

# Plymouth Observer

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Thursday  
December 16, 1999

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## Grant puts full-time cops in schools

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER  
tbruscato@oe.homecomm.net

The Canton Police Department has been awarded a \$125,000 federal grant to fund two full-time police officers at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park for the next three years.

Since 1997, the police department has assigned a part-time youth liaison officer to the school campus. In fact, the work of Officer Mike Speckle is credited with significantly reducing graffiti and gang problems at the high schools.

However, Public Safety Director John Santomauro is hoping the creation of full-time school resource officers will provide an enhanced level of policing on the campus, which he notes

will be particularly important when the third high school is constructed.

"These officers will become involved with the young people and staff, and I see a lot of good things coming from that," said Santomauro. "We're looking for them to become role models for the kids at the park. They'll also be able to handle calls from the high school instead of sending an additional patrol car to the campus."

While the grant is for three years, Santomauro said the commitment will go beyond that time frame if the program is successful.

Officer Scott Hilden, 33, began his duties Monday. He'll be joined by Officer Robert Smedley some time next year.

Please see COPS, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBSCHMANN

On the job: Officer Scott Hilden talks with seniors Brandy McGrew, Katie Gazsi and Allison Snell Wednesday morning.

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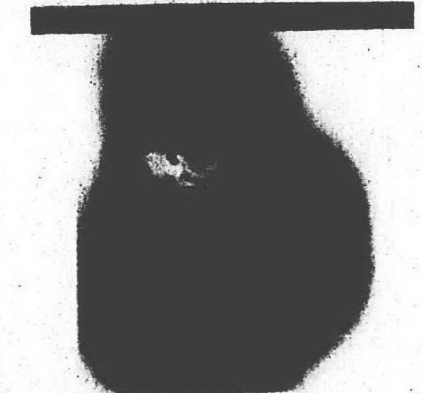
HomeTown Newspapers

IN THE PAPER  
**TODAY**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**New Year's Eve: Find out what's happening around town to make your New Year's Eve or New Year's Day a celebration worthy of its place in history. / E1**

**Let the games begin: The second of Detroit's three temporary casinos, MotorCity, is a glamorous place with restaurants too. / E1**



Find just what you need, from toy soldiers to dining room tables in today's HomeTown Classifieds!

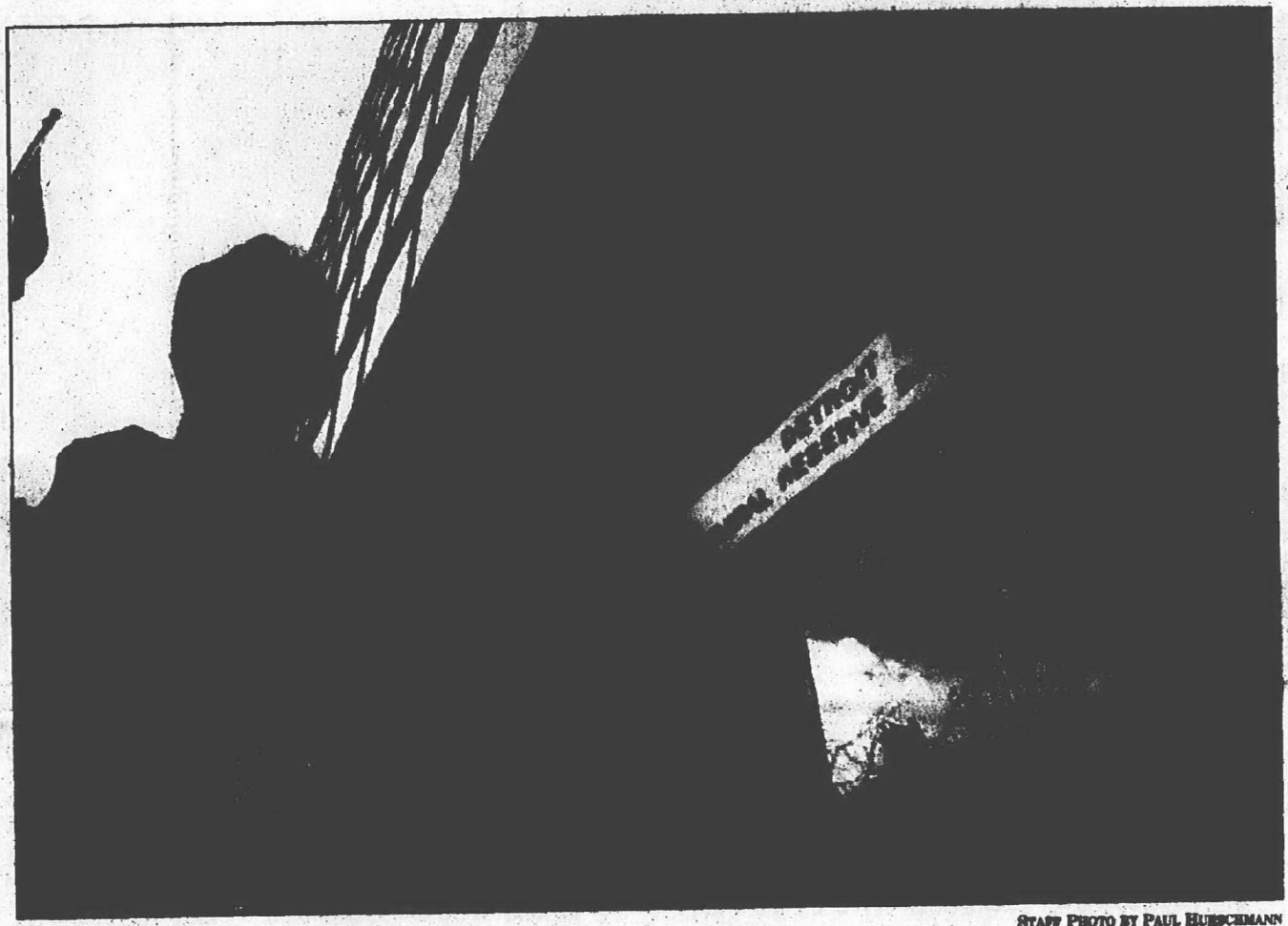
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**Financial security**



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBSCHMANN

**Y2K ready:** Linda McDonald poses in front of the Detroit Branch, Federal Reserve of Chicago on Fort Street in downtown Detroit Monday.

Plymouth resident Linda McDonald will be on duty New Year's Eve in case Y2K problems cause anyone to start shouting. . .

## Show me the money!

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER  
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While many will be toasting the new millennium and others fretting over Y2K problems on Dec. 31, Linda McDonald of Plymouth plans on having a quiet New Year's Eve.

McDonald, an operations officer for the Detroit branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, will be sitting in her downtown Detroit office "hoping for a calm and peaceful evening."

McDonald is responsible for making sure banks, credit unions and thrifts in Michigan's Lower Peninsula have a sufficient money supply for customers.

"We think it will be business as usual, but we're prepared," said McDonald, responding to Y2K worries. "If any financial institution needs money during this Y2K time, we'll be open 24 hours on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. That's

**'If nothing happens and it becomes a non-event, it means we addressed it properly.'**

*Linda McDonald*  
—Federal Reserve  
operations officer

unprecedented." In fact, McDonald said she'll be working 12-hour shifts from Dec. 27 through Jan. 8 to make certain everyone who wants their money will get it.

"Early on there were suggestions people would take out additional funds for Y2K, but we're not seeing that," said McDonald. "But we did stock up on currency because we want the public to be confident there is enough money in the system to meet their demand."

McDonald is not allowed to say

how much money is actually stored, but did say, "We keep a 30-day supply of currency for the Lower Peninsula. That means all the banks and financial institutions which get money from us would have to order 30 times more than normal in a single day for us to run out of money."

McDonald noted there will be \$840 million circulating throughout the United States and Europe in case of any Y2K situation.

Normally financial institutions have one on-site visit by a federal regulator each year. However, McDonald said because of the Y2K scare, this year banks and credit unions had three visits. And all financial institutions have a Y2K contingency plan ready in case of any problems.

In fact, a trial run for possible banking problems was completed Sept. 9, when many predicted 9/9/99 would cause Y2K-like problems.

Please see MONEY, A4

## Push on to review charter

Commissioner eyes change in how mayor is chosen

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER  
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After nearly six weeks on the job, Plymouth City Commissioner Sean FitzGerald wants to fulfill a campaign promise.

"I would like to have the mayor is elected under the city charter examined and revised," said FitzGerald. "I think we should give the choice to the people of Plymouth. During the campaign for commissioner, a lot of people agreed with me that there should be a change."

FitzGerald believes the current way of electing a mayor, by elected commissioners, is a cause for major concern.

"I think the last two mayoral elections have demonstrated that a simple majority can create factions within a new commission and affect the way they work together," added FitzGerald. "The current system has the potential to cause commissions to get off on the wrong foot."

FitzGerald was referring to the politicking done to elect former mayor Don Dismuke on 4-3 vote, and the election of current mayor Dave McDonald.

"I think the way Don Dismuke was elected set the tone for actions by that commission for two years. The factions that arose never died down," said FitzGerald. "The risk for that existed with this commission, but fortunately this group put the city's welfare ahead of individual needs."

Several newly-elected commissioners objected to a private meeting called by then-commissioner McDonald before they were sworn in, which was designed, in part, to garner support for McDonald's bid for mayor. McDonald was eventually elected mayor on a 5-2 vote.

The issue of how the mayor is selected was also brought to light by several commission candidates during this year's city commission campaign when



Sean FitzGerald

Please see CHARTER, A4

## Woman struck by speeding car

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER  
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June Wells, 84, liked to walk to Bode's Corn Beef House for breakfast several times a week from her apartment at Tonquish Creek Manor.

"She used to come in every day and order French toast and two pieces of sausage," said waitress Sharon Moss. "She's a very nice lady ... she'd talk to all of us."

However, friends were afraid for Wells because her daily trip to Bode's would come as early as 5 or 6 a.m.

**'She's the nicest woman God ever put on this Earth.'**

*Vince St. Louis*  
—Victim's friend

"We used to tell her 'June, don't walk so early because it's still dark out. Wait 'til it gets light,'" said long-time friend, Vince St. Louis of Plymouth Township, who called her sharp as a tack. "But she would just tell us that she was too old to start changing her habits."

Those same friends are speculating whether she was heading to or from Bode's when she was struck shortly after 7 a.m. Monday by a speeding motorist while crossing Harvey Street, just south of Fleet Street.

Plymouth police say skid marks show the 1993 Cadillac was traveling 30-36 mph on Harvey at the time of the accident. The speed limit is 25 mph.

Wells suffered head injuries after being thrown against the windshield. She was taken to St. Mary Hospital in Livonia and airlifted to the University

Please see ACCIDENT, A4



June Wells



# Cops from page A1

Hilden has more than seven years with the department. As a patrol officer he also was responsible for training new officers, training officers on defensive tactics and emergency vehicle operations, and was part of the department's mountain rescue unit.

"The biggest challenge for me will be to become accepted by students," said Hilden. "I think as long as I can do that, I'll make a lot of friends and fit in."

Hilden said it's important for him to establish a relationship with students so he will be able to have conversations and relate to teens.

"The best way to do that is to be visible in hallways and lunch rooms, and have a lot of contact with them at various activities," said Hilden. "I'll be adjusting my schedule to accommodate different events."

Hilden said unlike road patrols where motorists are trying to avoid police officers, students generally embrace them.

"A large number of students approach us and want to talk and ask questions," said Hilden. "As long as we don't come off as an intimidating police officer, they'll understand we've got a job to do, which is making sure students are safe at the school."

Hilden said along with his normal duties of looking out for violations at the park, such as smoking, truancy, runaways and larcenies, he plans on conducting mediation sessions between students who

**"The best way to do that is to be visible in hallways and lunch rooms, and have a lot of contact with them at various activities."**

**Scott Hilden**  
—School police officer

are having conflicts and becoming a guest speaker in the classroom.

"I plan on talking about alcohol and drug abuse, and hot topics like date rape drugs," added Hilden. "I would also like to do presentations on personal safety and awareness for students, parents and teachers."

Tom George, chief of security at P-CEP, has a full-time staff of 20 security officers and welcomes the full-time officers in each high school.

"It gives the positive impression that we're doing what we can to produce a safe environment," said George. "It's good for the kids to see the police becoming involved, not just in adversarial situations after the fact."

George said the police substations in each high school will have a desk and computer for officers to do their work. He also noted both officers will continue to carry their guns, "though we hope they never have to use them."

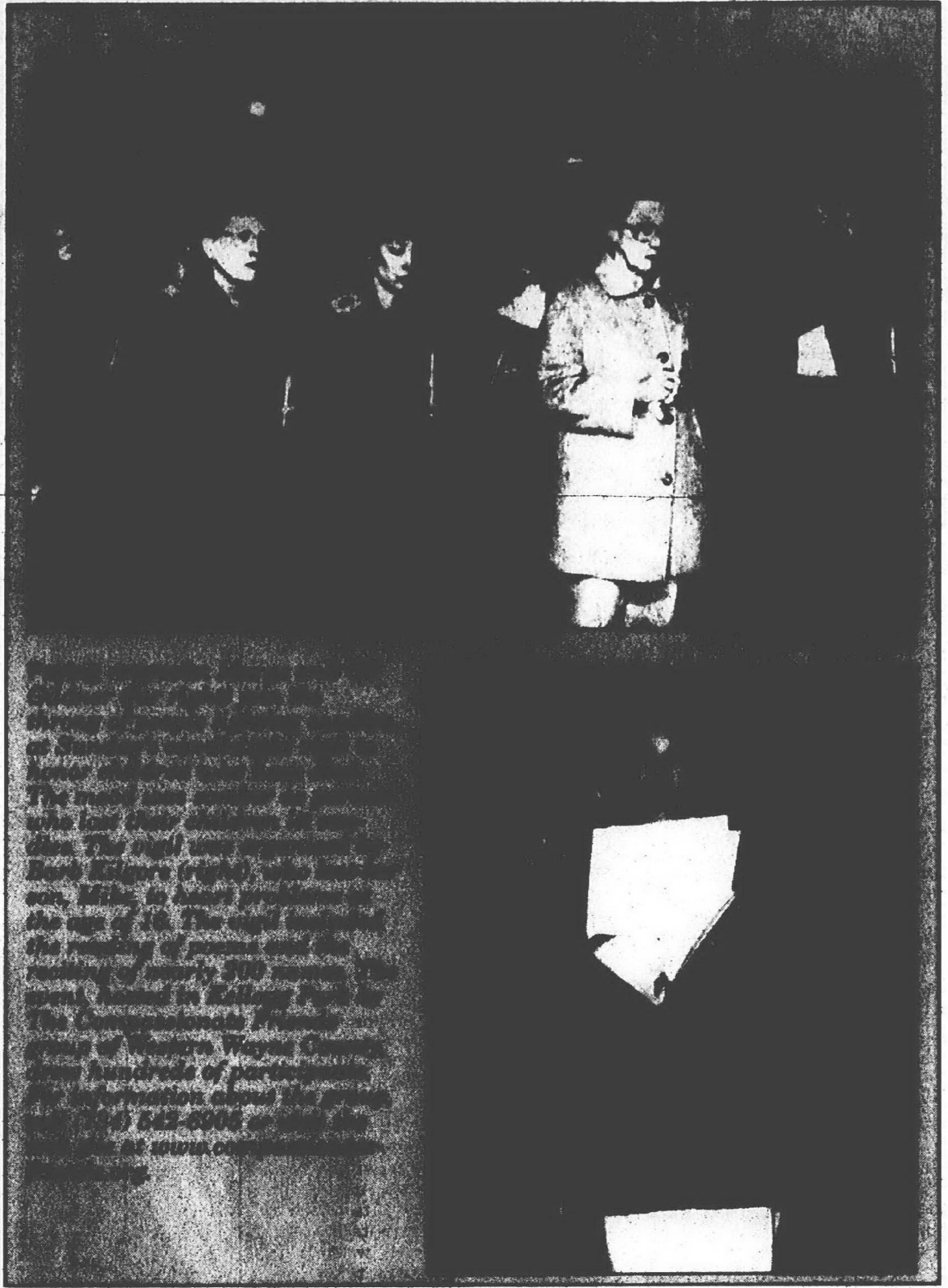
The officers will also help security in the early morning hours with traffic flow, with the ability to write tickets for speeding and other traffic violations.

Salem High School Principal Gerald Ostoin gives two thumbs up to the program.

"In today's day and age, it's nice to have police officers around as good role models and helping in the classrooms," he said. "And, with nearly 5,000 students, we're bigger than many municipalities, so we should have some representation by police."

**"These officers will become involved with the young people and staff, and I see a lot of good things coming from that."**

**John Santomauro**  
—Public Safety director



BY REND  
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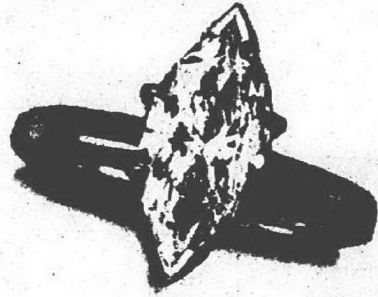
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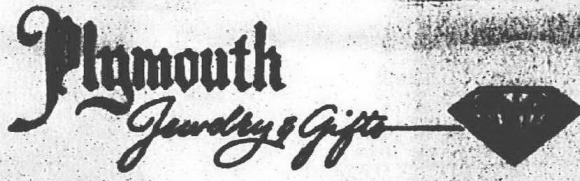


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Christmas in the Country

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### Madonna project gets funding

With recent funding from the Michigan Campus Compact, Madonna University students will have the opportunity to work with families affected by the HIV/AIDS virus.

The primary site/laboratory for this service learning experience will be Simon House, a shelter in Detroit for women and children with HIV/AIDS.

Developed by Plymouth resident Mary Mitsch, assistant professor of nursing, Westland resident Dennis Bozyk, associate

professor of history, and Northville resident Ernest Nolan, vice president for academic administration, the Scholarship of Engagement Mini-Grant is in the amount of \$2,000.

The money received will be used to fund the project, "The Life-Altering Impact of HIV/AIDS: A Service Learning Opportunity," in which students will be recruited for a service learning experience.

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# Far from home

## Exchange students deal with being away for holidays

BY RENEE SKOGLUND  
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rskoglund@ee.homecomm.net

For hundreds of area foreign exchange students, this holiday season will be their first away from home. They will think about family and friends back home, but, thanks to host families, few will be homesick. They look forward to participating in American holiday customs and sharing a few of their own.

### Ha uskaa joulua!

If Satu Rehumaki, 17, a foreign exchange student at Plymouth Canton High School, were spending the holidays at home in Oulu, Finland, she would head to the sauna on Christmas Eve morning. It's a Finnish tradition. "It's to get clean for the new year," she said.

She would attend church with her family in the late afternoon and sit down around 6 p.m. to a feast of ham and several vegetable casseroles. Afterward, there would be a visit from Santa Claus, or *Joulupukki*, who, according to Rehumaki, comes from Finland.

"Ya, he lives there, in Lapland."

This year, Rehumaki may play a few Finnish Christmas carols for her host parents, Ken and Mary Beardsley. She has studied classical music for 10 years, and the Canton Rotary, which sponsored her visit, rented a piano for her. Or she may attempt once again to make Finnish meatballs with her host dad. Their initial effort for a school project was less than successful.

"It was like meatballs with dill relish in the middle," said Ken Beardsley. "After we stiffened it up to make it stick, I wasn't sure it was Finnish."

### Mutlu Yillar!

Melis Mani, 18, a senior at Churchill High School in Livonia, comes from Ankara, Turkey. She has settled into the home of Ron and Deanna Gaffne, compliments of the Livonia Rotary's foreign exchange student program. She will be with the Gaffnes through the holidays before moving on to two more host families.

Although Mani is a veteran traveler - Luxembourg, France, Italy, Spain, Greece and Bulgaria - this is her first stay in the United States and her first time away from home for New Year's Eve.

Turkey is predominantly a Muslim country, so the holiday emphasis is on Dec. 31 rather than Dec. 25, said Mani. On New Year's Eve, after exchanging gifts and eating a big dinner of stuffed grape leaves, rice and

spiced chicken, she and her sister, Bercis, 21, go out with friends.

"We don't sleep that night," she said, smiling.

Sounds like a typically American way to celebrate, except for one unusual tradition:

"In Turkey, five minutes before the new year, people change their underwear for new ones, like new red ones. They think it will bring good luck to them and it will bring them money in the new year."

When told by the Gaffnes that she had to make a Christmas list, Mani at first drew a blank. However, she's a fast learner, and certain CDs soon came to mind by groups such as Scorpions, Cranberries, Shania Twain and Smash Mouth.

"We sat down and came up with about 30 things," said Deanna Gaffne.

### Frohliche Weihnachten! Glaedelig Jull Feliz Natal!

That's "Merry Christmas" in German, Danish and Brazilian Portuguese.

Anne-Katrin Grosse, 16, of Germany, Soeren Roepstorff, 15, of Denmark, and Anna Oliviera Camara, 17, of Brazil are foreign exchange students at Garden City High School. It's the first time they have been away from home for the holidays.

In the Grosse household, Christmas Eve celebrations began early in the day with a birthday party for a cousin. Afterward, the family visits the graves of their grandparents. By 5 p.m., they're in church, where Grosse plays the flute and takes part in a Christmas play. Her oldest brother remains at home to prepare dinner and trim the tree.

Upon returning home, Grosse and her other brother wait outside until her parents ring a bell announcing that all preparations have been completed. Only then can the younger children enter and see the Christmas tree for the first time.

The evening is filled with games, story telling, singing and music, with Grosse playing the flute and her brother the guitar. Celebrations continue for a few days. The family dines at a special restaurant on Christmas Day, and on Dec. 26, Grosse's mother roasts the traditional goose and serves it with red cabbage and chestnuts.

Christmas is always festive, since it's the only time Grosse's oldest brother is home. "That is the most important thing I'll miss on the holidays: playing games with my big brothers."

Roepstorff lives in Valloe, an old, small town south of Copen-

■ 'After we stiffened it up to make it stick, I wasn't sure it was Finnish.'

Ken Beardsley  
-Exchange student host

hagen that has a castle and an ancient church. Uncles, aunts and cousins come over to share Christmas-Eve celebrations.

"We pretty much cook all day," he said. "We have duck with potatoes and a special salad. As a dessert, we eat ris á la mande. That's rice and cream with cherry sauce. We put an almond or two in it. We always say, 'Whose got the almond?' When you have it, you try to hide it."

After dinner, the family lights the candles on the Christmas

Please see STUDENTS, A16



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBSCHMANN  
Finding home: Students Anne-Katrin, Anna Oliviera Camara and Soeren Roepstorff study the globe.

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# Slamming complaints decline after state crack down

The number of slamming complaints received by the Michigan Public Service Commission has declined significantly, from a high of more than 500 in March to 150 or fewer during the last three months.

"Michigan has become a very unfriendly state for telephone slammers to do business, with the commission assessing fines totaling more than \$1.6 million against several telephone service providers accused of slamming

customers," commission Chairman John Strand said.

"The commission initiated 13 'show cause' actions against companies accused of slamming customers and has ordered customer restitution for as much as \$10,000. We have approved a number of settlement agreements between customers who have allegedly been slammed and the telephone service provider accused of the slamming."

Slamming is a practice in

which telephone customers are switched to other telephone service providers without the customers' permission. On July 16, 1998, Gov. John Engler signed into law Public Acts 259 and 260, which strictly forbid slamming and authorized the commission to establish procedures to ensure that telephone service is not switched without proper customer verification.

The acts give the commission authority to assess severe penal-

ties to protect customers who have suffered damages as a result of slamming. On Sept. 23, 1998, the commission established anti-slaming procedures. The procedures require:

- strict standards to verify requests to change telephone service providers;

- local telephone carriers to offer carrier freeze protection programs to all customers who want the protection;

- telephone service-provider

registration with the commission;

- prompt customer notification of any changes in the customer's service provider.

The commission continues to encourage customers who have documented proof that they have been slammed to pursue legal remedies with the commission.

"While we have clearly turned the corner, there are still far too many instances of slamming in Michigan," Strand said.

MPSC staff continue to work

closely with customers seeking restitution for having their telephone service switched without authorization. Consumers may contact the MPSC at 1-800-292-9555 or e-mail their complaint to <http://cis.state.mi.us/mpsc/consumer/>

Consumers may also mail complaints to: Michigan Public Service Commission, Communications Division, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, MI 48909.

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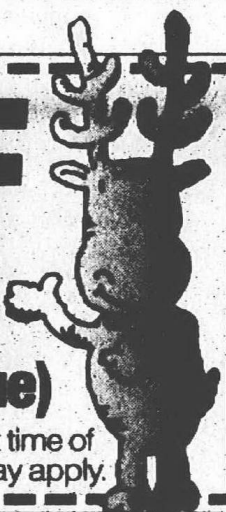


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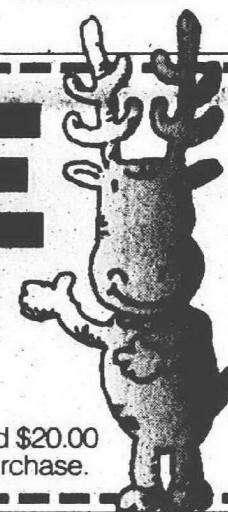
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# Keely Wygonik named assistant managing editor

Keely Wygonik has been promoted to the position of assistant managing editor for features for the Observer Newspapers.

Wygonik will supervise operations for the common Observer feature sections - At Home, Taste, Arts & Leisure, Entertainment, Health and Business and Wayne Community Life. She will also be a member of the Observer's editorial management team.

Wygonik has been the Taste, Arts & Leisure and Entertainment editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers since

1991. The Arts & Leisure section took second place for all lifestyle sections in the 1997 Suburban Newspaper Association awards.

"Keely is an outstanding community journalist," said Hugh Gallagher, Observer managing editor. "She is extremely hard-working and dedicated to serving the needs of readers. She has been a friendly and helpful voice to many Observer readers who have called with questions about recipes in Taste or to find information about where to eat or be entertained for the weekend. She

has developed our feature sections to serve the particular needs of our readers. I know she'll continue to make them the best they can be."

Wygonik said she's looking forward to the challenge.

"I have a great team, and together we'll work hard to deliver the kinds of stories you'll want to read," she said. "Our goal is to become a resource that you can rely on for information about home decorating and improvement, food, business, health, community life, dining

out, entertainment, and the arts. We'll serve you interesting tidbits about local restaurants, take you behind the scenes of local entertainment venues such as Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia, and paint colorful portraits of the vibrant role arts play in our communities. I welcome your input and suggestions, and hope to hear from you soon."

Wygonik joined the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers in 1989 as a copy editor. She was named the Observer & Eccentric's Journalist of the Year in 1994.

Prior to joining the O&E, she was the administrative editor of The Citizen in Hamtramck.

Wygonik is a 1982 graduate of Michigan State University. She is currently pursuing a master of business administration degree from Walsh College of Business.

Wygonik and her husband, David, live in Dearborn.

You can reach Wygonik by phone at (734) 953-2105, by e-mail at kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net or by fax at (734) 591-7279.



Keely Wygonik

## PSC warns to be ready for Y2K

When Jan. 1, 2000, rolls around, we all want to know lights and heat will be working in our home or business and that the telephone will generate calls.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) believes that regulated utility companies are taking the Year 2000 (Y2K) problem seriously and addressing it competently.

Throughout the year, the MPSC has been working with regulated utilities on Y2K issues. Further, the MPSC believes Y2K will not bring any significant interruptions in electric, natural gas, or telephone services due to computer failures.

However, if you are concerned about your utility companies' ability to provide you with reliable service in the Year 2000, the MPSC recommends you contact the companies directly to find out more about what actions they have taken to protect customers against significant interruptions in service.

Even if there are no disruptions on Jan. 1, 2000, it is a good practice to always be prepared for power outages of any sort - ice, snow storm, or a vehicle hitting a power pole. You can be prepared for power outages by:

- Setting aside and designating for emergency use:
  - Battery-powered radio
  - Extra batteries
  - Blankets
  - First-aid kit
  - Bottled water
  - Battery-operated lantern
  - Candles and matches
  - Non-perishable packaged or canned food and a manual can opener

■ Keeping a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.

■ Protecting electrical equipment such as a TV, VCR, microwave oven, or home computer with a voltage surge suppressor. A suppressor can eliminate the surge before it enters the equipment, thus protecting it from damage. A variety of devices are available for different forms of protection. Unplug unprotected equipment before a storm to avoid lightning damage.

When power is lost:
 

- Check the fuse box to see if a fuse is blown or tripped. Check with the neighbors to see if their power is out.

■ Call your local utility company and let its personnel know that you have lost power. Also, advise if there is emergency medical equipment in the home.

■ Turn off and unplug most lights and appliances to prevent electrical overload when power is restored.

■ Keep the refrigerator door closed as much as possible. Move milk, cheese, meats, etc. into the freezer compartment of the refrigerator. If the freezer is only partially full, group packages together so they form an igloo to keep each other cold. Purchase dry ice and place in freezer - it will help keep food frozen for an extended period of time. Cover the top of the refrigerator with a blanket.

■ Make sure you have access to a telephone that does not require electricity to operate.

Be aware that the telephone system is not designed so that everyone in the United States can place a call at the same time. If, for example, everyone tries to make a telephone call at 12:05 a.m. on January 1, 2000, it is possible there will be jammed lines and the calls will not go through.

For more tips, contact the MPSC at (800) 292-9555 or <http://cis.state.mi.us/mpsc> to get a copy of the brochure "Surviving Electric Power Outages."

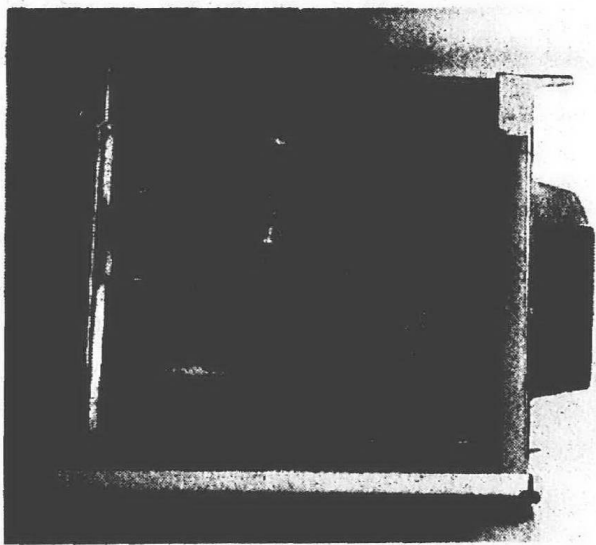
# STARTS TODAY! THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16! HOMESTARLIGHTSALE



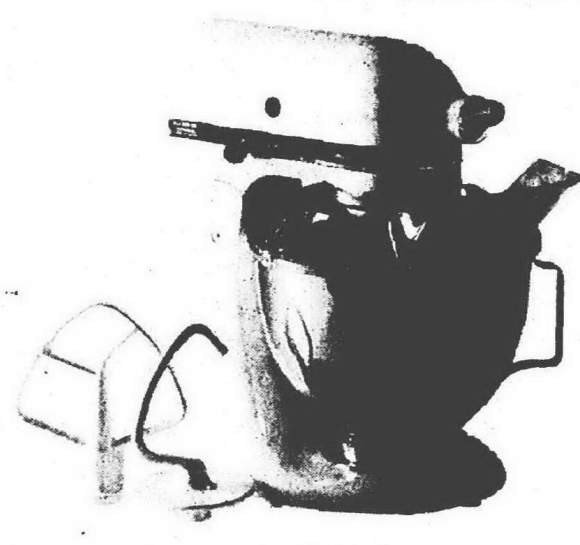
**SALE 39.99** Homedics™ calming pools. Reg. 50.00.



