across information about it on the Web.

"There's probably a dozen or so of these things that bands enter each year. For some reason we

lucked out this time. It's hopefully a little more recognition. I can't say that anything has directly come from it yet, but it's something on our resume, as they say," Wicks said.

Although Sensitive Clown didn't get the grand prize of studio time, Wicks said it's still a nice surprise.

"It's a tiny little bit of validation that encourages you and makes you think I'm not insane to think that this is something good. If a huge faceless corporation like Sony likes it, maybe there's a future for us after all."

Sensitive Clown performs at 9

p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the New Way Bar, 23130 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. For more information, call the bar at (248) 541-9870 or visit Sensitive Clown's Web site at <http://www.msu.edu/user/wickajoe>.

Christina Fuoco is the pop music reporter for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. If you have a question or comment for her, you can leave her a message at (734) 953-2047, mailbox No. 2130, or write to her at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or [cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net).

# Offspring finding time to be a band

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER  
[cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net)

After hitting megastar status with the albums "Smash" and "Lxay on the Hombre," the Offspring is finding time to be a band.

"We're practicing this week for the live show. It's been fun. We didn't practice yesterday. We just did interviews and photos. It was one of the funnest days I remember having in a long time," said guitarist Noodles, via telephone from his Orange County, Calif.

"We were cracking each other up, and playing and having fun. Everything is coming together really well."

The Offspring's "Americana" (Columbia) is poised to be just as successful thanks to the first single, the instantly memorable "Pretty Fly (For a White Guy)" and its catchy line "Give it to me baby."

"We had a lot of fun doing that, actually. It all came together once we were laying all the different layers down and all the different voices," Noodles

explained.

The key to the song, he said, isn't the sample of Def Leppard's "Rock of Ages," or the line "all the girls say I'm pretty fly for a white guy." It's his fat guitar licks.

"It's in the same vein as the funk 'Low Rider' kind of thing. I just added the rough Offspring edge to it."

"Pretty Fly (For a White Guy)" pokes fun at white gangster wannabes, who frequent talk shows wearing tilted baseball hats, baggy pants, flavor-saver goatees, and tattoos.

"He thought we'd write this song about wannabes and this white guy, this white suburban middle class kid, who thinks he's down with the urban hip-hop kids and not cutting it," Noodles said with a laugh.

"We've all tried to fit in. Everybody kind of relates to trying to be something other than what we are. But it's also funny knowing people like that. You can be horrified but at the same time find the humor in it."

Characters on talk shows

played a big part in the writing of "Americana," according to singer Dexter Holland, who earned a Ph.D. in microbiology. "She's Got Issues" shares Holland's thoughts on emotional baggage-carrying women: "Now I know she'll feel abandoned/If I don't stay over late/And I know she's afraid to commit/but it's only our second date."

"Why Don't You Get a Job" rips on people who take advantage financially of their lovers.

"Lately, I've been into this warped sense of Americana. The whole daytime talk show culture fascinates me. It seems like the stuff that used to be the fringe is more and more the everyday reality," Holland explained.

"If America was barbecues, big cars and life in the suburbs in the '60s, it's now totally a freak show. I want to show that ordinary, average American life isn't so average."

In the midst of all that is a surprising cover of the 1970s ballad "Feelings."

"It gets the point across in the very Offspring matter. At first we thought it could come out a

little more metal sounding. That was how we even kind of attacked it from the beginning, with a heavy metal guitar solo and everything," Noodles said.

"But it didn't sound right so we were backing off and it fell into that Offspring groove. Plus, everybody knows the melody, everyone can sing-along. It's going to be fun to do live."

"Americana," recorded in February with producer Dave Jerden at his El Dorado Studios in Burbank, Calif., closes with the eight-minute, mostly instrumental, Middle Eastern-tinged "Pay The Man."

The Offspring and Unwritten Law perform a sold-out, all-ages show at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT or visit <http://www.961melt.com> for more information. To learn more about the Offspring, visit <http://www.offspring.com> or write to them via snail-mail at P.O. Box 5956, Garden Grove, Calif., 92846.

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# Fusion creates more than East meets West cuisine

BY ELEANOR & RAY HEALD  
SPECIAL WRITERS

Perhaps you've noticed that Matt Prentice, President of the Unique Restaurant Corporation, likes bringing you new restaurants. Call him restaurant trend setter or creative genius, innovation is his specialty and Fusion in Farmington Hills is his latest.

Fusion is located in URC's former Relish. When a theme such as Relish lost its identity, Prentice said "makeover time." Diners never caught on to the Relish theme of salsas, Pacific Island sambal, Indian chutney, piccalilli, Indonesian, blattjans or atjars served with wood-smoked fish and meats. So Relish backed off, gave diners what they wanted, and a new theme found room on the drawing board.

Prentice looked at dining trends and a bowl concept evolved. What do we like to eat in bowls? Noodles, rice and mashed potatoes. Asian noodle shops are popular around the world. They serve rice there too. But this is America and we love mashed potatoes or in new lingo "mash!"

Prentice needed a name to fit his ideas. He ran a contest. Fusion won and opened Nov. 19 in the Farmington Hills location of the former Relish. Decor and architectural design by Birmingham's Marc Therrien are new, more open and red/gold bright. But only 85 percent complete until mid-to-late December.

At its simplest, fusion cuisine refers to the blending of flavors created by the ancient technique of wok cooking. URC's Fusion takes them to the next level.