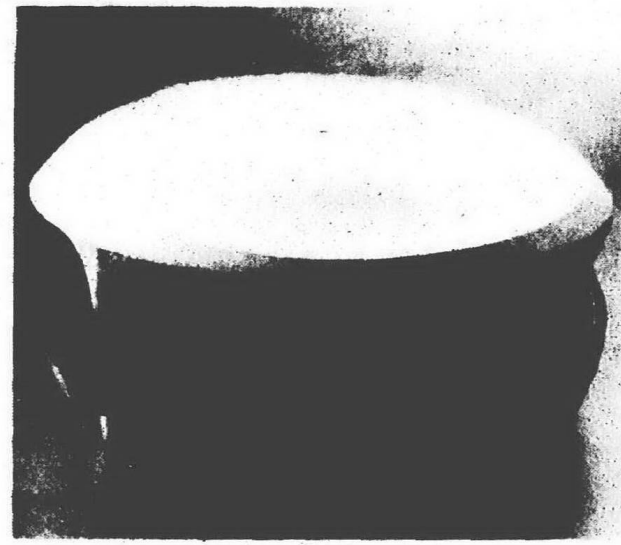
**SAVE 50%** Entire stock of Dakota "Adventure" luggage in assorted styles. Reg. 135.00-450.00, **sale 54.00-180.00.** STYLES VARY BY STORE. NOT AT SAVANNAH MALL. SEMINOLE TOWN CENTER, FLORIDA MALL, NORTH LAKE MALL AND NORTH POINT MALL.



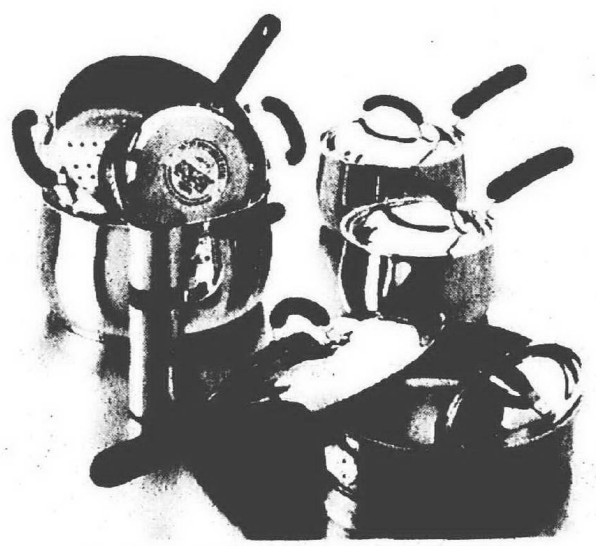
**SALE 179.99** Ron Popeil "Showtime" barbecue and rotisserie. Reg. 225.00.



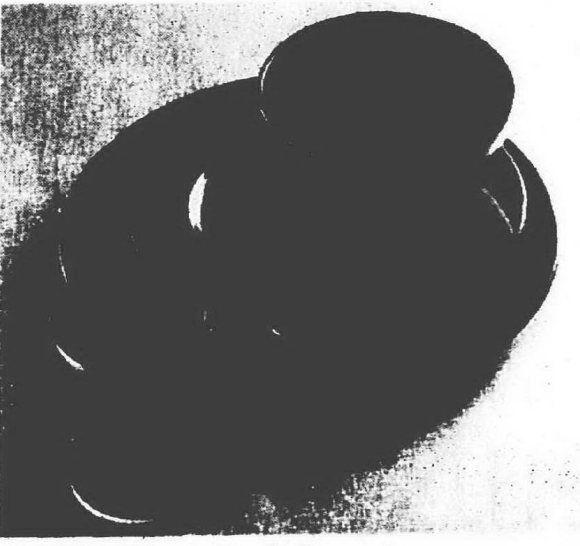
**SALE 219.99** KitchenAid® 4½-qt. stand mixer. Reg. 270.00.



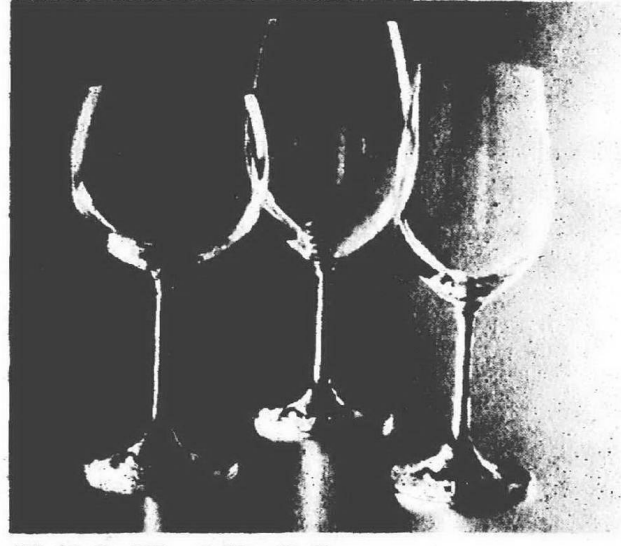
**SALE 59.99** George Foreman 300-watt grill. Reg. 72.00.



**SALE 129.99** Meyer® Bella Cuisine™ stainless steel ten-piece cookware set. Reg. 260.00.



**SALE 19.99** Parisian ceramic dinnerware four-piece place setting. Reg. 34.00. Save 30% on open stock Parisian dinnerware.



**SALE 19.99** Parisian six-piece wine-tasting set includes two each of bordeaux, burgundy and white wine glasses. Reg. 33.50.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1999 ★

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# School design draws favorable reviews

BY TONY BRUCATO  
STAFF WRITER  
tbrucato@ec.observer.com

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Tuesday night got its first look at schematic drawings for the as-yet unnamed third high school at P-CEP. And, for the most part, the plans are getting good reviews.

"I like it. I think it answers a lot of our questions," said Trustee Darwin Watts. "I like its close proximity to the existing high schools. And the design is laid out to exude small school size, which is what we wanted."

"I think it's a pretty solid design," added board member Steve Guile. "It accomplishes everything we're looking for, and I'll be interested in seeing the final schematic. It meets what we want in terms of walking distance and facilities."

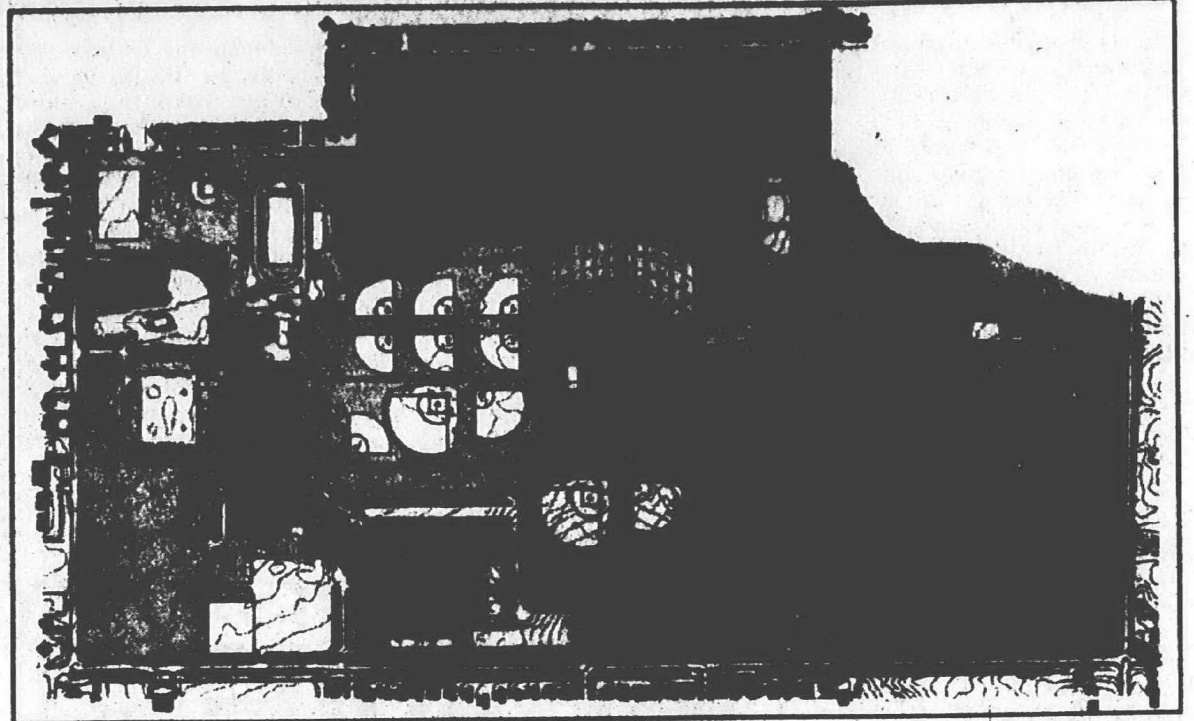
The first drawings place the so-called "east" site several hundred feet closer to the existing high schools than what was presented earlier to the board. The board has been insistent that students be able to reach their classes in the new building in the current 10-minute passing time.

"We moved the building to assure students could walk within the same travel time you have now," said Doug LaFerle, vice-president of French Associates, the district's architectural firm. "If students are walking it now, they will also in the future."

In moving the building closer, two baseball diamonds had to be eliminated and will be replaced with new varsity baseball and softball diamonds north of the existing baseball complex.

The cost to replace the two diamonds and deal with soil issues is listed by project engineers at \$370,000. That doesn't sit well with Trustee Mark Slavens.

"I don't see any reason why we can't put the building at the original east location," said Slavens. "I don't like spending



Site location: The third high school is shown in this drawing as the dark, jagged-shaped building just to the right of the ballfields in the center of the picture.

\$370,000 of the taxpayers money to move the building. I don't see any justification in doing that."

In their presentation to the board, architects presented the new high school in four zones.

The first includes a centrally located media center with a student union, to include the kitchen facilities, directly to the east. The two areas are noted as the largest single components of the facility.

To the north are the core academic areas on two floors. Student traffic from the current bus loop behind Salem High School would enter the school into the academic areas. Each floor of the core curriculum configurations have eight classrooms, nearly 300 lockers and a shared lab facility.

"It breaks the school down into small parts to administer and monitor," said Paul Cornelissen, senior associate with French Associates.

The southeast corner of the

new high school will house the gymnasium, with seating for approximately 1,800 people. Along with a competition court, there will be three side practice courts, locker room facilities and team rooms.

The southwest section of the building will be the arts wing, where the P-CEP Marching Band will be housed. It will have a large rehearsal space, practice area, instrument storage and a loading area to accommodate the band's large equipment.

The main entrance to the new high school will be a boulevard off Beck Road, which will lead to a circular drive. Administrative offices will be located at the front entrance.

"I can't believe Wayne County would allow Beck Road to remain two lanes at that point," said Guile, who still expects traffic problems around the high school complex.

Other amenities on the prop-

erty will include a football field and track facility, two additional ball fields, 24 tennis courts located along Joy Road, and parking lots for staff, students and visitors.

Bill Hooting, senior project manager for McS/EV, said "the schematic design is on budget. I'm surprised that after two years none of the cuts we had to make were educational spaces."

John Birchler, executive director of business and operations, said the cuts were minimal despite the delays resulting from a lawsuit by Plymouth resident Jerry Vorva, which delayed construction. Birchler estimates the third high school will cost \$44.5 million.

More detailed design work needs to be completed before bids for the project go out next spring. It's estimated construction will begin next September or October. The first classes are expected to begin in August 2002.

## POLICE NEWS

■ Plymouth police have charged a 33-year-old Plymouth man with prowling in connection with a "peeping tom" incident Dec. 9.

Meanwhile, Plymouth Township police are moving forward with a warrant request against the same suspect for prowling and window peeping on the same

night. Both police departments say there have been several incidents in recent weeks concerning a man looking into homes during

evening hours. ■ Plymouth police say a downtown business turned in a counterfeit \$10 bill. Recently, police discovered several fake \$20 bills circulating in downtown businesses.

Police caution business owners to be aware of the money they are taking in during the holiday season to avoid being cheated.

■ A Fox Ridge Drive resident in Plymouth Township said that when she returned home Dec. 11 from a week-long trip to Las Vegas she found her 18-carat ring missing from her jewelry box.

■ A Greystone resident in Plymouth Township returned home Dec. 10 to find a 24-by-30-inch screen, with pry marks, removed from his bathroom window and placed against a wall. He told police that he found nothing missing.

■ The manager at Compuware Arena located at 14900 Beck in Plymouth Township said Dec. 10 that he was approached by a team coach who said 14 of his players had their wallets stolen from the locker room.

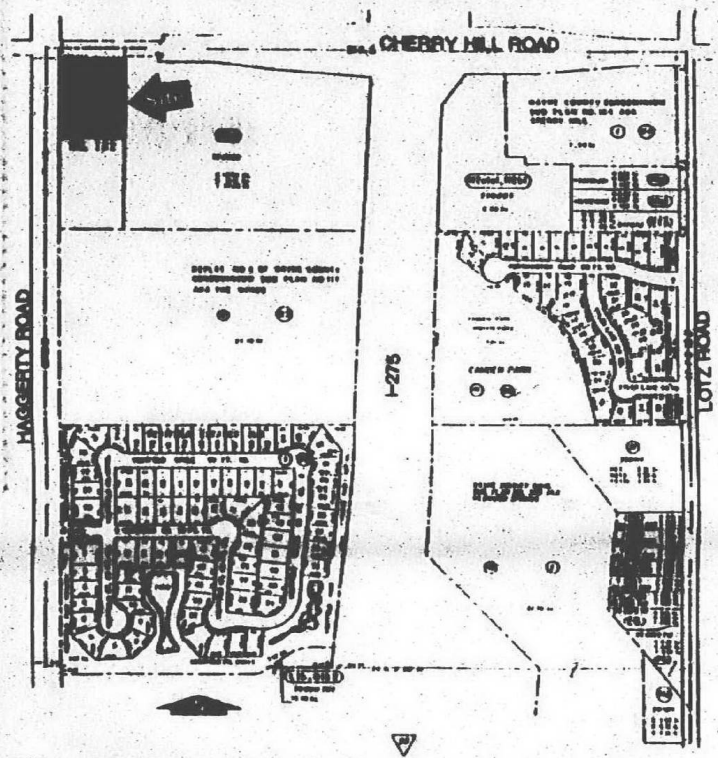
Team members, who live out of town, left without filing police reports, said Jamie Senkbeil, community resource officer.

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

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 10, 2000 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

TALLA REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE THE NORTH 400 FEET OF PARCEL NO. 094 90 0007 000 FROM R-4, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, TO C-1, VILLAGE SHOPPING. Property is located on the southeast corner of Haggerty and Cherry Hill Roads.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday, January 6, 2000, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Published: December 16, 1999 and January 3, 2000

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Do you want your jewelry to have that NEW LOOK for the holidays? Let JT Jewelers professionally polish and clean your gold rings, chains, bracelets, charms and/or pendants for the low price of:

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## Legislature makes a deal on residency

Westland Police Chief Emery Price thinks a Wayne County ordinance on alternative, community-based programs for local ordinance violators is a good idea.

But Price believes the ordinance should have more specifics about the fees for alternative programs, namely tethering, before the document is proposed to the Wayne County Commission.

"I appreciate that they want our input on the ordinance, but I can see we will have problems with it," Price told members of the Conference of Western Wayne Friday. The CWW is a consortium of the cities of Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland and the townships of Canton, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren.

Price believes the local district courts and police agencies should have more of a say in the program that will be used on violators who are sentenced to Wayne County jail and could be determined eligible for a community-based program by the Department of Community Justice, according to the ordinance.

"Once they are placed in the Wayne County jail, communities won't have a say in this," Price said of the proposal. The ordinance doesn't mention tethering at all, nor the costs associated with tethering and who should pay, Price said.

James Curran, deputy director of the Wayne County Department of Community Justice, informed Marsha Bianconi, CWW's executive director, of the proposed community-based program fee ordinance expected to be introduced to the Wayne County Commission early next year.

Curran highlighted the following items from the ordinance:

- The county may collect fees from communities for ordinance violators who are in programs that are alternatives to incarceration.
- The cost shall be determined by the lesser of the fee for incarceration or the alternative program's actual costs.
- The county's chief financial officer shall annually certify to the county commission the cost of each program.
- The court may collect a fee from the ordinance violator for participation in the program.
- The Department of Community Justice is working to identify programs that can assist ordinance violators, particularly chronic violators, in breaking their cycle of criminal behavior," Curran stated in a letter to the CWW.
- "The services we are attempting to identify are both residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment, education, life skill and employment services. To date we have positive feedback from the Salvation Army and we are waiting to hear from others."

CWW officials encouraged Price to meet with other police chiefs and return with a recommendation at the next CWW meeting in January.

In 1997, a CWW Jail Millage Committee was created to address the CWW's concern that Wayne County lacked space to house ordinance violators. Price was on the committee with Bianconi.

"All parties were in agreement that current Wayne County facilities are inadequate to meet future needs for jail space," Bianconi said. Two years ago, the CWW asked for an ordinance governing alternative programs before CWW officials backed the millage renewal. The CWW actually had opposed the millage until they had discussed concerns over jail usage with county officials.

County officials assured the CWW at that time an ordinance would be introduced later.

# Chief cautious on local alternative plan

BY KIM ANDRASCY  
 Staff Writer  
 kimand@observer.com

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Price believes the local district courts and police agencies should have more of a say in the program that will be used on violators who are sentenced to Wayne County jail and could be determined eligible for a community-based program by the Department of Community Justice, according to the ordinance.

"Once they are placed in the Wayne County jail, communities won't have a say in this," Price said of the proposal. The ordinance doesn't mention tethering at all, nor the costs associated with tethering and who should pay, Price said.

James Curran, deputy director of the Wayne County Department of Community Justice, informed Marsha Bianconi, CWW's executive director, of the proposed community-based program fee ordinance expected to be introduced to the Wayne County Commission early next year.

Curran highlighted the following items from the ordinance:

- The county may collect fees from communities for ordinance violators who are in programs that are alternatives to incarceration.
- The cost shall be determined by the lesser of the fee for incarceration or the alternative program's actual costs.
- The county's chief financial officer shall annually certify to the county commission the cost of each program.
- The court may collect a fee from the ordinance violator for participation in the program.
- The Department of Community Justice is working to identify programs that can assist ordinance violators, particularly chronic violators, in breaking their cycle of criminal behavior," Curran stated in a letter to the CWW.
- "The services we are attempting to identify are both residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment, education, life skill and employment services. To date we have positive feedback from the Salvation Army and we are waiting to hear from others."

CWW officials encouraged Price to meet with other police chiefs and return with a recommendation at the next CWW meeting in January.

In 1997, a CWW Jail Millage Committee was created to address the CWW's concern that Wayne County lacked space to house ordinance violators. Price was on the committee with Bianconi.

"All parties were in agreement that current Wayne County facilities are inadequate to meet future needs for jail space," Bianconi said. Two years ago, the CWW asked for an ordinance governing alternative programs before CWW officials backed the millage renewal. The CWW actually had opposed the millage until they had discussed concerns over jail usage with county officials.

County officials assured the CWW at that time an ordinance would be introduced later.

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# Rivers' coffee klatch draws a wide range of questions

BY RIVER SHOGLUND  
STAFF WRITER  
rshoglund@ec.econ.com

Topics were as varied as the doughnut selection Tuesday morning at Tim Horton's on Ford Road in Canton during U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Ann Arbor, coffee hour with constituents. They ranged from health care to Yasir Arafat.

A question about the escalating costs of prescription drugs and pharmacies selling customer information to pharmaceuticals trailed into a discussion about privacy rights. Rivers said the recently passed Financial Services Modernization Act, S. 900, was a boon to the financial industry, specifically mortgage and insurance companies. However, it may be a threat to consumers' privacy.

"Between these companies, information can flow." (Rivers voted against the bill. See related story.)

Chris Ravert, 17, who attended the coffee with a small contingent of students from Faithway Baptist School in Ypsilanti, asked how safe it was to do holiday shopping on the Internet.

Ask them about their privacy policy, Rivers warned. "You take

■ 'The political arena is where every decision is made.'

U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers  
D-Ann Arbor

a risk just as you do when you make a telephone purchase."

Joyce Harrington of Plymouth, a senior citizen, offered some practical advice when faced with disclosing your Social Security number for an e-mail purchase: "Just fill in 111 11 1111."

Rivers gave the students a quick lesson on campaign contributions and the high costs of financing a congressional campaign in the United States: "One million dollars on each side."

An advocate for campaign finance reform, Rivers favors moving to publicly financed campaigns with even playing fields for all candidates. "It's silly to argue that money doesn't make a difference," she said. Rivers has a no-gifts policy in her office.

Talk gradually turned toward getting citizens involved in the political process. "The political arena is where every decision is

made," said Rivers. If the public doesn't pay attention to mailings and television spots, and parents often resent teachers talking politics in school, how do you educate people, asked Rivers.

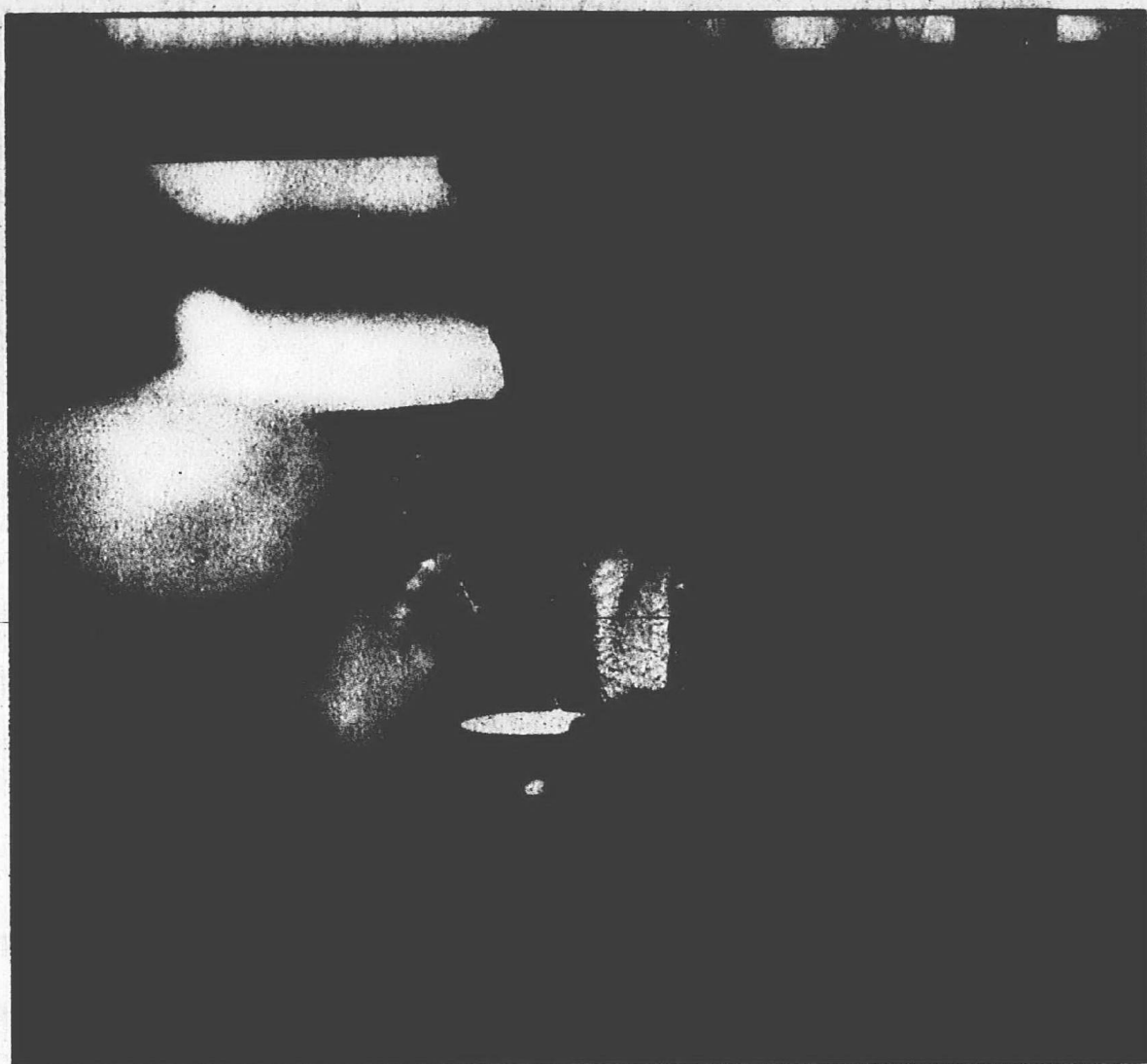
"As far as people being involved in government, that may have happened in Seattle. That may have been our Boston Tea Party," said Art Sutton, a senior citizen from Belleville, referring to the upheaval at the recent World Trade Organization meeting.

Many of those demonstrators were anarchists, replied Rivers.

Women need to get more involved in politics, said Rivers. They represent 52 percent of the population but make up just 15 percent of elected officials.

Joyce Harrington of Plymouth, the former president of the

See RIVERS, A12



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Taking questions: Lynn Rivers speaks with citizens over coffee and doughnuts at Tim Horton's in Canton on Tuesday morning.

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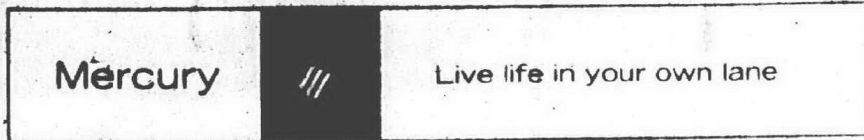


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...the sleigh bells  
...the sleigh's shaft  
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# Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?



Good as new: The Wayne Historical Museum loaned this Prouty & Glass Portland cutter to First Congregational Church of Wayne for a Christmas display.

## THE PORTLAND CUTTER

This was the most popular sleigh design ever made, even more popular than the Albany sleigh, which tended to cramp the occupants. The Portland cutter was developed by Charles P. Kurbat of Portland, Maine. It was roomy enough to let your feet stretch out, and its big "bay" could easily accommodate the fur robes that people piled all around themselves.

The Portland cutter was set low to ground, so there was less danger of upset, which was a common accident when sleighing. Turning took place in one big sweeping movement - horse and sleigh all coming around in a wide arc.

Most Portland cutters could have been purchased for under \$20 at the time of its construction. In 1908, Sears and Roebuck advertised models for \$16.75.

Source: "Horse-Drawn Vehicles at the Shelburne Museum"



Sleighful: Thirteen men managed to climb aboard this Prouty & Glass Portland sleigh.

BY RENEE SROGALNO  
STAFF WRITER  
rsrogalno@ee.comcast.net

Dashing through the snow, in a one-horse open sleigh ...

In the mid-1880s, Fayette Prouty, who owned a wood-working shop in Detroit, began making trips to Wayne in search of a factory site. He found five acres of land near Elizabeth Street and the railroad along Michigan Avenue. In 1888, he opened the Prouty & Glass Carriage Co. with his son, W. C. Prouty, and his son-in-law John S. Glass.

The company soon was producing 125 cutters and a 100 carriages a month, with some models available through the Sears and Roebuck catalog. Eventually, it became one of the largest manufacturers of sleighs and cutters in the country.

"Salesman traveled all over the United States with that catalog," said Virginia Presson, manager of Wayne Historical Museum, which houses a Prouty & Glass cutter. Orders were sent back, and the sleighs were shipped by rail.

At its peak at the turn of the century, Prouty & Glass manufactured 60 different types of sleighs - single- and double-seaters, spring and springless, and open and protected. However, the automobile dealt a death blow to the carriage trade, and

the company began to flounder. It ceased operations in 1915.

The facilities went through a succession of new identities, including a military training academy for boys during World War I, saw mill, belt factory, and steering wheel factory. It was almost totally destroyed by fire in 1929.

"I remember when it burned," said Presson. "I was nine years old and in third grade. We stood in the (school's) south windows and watched the smoke."

## Memories

A hundred years ago, long before counties plowed snowy roads, farmers switched from wheels to runners come winter. It was much easier to haul heavy loads on sleds than on wagons. After three seasons of work in the field, farmers looked forward to visiting neighbors during winter.

It was a time for heavy lap robes, foot warmers and sleigh bells.

Jay Richards, 73, of Plymouth Township doesn't know if the snappy, two-seater cutter he and his brother and two sisters rode in was made by Prouty & Glass. All he remembers is that it was a cold, 2-1/2 mile ride down Haggerty from his family's 21-acre farm on Joy Road to the one-room Hough School on Warren Road in Canton Township.

"If you had too high a snow, it might tip," he said. He recalled at least one spill. "It sort of scared the heck out of us."

Richards sold the sleigh several years ago to a Detroit florist, who used it as part of a display. He kept only the set of sleigh bells, which he said were somewhere in his attic. And Stardust, the Kentucky thoroughbred who pulled the Richards clan (and who purportedly once belonged to the famed Detroit boxer Joe Louis), died peacefully of old age.

"It was just wonderful. In the sleigh you could hear the bells ring. You were just at peace with everyone," said Betty Stevens of Ypsilanti in a January 1998 Westland Observer article on the community's WinterFest.

Stevens grew up on a farm located on the grounds of John Glenn High School in Westland. She would ride in the family's bobsled covered with blankets made at the Monroe Woolen Mills from wool sheared from her father's sheep. Her family also owned a snappy two-seater cutter, which she donated to the Westland Historical Museum several years ago. "My father had that sleigh for always," she said. Pat Bunyea comes from a farming family. She and her husband farmed at two locations in Plymouth Township before

moving to a 152-acre farm in Ann Arbor a few years ago. Her family didn't have a sleigh, but her grandmother, Anna Kaiser, had one on her farm in Flat Rock.

Back in the '40s, when Bunyea and her siblings visited Grandma Kaiser in the winter, they would hitch up their Uncle Charlie's horse to the sleigh for a ride around the farm and down Telegraph Road. Thanks

to Grandma Kaiser's blanket, the children stayed warm.

"She used to call it her buffalo robe, but it wasn't really buffalo. It was terribly picky but very warm," said Bunyea.

Today, few barns harbor any more sleighs, and few people have experienced the joy of riding through a wintry countryside in a one-horse open sleigh. But for those who have, the echo of sleigh bells rings on.



Sleigh-makers: The 50-plus employees of Prouty & Glass Carriage Co. take a break from work to have their picture taken for posterity. All the men save one are wearing hats. Picture may have been taken shortly after the turn of the century.

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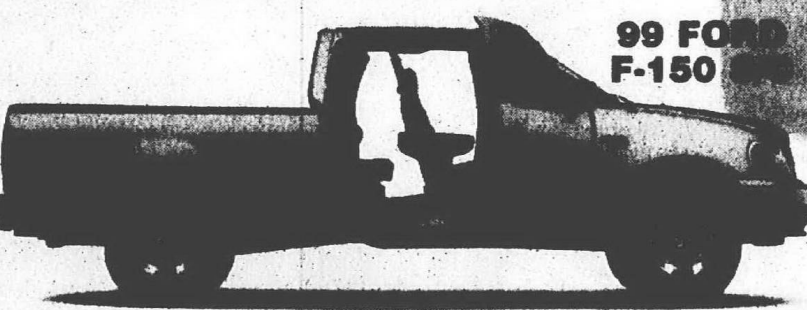
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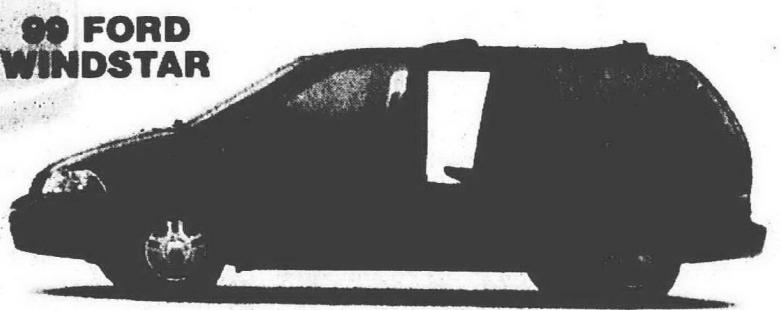
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## Rivers opposes banking bill, says it may threaten privacy

Although the Financial Services Modernization Act helps financial services and insurance firms become more globally competitive by breaking down barriers between them, it may threaten personal privacy, says U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Ann Arbor, in her monthly newsletter, "Capital Corner."

"Domestically, however, the bill means that these affiliated institutions can share information about their customers. Ostensibly, this will allow companies to improve customer service, but the possibility that it will also allow them to deny service or discriminate is simply too great. For this reason, I voted against the bill."

The following are key aspects of Act. S. 900:

- The bill requires financial institutions to "clearly and conspicuously" tell consumers their practices and policies regarding the disclosure of non-public personal information to affiliates and non-affiliated third parties.
- Consumers may "opt out" of sharing their personal information with non-affiliated third parties. The provision prohibits banks from releasing information only if the consumer has specifically instructed the institution not to share information.
- Customers cannot opt out of sharing their information with third parties contracted to perform services on behalf of the financial institution. Once customers decide not to opt out of sharing their personal information, however, they cannot

change their minds, only switch financial institutions.

- Non-affiliated third parties given access to customers' personal information may not pass this information on to any other non-affiliated third parties.
- Unless the firm is contracted by the financial institution, financial institutions may not disclose customers' account numbers or similar access numbers to non-affiliated third parties for use in telemarketing, direct mail marketing, or e-mail marketing.

Under Act. S. 900, it is the consumers responsibility to protect personal information from misuse, warns Rivers. "I encourage you to look at the fine print when dealing with insurance companies and financial institutions."

## Rivers from page A10

school district's Plymouth-Canton Paraprofessional Association, agreed. She said many women in her union didn't vote or let their husbands vote for them. "I'd tell them, 'Well, honey, when you get in that booth, you're hubby is not pulling that lever. You are.' Such wussie people."

Several of the attendees thanked Rivers for starting her community coffee hours and said

getting to know your representative in Congress was the best way to understand politics. "You've got a firm supporter," said Jim Ball of Belleville. "I can spot a phony from here to the gas station."

Ravert inquired about a law allowing people to carry concealed weapons. "It won't stop everything, but it will cut down on crime," he said. Rivers explained that such law refers to

the threat of deadly harm. You can't shoot someone for stealing your car unless your life was threatened. "It's a lesson people would learn after the fact," she said.

Rivers predicted Congress will deal with proposed bills on crime and taxes during the upcoming election year. "Bills not intended to pass into law but which inflame the electorate."

## County parks ready for winter

What's the best cure for cabin fever and wintertime blues? Head for the friendly hills of Wayne County Parks for lots of fresh air and exercise.

Wax those skis and strap on those boots. Cross-country skiing on groomed trails is available this season from dawn until dusk in a variety of locations, including: Elizabeth Park in Trenton; Hines Park Nankin Mills area in Westland; Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Road, just east of I-275 at Newburgh Lake; and Crosswinds Marsh Wetland Interpretive Preserve in Sumpter Township.

Fancy yourself a would-be Michelle Kwan? The park systems has several ice rink locations to accommodate skating enthusiasts throughout the county. Rinks are open at Newburgh Lake at Newburgh Pointe in Livonia (designated areas), Elizabeth Park in Trenton, Wilcox Lake in Plymouth (designated areas), Hines Park-Perrin area, and Hines Park Nankin Mills area in Westland.

All rinks will be open during the day, weather permitting. In addition, the rinks at Elizabeth Park and Hines Park Nankin

Mills are lighted and will be open for night skating until 9 p.m.

If you get your thrills from sledding, Wayne County Parks has installed two ramps at the Hines Park-Cass Benton area just for you. There's also enhanced parking to provide a safe experience for children of all ages. The Hines Park-Cass Benton sledding hill is located off of Hines Drive between Six and Seven Mile Roads in Northville.

For information on skiing, skating and sledding conditions, call (734) 261-1990.

## Grants available for county schools

In November, the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, announced a new initiative, Operation Achievement, that makes available \$2 million in funding for educators in Wayne County's 34 public school districts. Educators interested in applying for grants of \$50,000 to \$500,000 must apply before Jan. 5, 2000.

"The goal of Operation Achievement is simple: to dramatically increase achievement for ALL students in Wayne

County," said Mike Flanagan, county superintendent. "Everyone at Wayne RESA shares responsibility with the local school districts for the education of the nearly half-million children in the county. We need to work together to identify new ways to reach more students, teachers and administrators and truly impact learning."

Applications for Operation Achievement are available online at [www.resa.net](http://www.resa.net) or by calling (734)334-1311. All pro-

jects submitted for consideration should demonstrate what impact the project will have on student achievement, maximize use of technology, demonstrate capacity building, link to the Michigan Curriculum Framework and must be completed by August 18, 2000. Preference will be given to applications that reach the largest potential audience, e.g. all middle school science teachers in Wayne County or all students interested in advanced placement courses.





# Senate passes bills to make 'dangerous animals' illegal

BY MIKE MALOTT  
HomeTown News Service  
mmalott@homecomm.net

The sale and possession of dangerous animals, including wolf-dog crosses and other "large carnivores" such as bears or undomesticated cats, would be illegal under a set of bills approved by the Michigan Senate.

But critics were concerned some family dogs might be confused for wolf-dogs.

Members voted 33-2 on Senate Bill 782, sponsored by Sen. Bill Bullard (R-Highland), and 29-5 on Senate Bill 205, sponsored by Sen. Leon Stille (R-Spring Lake), outlawing the dangerous animals Thursday, Dec. 2.

Both bills would allow those who already own such exotic animals to keep their pets, but they

would be subject to a set of new rules. Current owners would be required to post their property to warn passersby that a dangerous animal is housed there, would not be allowed to leash their animals unattended in the yard, and would have to get an annual permit from local animal control officers.

Both bills allow for destruction of those animals if they harm a human.

Sen. David Jaye (R-Macomb) argued that both bills would erode personal liberties, but he was especially concerned about the ban on wolf-dogs.

"You're going to condemn a lot of innocent people to lose their pets, their loyal family dog, and people with modest incomes will not have enough money to contest the claims by others that

their dog is not a wolf-dog," he said.

"There is no scientific way to visually, medically, or any way through DNA testing to identify what is a wolf dog ... I wonder how many of you would think that the Siberian husky is or isn't a wolf dog? What about an Alaskan malamute?"

Sen. John Cherry (D-Clio) noted that there are characteristics which can be used to identify wolf-dogs.

**■ There is no scientific way to visually, medically, or any way through DNA testing to identify what is a wolf dog ... I wonder how many of you would think that the Siberian husky is or isn't a wolf dog?**

Sen. David Jaye  
R-Macomb

"A wolf tracks in a straight line," he said. "Hardly any dogs do that. Is the tail curled or straight?" Dogs' tails are curled.

Cherry offered an amendment to the bill to identify wolf dogs that have all of four traits mentioned in the law. Previously, the bill defined an animal as a wolf-dog if it possessed any one of the four traits.

"Every wolf-dog is a danger," he said, explaining why their sale should be outlawed.

Both bills now move to the House for approval.

All local senators voted for the measures.

## Judge denies motion to stop deer hunting

BY TRAN LONGMOORE  
HomeTown Communications Network

Deer culls at Huron-Clinton Metroparks went on as planned recently. Dec. 3, Oakland County Circuit Judge Barry Howard denied a motion which would have stopped upcoming controlled deer hunts at Hudson Mills and Stony Creek, and a plan to use sharpshooters at Kensington.

"Everything is going to happen as planned, and as permitted by state law," said Steven Roach, lawyer for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

Judge Howard ruled that the metroparks' plans were in compliance with state laws and that the overpopulation of deer threatened vegetation, other wildlife and drivers on nearby roads.

"Judge Howard's ruling was absolutely correct," Roach said.

Nearly 600 deer in the three parks will be trimmed bringing the population down to desired levels.

The lawsuit, which sought to delay the deer hunts until further studies were done, was filed in Federal Court last Wednesday by the Milford-based Metroparks Deer Preservation Council and California-based Animal Protection Institute. U.S. District Court Judge Avern Cohn referred the case to Oakland County Circuit Court.

Judy Brock, president of the Metroparks Deer Preservation Council, was disappointed by Judge Howard's ruling.

"But during the suit, we've won several small victories," Brock said.

Judge Howard has ordered the parks to submit reports detailing the number of deer killed. Since Stony Creek Park abuts homes, park officials will now be required to notify residents when hunting is taking place. Judge Howard also ordered that all meat from the deer culling will be donated to soup kitchens and shelters.

The court will also maintain jurisdiction with regard to the implementation of the ruling.

According to Roach, this means that either party can come back to the court should there be further dispute.

Brock is also pleased because a member of her council has been invited to sit on the Wildlife Advisory Committee for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

"So we've made some difference, and we'll continue to do so," Brock said.

Her council still disputes metroparks' deer counts which show a need for a trim in population. She also said there are more humane ways to trim populations, such as immuno-contraception or sterilization.

But Dave Moilanen, spokesman for the parks, said deer counts are about as accurate as possible.

"I invite them to rent a helicopter and count themselves," said Moilanen.

Hunting remains the most efficient way to trim the population, he said.


"We've explored the other options and they just aren't plausible," Moilanen said. "Spotting, catching and sterilizing one deer can take 90 minutes. We don't have the time, money or people to attempt something for 400

deer."

Firearms hunts will take place at Stony Creek Dec. 17-19. A controlled archery hunt took place Dec. 10-11 at Hudson Mills. At Kensington, park rangers are currently training to kill deer at night. The Kensington cull should take place sometime in January.

Tran Longmoore can be reached at tlongmoore@homecomm.net

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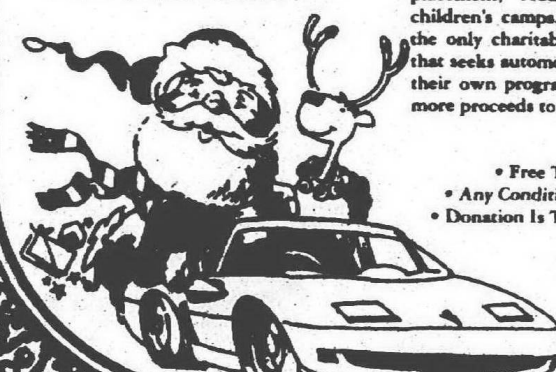


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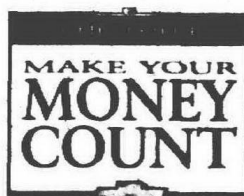
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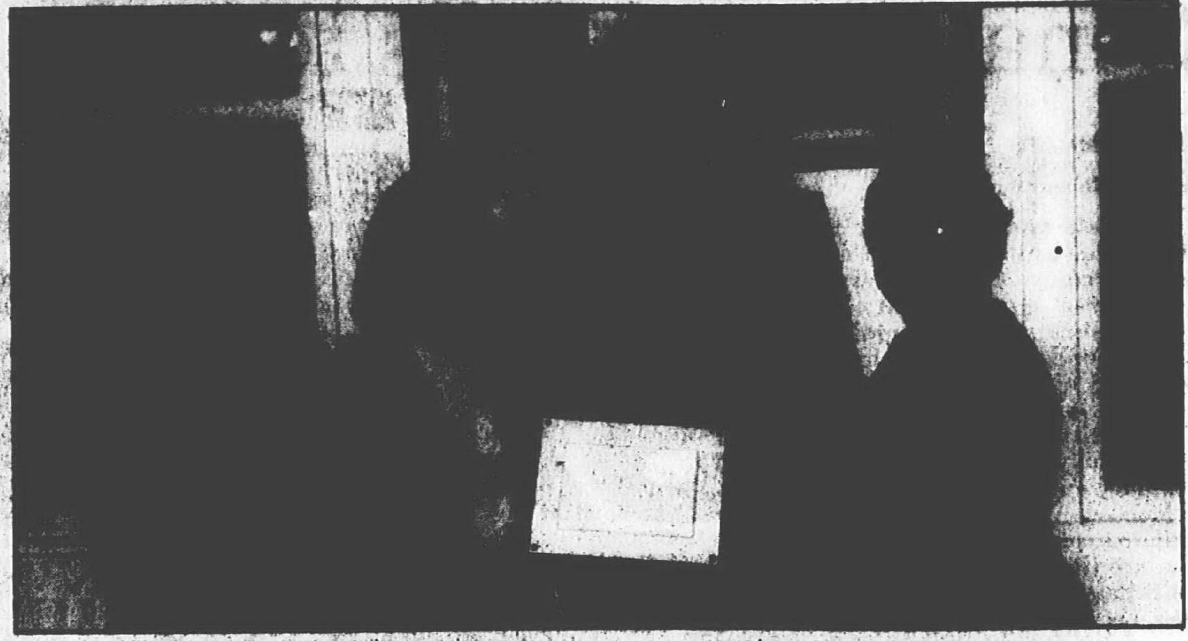


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**Gift:** Rodger Caldwell, president of UAW Local 845, accepts a certificate for a donation of \$5,000 to the Sheldon Plant Community Service Committee. Attending were (left to right) Carol Clements of Wayne County Parks, Denise Johnson, president of Friends of Nankin Mills, Caldwell, and Kathy Myers, vice president of Friends of Nankin Mills.

## Workers at Sheldon Road Assembly donate \$5,000 to Nankin Mills fund

Workers at Ford Motor Co.'s Sheldon Road Assembly Plant donated \$5,000 to the Friends of Nankin Mills to help fund displays at the new center which

opens next fall. The contribution of the UAW workers at the Sheldon Road plant through their Sheldon Plant Community Service Committee is the largest single contribution made to the Friends of Nankin Mills in its 10 year history. The donation was recognized by the group and by Wayne County Parks at their annual holiday tree lighting on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Rodger Caldwell, president of Local 845, accepted a certificate in recognition of the donation. A plaque will also be on permanent display inside the interpretive center.

This is not the building's first connection with the Ford Motor Co. Once a working grist mill, Henry Ford bought the building in the 1920s to produce auto parts for his Detroit assembly plants. It was one of the Village Industries he created along the Rouge River.

The Interpretive Center will tell the Ford Story, along with those of the settlers and Native Americans who lived here, and of the Rouge River that still influences our communities. For information on the Interpretive Center, call Carol Clements, Wayne County Parks, at (734) 261-1850.

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## Singers perform at LightFest

As the holiday season moves into full swing, Wayne County LightFest is bringing together the sights and the sounds of the season. Every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m., area choirs will perform at LightFest as part of the event's "Light Up the Night with Song" series. Choirs will offer songs to celebrate the season at the Warrendale site. On Wednesday, Dec. 22, the Renaissance Choir from Detroit's Renaissance High School will add their voices to the night at

"Light Up the Night with Song." Under the direction of Nina Scott, this choir will sing classical and contemporary holiday music. The sixth annual Wayne County LightFest is located along scenic Middle Rouge Parkway in Westland (enter at Merriam Road and Hines Drive.) LightFest is open now through Dec. 30, 7-10 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. (Closed Mondays, Tuesdays and Christmas Day.) Donation is \$5 per car.

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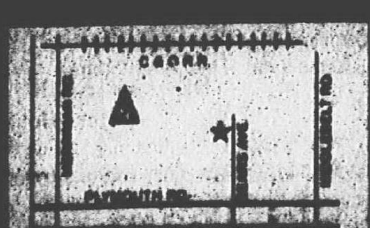
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VFW sets fish fry

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Mayflower-14 Gamble Post 6895 will be holding an all-you-can-eat fish fry every first and third Friday of each month.

Masonic withdraws

Traditions all end sometime, and it's time for the Masonic Temple ice show warming station tradition to end, or at least be interrupted.

Mason spokesman Todd McMillan reports that local Masons will not open their Fenniman Street temple to the public during the ice show next year.

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

Why? "Lack of interest and participation in members of the lodge to put it on," McMillan said. "We decided to step away for at least a year and see what comes of it."

Members are getting older, McMillan said, and the sheer volume of work in heating the public all during the ice show is getting to be more than they can bear.

"I, for one, am sorry to say we can't do it this year," he said. The Plymouth Rotary Club offered to help the Masons this year, but the offer came too late to be considered, McMillan said.

WSDP air kids' show

WSDP 10.1FM, began airing the children's show, Rachel's Place, on Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Rachel's Place is a weekly half-hour program of classic fairy tales and children's stories, with occasional guest story-tellers and a variety of fun music for young people and their grown-ups.

The show, produced by WAMC in Albany, N.Y. and National Productions, is hosted by Rachel Phillips.

WSDP will air the show at 7:30 a.m. every Wednesday. Businesses interested in sponsoring the program can contact Bill Keith, Station Manager, at (734) 416-7732.

AT&T opens Canton store

AT&T recently opened a new retail store in Canton at 48241 Ford Road (at corner of Morton Taylor Street, between Sheldon and Lilley Roads). This is the ninth AT&T Store to open in the Detroit area since AT&T Wireless Services launched AT&T Digital PCS in this market in December 1997.

"We're excited to become an active part of the Plymouth-

Canton community and to offer another convenient location for people to shop for AT&T services," said Kenneth Gaffga, Detroit general manager for AT&T Wireless Services. "We're proud of the state-of-the-art digital network we've built in southeast Michigan, our extremely competitive pricing and product offerings and the excellent team of sales professionals who will be consulting customers at the Canton AT&T Store."

Volunteers help make Saturdays special

BY KATHLEEN MOORADIAN SPECIAL WRITER

The first Saturday of each month is a special day for the residents at Presbyterian Village in Redford thanks to several volunteers from the Pet-A-Pet Organization.

The volunteers and their pets spend a couple hours at the Village visiting with senior citizens and providing them an opportunity to interact with a family pet.

This visit is planned and directed by Danielle Manning, a bright, energetic 15-year-old who has been a Pet-a-Pet volunteer since she was 9.

For the first four years, she visited the village with her family dog, and for the last two years she has been coordinator of the Presbyterian Village Chapter of the Pet-A-Pet organization.

She credits Ruth Curry, the organization founder, and Natalie Hansen, former coordinator, for encouraging her to continue her work. Although being a coordinator is time consuming, it's well worth it, said Manning.

"It's fun," said Manning. "It feels good to do this for the senior citizens."

They really enjoy spending time with the animals.

It takes a couple hours a month to contact the volunteers to remind them of the visit, and she also has to keep the paperwork in order.

All of the pets are required to be in good health and have current shots.

As the coordinator, Manning must review the records and notify the volunteers when it's time for their pet's shots.

"This is really good for the senior citizens and it's also good for our pets," said Kay Mills, who has been volunteering with her white shepherd "Maverick" for several years.

Volunteer Patty Riggio and her daughter Roxanne agree.

"It socializes our pets and teaches them good manners too" said Patty. "Big Dog," her peck-a-poo and "Vino," her Rhodesian ridgeback eagerly lapped up the attention.

For the senior citizens, it's a unique pleasure.

"I can't have a pet of my own now, so I really enjoy other people's pets," said resident Dorothy Smith.

"Oh, this is a great joy" said Ruth May Nagle, another Village resident. "I look forward to this every month. I really enjoy these dogs, especially little dogs that can sit on my lap."

The Pet-a-Pet Organization was founded 13 years ago by Ruth Curry. With her father in a nursing home, she wanted to find something to bring to the seniors, some of whom don't get out of their rooms.

After hearing about the positive effects of "pet therapy," she launched Pet-a-Pet.

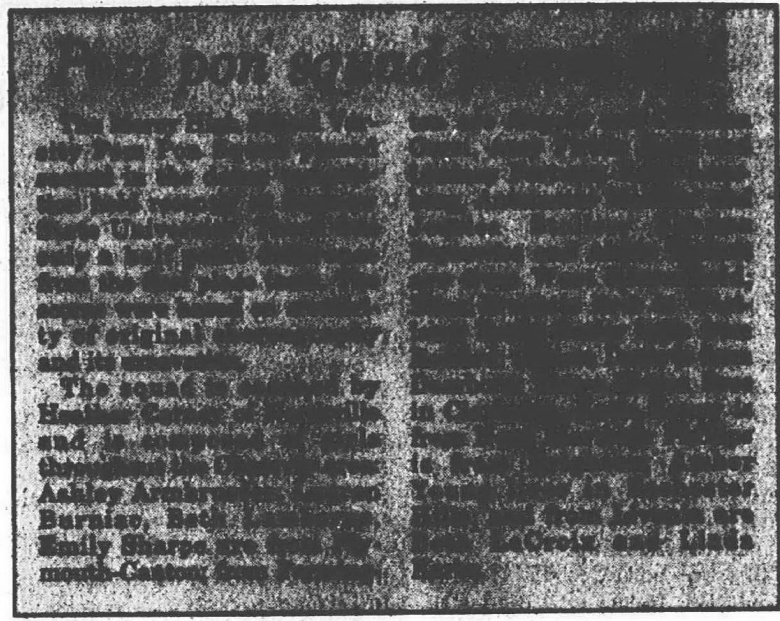
The organization has grown to include more nursing homes and children's hospitals in several communities throughout southeastern Michigan.

According to Curry, they are expanding the program to include a school chapter.

The benefit of pet therapy is evident in the genuine enthusiasm of the residents in Presbyterian Village as they scratch the head of "man's best friend," a simple pleasure that many of us take for granted but one that these senior citizens relish.

Pet-A-Pet has more than 650 volunteers, is still growing and needs more volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Pet-A-Pet Organization, contact Ruth Curry at (313) 535-0410.



Students from page A3

tree. "It has to be a real tree and real candles," said Roepstorff. "And then we just sit and have fun and open the presents. It takes pretty much all night."

In Brazil, it is not the custom to have a big Christmas tree or lots of decorations. "We don't

have Santas in all the places," said Camara. The emphasis is on the Christmas Eve meal, which is eaten quite late. Camara, Grosse and Roepstorff are amazed at how early Americans eat their main meal.

"You can only eat at 11:30 p.m. or midnight because that's Christmas," said Camara. "Before we eat we have champagne and wine." Her father usually supplies the wine, "because he doesn't know how to cook."

Every family contributes to the meal, which includes turkey, ham, rice - "We need to have rice!" - and a special Brazilian fowl known as "chester." The bird is eaten only at Christmas. "For me, it's the best," said Camara.

Christmas day is quiet and spent with family. "I sleep until noon," said Camara.

These foreign exchange students are not so different from our own. They've learned to love Oreo cookies, doughnuts, turkey dressing and anything from Taco Bell. And although they are far away from home, they all are certain Santa will remember them.

"I'm sure he will find me, but I don't know if I was so nice," said Grosse.

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MILITARY NEWS

To submit your military announcement, send the material printed or typewritten to: Plymouth-Canton Observer, 794 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170.

REPORTED FOR DUTY Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeremy M. Swanagan, son of Mike W. Swanagan of Canton, recently reported for duty with Sea Control Squadron 32, Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla. The 1996 graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School joined the Navy in January 1996.

DEPLOYMENT While most Americans are celebrating the holiday season at home or with family, Marine Cpl. Timothy L. Sutton, son of Edward F. and Linda R. Sutton of Plymouth, is scheduled to spend the holidays forward deployed to Okinawa, Japan with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, home-based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

BASIC TRAINING Navy Air Recruit Julie A. Urban, daughter of the Linda Urban and the late Gary Urban of Canton, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Urban completed a variety of training, which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis is also placed on physical fitness. She is a 1996 graduate of Canton High School.



**OBITUARIES**

**DOROTHY MORRIS OYEN**

Private services were held for Dorothy Morris Oyen, 81, of Hot Springs, Ark. (formerly of Plymouth).

She died Dec. 6 in Hot Springs. She lived in Plymouth from 1969 to 1978, when she and her husband, Erling, retired to Arkansas.

While living in Plymouth she was a member of the First United Methodist Church, the Newcomers Club, the Methodist Women's Club and the Garden Club.

She was also an avid golfer, crafter, and an award-winning needlepointer.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Erling Oyen; her second husband, John Hovis; her sister, Virginia Shaffer; and her parents. Survivors include her two daughters, Barbara (Tony) Caputo of St. Clair Shores and Linda (Gary) Morgan of Canton; one son, Richard (Carolyn) Oyen of Cleveland Heights, Ohio; and seven grandchildren.

**BARBARA H. ALLISON**

Services for Barbara H. Allison, 57, of Novi were held Dec. 12 at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville with Rev. Neil Ellison and Rev. Tim Franklin officiating.

She was born Oct. 17, 1942, in AnGuilla, Miss., and died Dec. 10 in Novi.

She worked for Whistler Automation Corp. (former Stanley Door Co.) of Novi as a technician for 12 years. She came to the Novi community in 1971 from Detroit and was a member of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville Township.

She loved to collect antiques (printer trays) and enjoyed old movies, singing and attending family reunions in Mississippi. She was also a member of New Covenant Sunday School Class at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Vivian Smith, and one brother, Robert Martin Smith.

Survivors include her husband, Gary of Novi; two daughters, Lynn Allison of Novi and Laura Allison of Northville; one son, Matthew Allison of Novi; one brother, Clifton (Lynn) Smith of Dallas; one sister, Marilyn Smith of Denver, Colo.; and one granddaughter, Sarah Allison of Novi.

Memorials may be made to Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 4000 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48167, or to the University of Michigan Cancer Center, 1600 E. Medical Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

**CORDA J. HOPPER**

Services for Corda J. Hopper, 89, of Plymouth were held Dec. 11 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth, with Pastor Jerry Yarnell officiating. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial Gardens, Westland.

She was born June 11, 1910, in Dennis, Kan., and died Dec. 8 in Livonia.

She worked at the Ypsilanti Ford Bomber Plant, then the Keiser-Fraiser Plant. She also worked at Fanny's Coffee Cup and the Burroughs Cafeteria. She retired after working at the Mayflower Hotel.

After retirement she continued to work for the family farm in Canton. She came to the Ply-

mouth-Canton community in 1936 from Dennis, Kan. In 1972 the family settled in Texas and remained until 1990, then returned to Michigan. She enjoyed traveling in her camper.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy G. Hopper.

Survivors include her two daughters, Reba (Troy) Lewis of Texas and Ruth (Adam) Sally of Plymouth; three sons, Melvin Hopper of Belleville, Marvin (Judy) Hopper of Canton and Myron (Carol) Hopper of Plymouth; 20 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Karmanos Cancer Institute or The American Heart Association of Michigan.

**RUTH JOAN WHITE**

Services for Ruth Joan White, 63, of Canton were held Dec. 14 at Santeiu Chapel with the Rev. Harold Calaham of Christian Light Missionary officiating. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial Gardens West of Westland.

She was born Feb. 1, 1936, in Belleville and died Dec. 10 in Garden City. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by one brother, J.C. Grover. Survivors include her husband, Letch White; three daughters, Brenda Creech, Lee Ann Sexton and Diane Colvin; one son, Michael Susanke; one sister, Lorraine Walker; three brothers, Charles Grover, Ronald Grover and Elton Grover; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice.

**Owner boosts sports, profits**

By **LEONARD FOGEL**  
STAFF WRITER

Greg Every practices what he preaches while making money doing what he loves best — boosting local sports.

But he doesn't get involved with all sports teams, just those in southeast Michigan.

"I could see a lot of New York Yankees and Notre Dame items but I don't. I'm a homer," he said, evidenced by his wardrobe of a Detroit Tiger cap and golf shirt and Red Wing jacket.

The owner of Fanatic U has something for everyone who is a fan of the Tigers, Red Wings, Lions, Pistons, University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

Added to his inventory are autographed jerseys.

The latest is a wide-angle shot of the last game at Tiger Stadium on Sept. 27 and initialed by Tiger Rob Frick, who hit a grand slam homer in the stadium finale.

He has expanded his business of popular sports apparel and souvenirs from what used to be temporary roadside locations during major sports event.

Now he opened his second location, on the southwest corner of Ford Road and Henry Ruff, between Middlebelt and Merriman.

The former Westland resident



Proud owner Greg Every shows off his wide-angle shot of the last game at Tiger Stadium.

who now lives in Plymouth, has been a sports nut since he was 6 years old.

He recalls clearly that as an 8-year-old, he retrieved golf balls from the fourth hole of the nearby Hawthorne Golf Course on Merriman north of Warren Road.

"I lived off the fourth hole, which was next to my back yard (on Carrousel Street in Westland)," said Every, 38.

A 1981 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School, Every and a friend bought some T-shirts near the end of the Tigers' 1984 season in which the team won

the American League pennant and the World Series.

"It was the T-shirt with the 'Bless You Boys' slogan from TV's Al Ackerman," Every recalled.