"Our concept goes beyond Asian," Prentice explained. "However, it will follow a healthy Asian diet with dishes that are about 60 percent carbohydrates, 30 percent vegetables and 10 percent protein. This reverses a traditional American diet that is about 80 percent protein, 20 percent carbohydrates and 20 percent vegetables."

Also of note - menu items are

**Fusion**  
**Where:** 34555 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, between Farmington and Drake Roads (248) 489-8852  
**Hours:** Monday-Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday until midnight, Saturday 5 p.m. to midnight, Sunday 3-9 p.m.  
**Menu:** Flavors of countries around the world are fused by stir-fry techniques creating a celebration of noodles, rice and America's comfort food, mashed potatoes.  
**Cost:** All items under \$10.  
**Reservations:** Accepted.  
**Credit cards:** All majors accepted.

all under \$10.

Prentice said "beyond Asian." True, but Asian oriented with serious dumplings and rolls such as steamed chicken and ginger shumai or vegetable and wild rice spring roll with orange duck sauce and hot mustard.

At Fusion you can have your mash, full-blooded American spuds, served up mini or mighty. Mini are appetizers, such as the creative Sweet Potato Mash with apple, chutney and candied pecans. Mighty versions are mega main dishes, all beyond Asian in concept. Comfort food at its lip-smacking best is Pepper Steak, slow-roasted brisket with onions, peppers and mushrooms over horseradish mash.

Among satays are tandoori chicken, but living in this state you have to try the Traverse City Special of apple cider marinated pork tenderloin with cherry BBQ and spicy mustard dipping sauces.

Prefer meatless? Go wild in the Fresh Vegetable Market! An all vegetable wok of choice with any of five sauces is \$7. Toppings such as stir-fried chicken or sirloin, seared shrimp, roasted salmon or great crispy duck can be added for \$3-6, depending on choice.

Included in the Oodles of Noodles department are stir-fried chicken in the Marco Polo;



Dinner in a bowl: General Manager John Muster (left) and Chef Jason Jones at the newly opened Fusion where diners can choose from a variety of dishes that are served in a bowl.

seared shrimp and green chiles in Bannock Shrimp; Tenderloin Teriyaki; Crispy BBQ Duck; or Mushroom Madness with stir-fried shitake, crimini and oyster mushrooms with leeks, garlic, fettuccine and wild mushroom sauce.

If you agree that Rice is Nice, you can choose from just about any of the above and have it your way.

Kiddie bowls at \$5-6 feature spaghetti with tomato sauce, mac 'n cheese, chicken tenders and China bowl with crispy veg-

etables, rice and sesame-soy ginger sauce. All are served with soft drink and dessert.

Adults can choose from among four Sensational Sweets. Most unique is Mango-Ginger Creme Brulee. It's less custardy than the classic, but flavors are marvelous.

Orchestrating menu offerings created by Corporate Chef Jim Barnett is executive chef Jason Jones who climbed the URC kitchen ladder and was Executive Chef at Relish. Also out of the URC management talent

pool are General Manager John Muster and Dining Room Manager Danford Egnor who inspired the beer selections, \$3.50-4.50 in the Nuclear Fusion beverage department.

Arcs and Sparks are fusion cocktails including the G-Factor and a Neutrino. The Top Quark list of 25 wines from the Global Atomic Village are all available by the glass, \$5.50-\$9.50, or by the bottle at \$20-\$45. URC's wine director Madeline Triffon likes the Von Kesselstadt Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabi-

nett best with "the broad spectrum of food offerings."

We liked both the 1997 Villa Maria Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand and 1997 KVV Steen Chenin Blanc from South Africa with appetizers. Among reds our nod goes to 1996 La Famiglia di Robert Mondavi Barbera and 1996 Folie a Deux Old Vine Zinfandel.

Guaranteed all beverages, like many menu items are "beyond Asian," but with a fusion of delectable flavors.

## WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, fax (248) 591-7279, or e-mail kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

**Chefs for Humanity** - On Sunday, Dec. 6 from 4-7 p.m. at the Kingsley Hotel & Suites in Bloomfield Hills, 1475 N. Woodward Ave., (just north of Long Lake Road), over 30 of Michi-

gan's top chefs will combine their talents to create and host Chefs for Humanity to raise money to aid in the relief for Honduran families ravaged by Hurricane Mitch.

Tickets are \$150 per person, call Unique Restaurant Corporation, (248) 646-0370 Ext. 219 or Tribute (248) 848-9393. Reservations are recommended. Participants include Schoolcraft College, Duet, and Steve & Rocky's. In addition to an award-winning

cuisine and wine selected and poured by Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon, patrons will include festive live music. Six of the world's finest French Champagne Houses will also participate. Patrons can savor the champagnes of Veuve Clicquot, Gosset, Taittinger, Piper Heidsieck, Perrier Jovet, and Moet et Chandon.

**Cafe Bon Homme Christmas Eve Special** - In addition

to its regular menu Cafe Bon Homme, 844 Penniman, Plymouth (734) 474-4800 will be featuring a special four-course dinner for two, \$100, exclusive of tax, tip and beverages. Dinner includes Foie Gras and pear appetizer; Raspberry Vinaigrette salad with toasted almonds and dried cranberries; Crown Rack of Lamb persillade; and Creme Brulee as a sweet ending.

**Archie's** - Check out the

renovations at Archie's, 30471 Plymouth Road, Livonia. The dining room is beautiful, and there's a new kitchen too. Restaurant hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturdays, closed Sunday. Archie's will be open until 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Call (734) 525-2820 for information. See story next week in Entertainment.

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