"We sold shirts the night the Tigers clinched the pennant and more than 500 the night they won the World Series," he said.

That started the business career of Every who had specialized shirts and souvenirs made for championship teams and "went on the road" across the country.

The business was so successful that the 1991 World Champion Atlanta Braves "helped me buy my first house" and the Red Wings capturing the 1997 Stanley Cup helped in the purchase of his second home.

After the 1984 Tigers' championship season, Every took his business on the road with the next big event being Super Bowl XX, held in Palo Alto, Calif.

In 1996, he put down his foundations in opening the souvenir and apparel business in a small store-front location on Joy Road and Inkster. Later, he relocated to a strip retail center on Five Mile and Merriman.

The Garden City location is his second.

The business helps Every with family get-togethers as he can conveniently provide souvenirs or clothing for young relatives.

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# The right way

## School board gets its (wo)man

And then there was one. The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education has decided Kathleen Booher is the answer to the departure of Superintendent Chuck Little. Board members are set to visit Berkley schools, where Booher is the current superintendent, Thursday in their version of "Speak now or forever hold your peace."

The site visit is nothing more than window dressing, the dotting of the final "i" before offering Booher a contract. Unless some bombshell is dropped, the school board is prepared to hand Booher a contract at a special meeting set for 7 a.m. Friday.

There are several things to like about this choice. Booher becomes the first woman to head the district, so bid farewell to that particular glass ceiling. She overcame what some saw as a weak first interview, but made enough of an impression to go the distance. And people we've talked to from outside the district say she'll be a good fit because she cares about the same thing we care about — the kids.

"She's very student-oriented and she works well with parents," one superintendent told us. "She's extremely bright and capable."

We also like the speed with which Booher would be able to begin tackling her new responsibilities. The middle of a school year isn't the ideal time to have this kind of change in leadership, but Booher would be on board some time in February, giving her a head start while getting ready for the next school year.

The competition was also stiff, a subtle benefit to the district. Booher beat out South Redford Assistant Superintendent John Weber, who had some strong points of his own and was on everyone's list.

The relatively painless selection couldn't have come at a more opportune time for the district, in need of some smooth sailing after controversies surrounding gay displays and the east-west battle over the placement of the new high school.

While Booher emerged from a very tough selection process to shine as the brightest candidate, we believe the board could have taken additional steps to ensure she's the right person.

Site visits are a great idea, but we think visits should have been made to both Booher's and Weber's districts before the board settled on its choice. There's absolutely no reason to believe any bombshells are going to fall from the skies over Berkley Thursday, but in the unlikely event they do, the board would have avoided embarrassment by having already visited Weber's district.

Conversely, they could have eliminated Weber by finding similar information in South Redford, thereby solidifying Booher's position as The Right Choice.

For many reasons, we think the board got it right. They took an unwieldy process, with 45 candidates to begin with, whittled through the extraneous material and emerged with someone in whom they have confidence.

Give them an "A" for effort.

# Building 'culture' isn't roll of dice

While new casinos and sport stadiums may soon offer marquee attractions, the notion of what is considered "culture" in metro Detroit shouldn't simply be defined by the Big Three, sports stadiums and a roll of the dice.

There is compelling evidence to put an end to parochial thinking about what is needed to "improve the quality of life" in our communities.

A recently released exhaustive analysis of audiences attending classical concerts, dance performances, opera, theater and exhibits at art and historical museums revealed that nearly 58 percent of the households in the seven-county southeastern Michigan region attend cultural events. That figure is considerably above the national average of 49 percent for major U.S. metro areas.

The report, "Southeastern Michigan Geodemographic and Database Analysis," was coordinated by ArtServe Michigan of Southfield, a statewide arts advocacy agency. The findings were made public 10 days ago, and have overtaken the controversy over the abrupt closing of the "shock art" exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts as the main topic of conversation throughout the arts community.

And this discussion about the future of art is worth sustaining.

Funded by a \$75,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, the analysis conducted by the Artsmarket Consulting of Bozeman, Mont., offers an unprecedented profile of audiences who attend everything from a concert by their local symphony to a major exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Several Wayne County arts groups and cultural institutions were among the 59 participating organizations, including Canton Project Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, Detroit Institute of Arts, Henry Ford Muse-

um/Greenfield Village and Michigan Opera Theatre.

Since for-profit venues were not considered in the research, experts contend that audiences at cultural and entertainment events are even larger than reported.

On one level, the report's findings offer small arts organizations detailed marketing information and opportunities to further identify prospective audiences. Yet on another level, the report makes obvious that arts organizations must collaborate and work together for their common interests. Apparently, the creative spirit must go hand-in-hand with entrepreneurial ingenuity and networking.

Of course, ArtServe's immediate challenge is to assist local arts groups in disseminating and properly utilizing the information in the report.

Advocates for a regional cultural tax are predictably thrilled with the report. Basically, the cultural tax would be a half-mill assessment on a homeowner's property with revenue earmarked to fund the operating budgets of the region's cultural institutions and provide county grants to cultivate arts participation at the local level.

While the geodemographic and database analysis presents a compelling portrait of the grassroots support for cultural institutions and arts organizations, until now the public discussion has lagged behind the cultural realities.

It's worth noting that while most people attend events in their own communities, Wayne County draws the most crossover from other counties.

A new century may hold many challenges. But, perhaps the cynicism about regional cooperation will also be put to rest.

GEORGE BROOKS



### LETTERS

*Opinions are to be shared. We welcome your ideas, that's why we offer this space for your opinions. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity we ask that you provide a contact telephone number and if mailing or faxing a letter, please sign it. Letters can be mailed to: Brad Kadrich, 794 South Main, Plymouth, MI 48170, faxed to Brad at (734) 459-4224 or emailed to bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net.*

### Band earned respect

I just got back from the National Championships with the P-CEP Marching Band. In Indianapolis, I realized and saw before me how much work it takes to get to the top.

The band got the title of number one in the nation. With day-long practices everyday starting in early August, and seven hour practices everyday when school starts, I get tired just looking at my younger brother, who is on the drumline. Yes, I admit, at one time I was one of those people who had little respect for the band kids. And now I kick myself. Because of them, our school is nationally recognized and respected.

They work harder and longer than any of the sports teams (who, I may add, have barely made it past regionals), and they put up with all kinds of crap from other students. No matter what, they always hold their heads up high.

Number one in the nation, and they get booed at football games and pep rallies. Number one, and students with no respect actually have the nerve to wear T-shirts around the school with the slogan "P-CEP Marching Band- Number One in the Nation-Who Cares?" (I haven't seen a National Championship medal hanging around their neck.)

Number one, and the band members feel ashamed to wear a letter jacket with "Marching Band" written on the back. And for all the parents out there, arguing about whether or not the P-CEP Marching Band really deserves its title, do you honestly think you are setting yourselves as good role models for our generation?

Months and months of practice have finally paid off, our school is known nationwide, and band members are still treated as if they are nothing to us. If you ever see pictures of our Grand National Championship Marching Band flash across your TV on the news, or even while you are driving if you hear the mentioned on your favorite radio station, don't change the station.

Think about how hard they have worked and come to a conclusion. For those of you who feel you are so much "cooler" than a band kid, ask yourself who is the better person —

you in your jealousy or them in their strength?

Even if P-CEP hadn't been number one, I hope this band will someday get the respect they deserve, from adults and kids alike.

Katie McKinley  
 Plymouth Salem senior

### Issue put in perspective

I have something to say to David Bard (letter appeared in Nov. 18 Observer). Bravo! Bravo! Bravo, Mr. Bard for your intelligent and indiscriminate words.

Ever since this incident began, I have been filled with emotion because I was so against the way it was handled. I wasn't sure what to write. Mr. Bard took the words right out of my mouth. I, too, was shouting "tolerance, acceptance" but in truth I was just as bad as people shouting "immoral, goes against God's will" etc. Thank you, Mr. Bard, for opening our eyes to the fact that tolerance and acceptance are not the same.

I would also like to say something that everyone seems to have forgotten. Even though you may not accept those who are homosexual, you do and must acknowledge them. They could be your doctor, lawyer, hair-stylist, policeman, cleaning lady, a friend, or even your own child and you would never know it. Don't think that you would, because you wouldn't.

Everyone bringing God into the picture is also forgetting something. God is love. Love for all, accepting of all. God is unconditional love. There is love no matter what. I read these letters with quoted Bible phrases and I can't believe people are so consumed with hate when they write them.

People please, look in the mirror, close your eyes and try to feel the all-consuming warmth and peace and love within yourselves. If you are God's creatures as you say you are then it's got to be there.

Remember people, you may not accept it, but you must acknowledge (tolerate) it. And you know what, that's OK.

Jennifer Thimm  
 Plymouth

### COMMUNITY VOICE

#### QUESTION:

Will you be shopping for holiday gifts on the Internet?

We asked our question outside the Plymouth post office on Penniman Street.



"No, it's too confusing."  
 Dana DeBorja Hartland



"I might. We have in the past."  
 Lisa Petty  
 Plymouth



"No, I'm just not familiar enough with it."  
 John Pether  
 Plymouth



"No, I don't have a computer."  
 Eric Hanz  
 Plymouth

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— Philip Power



## Third term is trouble for officeholders

The big political news last week was the Legislature's failure to authorize more charter schools, despite weeks of intensive arm-twisting and foot stamping by Gov. John Engler. Amazingly, the defeat was bipartisan. House Democrats have never been enthused by the charter school movement, though some reps from Detroit find them a better alternative than the public schools. Although most Republicans are ideologically pro-charter, the governor's key failure was to win over a handful of moderate GOP legislators, some of whom had been endorsed by the very anti-charter teachers' union, the Michigan Education Association.

Engler's spinmeisters tried to put on a brave face, talking cheerily about getting back to the issue after the New Year. But this defeat, so unexpected for a politician as experienced and capable as Engler, got me to musing about this governor, now in his third term in office.

After the Republican landslide last November, everybody expected John Engler to bestride the state like a colossus. His Republican Party controlled both houses of the Legislature, had a 5-2 grip on the Supreme Court and won all the executive offices except for attorney general. The governor had only to nod his head, the conventional wisdom went, and stuff would happen. Quick.

But it hasn't quite worked out that way. Consider three examples.

First was this fall's bungled attempt to clip the wings of Attorney General Jennifer Granholm, the only Democrat to survive last year's debacle. Republican bills attempting to cut back the force of her opinions were roundly criticized as a naked power grab, and when documents were leaked proving the whole plot was initiated in the governor's office, John Engler wound up with lots of egg on his face.

Second was the governor's attempt to persuade Secretary of State Candice Miller to run against U.S. Rep. David Bonier, the Democratic minority leader in the House of Representatives and a favorite GOP target. But such a campaign likely would have derailed Miller's interest in running for governor against Engler's hand-picked candidate, Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus.

Miller eventually said "thanks, but no thanks." Recently, she's been talking about her interest in running for governor.

Third is the still unresolved spat over a constitutional amendment to allow direct public support for private and religious schools. Headed by billionaire Dick DeVos, the husband of state Republican Party Chairwoman Betsy DeVos, a bunch of hard-line GOP stalwarts are hellbent on collecting enough signatures to put the measure on the ballot next November. Engler has been trying to kill the drive because he's afraid passions ignited by the measure might increase turnout next November and thus jeopardize U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham's chances for re-election.

Despite public disclosures of barbed correspondence, meetings of the Republican State



PHIL POWER

Central Committee and assorted attempts to kiss and make up, the fight between the governor and some of his closest political friends and allies is still going on. It's not a pretty sight.

All of which brings to my mind the Iron Rule of Michigan Politics: No governor in his/her right mind should run for a third term.

The reasons are compelling. After eight long years in office, all the good ideas a governor came in with are pretty much used up. Moreover, most of the bright people who had the good ideas have been drained after eight years and have gone on to better jobs outside government.

Finally, any governor worth his/her salt will inevitably make enemies in the course of daily governing. After eight years in office, any governor thinking about a third term better also think of the snakes lying in the grass ready to strike.

Worst, after eight years as governor, an office abounding with perks and awash with sycophants, even the most balanced person will be under tremendous pressure to let it go to his/her head. The ancient Greeks called it "hubris," which my dictionary defines as "overbearing pride or presumption." Whether it's hubris or a swelled head, it's most unattractive, and you see it most in third terms.

History endorses the "no third term under any circumstances" doctrine.

William Milliken, perhaps Michigan's best-loved former governor, had a terrible time in his third term. Jim Blanchard simply ran out of gas at the end of his second term; his campaign for a third term was mishandled from start to finish.

Engler himself talked grandly about "two terms and out" at the start of his governorship. Well, he's a year into his third term. I wonder if he worries about how the next couple of years are going to turn out. Or is his heavy involvement in the presidential campaign of Texas Gov. George W. Bush his strategy for an early exit from third term woes?

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@homecomm.net.

## Lawmakers should follow same standards as parental laws

Let's not make parents the enemy. Raising kids can be a tough job. They test boundaries. It's natural and normal for them to do so. I would argue that it is an integral part of growing up. How can you become an independent adult without occasionally pushing the limits?



MIKE MALOTT

So good parenting is a very fine line. One must set clear rules, enforce them consistently and fairly ... and know when to give them up as the child grows in maturity and responsibility.

I raise the point because of a set of bills proposed by Rep. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) and Sen. Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Township) to address school truancy.

Overall, it's a good package. The key provision is that it would allow a judge to suspend a youngster's drivers license for failing to attend school regularly. As Peters has pointed out, youngsters value the mobility that having that driver's license allows. Often they count it more highly than anything else the authorities could offer or take away.

The bills would also require parental notification if the child is absent twice in 30 days, and would allow for court intervention if the child misses seven days in a month.

"Truancy is sometimes the first sign of a troubled child who may eventually experiment with drugs, crime and gangs, and wind up another juvenile crime statistic," Jacobs said.

The part that bothers me is that parents could be held to account for their youngsters' failure to show up in school. The bills allow for fines of \$500 or up to 90 days in jail for parents who fail to address the truancy problem.

And, yes, I admit there are some parents who deserve such a penalty. When the Wayne County prosecutor's office called parents into meetings about their kids' truancy, fewer than half even showed up.

But there seems to be a trend of targeting parents for their kids' misbehavior. Many communities now have host ordinances, which hold parents to account when their youngsters hold raucous parties in their homes. And it wasn't long ago that a Macomb County couple was prosecuted for failing to discipline their delinquent teenager.

But there are also more prohibitions in law

about what parents can do to discipline youngsters.

As a child, I knew what would happen if I was caught skipping school. Dad had a rawer strap reserved for taking care of just such matters. I only got to see it once or twice in my entire childhood, and never when I didn't deserve it. But today, that would be child abuse. Keep in mind that we've seen several cases in which parents were charged for slapping their children in the face.

If you ask the authorities how far a parent can go in disciplining a youngster, you are likely to get a wide variety of answers. One judge I queried on the topic said that Michigan's domestic violence laws, which make it illegal for one member of a household to strike another, could be interpreted to prohibit spanking. But a state senator who was there for the debate on that law says it was never intended to outlaw physical discipline.

Another judge told me spanking is legal, as long as it is a swat or two on the rear or back of the legs, doesn't leave an injury, and is done with the hand rather than a paddle or strap.

When I asked a social worker the same thing, she said she refused to endorse spanking because too often child abuse begins as physical discipline.

Why such varied answers? Because the law does not clearly spell out what is legal and what isn't when it comes to disciplining children.

One lawmaker told me it wasn't spelled out for a reason. They were afraid that whatever definition of physical discipline they put in law as allowable might be carried to an abusive extreme. They like it nebulous, he said, because they can bring a case when a parent seems to go overboard. Vague laws give police and prosecutors more discretion.

What was that I said about good parenting? It is about setting clear rules and enforcing them fairly. Perhaps lawmakers should apply the same standards to their rules about parenting ... especially if they intend to hold parents accountable later for failing to discipline their kids.

Mike Malott reports on the local implications of state and regional events. He can be reached by phone at (248) 634-8219 or by e-mail at mmalott@homecomm.net.

## Tolerance of lifestyle choices doesn't equate to celebration or acceptance

By JIM WINEBRENER  
PLTMOOTH

### GUEST OPINION

Tolerance begins when faced with life alternatives contrary to what you would have chosen for yourself. Consider the husband who delights in Thanksgiving day with eight hours of football. He is not being tolerant; he is doing exactly what he loves!

Tolerance abounds in his wife, who would appreciate help with the dishes or wishes he would play with the kids. In spite of her disapproval of his chosen activity, she still treats him with respect, prepares the meal and goes on with life without nagging. Tolerance does not mean she must celebrate his ability to survive eight consecutive hours of television.

Tolerance begins when your comfort zone is challenged. For example, I choose not to smoke. However, I can still tolerate eating with a smoker. I will engage in respectful discussion with a smoking colleague. I tolerate smoking. I do not have to affirm it, claim it equivalent to drinking coffee or celebrate it as another lifestyle choice morally equivalent to chewing gum.

Tolerance has different meaning to gay advocates. They expect everyone to embrace the behavior, to consider it the moral equivalent of traditional marriage and to celebrate homosexuality as one lifestyle choice among a number of equivalent alternatives. A comparison between

smoking and homosexual behavior provides insight. Both are chosen behaviors. No one forces a person to smoke that first cigarette or participate in homosexual behavior.

Both behaviors can significantly reduce your life span. The harmful consequences of both behaviors are well documented. People are aware of the link between smoking and cancer, much as they are of the link between homosexual behavior and AIDS.

Many arguments used by gay advocates could be applied to smoking by simply changing the references from homosexual to smoker. For instance:

■ Teenagers are considering smoking in ever increasing numbers. We need to educate them in safe smoking by encouraging them not to inhale and promote the use of filtered cigarettes.

■ Some may say middle school is too young to deal with a complex subject such as smoking. Not so.

Youngsters on playgrounds are already using derogatory terminology such as coffin nails. Negative comments about smoking are accepted because parents are closed minded and unwilling to accept the reality of smokers in society.

To continue the analogy, we could propose Smoker Pride week. Make signs that say "Celebrate" to avoid the message that only certain forms of

diversity are acceptable. It would be a simple acknowledgment that alternative lifestyles exist, that closing our eyes does not make smoking go away. It's about tolerance and acceptance.

On a final note, there is another interesting comparison between smoking and homosexual behavior. We recognize that by carefully choosing behaviors, you can limit undesirable health consequences. With smoking, we do everything possible to limit the smoking behavior. We ban smoking in buildings, sue tobacco companies, print warnings on packages and incorporate anti-smoking campaigns into our schools.

On the contrary, as a society, we do everything possible to limit the consequences of homosexual behavior. According to President Clinton, as a nation we spend 10 times as much research money per AIDS death as we do on breast cancer. We give HIV patients the right to withhold information from physicians, pass out free condoms and wear AIDS awareness ribbons. Nothing is said about the behavior; rather, efforts are concentrated on the resulting disease. Public policies therefore have the net effect of promoting homosexual activity by reducing the potential consequences of that behavior.

Since I tolerate, but do not celebrate homosexuality, I will probably be labeled a homophobe and bigot by gay advocates. It seems ironic that a group that demands tolerance resorts to name calling against anyone who questions their advocacy. Their tolerance is a one-way street.

## Get Your Tickets to Opening Day Now

Now is your chance to guarantee your seat at the historic "Opening Day at Comerica Park." It's as easy as calling us at (313) 471-BALL. Comerica Park's inaugural season will be like none other in Tigers baseball history and here's why:

Comerica Park will be the Crown Jewel of Major League Baseball.

Our World Series Plans are so strong, we are willing to back them up.

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Great seats for the 20-game plans are still available for Comerica Park. So pick up the phone and call (313) 471-BALL today. A Sales and Service Manager is here to answer your call. But you have to act fast.

**MAKE THE CALL**

What is there to think about? Great seats, new ballpark, Opening Day, Fans First Guarantee. Plus, an exclusive Detroit Tigers VIP merchandise gift. Give us a call at (313) 471-BALL to secure your seats today.

Don't miss out on your chance to get the best seats at Comerica Park.

**STATE-OF-THE-ART BALLPARK**

Comerica Park was built for you, the fan, with great sight lines, large comfortable seats with cupholders and wide aisles and concourses. Best yet, you'll find restrooms and concession options around every corner.

**WORLD SERIES PLANS**

A great new ballpark, great new 20-game plans. We have loaded each plan with the best games, the best teams, the best promotions, great giveaways, and a mixture of days of the week to fit your complicated schedule.

**GREAT BENEFITS**

We are holding great seat locations for you that come with some of the best benefits around. Like the opportunity to purchase "Opening Day at Comerica Park" (while supplies last). You'll get the same great seats for every game in your package (Opening Day may differ). Plus, an exclusive Detroit Tigers VIP merchandise gift.

FOR TICKET PACKAGES, CALL THE DETROIT TIGERS TICKET SALES DEPARTMENT AT

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Look for the special balloons throughout the store to identify the sale items for this event!

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Regular and Original prices reflect offering prices which may not have resulted in actual sales. Balloon Sale effective December 16-19, 1999 only. Percentages off regular and original prices. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken on original prices. Reductions on original priced merchandise effective until stock is depleted. Merchandise selection may vary slightly from one JCPenney store to another. Limited to stock on hand. Cannot be applied to prior purchases.



**Common Sensors**

JACQUE MARTIN-DOWNS

## Nifty gifts that cost nothing

With the holiday season fast approaching, we often overlook four of the niftiest gifts we can give ... and they're free.

**Favors:** In this day and age of busy schedules and snippets of free time, acts of service are few and far between. Everyone appreciated it when you do something nice for them.

**Wives may do cartwheels** when their husbands empty the dishwasher.

Husbands love having their car filled up with gasoline.

Colleagues appreciate it when you can lighten their workload. Copy something they need as you are walking down towards the copier room.

Anonymous acts of service are also great fun for the giver. Try putting a cup of coffee and a bagel on someone's desk just before they arrive.

**Compliments:** Joleen, a quiet but efficient cashier at Kmart was very moved when a customer remarked that she had a sparkling smile. She lit up instantly and continued glowing long after the customer left. I told a clerk how pleasant she was during a hectic time of the day and then went and told her supervisor, too.

Children always like compliments about things they've done that prove they are capable.

After Stephen, a 4-year-old, set the table for dinner, his mom said, "You have really gotten good at setting the table, Stephen. I like how you've folded the napkins so perfectly." Children and teens feel good inside when they hear something nice about themselves.

**Cheerful disposition:** Pull out your effervescence and positive attitude and you could really surprise someone who wasn't expecting it. Walk in with a smile on your face. It may cause them to smile back.

**Time:** Jack was a busy executive. His job left little spare time for his children and wife. When thinking about what to get his family for Christmas, he decided he would take two days off before the 25th and be home with them.

They were plainly shocked when he was the first one up, making breakfast one morning. And their astonishment increased when they saw him decorating the entire house.

Your time and presence may seem like nothing to you, but may be a special present to those who love you.

These are gifts that can change and improve relationships. They speak volumes more than material gifts because it shows others you care about them.

Jacque Martin-Downs is the coordinator of the Family Resource Center in Westland and has a private counseling practice. If you have a question or comment, write her at the Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or at her e-mail address: [downaj@mail.ropp.net](mailto:downaj@mail.ropp.net).

## Stitchers' bears help break ice in emergencies

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI  
SPECIAL WRITER

When a 3-year-old girl faced the possibility of having her finger amputated Westland firefighter Robert Arbini learned firsthand how important teddy bears are as ice breakers during emergencies involving children.

The teddy bear seemed to work wonders to calm the toddler during the 90-minute ordeal to remove her index finger that was lodged in a baby car seat.

When every attempt to release her finger failed, an emergency room doctor recommended the toddler be transported to the University of Michigan Hospital for a possible amputation.

At the last moment, however, Westland firefighters were able to free the finger, Arbini said.

"She was crying constantly," he said. "We gave her a bear and it comforted her quite a bit."

The Love Stitchers, a group of women ranging in age from "30-something" to "80-something" at Timothy Lutheran Church on Wayne Road in Livonia, want to make sure that other children are comforted by a teddy bear in their times of need.

The group donated 50 hand-sewn stuffed animals to the Westland Fire Department.

Love Stitchers chair Jean Coleman happened on the idea of making teddy bears at an American Stitches demonstration at the Novi Expo Center last

October. The company travels nationwide exhibiting fashion, sewing, quilting and needle arts.

### On the table

Everywhere the company travels, one table is set up for the non-profit "Cuddles for Kids" project that involves making teddy bears for emergency workers to give away.

A sewing machine is available during their demonstrations and anyone who happens by is welcome to stitch a teddy bear.

"It's exciting, heart wrenching and heart warming," explained Sue Lazarecki, American Stitches consultant. "We have policemen who will come by and sit down and sew a teddy bear."

Other charitable groups have adopted the Cuddle Project nationwide. Between 100 and 200 teddy bears are made during each show, Lazarecki said. The bears have been given to the Detroit Police Department and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

Coleman, a retired home economics teacher in Livonia, liked what she saw at the Novi Expo Center and decided to bring the concept to her church sewing group. She bought the bear pattern and church members purchased the fleece, as well as the child-safe eyes and noses that are assembled with washers, so they can't be pulled out and swallowed.

In two months, the Livonia church



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

All done: Bears line the tables in Timothy Lutheran Church where Love Stitchers like Marilyn (left) and Helen Willey work on others that will be given to the Westland Fire Department.

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# Volunteer efforts help make P-C CROP Walk a success

By **STEPHAN ANGLIN CASOLA**  
Special Features  
stephan@observer.com

The Plymouth and Canton communities have done it again. Residents participating in the eighth annual Plymouth-Canton CROP Walk Sept. 26 gave plenty of time and money to aid world hunger and support the Salvation Army.

More than 226 walkers raised \$14,788 for the walk sponsored by 12 area churches. The Plymouth Salvation Army received 25 percent of the money.

Douglas E. Koenig, a Canton resident and team leader for the event, said many individuals donated their time and energy to make the CROP Walk a success-

ful event. In particular, he noted the efforts of Bill Joyner for his involvement.

"Through the years, Bill Joyner has been a fantastic champion of the community," said Koenig. "Bill was the honorary CROP Walk chairperson, and the (Plymouth Volunteer) Center provided direct assistance in traffic control and walk preparation."

For dedicated CROP Walker Linda Besh, this year's event posed a new experience, one she will not soon forget.

"My experience was different this year because during the walk, I rode in the van that circles the walk - in case walkers get tired and can't finish - and picks up the crossing guards and

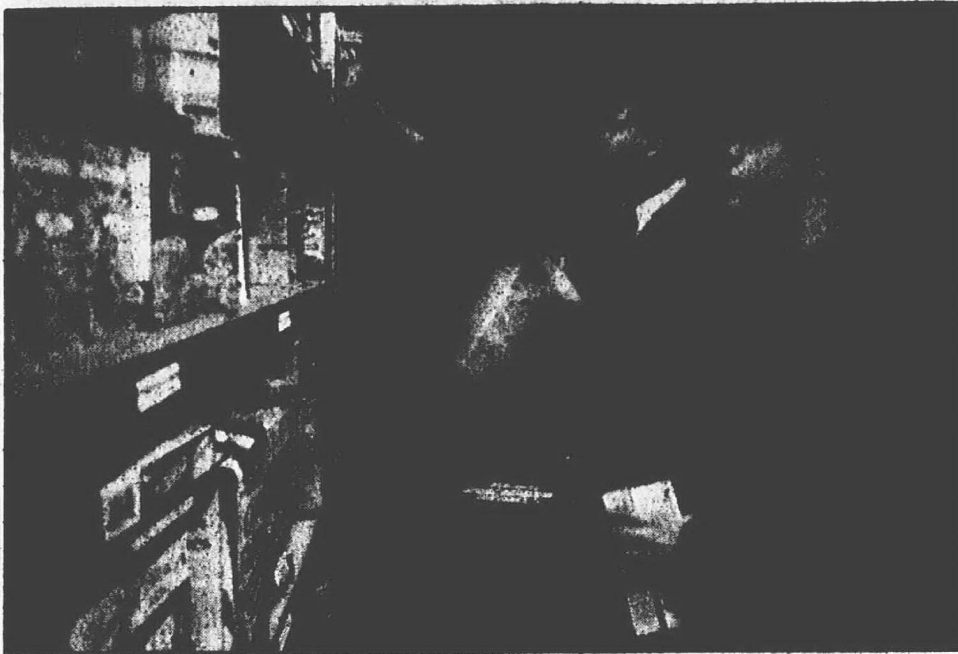
brings them back to their cars," she said. "It was a new perspective of the walk. In past years, I have either walked or helped prepare for returning walkers."

"Driving the route, I could see the very long line of walkers spread through Plymouth. I could see the High School Close-up volunteers working with great care in making sure the walkers had safe passage across the main roads."

Though the CROP Walk route was shortened this year, Besh personally liked the longer walk "because it reminded me more of how long the disadvantaged of the world have to walk for food and water."

Still the message of CROP Walk and aiding world hunger came through.

Other groups contributing to the event included the Kiwanis Club, Our Lady of Good Counsel's Lifespan group and The Salvation Army, whose volunteers provided water for walk participants on the route; Plymouth-Canton Close-up students who guided walkers across busy intersections; and First Baptist Church, which provided the van



**Stocking up:** Tammy Moyer of Plymouth (left), Lt. Jim Spencer of the Salvation Army and Keith Crochet of Canton stock the shelves at the Salvation Army office with dry goods and non-perishables.

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL BURDICKMAN

service along the route. Joyce Hansen, youth minister at St. Thomas A'Becket Catholic Church in Canton, brought about 100 walkers to the event and sponsored an after-the-walk tailgate pizza party for all the

youths who chose to participate. Of her efforts Besh said, "Their hard work and dedication to CROP Walk is truly a blessing."

"CROP Walks happen because we walk and give," added

Koenig. "Their generous time, effort and donations will help those who are powerless in the world."

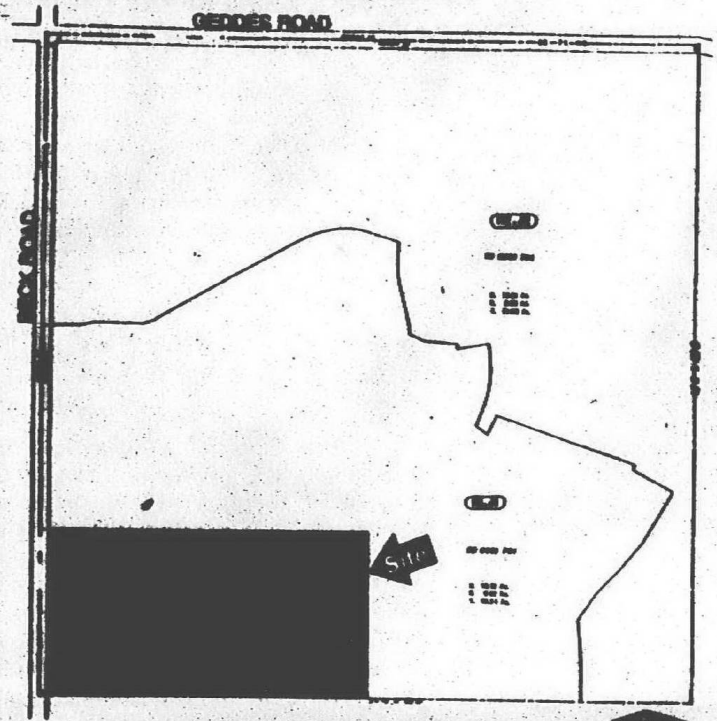
And mark the calendar. Next year's Plymouth-Canton CROP Walk is scheduled for Sept. 24.

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

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1945 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 10, 2000 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

**GOW/JOHNSON REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 150 99 0003 000, 150 99 0004 000, AND 150 99 0005 000 FROM RR, RURAL RESIDENTIAL TO R-3, SINGLE FAMILY ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL.** Property is located on the east side of Beck Road between Geddes Road and Michigan Avenue.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday, January 6, 2000, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Published: December 16, 1999 and January 2, 2000

LD11003

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS DECEMBER 7, 1999

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to appoint Treasurer Kirchgatter the Chairperson to open the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton proceedings of December 7, 1999. All eyes present. Aye: Yack.

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, December 7, 1999 at 1150 South Canton Center Road. Treasurer Kirchgatter called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Present: Bennett, Burdick, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Sheffery. Absent: Yack.

Supervisor Yack arrived at 8:12 P.M. treasurer Kirchgatter returned the chair to Supervisor Yack.

Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to adopt the Agenda as amended to add a closed session for the purpose of property purchase. All eyes.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdick, to adopt the resolution to approve the application to MDOT Enhancement Program for a grant for the I-275/Michigan Avenue Interchange landscaping. All eyes.

### RESOLUTION

To Authorize the Submission of an Application to MDOT Enhancement Program for Installation of Landscaping and Related Work at the I-275/Michigan Avenue Interchange

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation, as an Act 51 recipient governmental unit, is eligible to submit a grant application to the Transportation Enhancement Activity Program; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Canton wishes to sponsor, in behalf of the Michigan Department of Transportation, a Transportation Enhancement Activity Project; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Canton has prepared a grant application for submission by Canton and the Michigan Department of Transportation for the landscaping of the I-275/Michigan Avenue (US-12) Interchange; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation will provide the required twenty (20%) per cent local match funds;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton authorizes the submission of an application to the Transportation Enhancement Activity Program by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Charter Township of Canton for the landscaping and related work at the I-275/Michigan Avenue Interchange; and

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton does authorize and financially commit to the construction of the landscaping and plantings as described in the memorandum attached for a minimum of two years and then for each time thereafter as necessary to preserve the viability and aesthetics of said landscaping and plantings.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to move from open session to closed session for the purpose of discussion of property purchase at 8:20 P.M. All eyes.

Closed Session called to order for the purpose of discussion of property purchase by Supervisor Yack at 8:21 P.M. Minutes present: Bennett, Burdick, McLaughlin, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Sheffery, Yack. Staff present: Susan Stueckert.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to return to open session and adjourn at 8:25 P.M. All eyes present.

TERRY A. BURDICK, Clerk

This document is a summary of certain items of the Board of Trustees meeting held on December 7, 1999. The full text of the approved minutes will be available following the next regular meeting of the Board on December 14, 1999.

William A. Yack, Supervisor

TERRY A. BURDICK, Clerk

Published on 12/16/99

## Bears from page B1

women clocked close to 100 hours of time, hoping to make a difference in a child's life. Some of the women traced the patterns; some cut; some sewed; some stuffed; and others stitched the backs and applied the eyes and noses.

"We have people who sew and people who don't," said Coleman, who also taught sewing to senior citizens in continuing education programs. "We have people who say, 'I can't sew,' and I say: 'That doesn't matter, we need a variety of skills.'"

"It's an outreach effort, a way to help others and to be a service to the community. We do this because Jesus commands us to show compassion to our less fortunate neighbors."

Coleman hears firsthand stories from her daughter, a Dearborn firefighter, about how teddy bears can calm a child who is frightened or hurt.

"We use the teddy bears anytime we go to an incident where children are involved," said Westland Assistant Chief Bob Fields.

Usually children who receive the bears are 5 years old or younger, depending on the situation.

"It has a calming effect and helps us to communicate a little better," Fields said. "We usually keep a couple on each rescue."

The Westland Fire Department give away anywhere between 500 and 600 teddy bears annually.

Fields said the teddy bears donated by Timothy Lutheran come at a good time because their stock had dwindled to nothing. The Westland Fire Department has received donations from Civitans and occasionally Target during the more than 13 years the department has given away stuffed animals.

Since its inception last summer, the stitching group has done other charitable sewing projects, like making palm pads

for people who have suffered stroke. They were donated to Lutheran Social Services which gave them to area nursing homes.

Love Stitchers also made hats to be donated to an oncology department for women who have lost their hair from chemotherapy treatments.

"They're prettier than the turbans," said Coleman who runs a quilting business, Creative Quilting, from her home in Livonia. "It's very nice to know that you're doing something for someone else in need."

The Cuddles Project is likely something that will remain a pet project at Timothy Lutheran, said Coleman, adding that the group has enough fabric to make 25 more teddy bears.

"We thought we'd pick up after Christmas and make more," she said.

## LEGAL NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH 1999 Winter Taxes

Winter taxes are due December 1, 1999 and payable through February 14, 2000 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office. Open Friday, December 3, 10, 17 and Wednesday, December 22 and December 29 until 5:00 p.m. After hours payments can be placed in 24 hr. DROP BOX located in parking lot adjacent to Building #1 or DROP BOX adjacent to entry way. Standard Federal Bank, Plymouth Offices, will also accept payment for your convenience through February 14, 2000.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH TREASURER'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** during the Christmas Holidays on Thursday, December 23rd and Friday, December 24th. The Treasurer's Office will be open to accept Tax Payments and Other Payments on Monday, December 27th through Friday, December 31st.

RON EDWARDS  
Treasurer  
Charter Township of Plymouth

Published: December 16 and 19, 1999

LD11003

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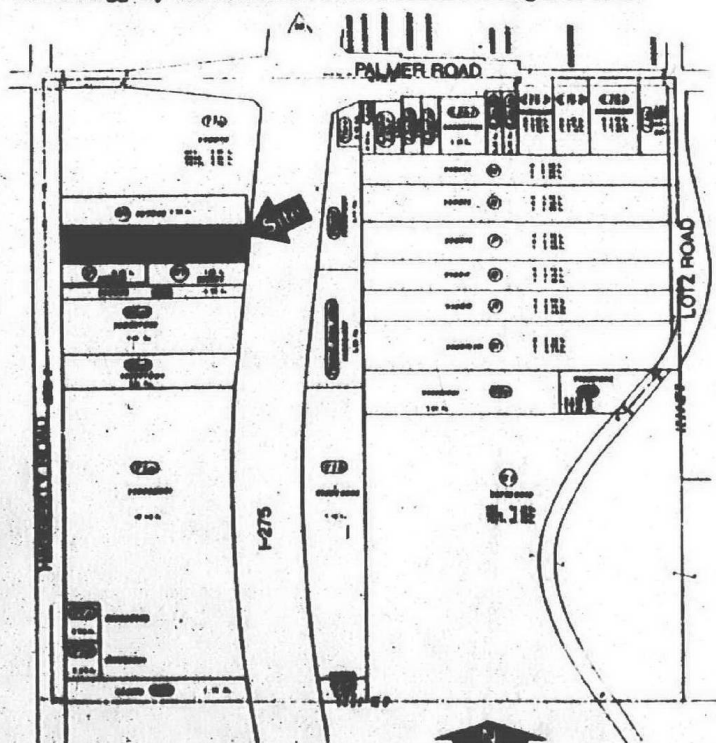
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**G. FISHER CONSTRUCTION/A.B.G. ASSOCIATES REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 098 99 0023 000 FROM O-1, OFFICE, TO RP, RESEARCH PARK.** Property is located on the east side of Haggerty Road between Palmer Road and Michigan Avenue.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday, January 6, 2000, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Published: December 16, 1999 and January 2, 2000

LD11003

Smile, attentive Claus

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# Santa's helpers: Shutterbugs capture spirit of season



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Smile, please: Amber Spisz, 15, tries to get a baby's attention to take a picture of the child with Santa Claus at Laurel Park Place in Livonia

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CAROLA  
STAFF Writer  
scarola@homecomm.net

The true spirit of the holidays does not come from ornaments, trees or candles. It comes from the light in the eyes of a child. And perhaps no one knows it better than those who see thousands of good little girls and boys every season.

In 1993, I spent the holidays working with Ole Saint Nick himself, as an elf. With my tiny stature - a mere 5-foot-1 1/2 inches - I felt suited to the role of Santa's Helper. And my adoration of children fit right into the equation.

Those days I spent traipsing from one mall to the next, dressing in my furry red hat and encouraging smiles in front of my camera, are all treasured times. This is a tribute to those who followed the same path and chose to see the spirit of the season for themselves.

Laurel Park Place in Livonia is decked in holiday cheer from top to bottom. Cheerful carols are piped into the mall's corridors. And as expected, the guest of honor has made daily visits since Nov. 18.

But Santa's job is made much easier with a little help from his elfin friends.

Alana Collins, manager of Cherry Hill Photography, organizes Santa's helpers at the mall. Cherry Hill also services other area malls with holiday helpers, including Wonderland Mall in Livonia, Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and the Fairlane Towne Center in Dearborn.

"It gets you in the holiday

'You gotta like kids, and you gotta be a shutterbug.'

Dana Hill  
Santa's helper

mood," said Collins. In her fourth season, it is the reaction of children coming to visit with Santa that makes her job worth doing.

"It's something different every day," she said.

### Personality a plus

Most "elves" must be 16 or older. It is often a first job for teens. Dana Hill, who usually works at the Twelve Oaks Mall display, said personality is the key to a good Santa's helper.

"You gotta like kids and you gotta be a shutterbug," she said with a gleeful voice and contagious smile. Hill didn't have any prior experience with a camera, but took to the job easily.

All elves are trained to take pictures and assist Santa's visitors. The most important part of an elf's responsibility is to "play along," said Collins.

She was asked for Santa Claus's fax number by a mother who intended to let her son - who was present at the time - fax Santa a list of presents he hoped to receive. Collins went along with the request and gave a fax number to the woman and her son.

One aspect has changed over the years - the technology associated with taking photos. Children who sat with Santa once had to wait for a Polaroid photo. If anyone was caught with an eye closed or a funny expression,

the photograph had to be retaken.

With today's advances in digital photography, small adjustments can be made without a retake. Collins said the new system offers a "higher quality color picture."

Hill agreed and said the new method is faster - an important difference when a line of young children are eagerly awaiting their turn on Santa's lap.

Santa's helpers do use expedient tricks to keep that line moving. Linda Lawing, whose alter ego is Mrs. Claus, said the helpers try to find out which picture package a parent wants before the child has his or her turn, so a parent can focus on what that child tells Santa to bring for Christmas.

Children are free to just visit with Santa; pictures are never required. And Collins said parents may bring their own camera and take snapshots. The elves may even offer to take a photo of mom and dad with their little one on Santa's lap using a personal camera. It's truly a family tradition.

### Keeping 'em happy

"Santa's goal is to spend quality time with the kids," said Lawing, adding that it isn't unusual to see Santa calling a child by name, or to see a child tugging to find out if his beard is real.

If the line gets too long and

parents start to get "a little unsupportive," as Collins puts it, it's the elves' responsibility to keep them happy.

"We just smile away," she said. In some ways, photographs of Santa mark a child's growth from year to year. Before age 6, it's sometimes scary for a child to take a photo with Santa. And between age 11 and 13, many kids will refuse to talk to the bearded man in a red suit.

But women like Anne Burns and Mary Kay Capville prove you never outgrow a chat with Santa Claus. They stopped to have their photos taken with Mr. Claus when they noticed no children were in line.

The women claimed they didn't want Santa to feel lonely.

"He's a great Santa," said Burns, a Plymouth resident who did have her picture retaken. "I liked it so much I went back twice."

Canville, a Canton resident, said the Santa's helpers were "the best." She called them "cute."

"It doesn't take too much to make us happy," added Burns before they walked off merrily with their holiday photos.

Anyone interested in working as a seasonal helper should contact the management office at the mall where he or she intends to work two to three months prior to the holiday. Mall management can assist interested applicants in contacting the company they use for special events, such as Christmas and Easter mall displays.

## Holiday toy shopping: tips for making better choices

During the holiday season, stores are flooded with new and exciting toys. But how can parents know which ones to buy?

Early childhood educators at Children's World Learning Centers agree that toys play a significant role in helping all children from infancy through school age develop important educational concepts and life skills.

Good toys should entertain and occupy. One of the main values of a good toy is to extend a child's attention.

Among the points that should be considered before buying are:

- Will the toy appeal to the child's personal likes and dislikes? (This is a vital consideration because not all children of the same age share similar

interests.) Is the appeal based on the child's real interests or because a friend has a toy or it's been seen on TV?

- Is the toy durable and well built? Will it survive typical child use?

- Will the toy hold the child's interest over a period of time? Most toys are designed just to satisfy a child's initial interest.

- Will the child be capable of enjoying the toy? Some toys are just too complicated or too simple for a specific age group.

- Is the toy safe?

The topic of safety is particularly relevant when selecting toys for children of all ages. Parents should select toys with rounded edges and no points, not to mention unbreakable and able to with-

stand use and abuse.

Rattles and toys for infants should be carefully checked for poor construction and parts that a child could swallow. Make sure that they can't be opened by mistake or through normal use.

Paints on toys also should be non-toxic and lead-free. Be sure to check the materials used in stuffed toys and make sure materials on toys, such as dolls, including clothing, are flame retardant.

Follow package guidelines for age appropriateness to prevent getting a toy that is too complex for a child's age and development.

- Because an infant (birth to 12 months) will put everything into his or her mouth to explore his or her sense of taste and touch, it's essential to select

toys that can't be easily swallowed.

Even large toys should be carefully inspected to ensure they contain no buttons or other detachable parts that could be swallowed.

- Active and ready to explore, toddlers (12-36 months) direct their energy toward investigating, experimenting and interacting with the world around them.

Among the toys that help them develop are dolls which provide both boys and girls with the opportunity to express their emotional needs. Blocks help build a toddler's motor skills while exercising imagination and push and pull toys exercise large motor development and coordination skills.

- Toys that allow a preschool child

(ages 3-5) to express his or her creativity include hand puppets and the whole range of art supplies from finger paints to modeling clay, crayons and felt pens. Construction toys teach children spatial relationships, hand-eye coordination and thinking skills.

- For school-aged children (ages 6-12), bicycles are excellent for improving motor skills, coordination and developing balance, and board games because they combine fun with learning to play games with rules.

Musical instruments enhance the importance of rhythm, sequence and love of music, and scientific and mechanical toys encourage children's natural interests in the real world and in figuring out how things work.

# 50% OFF SALE!

<h3>SWEATERS</h3>  <p>Our Entire Stock of Sweaters BUY ONE - GET ONE <b>50% Off</b> Ticketed Prices</p>	<h3>DRESSES</h3>  <p>Great Selection of Suits &amp; Dresses <b>50% Off</b> Ticketed Prices</p>	<h3>CARDIGANS</h3>  <p>Our Best Selling Ribbed Cardigan <b>50% Off</b> Ticketed Prices</p>
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*Our Gift To You!*

## 20% Off ANY SINGLE ITEM

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Not valid on 50% off merchandise. Cannot be combined with any other offer or coupon. Good toward in-store purchases only. Will not be honored on previous purchases, gift certificates or prior payments. One coupon per customer per visit. Expires 12/21/99.

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\*LOWER PRICED ITEM 50% OFF. ALL ITEMS LIMITED TO STORE AVAILABILITY. MOST STORES OPEN 7 DAYS, 6 NIGHTS. SALE ENDS 12/21/99

# Tree Guide

The holiday season is here...so why not make some special memories for you and your family by going to a Christmas Tree Farm this year!



**BOUGHAN'S**  
Assure Freshness. Cut your own tree!  
**2 FARMS TO SERVE YOU**  
• Pine • Spruce  
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We shake and bale.  
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Between Florida Trail and Whitmore  
Lake Rd. in Ann Arbor Twp.  
Tuesday-Thursday 9-4:30, or by appt.  
(734) 863-2717

For information about advertising in this unique section please call  
**Rich at 734-963-2069**



# CALENDAR

## WEEKEND

### TOY COLLECTION

■ Mel's Golden Razor Annual Toy Collection will take place until Dec. 18 at 895 Forest, Plymouth. There will be new and used toys for needy and handicapped children for Christmas. Call (734) 455-9057.

### PLYMOUTH GOODFELLOWS

■ The Plymouth Goodfellows Association is seeking Plymouth and Plymouth Township families in need of assistance for the upcoming holiday season. The Goodfellows Association exists to ensure that no child will miss the opportunity of receiving a present for Christmas. Within the next few weeks, the Goodfellows will begin identifying families to receive assistance. If you are in need of help, or if you know of a family in need, please send the name, address, phone number and number of children in the family to: Plymouth Goodfellows Association, P.O. Box 700912, Plymouth, MI 48170. Contributions may also be sent to the Plymouth Goodfellows at the same address.

## AROUND TOWN

### ELECTION WORKERS

■ Canton Township needs precinct inspectors to work the polls on three election days in 2000. The dates are Tuesday, Feb. 22 (presidential preference primary); Tuesday, Aug. 8 (township and state primary); and Tuesday, Nov. 7 (presidential, township and state general election). Qualified applicants must be Wayne County residents 18 or older; and registered to vote in their community. Pay ranges from \$125-\$145 for the day, with hours 6 a.m.-9 p.m. For an application, contact the clerk's office at (734) 397-5367.

### EXHIBIT

■ The Plymouth Community Arts Council features "Spirit Earth," the recent watercolors of Todd Marsee, through Jan. 26 at the JWH Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Friday and weekends by appointment only. Call (734) 207-3918.

### CENSUS 2000

■ The U.S. Census Bureau is looking for people who want to earn some extra money while helping out their community. Enumerators are needed for the 2000 Census in Canton and neighboring communities. Enumerators spend most of their time locating addresses and conducting door-to-door interviews. In order to find people at home, census takers must work evenings and weekends. This temporary job will last up to two months next spring. Cen-

sus workers are paid weekly, paid to attend training, and are reimbursed for mileage costs. Pay is in the \$13-\$15-per-hour range. Bonuses are available for exceeding production and quality standards. Call (888) 325-7733 or (734) 632-0320 for more information.

### TAI CHI SOCIETY

■ The Taoist Tai Chi Society (a non-profit organization) is forming new beginner evening Tai Chi classes starting Monday, Jan. 3, 2000 in Livonia, 38121 Ann Arbor Road; Bloomfield, St. Paul Methodist Church, Kalamazoo and Port Huron. Day classes also available at the Livonia location. Observers welcome. Visit our website at www.ttcs.org. For more information, call the Taoist Tai Chi Society at (248) 332-1281.

### DAR MEETING

■ The American Revolution, Sarah Ann Cochran Plymouth-Northville Chapter DAR will hold their Christmas Tea at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, at 8848 Quail Circle, Plymouth. All Dar members and prospective members are welcome. Program is "Highlights of Our Ancestors." Guest speaker will be Patricia Dickerson. For more information, call (734) 455-5525.

### BNI MEETING

■ The Plymouth chapter of Business Network International will hold its monthly meeting 7-8:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth. Call the BNI regional office at (810) 323-3800.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION

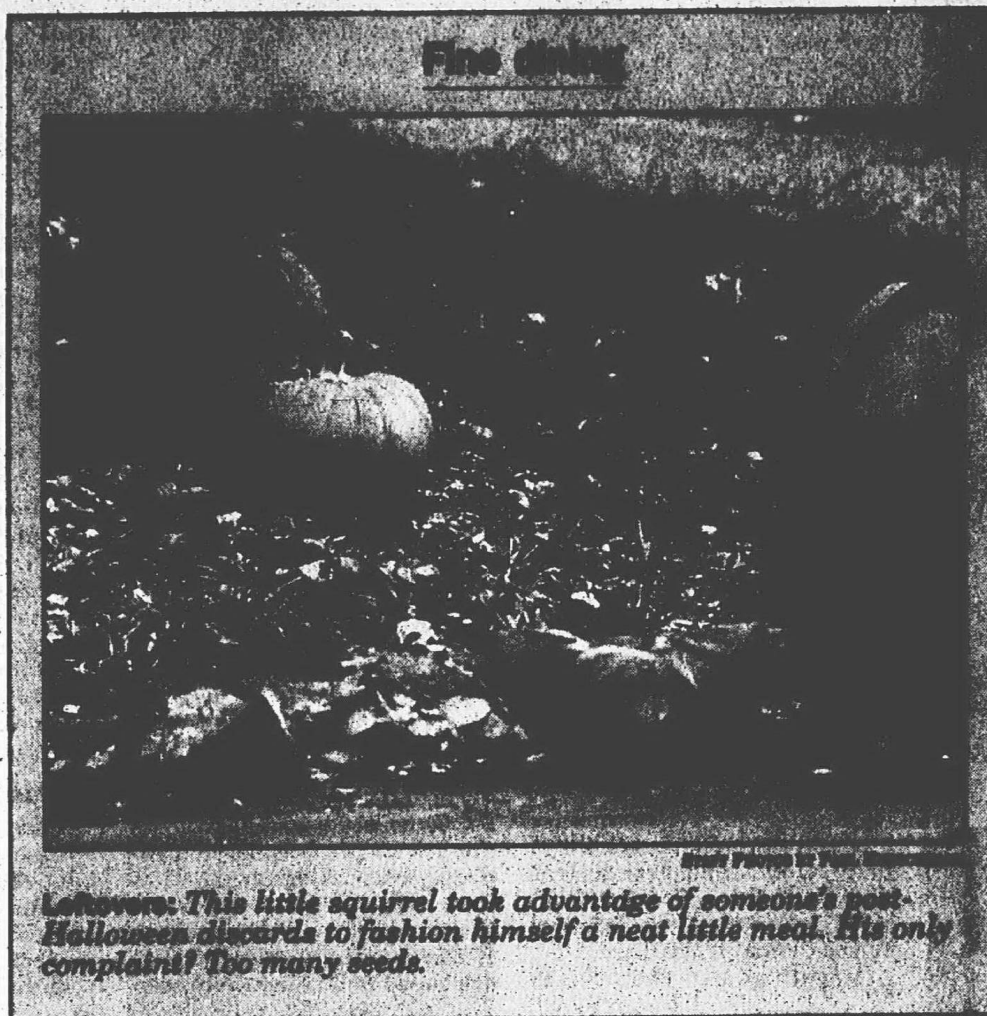
■ Living Word Worship Center of Canton will present "The Call to the Manger" at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24 at Real Life Farm on Geddes Road, just west of Beck (west of Canton Center Road). The program is free of charge. The public is invited to participate in this unique celebration. Because of the setting of this unique Christmas Eve service, bathroom facilities will be very limited. Casual attire is requested. For more information, call (734) 737-9566.

### MOPS MEETING

■ The Plymouth Baptist Church holds Mothers of Preschoolers meetings 9:15-11:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Mothers with their children, kindergarten aged and younger, may attend for a time of fellowship and fun with other mothers. Childcare is provided. The church is at 42021 Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. Call (734) 453-5534.

### GUY LOUIS

■ Guy Louis and his Chautauque Express Musical Program will be performing live at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, at the Plymouth Penn. Theater. Tickets are \$6 per person. This is a



*Letovers: This little squirrel took advantage of someone's post-Halloween discard to fashion himself a neat little meal. His only complaint? Too many seeds.*

show for "young people of all ages" so bring the whole family to celebrate the new millennium with Guy! For more information, call Cook Development at (734) 453-3230 or the Penn Theater at (734) 453-6530.

### M.O.M. MEETING

■ Meet Other Mothers (M.O.M.) invites you to join them for guest speakers and discussion from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. every second and fourth Friday of the month. Baby-sitting is provided. Call Kim at (734) 459-7035 or Shannon at (734) 354-0191.

### KIWANIS BREAKFAST CLUB

■ The Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club has a new meeting place at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth. Guests are welcome. Call Charr Briggs at (810) 406-8489.

### ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

■ The Entertainment 2000 Book is available from the Plymouth Community Chorus to support the organization's educational and charitable activities. The book contains coupons offering 50-percent dis-

counts at restaurants, hotels, cleaners, etc. The book covers all of southeastern Michigan. The price is \$40. The books are delivered to you. Call (734) 459-6829.

■ The Plymouth Symphony League is offering the 1999 Ultimate Entertainment Book, offering 50-percent discount coupons at hundreds of restaurants and discounts for many other services and events. The book is available from the Plymouth Symphony League by calling 453-3016. Copies are also available at the Plymouth Symphony Office, 819 Penniman, in downtown Plymouth. The Ultimate Entertainment Book is \$40, with all proceeds used to support the Plymouth Symphony.

■ Entertainment Y2K books are on sale by the Plymouth Optimist Club. All proceeds will be used for children's causes throughout southeast Michigan. Entertainment books offer up to 50-percent savings on dining, movies, special events, theater, travel, car washes and more. Price is \$40, home

delivered. Call Ken Fisher at (734) 728-7619, or Bill Von Glahn, (734) 453-8253 for information.

■ Entertainment 2000 savings books are available through the Divine Savior Senior Jet Setters. Save money at restaurants, movie theaters, video rentals, car care, and more. This year's book is \$40. For more information or to order, call Mike at (734) 464-1263 or Dolores at (734) 464-0369.

### ART CENTER

■ The Ann Arbor Art Center will be offering new creative courses for its winter session, which begins Jan. 19. The new courses to be offered include Abstract Painting, Portfolio Preparation and Beginning Blacksmithing. Registration runs from now until Jan. 10. Hurry and register soon; due to individualized instruction, class space is limited. To register or for more information on winter classes offered at the Ann Arbor Art Center, call (734) 994-8004, ext. 101, or drop by the Art Center at 117 W. Liberty in downtown Ann Arbor.

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*

### SUMMER/ANNUAL

■ The Plymouth Community Arts Council invites you to "Escape To The Caribbean." The annual fund-raiser dinner/auction will be held at the Mayflower Meeting House in downtown Plymouth at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 11, 2000. Auction items will include trips, dining, clothing, furniture, and of course all kinds of art. Dance to the "Couriers," back by popular demand. Entrees to select from include beef tenderloin, stuffed chicken, or orange roughy. Tickets are \$55 per person (\$20 is tax deductible). Advance sale tickets are only \$50 each if purchased before the end of the year. Call the PCAC at (734) 416-4278.

### ME & MY SHADOW

■ New Morning School has openings for its winter 2000 "Me & My Shadow" program. This is an introductory class for 2, 3 and 4 year olds and their parents. Parent and child participate in music, play activities, art and readiness projects, snack and story time. Two Saturday morning sessions begin on Jan. 15 and one Monday evening session begins on Jan. 17, 2000. New Morning is certified by Michigan Department of Education. For more information contact the school at (734) 420-3331. New Morning is located at 14501 Haggerty, just north of Schoolcraft Road.

### DISCUSSION GROUP

■ "Shooting the Breeze," a new discussion group, will meet in the Senior Center at the Summit to discuss such timely topics as politics, education, arts and music, local Michigan happenings, influential people, movies and TV, sports and environmental concerns. Each discussion period will last for one hour, one time per week. Anyone interested in discussing any of these topics may join the "Shooting the Breeze" group. A donation of \$8 for the entire list of discussions is requested. For more information and to register, call Dianne Neihengen at the Senior Center at (734) 397-5444.

### KIWANIS CLUB

■ The Plymouth Kiwanis Club meets at 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the new City Limits Bar & Grill on Ann Arbor Road. Call Charlene Miller at (734) 455-4782.

### NURSERY SCHOOL

■ Plymouth Children's Nursery Co-op has a few openings left in its 3- and 4-year-old classes. PCN has been established for over 30 years and is committed to providing a nurturing environment for children with supportive parent participation. Call (734) 455-6250.

■ First Baptist Church of Plymouth-Canton Kindermusik still has openings for its winter session enrollment. Call (734) 354-

9109.

■ Garfield Co-Op still has openings for children 18 months to 5 years. Garfield Co-op is located in Livonia, at Case Elementary, 34633 Munger, south of Six Mile and west of Farmington Road. Call (734) 462-0135.

### VILLAGE MUSIC

■ Village Music is registering new students for Kindermusik classes beginning the week of Jan. 24. Kindermusik is music education and joyful learning for the whole family, not just for young children. Call now for classes for newborns to 7 years old. For more information, call Norma Atwood at (734) 354-9825. Early registration is encouraged.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### STARTING OVER

■ Starting Over is a group for widowed men and women younger than 45. Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of the month at Plymouth Church of Christ. Call (734) 662-5999.

### ARBOR HOSPICE

■ Arbor Hospice sponsors grief support programs that are open to the public. If you would like more information or to sign up, call (734) 662-5999.

### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

■ Community Hospice and Home Care Services has a drop-in grief-support group that meets 6:30-8 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month. Call Becky Rouse at (734) 522-4244.

### COUNTERPOINT

■ Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families. Call (734) 563-5005.

### ANGELA HOSPICE

■ Angela Hospice offers free monthly grief support groups for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one. All groups meet at the Angela Hospice Care Center in Livonia. For meeting dates and times, call (734) 464-7810.

## VOLUNTEER WORK

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

■ Plymouth-Canton Head Start, in Central Middle School, is looking for volunteers to help in the classroom with large-group activities, to assist children during recess, participate in the Learning Centers and assist during meal times. If you have a morning or afternoon free Monday through Thursday, call 416-6196.

■ Angel Care, a volunteer organization, is looking for volunteers to sew, crochet, knit, etc., blankets and burial gowns to donate to local hospitals for infants who have died. Contact Mary Piontek for patterns and information, (313) 534-6496.

Weinman of Plymouth and a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School.

### NYKERK CUP COMPETITION

Akua Ofori-Mensa, a Hope College senior from Plymouth, was a sophomore oration coach during the 65th Annual Nykerk Cup Competition. The sophomore class of 2002 won this year's event, which was held in the Holland Civic Center. As an oration coach, Ofori-Mensa was responsible for assisting the team's orator in writing, memorizing, and performing a six to eight minute speech on this year's theme, "Outside the Lines." She is the daughter of Charles and Agnes Ofori-Mensa and is a 1996 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School.

## ON CAMPUS

To submit your academic honor or graduation announcement to Campus Notes, send the material, printed or typewritten to: Campus Notes, Plymouth-Canton Observer, 794 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170.

### GRADUATION

Christina Mokienko of Canton has been inducted into the Lakar Chapter of the National Honors Society at Grand Valley State University, one of 175 national chapters throughout the United States. A 1999 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School, Mokienko is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She is the daughter of Alexander Mokienko and Catherine Mokienko of Canton. They are

### CONCERT GOERS

Nicole M. Eiden, a first year student at Albion College, has been selected as a member of the Albion College Concert Choir for the 1999-2000 school year. The singers in the concert choir are selected each fall by audition. The choir performs at a variety of concerts and functions each year. This year's 27-member choir will be under the direction of Dr. Douglas Ross. Eiden is the daughter of Thomas G. and Kathleen A. Eiden of Plymouth and a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School.

She is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Eiden is the captain of the cheerleading squad and was named to the NAACP Academic team. He repre-

sented Campbell at the 1999 NCAA Leadership Conference and also received the Athletic 4.0 GPA Award. He is the son of Jian Li and Lin Lin Liu of Canton.

### STUDYING ABROAD

Laurel L. Weinman is currently spending the fall semester studying in New York Arts Program as part of Albion College's off-campus programs. Albion's off-campus programs allow students to study different cultures and work in professional environments with internships and studies offered in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and the United States. Weinman is a junior majoring in English and speech communication. She is the daughter of William E. and Christine L.

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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

**Park-Zielinski**

Sandra Park of Livonia and Kevin Park of Canton announces the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Alice, to Matthew Zielinski, the son of Roy and Donna Zielinski of Simpsenville, S.C., formerly of Port Huron.

The bride-to-be is a 1999 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School and attends Schoolcraft College.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. He is employed by Dependent Environmental.

An August wedding is planned.



**Kavanaugh-LaGrow**

Heather LaGrow and Jim Kavanaugh were married Nov. 26 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton by The Rev. George Charnley.

The bride is the daughter of Tim and Judy LaGrow of Canton. The groom is the son of Jim and Sharon Kavanaugh of Northville.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in social work and Wayne State University with a master's degree in social work. She is employed at Troy High School.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He is



employed at Johnson Controls Inc.

**Little-Word**

George and Shirley Little of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Monica Ann, to Pfc. David Charles Word, the son of Kenneth and Catherine Wolfe, also of Westland.

No wedding date has been set.



**Quesada-Collins**

Kristen Anne Collins and Robert Jose Quesada Jr. were married Oct. 16 at St. Edith Catholic Church in Livonia by the Rev. Denis Theroux.

The bride is the daughter of Terry and Lee Collins of Westland. The groom is the son of Roberto and Rose Quesada of Wayne.

The bride is a 1992 graduate of John Glenn High School and a 1997 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in journalism and communications. She is currently employed by Magellan Inc. in Farmington Hills and Encore Dance Academy in Westland.

The groom is a 1990 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. He is employed by Ford Motor Co. in Wayne.

The bride asked Brandi Bue to serve as maid of honor with bridesmaids Jenny Glidden, Denise Radabaugh, Cyndi Goscicki, Renee Quesada, Danielle Macy, Jennifer Rickard and Darla Kitts. Allison Glidden was the flower girl.

The groom asked Jason Quesada



to serve as best man with groomsmen Tim Collins, John Quesada, Greg Goscicki, Robin Honeycutt, Jason Porier, Tony Madden and Mike Liwag. Derek Brothers was the ring bearer.

The couple received guests at a reception St. Clement Hall in Dearborn. Following a honeymoon trip to Las Vegas, they are making their home in Westland.

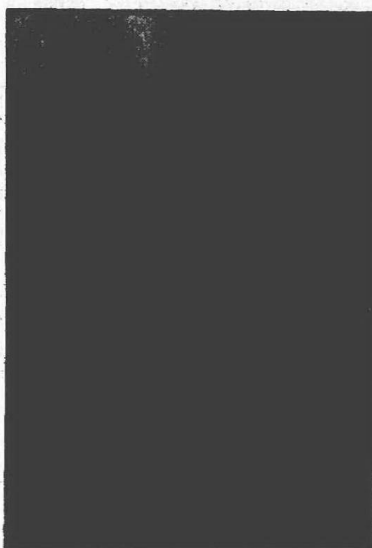
**Schettler-Starkey**

Richard and Kathleen Schettler of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Karen Lynn, to Thomas Jordan Starkey, the son of Thomas and Judith Starkey of Stanford, Conn.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a bachelor's degree. She is a flight attendant for Northwest Airlines.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science. He is a pilot for Northwest Airlines.

A September wedding is planned at First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti.



**Brennan**

James R. and Dolores Brennan of Westland recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary during a family Mass at St. Bernadine of Siena Catholic Church in Westland and a dinner-dance at the Livonia Elk's Lodge.

The couple exchanged vows Nov. 28, 1949, in Detroit. She is the former Dolores Trullard.

They have six children - Patrick, Michael, Susan, Kathleen, Dennis and Maureen - and 14 grandchildren.

He is a retired Detroit police officer, and she is retired from Michigan Bell.



**Sirkle**

Bob and Pat Sirkle of Plymouth, formerly of Redford Township, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Nov. 5 at the Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth.

They were joined by 100 friends, family and MichCon co-workers. The party was hosted by their son and daughter-in-law, Dale and Sue Sirkle of Livonia, and daughter and son-in-law Chuck and Karen Wheeler of Traverse City.

They also have four grandchildren.

The couple exchanged vows on Nov. 5, 1949, at St. Cecelia's Church in Detroit. She is the former Patricia Newman.



He is an employee of MichCon and will mark his 50th year with the company in April.

**Horst**

Charles and Julia Horst of Westland recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in a surprise party with friends and family and with a dinner at the Outback Steakhouse.

The couple exchanged vows Nov. 15, 1949, in Pennsylvania. She is the former Julia Baer.

They have five children - Helen Anderson and husband Bruce of Marquette, Betty Bryl

and husband Dan of Lawrenceville, Ga., Shirley Dacus of Orlando, Fla., Linda Persondek and husband Tim of Garden City and Carol Ruth and husband Richard.

They also have 11 grandchildren - Matthew, Lindsay and Joshua Anderson, Jessica and Sarah Bryl, Caleb and Anna Dacus and Alvin, Michael and Douglas Persondek.

He has been retired for 16 years, and she is a homemaker.

**Announcement forms available**

Have a wedding or engagement to announce? A wedding anniversary or the birth of a child?

Forms are available to announce an engagement, wedding, anniversary and

birth at our offices at 38281 Schoolcraft, Livonia, or 794 S. Main St., Plymouth.

For more information, call Sue Mason at (734) 953-2131 or Tiffanie Lacey at (734) 459-2700.

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**Bridal Shows**

Only 30 Days left 'til Bridal Expo y2k

Novi Expo Center January 15-16 1-888-900-EXPO www.TheBridalExpo.com

**A Simple Step To A Perfect Wedding**

Set the date - As soon as possible after getting engaged, select a wedding date and decide on the type of wedding you will have. From traditional ceremony in a church, to a surprise wedding where guests are invited to a "party" that turns out to be a wedding, couples are personalizing the event and planning weddings that reflect their lifestyles and interests.



**Holiday Gifts from the Heart**  
Saturday, December 25

To Place an Ad in this Corner, for the Next Holiday, Please call: RICH/734-953-2063

<p><b>Merri-Craft Florist</b> 13955 Merriman Rd 734-427-1410 Open On Sunday AFC TELEFLORA FTD</p>	<p><b>The Bloomfield Hills Florist</b> 1992 Woodward Ave 248-335-1920 ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED</p>	<p>Royal Oak Troy Rochester <b>Mary Jane Flowers</b> 1-888-72-ROSES CALL FOR HOURS</p>
<p>Livonia <b>IRISH ROSE FLORIST</b> 33608 Seven Mile W of Farmington Plaza 248-478-5144 TELEFLORA</p>	<p>Redford <b>Kristi's Flowers</b> 25816 Joy Rd. Open Daily 313-937-3680 All Major Credit Cards Worldwide Delivery - AFC - TELEFLORA</p>	<p>Livonia <b>Cardwell Florist</b> 32109 Plymouth Rd 1/2 Mile W of Hamman 734-421-3567 FTD TELEFLORA</p>
<p>Livonia <b>Plaza Florist &amp; Gifts</b> 37287 W. Six Mile Located in the New West in Newburgh Plaza 734-484-7272 FTD</p>	<p>Redford <b>Floyd's Flowers, Inc.</b> 25096 5 Mile Rd Mon-Sat 9am-7:30pm Sun &amp; Holidays 10-3pm 313-535-4934 FTD TELEFLORA</p>	<p>Farmington Hills <b>Hearts and Roses, Inc.</b> 33238 W 12 Mile 248-553-7699 ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED FTD TELEFLORA</p>
<p>Livonia <b>French's Flowers &amp; Gifts</b> 33885 Five Mile In The New Civic Center Plaza 1-800-860-0972 FTD ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS</p>	<p>Livonia <b>Livonia Florist</b> Merri-Five Plaza Mon-Sat 9-7pm Sun &amp; Holidays 10-3pm 734-422-1313 MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED FTD TELEFLORA</p>	





**BETHEL BAPTIST TEMPLE**  
29475 W. Six Mile, Livonia  
734-526-3664

Sunday School ..... 10:00 A.M.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 A.M.  
Evening Worship ..... 8:00 P.M.  
Wed. Family Hour ..... 7:15 P.M.

**October 31st**  
11:00 a.m. .... Dr. Richard Freeman  
6:00 p.m. .... Dr. Richard Freeman

*"A Church That's Concerned About People"*

**NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3403 S. Wayne Rd. • Wayne, MI  
(Between Michigan Ave. & Van Horn Rd.)  
(734) 728-2180  
Virgil Humes, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Children, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**Brightmoor Tabernacle**

**Assemblies of God • Calvin C. Ratz, Pastor**  
26555 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI 1-496 & Telegraph • West of Holiday Inn • 248/352-6200  
8-45 Family Sunday School Hour • Wednesday 7:00 pm "Family Night"

10:00 AM - Pastor Calvin C. Ratz  
*The Door to New Opportunities!*  
6:30 P.M. Pastors' Living Christmas Card  
*Free Tickets are Available*

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

**LIVONIA**  
14175 Farmington Rd.  
(N. of I-96)  
Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am  
Sunday School 9:45 am  
(734) 522-8630

**CANTON**  
48001 Warren Road  
(West of Canton Center)  
Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
Sunday School 10:45 am  
(734) 414-7422

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.cosa.edu/~lcmcos>

**New St. Paul Tabernacle Church of God in Christ and Grandmont Rosedale Park Christian Day School**  
Bishop P.A. Brooks, Pastor & Founder  
15340 Southfield Drive at Fenkel & Grand River  
New St. Paul Tabernacle Church  
The Place Where "The Word of God is Taught" With Clarity for Practical Living Application

313-835-5329  
SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8:00 A.M. 10:30 A.M. 4:30 P.M.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.nspct.com>

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

**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
Saturday Evening 5 p.m.  
Sunday Morning 9-15 a.m.  
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30  
Pastor John W. Meyer • 474-0675

**Risen Christ Lutheran**  
48250 Ann Arbor Road  
(1 Mile West of Sheldon)  
Plymouth • 453-5252

Worship Service 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Pastor David Martin  
Hugh McMurtin, Lay Minister

**ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH, USA**  
16700 Newburgh Road  
Livonia • 734-464-8844

Sunday School for All Ages: 9:30 a.m.  
Family Worship 11:00 a.m.  
"God's Favored Ones"

Rev. Dr. Janet Noble-Richardson, Pastor  
<http://www.undel.com/~sttimothy>

**GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**  
5835 Sheldon Rd., Canton  
(734) 468-0013

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

Childcare Provided • Handicapped Accessible  
Resources for Hearing and Sight Impaired

**There Are No "Cookie Cutter" People**

And you know it. It's not the goal of our church to create cookie cutter people who are all the same. It is our goal to help individuals like you discover a church and pastor who will help you grow because we care.

**Tri-City Christian Center**  
Michigan Ave. & Hannon Rd.  
326-0530  
Sunday 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.

**ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Traditional Latin Mass  
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8  
23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan  
5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121  
Mass Schedule:

First	Fri.	7:00 p.m.
First	Sat.	9:30 a.m.
Sec. Masses		7:30 & 9:30 a.m.

Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass  
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions  
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

**PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
9416 Sherman • Livonia  
Sunday Morning Services  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Class  
9:45 a.m.  
School Grades - Pre-School - 8  
Church & School office:  
(734) 422-8838

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
MISSOURI SYNOD  
28530 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY  
520-2288 REDFORD TWP.

Worship Service  
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday School  
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.  
Nursery Provided  
Rev. Victor F. Halbach, Pastor  
Rev. Timothy Halbach, Assoc. Pastor

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

**PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
48971 W. Ann Arbor Road • (313) 485-1828

Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.  
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening - 8:00 P.M.  
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.  
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN: 465-3188

**OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL**  
1160 Penniman Ave.  
Plymouth • 453-0326  
Rev. John J. Sullivan

Masses: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 A.M., Sat. 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday 8:00, 10:00 A.M. & 12:00 P.M.  
5:00 P.M. Life Teen Mass

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
17810 Farmington Road • Livonia • (734) 281-1300  
May thru October • Monday Night Service • 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Classes For All Ages 9:45 a.m.

Worship Services 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Pastor James Hoff  
Pastor Eric Steinhilber

**NATIVITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
9435 Henry Road at West Chicago  
Livonia 68180 • 421-5486

Rev. Donald Urstein, Pastor  
9:15 Adult Class  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
& Youth Classes  
Nursery Care Available  
-WELCOME-

**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST**  
30900 Six Mile Rd. (at Marman & Middlebelt)  
Chuck Sonquet, Pastor

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

**Clarenceville United Methodist**  
20100 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia  
474-3444  
Rev. Jean Love

Worship Services 10:15 AM, 6:00 PM  
Nursery Provided  
Sunday School 9 AM  
Office Hrs. 9-3

**MT. HOPE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
2880 Inwood Dr. • 734-426-7280  
(Between Inwood & Marman)  
8:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Nursery Provided  
"The Church You've Always Longed For."

**RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
46768 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187  
481-0444  
REV. RICHARD A. PERFETTO

Weekly Masses  
Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**Lola Park Ev. Lutheran Church & School**  
14750 Kinloch • Redford Twp.  
313-532-9655

Worship Services 8:30 & 11:30 a.m.  
Bible Class & Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Midweek Adult Services Tues., 4 & 15  
10:30 a.m. & 7:20 p.m.  
School Grades K thru 8  
Phone for Enrollment Info  
WLQV 1500 SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.

**Timothy Lutheran Church**  
6820 Wayne Rd.  
(Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)  
Livonia • 427-2290

Rev. Carla Thompson Powell, Pastor  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)  
10:30 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Avail.)  
<http://www.timothyivonia.com>

*Building Healthy Families...*

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship  
4:30 p.m. - "Connections" - Contemporary Worship

Dynamic Youth & Children's Programs  
Adult Education  
Child-Care Provided

Pastors: Dr. Dean Klump, Rev. Tony Arnesen

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth  
(733) 453-5280

*Cast the Same as*  
**Abdulgata**

United Methodist Church  
10000 Beach Daly, Redford  
Between Plymouth and W. Chicago  
Bob & Diana Goudie, Co-Pastors  
313-837-3170

December 19  
Scripture/Luke 1  
Topic/Promised One  
Rev. Diane Goudie, preaching

**First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth**  
1180 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.  
Wed. Evening Bible Study 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Thursday 7-9 p.m.  
493-1676

**St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church & School**  
88015 Jamison Ave. • Livonia  
East of Inwood, between 6 Mile & Southpark Rd.  
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon  
1:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m.  
Sat. 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon  
734-427-4339

**Asapé Family Worship Center**  
"A TRINICITY CHURCH ON THE MOVE"

48081 Goddard Road, Canton, MI 48108  
(734) 394-8337

**New Service Times**  
Sunday Worship Services - 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday - Family Night - 7:00 p.m.

Asapé Christian Academy - K through 12

**NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Stephen Ministry Congregation  
36500 Ann Arbor Trail  
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.  
422-0149

Worship Services & Sunday School  
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Advent Series:  
"Bethlehem Sound"

"Music Celebration Sunday"  
"Billboards From God"  
Rev. Thomas G. Sedley, preaching

Rev. Thomas G. Sedley  
Rev. Marlene Lee Corby  
Rev. Edward C. Colby  
visit our website [www.newburgumc.org](http://www.newburgumc.org)



**RED OAK CHURCH**  
(313) 461-9119

Worship Services  
9:00 a.m. Contemporary  
10:30 a.m. Traditional  
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# Church gives away offering and gets even more in return

According to the word of Jesus, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." While most churches focus on receiving an offering each week, such was not the case at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Plymouth earlier this year.

Dr. William C. Moore, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian, was speaking on the "parable of the talents" and to emphasize its point asked the ushers to come forward for the offering.

The parable is about a businessman who is going abroad, hands over capital sums of money to three men in his employment so they can trade for profit in his absence. The amount of money given to each

man varied according to his proven business ability.

When the businessman returned, he took an accounting. The two who had increased the initial investment were commended. The third, who had hidden his investment so that it remained unused and untouched, was criticized.

The point of the parable was that people use their God-given capabilities and resources to benefit His Kingdom.

Instead of asking the congregation to give an offering, Moore asked each one to take an envelope form the plate as they were passed around. Each envelope contained \$5, a resource to be

invested in God's kingdom in whatever way the individual wanted.

Each person was asked to make an accounting of how the money was used four months later.

The church gave out envelopes containing \$720 and received \$1,400 back, but the results far exceeded the monetary return.

"We combined our money to send a child to 'Joy for Jesus' camp. The newspaper matched our donation, so two children could attend," said one church member.

Another donated \$5 to his godchild to help pay for her trip to South Dakota where she worked

as a youth missionary, and another's children, ages 7 and 10, had a lemonade stand and made \$10 for the Christian's Children Fund.

"My husband gave a trucker the two \$5 bills entrusted to us so he could have a meal on his way back home to Kentucky," said one member.

"We combined our family's money for a young couple working in the inner city of Chicago," added another.

One teenager wrote: "I was sitting in the car when I saw a man with all of his belongings hanging off the handles of his bike. I got out of the car, walked up to him and he looked very sur-

prised. I handed him the envelope and said, 'This is for you.'"

So what accounts for the income of \$1,400, if much of the money was given away for donations?

"My husband and I put our \$5 together, bought \$1 and \$2 garage sale items, sold them on eBay and our ultimate profit was \$90.21."

"With the money, I picked strawberries and made jam that was given away for donations."

"I bought two flats of flowers, planted them for others and asked for a donation, repeated the process and turned the original \$5 into \$92.50."

"I found an antique doll he

at a garage sale for \$5 and after painting it, sold it for \$75. This was reinvested in antiques and the profit came to \$250."

"We hosted and ice cream social and our \$10 blessing became \$70."

One person wrote of a different experience.

"Pastor Moore, I am returning the \$5," the member wrote. "With sad regret, I must report that I did not apply this gift in a manner that would please God. No excuses, I just simply forgot. However, I believe I have learned a valuable lesson. No gift is too small for God to use in His work."

## 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. For more information, call (734) 953-2131.

### AWARD WINNER

Marvin Moser of Livonia will receive the Christus Primus Award during the winter commencement ceremony at Concordia College in Ann Arbor. The service award is presented to clergy, educators or laypeople of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, based on distinguished service to the church and community.

Moser is being honored for his tireless and dedicated labors in the church and furthering the church's mission of higher education. He served as a member of the college's Board of Regents from 1993 to 1996, was honored as Lutheran Layman of the Year and Historic Trinity Lutheran Layman.

He also has served three Lutheran churches, including Christ Our Savior Lutheran in Livonia where he is a founding member.

### LIVING TREE

Plymouth Church of the Nazarene will have its 18th annual presentation of the living Christmas tree and live Nativity Friday-Sunday, Dec. 17-19, at the church, 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

The presentation is being done as a present to the community and features a 25-foot high tree, decorated with thousands of lights and filled with 60-plus singers. Performances will take place at 7 and 8 p.m. each night. The live Nativity will be presented 6:30-8:30 p.m. each night.

The teens of Fair Haven Baptist Church in Westland will present at live Nativity at 7 and 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 17-18, at the church, 34850 Marquette, Westland. The presentation is free of charge.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Organist Tony O'Brien is giving a Christmas concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, west of Inkster Road, Livonia. There's a suggested donation of \$7.50 at the door. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

The Adult Choir of Memorial Church of Christ will present its cantata, "A Light Still Shines," celebrating the light that shone from Bethlehem that is still shining today, at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 35475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

The Jesus Jammers (children in grades one through six) will perform "A Star Is Born" at 6:30 p.m. that evening. Set in Memorial's musical studio, the Jammers plan to convince the main "star," Sophia, that the one and only "star" is Jesus. For more information, call (734) 464-8216.

The Riverside Park Church of God Sanctuary Choir will present its Christmas musical, "Joy in This Place," at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 11771 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

The musical will feature familiar carols and a biblically-based narration of the Christmas story. Pastor Ralph Anderson has extended an invitation to the community to attend. A time of food and fellowship will follow the performance.

The Sunday School and weekday school children of Faith Lutheran Church are explaining the symbolism of Christmas in their Advent pageant, "Christmas Is Coming," at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 30000 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The program includes music, bell ringing, singing and more. For more information, call (734) 421-7249.

The children and youth of

Newburg United Methodist Church are acting out the story of Jesus's birth as seen through the eyes of the stable animals, in their Christmas pageant, "The Mouse's Tale."

Performance times are the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. For more information, call (734)

422-0149.

The children of the Sunday school are participating in the St. Andrew Episcopal Church annual Christmas pageant at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 16380 Hubbard, between Five and Six Mile roads, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 421-8451.

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Why do people light luminaries at Christmastime? The children of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church will explore the question when they present "The Christmas Path" at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

The pageant relates the cherished tradition of lighting candle

lanterns, called luminaries, to the biblical Christmas story. It is based on the children's book, "The Christmas Path: A Legend of the Luminaries" by Sue Wright. Spanish missionaries introduced the custom of lighting luminaries along walkways and around homes more than 400 years ago.

The children also will present

"Star of Wonder" during the 11 a.m. worship service. A staffed nursery will be available for children up to age 3. For more information, call the church at (734) 522-6830.

### ADVENT SERVICE

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has Advent Bible study at 7 p.m.

Please see **WILSON, B5**

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# LHM programs offer holiday messages

# Religion from page B7

Lutheran Hour Ministries will offer a series of messages on radio and television this week to help people handle the holidays. For decades, audiences have delighted in the inspiring story of a family faced with the threat of the Nazi regime in the classic movie, "The Sound of Music." In the "Woman to Woman" Christmas special, "The Sound of Music: A Melody of Faith," host Phyllis Wallace will talk with Maria von Trapp, who will recount her family's escape from

Nazi-controlled Austria prior to World War II and God's intervention in their lives. Produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries, the special will air at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, on WAAM-AM (1600 on the radio dial). "The courageous story of the von Trapps is a testament to the hope that can be found in Jesus Christ in even the bleakest of times," said Wallace. "It is a delight to provide Maria von Trapp with a forum through

which to embellish the beloved story and inspire others to trust in Christ." The Lutheran Hour will air at 6:05 a.m. on WOMC-FM and 10 a.m. on WMUZ-AM on Sunday, Dec. 19. Dr. Dale Meyer will share his message of "The World at Peace." On television, "Red Boots for Christmas," the story of a bitter shoemaker who is visited by an angel on Christmas Eve, will air at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, on cable's Fox Family Channel.

In addition to the television special, the characters will appear in full color in cyberspace at [www.redboots.org](http://www.redboots.org), offering free storybooks and background information. Lutheran Hour Ministries with headquarters in St. Louis, Mo., is a service of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, a volunteer organization of 150,000 members. The league is an auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Lutheran Church-Canada.

Monday, Dec. 20, and 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, following Advent vespers at 6:30 p.m., at the church, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia. For more information, call the church at (734) 464-0211. **THE STORYTIME** Timothy Lutheran Church will have a TLC Storytime for children 3-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at the church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia. Kids are invited to bring their parents to hear Christian stories and snacks.

The books chosen are for ages 3-10. For more information, call the church at (734) 427-2290. **COMMUNION SERVICES** St. James Presbyterian Church will have a candlelight service with Communion at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at the church, 25350 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. On New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, there will be a worship service and celebration at 10:30 p.m. For more information, call (313) 534-7730.

There will be a family celebration with carols and candlelighting at 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The Cherub, Children's and choristers choirs will perform and child care will be provided.

At 8:30 p.m., there will be carols, candlelighting and communion, with the Rev. Melanie Lee Carey preaching. The youth choir and Cantabile Bells will perform and the youth will present the drama, "After the Pageant."

The 11 p.m. service, "A Time to Ponder," will have candlelighting and Holy Communion. The Rev. Thomas Badley will preach and the Chancel Choir will perform. Badley also will preach at the 10 a.m. worship service, "A Perfect Time to Lose Our Baggage," on Christmas Sunday, Dec. 26.

The family-oriented service will feature the drama, "A String of Blue Beads." Child care for children up to age 3 will be available. For more information, call (734) 422-0149.

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church will have Christmas Eve Festival worship at 7 p.m. at the church, 26212 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. Christmas Sunday service will be at 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve worship will be at 6 p.m., will New Year's Sunday worship will be at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (313) 537-3778.

Christmas Eve services at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile Road, Livonia, will be at 7 and 11 p.m. There will be no services Christmas Day and services at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. For more information, call (734) 421-7249.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Christmas Eve Festival worship service, "Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him," will be at 7 p.m. at the church, 26212 W. Six Mile Road at Kinloch, Redford. The service will include Holy Communion and candlelighting.

The church also will have a New Year's Eve worship service at 6 p.m. For more information, call (313) 537-3778.

The 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Memorial Church of Christ will feature the singing of Christmas carols and a program offering perspectives on Christmas to provide a spiritual foundation for the family celebration. The church is at 36485 Five Mile Road, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 464-6722.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will have a Family Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. at the church, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia. There also will be scripture readings, caroling and candlelighting at 7 p.m. and a Eucharist service with candlelight at 11 p.m.

There also will be a worship service with Communion at 10 Christmas Day and Christmas Communion Service at 10 a.m. Dec. 26.

On New Year's Eve, there will be a service with Holy Communion at 6 p.m. For more information, call (734) 464-0211. Timothy Lutheran Church will have a Christmas Eve service with Communion and a special children's message at 7 p.m. at the church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia. Nursery care will be provided for children under age 5, if desired.

The candlelight Christmas Eve service with Communion will be at 11 p.m. Hear the Christmas story and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas at the service. For more information, call (734) 427-2290 or visit the Web site at [www.timothy.lutheran.com](http://www.timothy.lutheran.com).

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church will have two services on Christmas Eve at the church, 90900 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia. The 11 p.m. service will be a formal service, while the 7:30 p.m. will be a special Christmas pageant, "Christmas Magic," presented by the Cherub and Crusader choirs and fifth and sixth grade LOGOS youth. For more information, call (734) 422-8088.





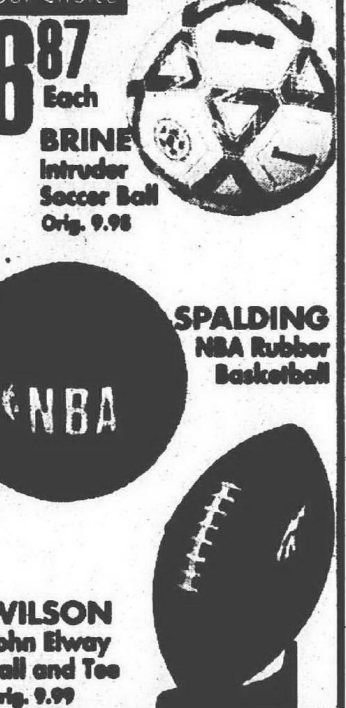
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**CLASS REUNIONS**

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Please include the date of the reunion and the first and last name of at least one contact person, and a telephone number.

**ALL SAINTS**  
Class of 1960  
Is planning a "Millennium Reunion" for November 2000.  
(248) 437-9735

**BERNHAM GROVES**  
Class of 1965  
Aug. 12 at The Community House in Birmingham.  
(248) 433-2362 or by e-mail at JCRich47@aol.com

**BERNHAM GRANOLA**  
Class of 1970  
A reunion is planned for July 1.  
(510) 623-0906 or by e-mail at HubSpauld@aol.com

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS LANSER**  
Class of 1979  
March 4 at the Somerset Inn in Troy.  
(248) 366-9493, press #2 or by e-mail at reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

**CRESTWOOD**  
Class of 1970  
Is planning a reunion.  
(313) 277-1316 or (248) 426-6888

**DETROIT CENTRAL**  
Class of 1960  
A reunion is planned for April.  
(734) 464-1692

**DETROIT COOLEY**  
Class of 1960  
A reunion is planned for April.  
(734) 464-1692

**DETROIT DENBY**  
Class of 1950  
A reunion is planned for June.  
(810) 773-4253, (248) 585-2083 or (810) 773-3286

**DETROIT FURNEY**  
Classes of 1970-72  
A reunion is planned for April 1.  
(313) 837-5880

**DETROIT IVES ELEMENTARY**  
Classes of 1953-55  
A reunion is tentatively planned for May.  
(810) 644-4106, (810) 791-6998, (906) 847-3535 or (810) 728-4875 after 6 p.m.

**DETROIT MACKENZIE**  
Class of 1949-51  
July 29 at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland.  
(734) 453-7561

**DETROIT PERSHING**  
Class of 1960  
A reunion is planned for Sept. 9.  
(313) 835-9642, (810) 773-3952, (248) 547-0664 or (734) 595-7508 or at the Web site, www.jmctech.com/~bjjustice/ind ex.htm

**DETROIT REDFORD**  
Class of 1965  
A reunion is planned for July 8.  
(313) 937-3077 OR (734) 427-8047

**DETROIT WESTERN**  
Class of 1966  
Is planning a reunion.  
(248) 280-0053 or (517) 546-8874

**FARMINGTON**  
Class of 1950  
Sept. 15-17, with a dinner at Vladimir's on Sept. 16.  
(248) 474-7822

**FERNDALE**  
Classes of 1929-1958  
Oct. 14 at Ferndale High School, 726 Pinecrest, Ferndale.  
(248) 589-2609 or (248) 541-2476

**HENRY FORD TRADE**  
Class of 1950  
Is planning a reunion.  
(248) 618-9865

**HIGHLAND PARK**  
January-June classes of 1950-51  
Are planning a reunion.  
Send name, address and telephone number to Fred Kashouty, 21528 Raymond, St. Clair Shores 48082 or call (810) 294-7512 or (313) 881-2023  
January Class of 1950  
June 4 at the San Marino Club-house.  
(313) 345-9104 or (810) 263-8179

**LINCOLN PARK**  
June Class of 1965  
A reunion is planned for August.  
(734) 676-9178 or (734) 763-5988

**LIVONIA CHURCHILL**  
Class of 1990  
Is planning a reunion.  
Send name, address, telephone number and e-mail address to CHC Class of '90 Reunion, 6609 Salem Road, Plymouth 48170 or by e-mail to hallen72@hotmail.com

**MERCY**  
Class of 1950  
Is planning a reunion for June.  
(248) 851-7620

**NOVI**  
Class of 1980  
June 24 at the Holiday Inn West-Livonia.

(248) 366-9493, press #1  
**PLYMOUTH CANTON**  
Class of 1980  
Aug. 12 at the Double Tree Guest Suites in Southfield.  
(248) 366-9493, press #6 or by e-mail at reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

**PONTIAC**  
January and June classes of 1940  
Sept. 8-9 at the Holiday Inn in Auburn Hills.  
(248) 682-3719

**ST. MARYS**  
Class of 1955  
A reunion is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 16.  
(734) 675-8244 or (313) 295-2373

**ST. JAMES ELEMENTARY**  
Class of 1965  
Is planning a reunion.  
(810) 254-3498

**TAYLOR CENTER**  
Class of 1990  
Sept. 20 at the Grecian Center in Southgate.  
(248) 360-7004, press #2 or by e-mail at reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

**TRENTON**  
Class of 1990  
Sept. 9 at the Grecian Center in Southgate.  
(248) 366-9493, press #3

**WAYNE**  
Class of 1950  
Is looking for classmates for its 50th class reunion.  
(734) 428-9379 or (734) 721-8036

# Hospice's tree honors loved ones

During the holiday season, thoughts of family, friends and loved ones abound.

One way to remember those who have touched our lives is with a golden angel ornament on the Community Hospice and Home Care Services Inc.'s Tree of Memories.

For a donation, people can write the name of a loved one on the back of the angel and have it hang on the tree through Dec. 27. The tree is on display at Borders Books and Music on Mercury Drive off Ford Road in Dearborn.

Several area credit unions also are participating with their own on-site trees. Members can donate and have an angel ornament hung on those Tree of Memories.

The credit unions include:  
■ Crestwood Credit Union in Garden City.

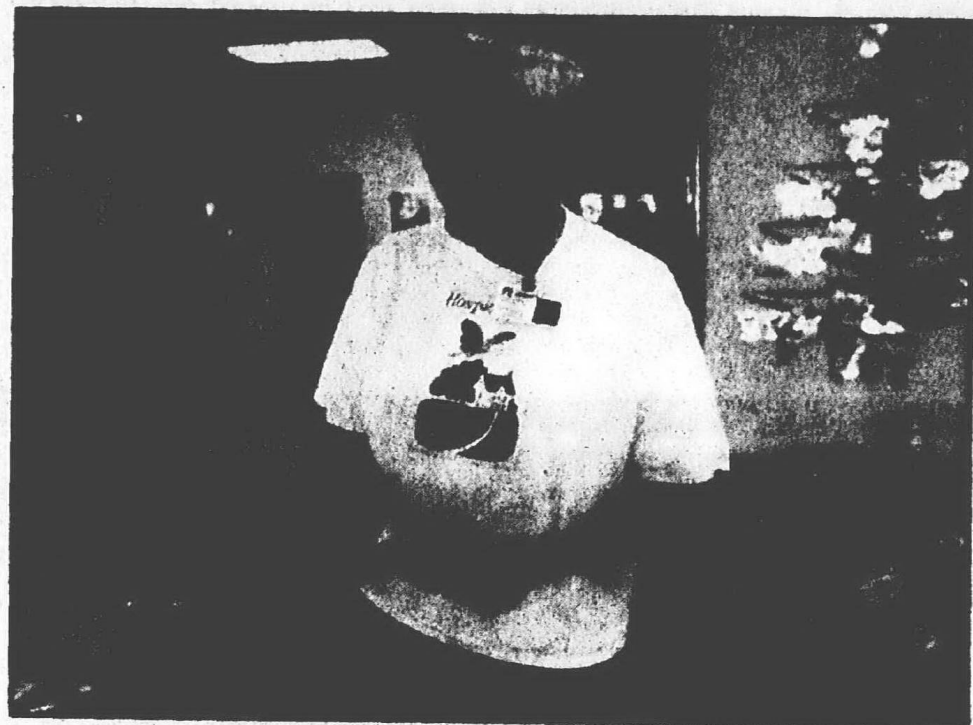
■ Co-Op Services Credit Union in Livonia, Westland, Dearborn, Wyandotte and Walled Lake.

■ Community Choice Credit Union in Redford and Livonia.

■ Associated Metro Credit Union and Contrak Credit Union, both in Dearborn.

■ Warrendale Community Credit Union, Communicating Arts Credit Union and Detroit Edison Credit Union, all in Detroit.

■ Public Service Credit Union



Helping out: Volunteer Gerald Dahlen spent his time talking at Co-Op Services Credit Union in Westland about the Community Hospice and Home Care Services Inc.'s Remembrance Tree.

in Romulus and Detroit (two locations on Woodward and Clifford).

■ Municipal and Public Health Service Credit Union in Pontiac.

Proceeds from the tree directly benefit patient care, and all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable.

"In past years, there have been such touching notes written on

the back of the angels," said Maureen Butrico, CHHCS executive director. "It makes people feel very good to reconnect with their loved ones in some meaningful way during the holiday season and can have a healing effect on survivors trying to get through the holidays."

"When people walk by and see the name of a loved one, they,

too, share in the memory." Community Hospice and Home Care Services is a fully licensed, not-for-profit agency serving the needs of terminally ill people and their families in Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw and Monroe Counties.

For more information about the Tree of Memories, call (734) 522-4244.

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Five generations: Gathering for a family photograph recently were grandfather Robert Bobrowski of Livonia, great-great-grandmother Ethel Kaslikowski-Keller of Livonia, holding her great-great-granddaughter Cecily Poje, born Feb. 3, great-grandmother Marie Bobrowski of Livonia and the baby's father Keith Bobrowski of Grand Rapids, formerly of Waterford.

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**CORRECTION NOTICE**

In our December 16 insert, we advertised the CD *Still I Rise* by 2Pac + Outlawz as available. Due to manufacturing delays, this title is not currently available. However, we will be offering rainchecks on this title.

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

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## Regional champions

The Plymouth Salem co-ed varsity and junior varsity cheer teams finished first in their respective divisions at the Universal Cheerleading Association's regional competition Dec. 5.

The first-place finish qualified both teams for the National High School Cheerleading Championship Feb 5-6 in Orlando, Fla. Representing Salem in the partner-stunt division will be the team of Harmony Howard and Chris Elliot and the team of Theresa Olson and Pat Johnson.

This marks the eighth-straight season coach JoDee Dillon's cheer team has competed for the national title. Last year Salem was 12th in the nation and third in the partner-stunt division, led by Lindsay Hawraney (now at Eastern Michigan) and Dave Clemons (now at Central Michigan).

Other members of the varsity cheer team are Jim Brzuch, Heather Burbo, Gina Dailide, Lauren Devine, Rachele Frusti, Stephanie Gagleard, Trish Gardner, Stephanie Hall, Rachel Hardy, Chelsea Jeffery, Chris Jones, Ashleigh Klimek, Jolene Kohl, Dave Lake, Nicole Marrone, Megan Perrin, Krista Peterson, Brittin Pollack, Staci Schmedding, Chris Sherfey, Justin Sondergaard, Christina Teran and Amy Tremonti. Assisting Dillon in coaching are Kerri Gillespie and Paul Dillon.

Junior varsity team members are Kali Applegate, Jenny Brodie, Alesha Cieslak, Brittany Czaplá, Melissa Deleo, Megan Fichtner, Molly Hedges, Courtney James, Katie Jones, Kelli Lis, Alexis Mily, Christin Nycek, Raven Ramsay, Kristen Schmiedel, Shaina Secord, Jacqui Storey, Brandy Wanniger, Amber Willinger, Kristi Yates and Lindsay Young. The team is coached by Angie Cudini.



Looking for room: Salem guard Ryan Cook (10) tries to find some space to penetrate against Belleville's Will Lilly. The Rocks didn't have much success offensively against the Tigers, especially in the first half.

## Poor grade

### Salem gets a lesson from Belleville in 25-point loss

BY ED WRIGHT  
 STAFF WRITER

Belleville gave Plymouth Salem a painful 32-minute math lesson Tuesday night: Add aggressive defense, relentless rebounding and timely shooting together, then multiply by four quarters, and what do you get?

A 64-39 Tiger basketball victory on the Rocks' home court.

"That was just a good, old-fashioned whuppin'," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "They were the better team in every aspect of the game — defense, rebounding and shooting."

"I told the kids after the game that it wasn't anything fancy that Belleville does. They play aggressive, hard, man-to-man defense and they rebound. They're not real big, but they play a lot bigger than their size."

The loss dropped the Rocks to 0-2 heading into tonight's game at Ann Arbor Huron. Belleville improved its record to 3-0.

"I thought we played good half-court defense tonight," said Belleville coach Rod Fisher, assessing his team's effort. "If we keep playing good defense and rebounding well, I think we can compete with any team in this area."

"Time will tell how we end up, but I think we'll be competitive if we keep playing like we did tonight."

Any chance Salem had of engineering an upset evaporated in the first quarter due to a combination of intense defen-

sive pressure from Belleville and several relatively easy scoring opportunities that rolled around the rim and out.

"We counted seven chances in the first quarter alone where we missed shots we should have made," Brodie said. "We just couldn't get the ball to drop. Then (Belleville) started making their shots and the game got out of hand."

The Rocks, who converted just 1-of-14 first-quarter field goals, trailed 15-5 after the first stanza.

Belleville couldn't have scripted the ending of the first half any better than it unfolded. Leading 31-13, the Tigers grabbed a defensive rebound with 1:30 left and milked the clock down to six seconds, when sophomore forward Kris Millett drained a three-point shot from the top of the key.

Flustered by the Tigers' full-court pressure, the Rocks then turned the ball over on the in-bounds pass. Belleville missed a shot at the half-time buzzer, but still took a commanding 34-13 lead into the lockerroom.

Led by senior guard Andy Kocoloski and senior forward Matt McCaffrey, the Rocks looked resurgent in the second half, getting outscored only 30-26.

During one stretch in the fourth quarter, Salem outscored the Tigers 11-2 with most of the Belleville starters still on the court.

"I'm stressing to the kids that we have to put four quater-

Please see HOOP, C5

## GYMNASTICS PREVIEW

# Rocks already down 1

BY C.J. RISAK  
 SPORTS EDITOR  
 cjrisak@oe.homecomm.net

The first competition of the season isn't until tonight, but already Plymouth Salem's gymnastics team has suffered a serious setback.

Melissa Drake, a sophomore and one of the Rocks two best performers, suffered serious ligament damage in her foot during practice last week and had to undergo surgery to repair it; she's lost for the season.

Drake's loss tarnishes what had appeared to be a bright, young Salem team. "It's going to be a tough year," said Rocks' coach Melissa Hopson, now in her third season as head varsity coach. "But we're going to stay positive."

"This is a young team. They're still in the process of learning things."

Drake's loss is big, but the Rocks have lots of other talent. Like April Aquinto, a sophomore who qualified for state meet last season.

"She's one of the ones we're looking at to lead the team," said Hopson. "She's learned some new skills, but it's going to take practice and time to



April Aquinto  
 top Salem gymnast

get her going. She's working hard, getting ready."

A promising newcomer is Bethany Bartlett, a freshman whose strongest event is the uneven parallel bars, something Hopson said "we definitely needed help in."

Bartlett is one of 14 new girls on the team, joining a returning contingent of 10. The only notable loss to graduation was Janine Schmedding.

There are a half-dozen other all-arounders who figure to contribute heavily: junior Ashley Heard, sophomores Kara Dendrinis, Emily Nicolau, Stefanie Olli and Kelsey Ensor; and freshman Danielle Teper.

Please see SALEM GYM, C5

# Canton could move up



Promising talent: Maggie Bett showed considerable potential last year as a freshman.

BY C.J. RISAK  
 SPORTS EDITOR  
 cjrisak@oe.homecomm.net

A year ago, Plymouth Canton coach John Cunningham spoke optimistically about the start of the prep gymnastics season, pegging much of his optimism on Amy Driscoll's development.

Things didn't quite work out that way. Driscoll broke her hand early in the season and was lost for the rest of the year; Cunningham had depth, but it was unproven.

The result was a mediocre season, a ninth-place finish at the state regional and a fifth (out of seven teams) at the Western Lakes Activities Association finals.

"Amy Driscoll's injury took us out of contention," Cunningham admitted.

But that was then. And now's the time to search for something positive in the ashes of the negative.

It's there, too. A lot of gymnasts got some experience last season; almost all of them return for the Chiefs, who could be quite a bit more formidable.

One reason is the return of Driscoll. "She has the potential to be a state champ, definitely," said Cunningham. Of course, first she has to make it all the way through a season.

Driscoll suffered an ankle sprain in her freshman year just prior to the state regionals, forcing her out of the meet. Then came last season's calamity.

Please see CANTON GYM, C5



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NO BOUNDARIES



# PCA has the weapons to make a run

By C.J. BEAR  
Sports Editor  
cbear@theobserver.com

**Caution.** This is the kind of team that knows what to expect. It knows what's ahead.

**Hype isn't necessary. Right?** It seems Doug Taylor, coach of Plymouth Christian Academy, isn't convinced that's the proper path. And the road Taylor's taken the Eagles down the past couple of years, well, it's hard to argue with him.

Last March, PCA reached the Class D regional finals hosted by Hillsdale College, where the Eagles met an old nemesis: Lenawee Christian. PCA lost, and Lenawee Christian went on to the state Final Four.

If there was a reason for Taylor to feel good even after losing that regional final, it was his roster. Only one starter — Evan Glines — and two of his top 10 players were seniors.

Which could be easily translated by anyone with any knowledge of roundball: With eight of his top 10 players returning,

there was no reason not to be optimistic.

And they are. "This is going to be a lot of fun," predicted Taylor, whose Eagles finished 21-4 last season. "It's something special when you go from your junior to your senior year. As a senior, you know what to expect when you go from gym to gym."

There are all sorts of reasons for optimism when it comes to PCA basketball. It starts with four seniors, and those four start with Derric Isensee.

A 6-foot-3 forward, Isensee was third team all-state as a junior. He led PCA in scoring (15.8 points per game) and rebounding (8.0), and he was the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's most valuable player.

Remember, that was as a junior.

There's also Mike Huntsman, a 6-4 senior who can play the pivot and do so quite effectively. Huntsman averaged 13.9 points and 7.2 rebounds a game last season. "We don't have a true

center, but if we did it would be Mike," said Taylor.

Two other seniors with an abundance of experience are Dave Garty, a 6-1 shooting guard (he averaged 9.2 points a game last season), and A.J. Sherrill, a 5-11 point guard who "is really our floor leader," said Taylor. "He's a true point guard."

All four serve as team co-captains. But then again, this is a team with an abundance of leadership.

P.J. Woodman, a 6-3 junior, returns as the team's sixth man, a role he filled quite adequately last season. There are a few others who will have an impact on the season, to be sure: Kurt Slegewhite, a 6-0 senior guard; Steve Young, a 6-5, 220-pound senior center who played with the junior varsity last season; and juniors Randy Elenbeas, a 6-2 swingman; Nate Worley, a 6-10 guard; and Phil Varney, a 5-5 guard.

Then there's a few who started on the junior varsity last season: Travis Yonkman, a 6-0 forward;

Mike Atkinson, a 5-11 swingman; and Jon Sink, a 6-0 swingman.

"We have some pretty decent athletes coming up from the JV," said Taylor.

But it will take something special for them to crack the top seven in this lineup. "This is a pretty veteran lineup coming back," admitted Taylor, who hasn't wasted pre-season workouts — he's had his team scrimmage Class A powers Wayne Memorial, Garden City, Monroe and Redford Catholic Central.

So now comes the unspoken query, the question that can jinx any team bold enough to believe itself to be prominent: Can PCA make it to the Final Four?

"They're going to have to play together as a team," said Taylor, adding, "and they have to continue to improve their outside shooting."

But that's no answer. Do they believe they can do it?

Answered Taylor: "They really do. They're hoping to make a run at the whole (Class D) thing."

Well then. Guess there's no sense holding anything back. Everyone knows what PCA has returning. And the Eagles should be as good as advertised. Maybe better.



Inside and out: Derric Isensee led PCA in scoring (15.8 points) and rebounding (8.0) last season as a junior.

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# Whalers move up in ranks



And just a day earlier, everything was looking so bright.

The Plymouth Whalers started the weekend with a hope-inspiring 2-1 triumph over the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds Friday at Compuware Arena.

On Saturday, the Whalers pulled to within five points of the first-place Hounds when they defeated the Erie Otters 4-1 at Compuware.

The results through Saturday left Plymouth with a 16-13-3 record and 36 points. Sault Ste. Marie still led the Ontario Hockey League's West Division with an 18-12-1 mark and 41 points.

Then came Sunday. For the Whalers, that meant a trip to Kitchener to play the Rangers.

After a scoreless first two periods and 15 more minutes of the third with neither team getting a goal, Kitchener broke through. Ryan Held converted a pass from Serge Payer and Ryan Milanovich and scored with just 4:26 left in the game.

A power-play goal by Derek Roy 96 seconds later clinched it for the Rangers, the 2-0 win boosting their record to 11-15-4 (third in the OHL's Midwest Division).

Bill Ruggiero stopped 22 of 24 shots in goal for Plymouth. Kitchener's Reg Bourcier made 35 saves in earning the shutout.

The loss left the Whalers with a 16-14-3 record (36 points). Kitchener's 9-3 trouncing of the Sarnia Sting lifted their record to 19-12-1 (43 points).

The two-game home stand to open the weekend was far more satisfactory for the Whalers.

On Saturday, three third-period goals in a four-minute span boosted Plymouth to a 4-1 triumph over Erie at Compuware.

The defeat was the second of three-straight for the Otters, who were 14-14-1 through the weekend.

Randy Fitzgerald gave Plymouth the first goal, scoring at the 2:43 mark of the second period with an assist from Stephen Weiss. Erie's Nikita Alexeev knotted it at 1-all at the 6:04 juncture of the second.

The Whalers' third-period rampage was initiated by Damian Surma, who scored his 15th goal of the season at the 11:35 mark; Rob McBride and Steven Morris assisted.

Fitzgerald's second goal of the game, and eighth of the season, increased Plymouth's lead to 3-1 1:29 later. Weiss got his second assist of the game on the goal.

Tomas Kurka kept pace with Surma as the team leader in goals scored, getting a short-handed (and unassisted) marker with 4:29 left in the game.

Rob Zepp was in goal for Plymouth to earn the win; he had 33 saves. Otters' goalie J.F. Perras made 24 stops on 28 shots.

Friday's game against the Greyhounds was a classic. Plymouth's Eric Gooldy put the Whaler up 1-0 with a first-period goal, his fifth this season; Kris Vernarsky and Cole Jarrett assisted.

Ryan Healy tied it for Sault Ste. Marie just 39 seconds into the final period.

That set the stage for the dramatic finish, and the Whalers' Vernarsky provided it, knocking in a pass from Kurka and Jared Newman with just 57 seconds remaining in regulation.

Once again, Zepp was superb in goal; he stopped 24 of 25 shots. Jason Flick had 27 saves in 29 shots for the Greyhounds.

The Whalers are now idle until this weekend, when they play a two-game set Friday and Saturday at Erie. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

## Ambassadors gain 1st

The Compuware Ambassadors won two of three North American Hockey League games last week to move into a tie for first place in the East Division with the Soo Kewadin Casino Indians, each with 35 points.

The Ambassadors (17-8-1 record) beat the host Grand Rapids BearCats 5-2 on Dec. 8, with Steve Jackson and Ryan Webb each scoring two goals. Tom Fortunate made 25 saves in goal.

Last Friday, Compuware bested Soo Kewadin 5-2 on the road, with Jackson again doing the damage, scoring three goals — one shorthanded, one even-strength and one empty-net. Craig Kowalski made 23 saves in goal for the Ambassadors.

For his performance, Jackson was named NAHL player of the week. A 6-foot, 180-pounder, Jackson scored five goals and had an assist in three games.

Headed to Michigan State in January, Jackson has totaled 15 goals and 11 assists for 26 points in 24 games this season.

The Ambassadors run stopped after their win Friday at Soo Kewadin.

The Indians (16-7-3 record) bounced back for a 2-1 victory Saturday that earned them a tie for first with Compuware in the East.

# Mervyn leaves Salem

BY C.J. ERMAK  
Sports Editor  
cjerma@ecce.com

What Plymouth Salem's wrestling team was expected to have was a superior cast in the lower weights and a less-than-outstanding group filling the upper.

That was coming into the season. Now the Rocks have a sizable hole in the lower weights, too.

Losing one 112-pound wrestler isn't devastating, by most standards. Particularly when you have a cast like Salem's.

But losing a wrestler the caliber of John Mervyn — defending Western Lakes Activities Association champion, fifth-place finisher at the state meet last spring, 121 mat wins entering the season — is something more.

Mervyn, a senior co-captain, has left the team and the school, transferring to Livonia Franklin for personal reasons. He competed for the Patriots last weekend at the Livonia city meet.

"We lose a bit there for sure," said Salem co-coach Ron Krueger. "John has the potential to be a state champion. He fits right in there with Ronnie (Thompson) and (Rob) Ash and Lucas (Stump)."

Krueger was concerned that if Mervyn moved up a weight class, to 119, there wouldn't be "room for all of them (in the lineup) at the end of the year, anyhow."

"Now," the longtime Salem coach said, "we won't have to decide."

As for Mervyn's transferring, Krueger would only say, "He has to do what he has to do."

Salem placed fifth at last weekend's Salem 8 Invitational; Holt was first and Saline took second.

Ash was the only Rock to come away a champion, winning the title in the 125-pound division. Four Salem wrestlers finished

second: Travis Jespersen at heavyweight, Thompson at 110, Stump at 150 and Josh Henderson at 140.

The Rocks have a double-dual meet against Bedford Catholic Central and Clio at Clio Friday.

## Chiefs 3rd at Novi

It wasn't a perfect performance, but Plymouth Canton's outing at last Saturday's Novi Team Invitational was a good deal better than the Chiefs' performance last year at the same event.

Canton got beat by Novi's A team 55-10 and by Williamston 51-17, who "were too much for the young Canton squad," said coach John Demick. But the Chiefs rallied to defeat the Novi B team 64-12, Flat Rock 39-33 and, surprisingly, Lake Orion 42-35.

"No one expected us to beat Lake Orion, and the other coaches all stated that Flat Rock was too strong for us to knock out of third place," said Demick. "At least we turned some heads, going from sixth place to third place in one year."

John Poccock, a 140-pound senior co-captain, earned his 75th career win in a day that featured five match wins in five outings. For the season, Poccock is 10-0.

"John is definitely producing well with a 10-0 start this season," said Demick. "He should be quite proud of that many career wins."

Kyle Pitt, another Canton captain, also went 5-0 for the day with four pins at the 103-pound division and a 14-1 victory when he moved up to 112. Heavyweight Derek McWatt and 145-pounder Joe Faraoni went 4-1 for the day, and Chris Hosey was 3-1 at 125.

The Chiefs host the Canton Invitational Saturday.

# Salem gets 1st win with a rally to beat Central

It took a little while, but Plymouth Salem got its first hockey win of the season, beating Walled Lake Central Saturday 5-4 at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The win gave the Rocks a 1-7 record for their first season.

The Nagel brothers turned out to be the difference. Central led 3-1 after two periods, the only Salem goal scored by Dave Bida. But that's when the Nagels

came to life. Mark Nagel, a freshman, scored twice to get the Rocks started, knotting the score at 3-3. His brother Steve, a junior, assisted on both.

After that it was Steve's turn. He put Salem ahead with a goal, but the Vikings battled back to tie it at 4-4.

Mark Nagel got the game-winner, collecting a third-period hat trick with a goal scored with 4:55 remaining. Again, Steve Nagel got an assist, his fourth point of the game.

Scott Stukel was in goal for the Rocks.

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**SEASON/DATES**

**DEER**  
The late archery season runs through Jan. 2 statewide. A late antlerless-only firearms season will be held Dec. 18-Jan. 2 on private and public land in Deer Management Unit 452. A late antlerless-only firearms season will also be held Dec. 18-Jan. 2 on most private land in the Lower Peninsula. Muzzleloading season runs through Dec. 19 in the Lower Peninsula.

**GROUSE**  
A special late grouse season runs through Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

**RABBIT**  
Rabbit season runs through March 31 statewide.

**SQUIRREL**  
Squirrel season runs through

Jan. 1 statewide.

**CLASSES/CLINICS**

**FLY TYING**  
Hook Line & Sinker bait shop in Lake Orion will hold fly tying classes every Wednesday and Thursday until the beginning of ice fishing season. Call (248) 814-9218 for more information.

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Hook Line & Sinker bait shop in Lake Orion will hold fishing rod building classes every Wednesday and Thursday until the beginning of ice fishing season. Call (248) 814-9218 for more information.

**FLY TYING**  
Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tyers. Call (248) 850-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

**MORE FLY TYING**  
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held at various times. For more information and to register call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

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**LIVONIA RANGE**  
The Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range features seven field lanes and one broadhead lane and is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The range is also open Tuesday's and Thursday's by appointment only through the end of November. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Livonia residents shoot free of charge. The range is located on Glendale Ave., east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 466-2410 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. the first Saturday in November at Detroit

Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

**ACTIVITIES**

**STONY CREEK TRAIL**  
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on the trails at Stony Creek Metropark during this program, which begins at noon Sunday, Dec. 19. Call (810) 294-7789 for directions and more information.

**INDIAN SPRINGS HIKE**  
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a 4.5-mile hike at Indian Springs Metropark during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26. Call (248) 280-4975 for directions and additional information.

**POTLUCK HIKE**  
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club and ring in the new year for a potluck lunch followed by a hike at the Brighton Recreation Area during this program, which begins at noon Saturday, Jan. 1. Call (517) 552-9121 for directions and additional information.

**Salem gym** from page C1

Several of them have come quite a ways from their first season a year ago, when the Rocks placed fifth in the state regional and sixth (out of seven teams) in the Western Lakes Activities Association finals.

Nicolau is a good example. "She started out doing just floor for us last year," recalled Hopson. "Now she's doing bars and beam, too."

Olli and Ensor have a similar expansion of their repertoire to boast of, while Teper brings experience in floor exercise, vault and balance beam from her club team to the mix.

"They're all young," said Hopson. "It's going to be an exciting year."

"I can't say where we'll be right now as a team. In our first meet, I'm not going to see where we can place but what we need to fix, to see where we are."

"It's a young team. They're still in the process of learning things."

Defining success to a team devoid of senior leadership and lacking experience at the high school level isn't easy, but Hop-

son has some thoughts.

"For this team to be a success, they have to make it to regionals as a team and have three girls qualify for the state meet," she said. "As I said, it's a young team. To get to regionals would be exciting for them."

"I'd like to see April go back (to

state meet) and I'd like to see Bethany make it. There are seven or eight who have the skills for regionals."

One problem with a league like the WLAA: There's no time to develop slowly, not with teams like Brighton, Hartland and Northville/Novi. Hartland won

the state title last year and Brighton was second; Northville/Novi was state champ two years ago.

Perhaps the best goal for Salem is, as Hopson described it, "To just pull together as a team."

Doing that much may take them farther than anything else.

**Hoop** - C1

ters together. We can't just play well in spurts," Brodie emphasized.

McCaffrey led the Rocks in scoring (17 points) and rebounding (eight). The always-hustling Kocoloski didn't score, but he paced his team in steals (four), assists (four) and floor burns.

Senior forward Kevin Harrison was the Tigers' leading scorer, netting 14. Sophomore Antoine Jordan also played well offensively, scoring 13 points.

Tiger guards Will Lilly and Jerriel Burrus were responsible for a large chunk of the Rocks' 17 turnovers. Lilly also tallied nine points and pulled down seven rebounds.

Belleville outrebounded Salem 32-27, led by Harrison's eight boards.

Salem shot just 28 percent (14-of-50) from the floor, but shined at the free-throw line, sinking nine-of-11 shots. Belleville made 39 percent of its field goals (27-of-69) and five-of-six free throws.

**CC 90, W.L. Central 54:** Redford Catholic Central easily disposed of one school by a lake on Saturday at the Walt Keener Invitational at Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day.

Now it's time to face another, and this one will be a far greater challenge, perhaps the toughest in the state.

The Shamrocks will play at Orchard Lake St. Mary's, ranked No. 1 in the state by one of the Detroit daily newspapers, at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Their season-opening victory over Walled Lake Central was a mere warm-up as the Shamrocks jumped to a 47-28 halftime lead and finished with four scorers in double figures.

Junior guard Ryan Celeskey led the way with 18 points. Senior forward Matt Lorida added 13 points while junior guard Anthony Coratti and senior guard Rod Hunt contributed 10 apiece.

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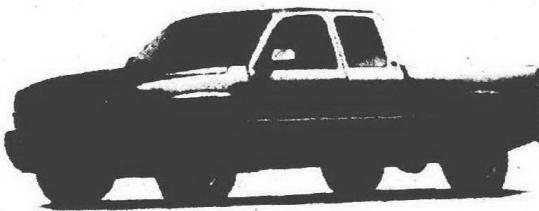
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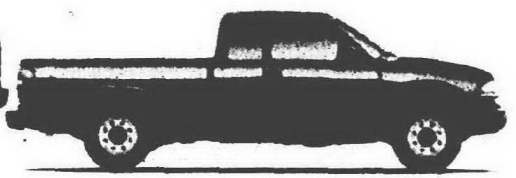
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Includes security deposit  
(Tax, title, license and registration are extra.)



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**GM® Employees only:**  
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See your Chevrolet Dealer or go to [www.chevrolet.com/yearend](http://www.chevrolet.com/yearend) for more information.

\*For Cash Back, you must take retail delivery from participating dealer stock by 1/3/00. Not available with special GMAC finance or lease offers. †Example based on survey. Each dealer sets its own price. Your payments may vary. Blazer payments based on 2000 Chevrolet Blazer 4-Door, 4WD with MSRP of \$28,570; 36 monthly payments total \$10,548. Silverado payments based on 2000 Chevrolet Silverado 4WD Extended Cab with MSRP of \$28,056; 36 monthly payments total \$12,204. S-10 payments based on 2000 Chevrolet S-10 2WD Extended Cab with MSRP of \$17,615; 36 monthly payments total \$5,724. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. GMAC must approve lease. Available only to residents of MI, MN, WI and select counties in IL, IN, IA, KY, MO, NE, NY, ND, OH, PA, SD and WV. You must take retail delivery from participating dealer stock by 1/3/00 for Blazer and by 1/14/00 for Silverado and S-10. Mileage charge of \$20/mile over 36,000 miles. Lessee pays for maintenance, repair and excess wear. If lease terminates early, lessee is liable for all unpaid monthly payments. Payments may be higher in some states. Not available with customer cash offers. \*\*For APR offer: Length of finance contract is limited. GMAC must approve lease. Dealer financial participation may affect consumer cost.

††Available only to qualified GM Employees and eligible family members who are residents of MI, MN, WI and select counties in IL, IN, IA, KY, MO, NE, NY, ND, OH, PA, SD and WV. Blazer payments are for a 2000 Chevrolet Blazer 4-Door, 4WD with MSRP of \$28,570; 36 monthly payments total \$7,884. Silverado payments are for a 2000 Chevrolet Silverado 4WD Extended Cab with MSRP of \$28,056; 36 monthly payments total \$9,252. S-10 payments are for a 2000 Chevrolet S-10 2WD Extended Cab with MSRP of \$17,666; 36 monthly payments total \$4,824. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. GMAC must approve lease. You must take retail delivery from participating dealer stock by 1/3/00. Mileage charge of \$20/mile over 36,000 miles. Lessee pays for maintenance, repair and excess wear. If lease terminates early, lessee is liable for all unpaid monthly payments. Payments may be higher in some states. Not available with customer cash offers. All current GM-S program rules and restrictions apply. ©1999 GM Corp. Buckle up, America! 1-800-950-2438



# Observer's best tops in state

State runner-up Farmington Hills Mercy again dominates the All-Observer girls swimming and diving team along with another area power, Livonia Stevenson, which finished eighth in the state.

Mercy has all three first-team relays, Stevenson three second-place teams. Those two schools also filled 12 of the 19 individual positions.

The 1990 All-Observer team serves as a farewell to several seniors who were four-year stand-outs — Mercy's Elizabeth Posvar, Kelly Carlin and Erin Downs, Stevenson's Katy Ballantine and Farmington Harrison's Lindsay Fetters.

All four are repeat, first-team selections along with Mercy's Amy McCullough and North Farmington's Lindsay McErian.

Mercy's Elizabeth MacDonald and Kristin Lorida, Stevenson's Katie Clark and Livonia Ladywood's Christina Mocer were second-team swimmers a year ago.

Jim Downs, who guided Mercy to a second-place finish in the Class A state finals, was named Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

The Marlins also won their third consecutive Oakland County championship and yet another, Catholic League title.

### ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

**200 medley relay, Mercy (Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Garlow, Erin Downs, Elizabeth Posvar):** The Marlins won the state championship with a record time of 1:46.95, breaking the record of 1:47.23 by the 1992 Birmingham Seaholm team.

With Kelly Carlin on the team in place of Garlow, Mercy won the Oakland County and Catholic League titles, too. The Marlins set a league record of 1:52.41.

**Kelly Carlin, 200 freestyle, Mercy:** Carlin finished seventh in the state in the 200 free while swimming her best time (1:55.08). She also was fifth in the state in the 100 free (53.22).

Carlin is the Oakland County champion in the 100 free and was third in the backstroke. She is the Catholic League champion in the 50 free and helped the Marlins set a league record in winning the 400 free relay.

"Kelly was a senior co-captain who had a great work ethic for four years," coach Jim Downs said. "She earned eight all-state honors, and she's a six-time All-America with one more pending."

**Lindsay Fetters, 200 IM, Harrison:** Fetters was all-state three times in the IM and four times in the breaststroke. In this year's state meet, she placed fourth in the IM and had the area's best time (2:08.26). She was fifth in the breaststroke, accounting for Harrison's 15th-place team finish.

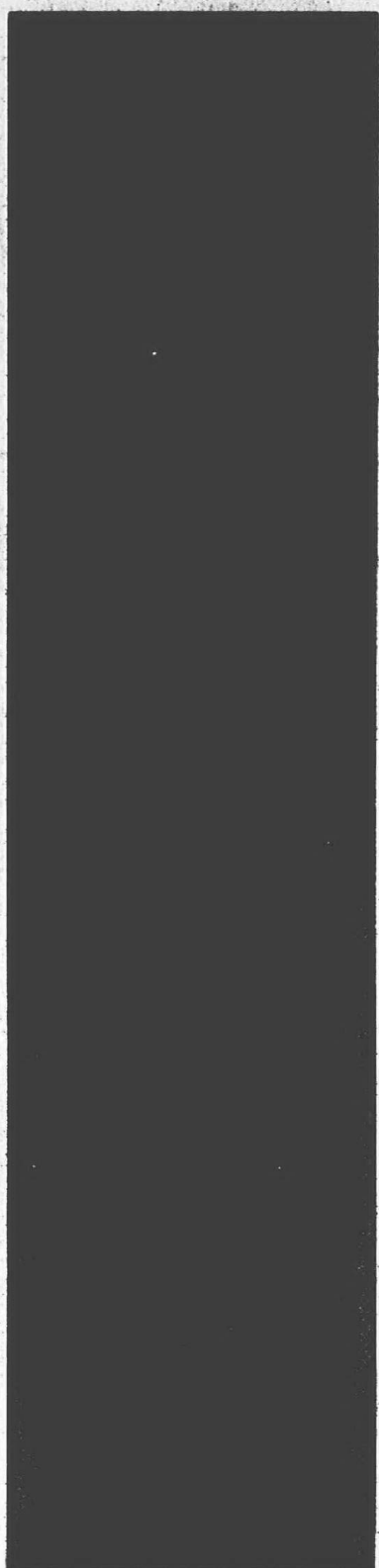
Fetters, who will swim at Michigan State University, is the Oakland County champion in the breaststroke. She was WAAA champion twice in the IM and three times in the breaststroke. Fetters holds three individual school records and had a part in all three school-record relay teams.

"Lindsay is focused and shows good leadership qualities in all aspects of her life," coach Ross Sandy said. "She's an outstanding student and a genuine quality person."

**Amy McCullough, 50 freestyle, Mercy:** McCullough was second in the state in the 50 free (24.01) and third in the 500 free (4:57.51).

She set a Catholic League record in winning the 200 free and also was first in the 500 free. McCullough won both events in the MISCA and Oakland County meets, too. She has been all-state in four events.

"As a junior, Amy qualified in all open events except the breaststroke and estab-



lished herself beyond distance freestyle," Downs said. "She has added sprint freestyle, backstroke and IM as formidable events."

**Katy Ballantine, diving, Stevenson:** The senior proved to be one of the premier divers in the state after taking eighth in the Class A finals with a 12-dive total of 349.60.

She also had an area dual-meet best of 257.40 for six dives.

Ballantine was runner-up at the WAAA meet and took fourth at the regionals.

Ballantine was named most valuable diver at Stevenson.

**Erin Downs, butterfly, Mercy:** Downs finished fourth in the butterfly at the state meet, and her time of 58.46 is up for All-America consideration.

She was first in the Catholic League and second in Oakland County in the butterfly. At the MISCA meet, she was fourth in the fly and 12th in the IM.

Downs also was a key member of Mercy's outstanding medley relay team, handling the butterfly position for the last three years.

"Erin finished with the best fly relay split of anyone at the state meet and her personal best to help lead us to a state record and automatic All-America rating," Downs said. "She finishes her career with five all-state and five All-America honors."

**Elizabeth Posvar, 100 freestyle, Mercy:** Posvar qualified in every open event for the state meet, placing second in the 100 free with an area-best time (52.82) and fifth in the 50 free (24.32).

Posvar is the Catholic League champ in the backstroke and helped the Marlins set two relay records. She was second in the IM and third in the butterfly at the Oakland County meet. In the MISCA meet, Posvar was second in the 100 free and third in the 50 free.

"The following creden-

tials do not come by wishing — multi-event state qualifier over four years, 14 league championships, four pool records and five varsity records at Mercy, 12 all-state honors and eight All-America swims with two more pending," Downs said.

"They come from commitment to the sport. Elizabeth was our most valuable swimmer, our go-to person."

**Elizabeth MacDonald, 500 freestyle, Mercy:** MacDonald finished fourth in the state (5:05.58) in the 500 free and was eighth in the 200 free (1:55.55). She also qualified in the 100 free.

In the Catholic League, MacDonald was second in the 200 free and third in the butterfly. In the Oakland County meet, she was second in the 500 free and third in the 200 free.

"Elizabeth seeks out a pain threshold and pushes beyond it," Downs said. "She has a keen focus for training and race competition. She had three outstanding performances at state by an outstanding student-athlete."

**200 freestyle relay, Mercy (Jeni Blacklock, Kristin Lorida, Elizabeth MacDonald, Kelly Carlin):** The Marlins had the best finish by an area team at the state meet, taking sixth place (1:39.47).

With senior Elizabeth Posvar on the team in place of Lorida, Mercy also won the Oakland County championship (1:40.79). The Marlins were second in the Catholic League.

**Lindsay McErian, backstroke, North Farmington:** McErian placed fifth in the backstroke (59.55) and the IM (2:09.78) at the state meet, earning all-state and All-America consideration in both.

Her best time in the IM was 2:08.91. Her backstroke time was the best in the area. McErian holds the school record in the backstroke and has the second-fastest time in the IM.

McErian is the WAAA champion in both events. She was a state qualifier in the 100 free and the breaststroke, too.

"Lindsay is a very talented and versatile swimmer," coach Pat Duthie said. "She's a hard worker and is dedicated to the team."

**Andrea Hurn, 100 breaststroke, Stevenson:** Just a freshman, Hurn made an immediate impact by finishing second in the 100 breaststroke at the state Class A meet with a time of 1:08.1, also best in Observerland and good enough to earn a spot on the High School All-America honor roll.

She was also a WAAA champion in her event and swam the breaststroke on Stevenson's 200 medley relay where she posted the fastest split in the state meet. Hurn also anchored Stevenson's 400 freestyle relay.

Not surprisingly, Hurn was named Stevenson's 1999 Rookie of the Year.

**400 freestyle relay, Mercy (Kelly Carlin, Kristin Lorida, Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Posvar):** The Marlins were second in the state meet behind Grosse Pointe North despite swimming a better time than they did a year ago when they won the state title.

The Marlins had a 3:30.44 time this year as opposed to 3:31.25 last year. GPN won the race this year with a 3:29.37 swim.

The team of Lorida, MacDonald, Blacklock and McCullough won the Oakland County championship. With MacDonald in place of Lorida, Mercy won the Catholic League title.

### ALL-AREA SECOND TEAM

**200 medley relay, Stevenson (Lindsay Dolin, Andrea Hurn, Katie Clark and Jessica Makowski):** This Spartan quartet finished first in the WAAA meet and finished tied for third with Zealand in the state Class A finals with a time of 1:49.28.

Both Clark and Makowski are both seniors, while Hurn is a freshman. Dolin is a junior.

**Kristin Lorida, 200 freestyle, Mercy:** Lorida finished 10th in the state in the 200 free (1:56.54) and 11th in the 500 free (5:15.43). She also qualified in the 100 free and butterfly.

Lorida is the Catholic League champion in the 500 free. In the Oakland County meet, she was third in the 500 free and fifth in the 200 free.

"Her value to this team can be calculated using any multiple you want — points scored, attitude, commitment to training, performance under pressure, personality — and it comes up big every time," Downs said.

**Christina Mocer, 200 IM, Ladywood:** The junior enjoyed a fruitful season despite a painful shoulder injury suffered in July.

She was a state qualifier in the 200 IM (2:18.32) and 100 backstroke (1:01.63) where she placed second and third, respectively, in the Catholic League meet.

Mocer also had season best of 55.35 in the 100 freestyle and 5:32.0 in the 500 freestyle.

"Christina showed tremendous spirit this season," Ladywood coach Doug Shade said. "She made a remarkable recovery fighting through her injury."

**Monica Glowski, 50 freestyle, Plymouth Salem:** A sophomore, Glowski nosed out Stevenson's Jessica Makowski for second place at the WAAA finals in the 50 free, 25.37 to 25.41. It earned Glowski a state qualifying berth in the 50.

In the WAAA's 100 free final, it was Glowski who was edged, placing second to Northville's Stephanie Sabo, 55.98 to 56.01.

**Michele Kalm, diving, Stevenson:** A consistent performer all year long, the junior finished fourth in the WAAA meet (310.80 points for 12 dives) and 13th at the regional, just missing a state qualifying berth by one place.

**Katie Clark, 100 butterfly, Stevenson:** For the first time in four seasons Clark enjoyed an injury free year and she showed what she could accomplish by placing first in the WAAA meet and fifth in the Class A (58.51).

Clark was named MVP of the Stevenson swim team.

**Jeni Blacklock, 100 freestyle, Mercy:** Blacklock had the fifth-best time in the 100 free (55.21) after Mercy teammates Posvar, Carlin, McCullough and MacDonald and one of the area's best in the 50 free as well (25.02). She was second in the 50 free in the Oakland County meet.

"She gave us her best efforts of the season at the state meet with a great leadoff leg in the 200 free relay, setting us up for sixth place, all-state and All-America consideration," Downs said.

**Angela Smetkosky, 500 freestyle, Churchill:** The senior took eighth place at the state Class A meet (5:07.65) after setting school records at the WAAA meet in both the 200 freestyle (1:57.05) and 500 freestyle (5:08.88).

Smetkosky was named Churchill's team MVP.

The Churchill captain is a three-year Scholar-Athlete award winner.

"Angela has high goals," Churchill coach Ken Stark said. "She is one of the hardest working and fastest swimmers in Churchill history."

"She is getting stronger and faster and I can't wait to see her accomplishments in college swimming. She has been a good example to her teammates. She has been a pleasure to coach."

**500 freestyle relay, Stevenson (Jessica Makowski, Michele Aristeo, Katie Clark, Amanda Polkwoski):** Despite swimming only twice together as a group this season, early in the year and at the state meet, this Stevenson foursome managed to post Observerland's second best time at 1:42.94. Three members of the group are seniors with the exception of Aristeo, who is just a freshman.

**Lindsay Dolin, 100 backstroke, Stevenson:** The junior was steady all season in the backstroke with a personal best of 1:01.59, which was good enough for a second place finish in the WAAA meet.

She also led off Stevenson's third place 200 medley relay team.

**Karl Foust, 100 backstroke, Plymouth Salem:** Foust, a junior, finished fourth at the WAAA finals in the 100 back, which was one of the fastest events at the meet. The top four placers all bettered the state-qualifying standard; Foust, who had qualified earlier in the season at 1:01.59, was fourth in 1:02.36.

At state, Foust placed 18th in the 100 back in 1:01.86. At the WAAA finals, she also took an 11th in the 200 IM (2:25.11).

**Elizabeth Garlow, 100 breaststroke, Mercy:** Garlow, as a freshman in her first state meet, was sixth in the breaststroke with her best time (1:07.32), which received All-America consideration. She is the Catholic League champion and was second in Oakland County.

"She brought the crowd to its feet at the state finals with a 30.02 split in the breaststroke in the medley relay on the way to a state record," Downs said. "Ms. Pac Man is a competitor head-to-toe. Her future is so bright she needs shades."

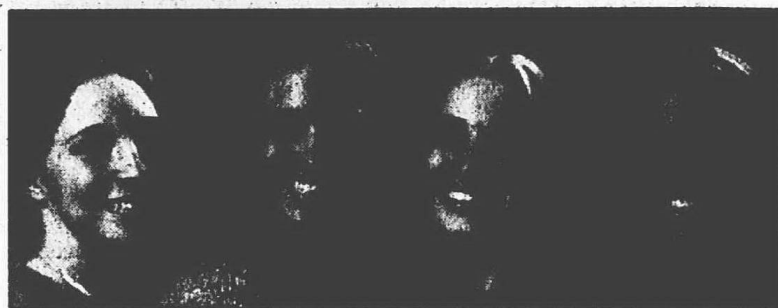
**400 freestyle relay, Stevenson (Katie Clark, Jessica Makowski, Michele Aristeo and Andrea Hurn):** The foursome were sec-



Mercy's 200-yard medley relay: (from left) Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Garlow, Erin Downs and Elizabeth Posvar.



Mercy's 200-yard freestyle relay: (clockwise from top) Jeni Blacklock, Elizabeth MacDonald, Kelly Carlin and Kristin Lorida.



Mercy's 400-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Kelly Carlin, Kristin Lorida, Amy McCullough and Elizabeth Posvar.



Stevenson's 200-yard medley relay: (clockwise from top) Lindsay Dolin, Katie Clark, Jessica Makowski and Andrea Hurn.



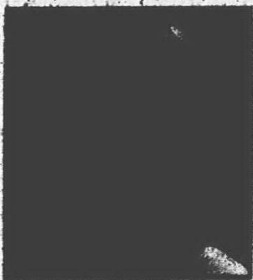
Stevenson's 200-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Jessica Makowski, Michele Aristeo, Katie Clark and Amanda Polkwoski.



Stevenson's 400-yard freestyle relay: (clockwise from top) Katie Clark, Michele Aristeo, Andrea Hurn and Jessica Makowski.

ond to only Mercy in the area with a time of 3:42.45. They also earned a 12th place in the state Class A finals with a time of 3:44.03.

"This is another relay that loses two seniors and we're going to have to ask our underclassmen to step up next year," Phil said.



Elizabeth Garlow Farmington Mercy



Jim Downs Coach of the Year



Kelly Carlin Farmington Mercy



Lindsay Fetters Farmington Harrison



Amy McCullough Farmington Mercy



Erin Downs Farmington Mercy



Katy Ballantine Livonia Stevenson



Elizabeth Posvar Farmington Mercy



Elizabeth MacDonald Farmington Mercy



Lindsay McErian North Farmington



Andrea Hurn Livonia Stevenson



Monica Glowski Plymouth Salem



Christina Mocer Livonia Ladywood



Angela Smetkosky Churchill



Jeni Blacklock Farmington Mercy



Michele Kalm Livonia Stevenson



Katie Clark Livonia Stevenson



Jessica Makowski Farmington Mercy



Kristin Lorida Farmington Mercy



Amanda Polkwoski Farmington Mercy



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THIS IS WHERE LOVE IS... Approximate age, height, weight, eye color, hair color, etc.

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Hard-working, honest, fun... Looking for a friend to share life with.

LOOKING FOR NEW BEGINNING

Adventure, excitement, challenge... Looking for a new challenge in life.

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Abbreviations: A-Asian • B-Black • C-Christian • D-Divorced • F-Female • H-Hispanic • J-Jewish • M-Male • N/S-Non-Smoker • P-Professional • S-Single

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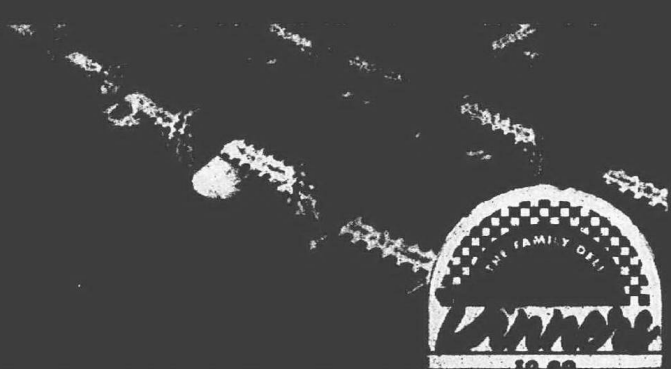
Relax, enjoy fresh brewed gourmet coffee from around the world at our coffee shop. Now you will be able to purchase and enjoy 5 different varieties of fresh roasted coffee brewed fresh daily from Hazelnut Vanilla to Colombian Supremo. You never have to be without the highest quality, freshest coffee obtainable anywhere. Visit us today!



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Capture the taste of home cookin'! Over 9 varieties to choose from daily! Just to name a few...Rotisserie chicken and ribs, our famous wing drummies, macaroni and cheese and southern style potato wedges. Quick service - just pay at the deli register and go!



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## The Butcher Shoppe...Only the Best

At our service counter our butchers are ready to take orders for customized requests...as well as offer cooking instructions and recipes. Our beef and pork are trimmed lean to 1/8" trim. More lean meat for your money!

3 PREMIUM GRADES OF MEAT



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## Salad & Soup Bar

Our Salad & Soup Bar simply overflows with fresh greens, crunchy toppings, luscious dressings, fresh olives and delicious fresh fruits. Always perfect for a hot lunch or a light dinner - and you can pay for your purchase at the deli register.



## The Floral Shop

Our Farmer Jack Floral Shop has a perfect fresh gift idea to fit any occasion or to brighten any day. If there's something special you want made up, talk to our expert Florist. Watch for all the holiday decorating ideas to make your holiday parties easier to plan.



## Complete Pharmacy

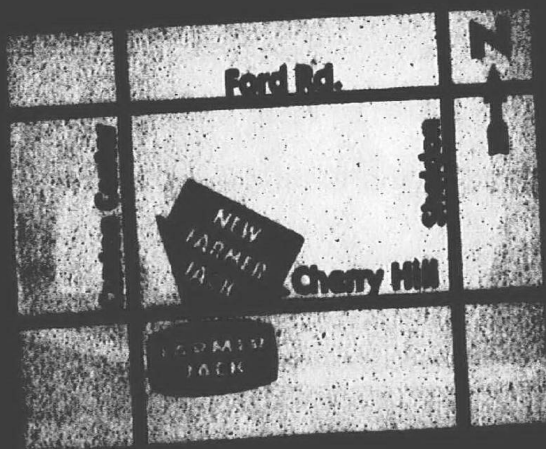
Our Full Service Pharmacy inside Farmer Jack is ready to serve you 7 days a week. Drop off your new or current prescription and we'll take care of all the rest with our free prescription transfer service. Most major health care programs are honored. Your corner drugstore...just around the aisle.

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## THE WEEKEND

### FRIDAY



Anna Leonowens (Jodie Foster) finds herself engaged in a battle of wits with King Mongkut (Chow Yun-Fat) in "Anna and the King" opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

### SATURDAY

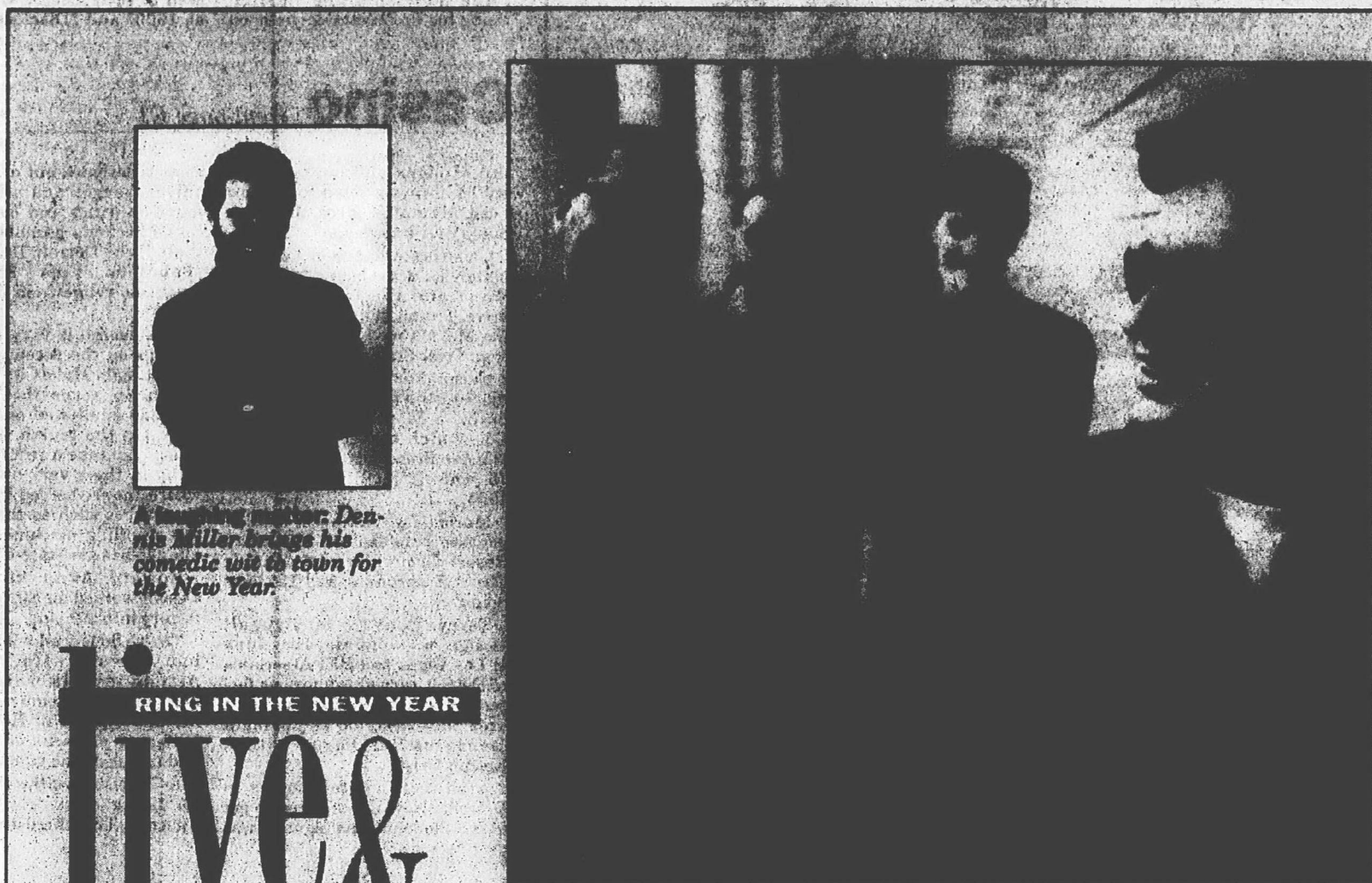
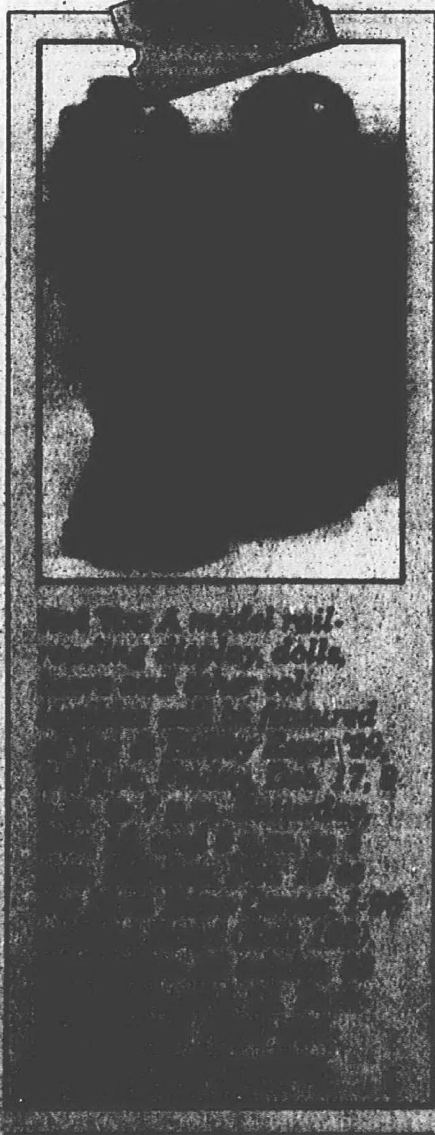


David Briskin leads the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in "A Holiday Pops Yuletide Celebration," 8:30 p.m. at Orchestra Hall in Detroit. Tickets \$18 to \$68, call (313) 576-5111.

### SUNDAY



Steve Worley (left to right), Rae McIntosh, Lance Luce (organist), Marc Meyers and Kelly Janney will perform seasonal favorites 2 p.m. at the "Stagecrafters Holiday Concert and Sing-a-long," at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Tickets \$8, all seats reserved, call (248) 541-6430.



A laughing matter: Dennis Miller brings his comedic wit to town for the New Year.

## LIVE & LOUD

RING IN THE NEW YEAR

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER  
scasola@oe.homedcomm.net



This isn't just any New Year approaching, it's the New Year 2000, the mark of the next millennium. Whether that pesky Y2K bug has you concerned or not, this year's festivities are sure to be memorable for years to come. That makes planning an awfully big responsibility.

If the thought of making New Year's Eve or New Year's Day a celebration worthy of its place in history gets you down, check out some of these options, they're sure to make it an unforgettable event:

### Go ahead, sing along

■ If your Angel is a centerfold, take her to see J. Gell's Band with The Romantics as they rock in the new year singing some old favorites — 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31 at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Tickets range from \$19.99 to \$99.50, and include parking. Children 16 and under will be admitted free with adults. Charge tickets by phone at (248) 645-6666 or on the Web at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

■ Metallica hits Motown hard and heavy with very special guests — and infamous Michigan boys — Ted Nugent and Kid Rock for New Year's Eve. "Nothing Else Matters" for the millennium for Metallica fans. And how often can you spend

an evening with a Michigan hunter and a self-proclaimed "Cowboy"? This is one to check out, but hurry — tickets are going fast — 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31 at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Tickets \$29.50-\$99.50. Call (248) 645-6666 or check the Web at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

■ Join everybody's favorite Canadian alternative music-makers, the Barenaked Ladies as they perform mega-hits like "One Week" and "Jane" live. The energetic show also brings special guest Tal Bachman into view. Bachman is best-known for his song "She's So High" — 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1 at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Tickets \$50 or \$85. Charge by phone at (248) 645-6666 or on the Web at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

■ The O-Jays and The Whispers bring along special guest Gerald Levert to mark the millennium with legendary style. The O-Jays are known as one of the most powerful vocal groups of the 1970s. They had No. 1 R&B singles from 1972 to 1978, including "Love Train" (1973), "Give the People What They Want" (1975), and "Darlin' Darlin' Baby" (1976). The Whispers are called "soul survivors" known for slow jams like "Heaven" — 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31 at The Fox Theatre in Detroit.

Tickets are \$75 or \$62.50. Call (248) 645-6666 or on the Web at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

■ Do it up local-style with Howling Diablos and Face performing for a few hundred of their closest friends. Bound to sell out like the Diablos usually do at Ferndale's Magic Bag. The band's vocalist, Tino said he's looking forward to the bash. Tino said the band chose the best possible venue for the millennium: "That's a theater right in the 'hood for us."

"They let us do our thing," he said. This New Year's the Diablos plan to "party hearty." "We're just going to get outta hand," promised Tino. If you can't afford to go to Times Square, you've got a personal invite from Tino to join the Diablos and witness the energetic celebration first-hand. Party-goers must be 21 and over — 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31 at The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale.

Tickets are a \$20 bargain to start off the new year.

■ Some might say the Twisting Tarantulas are one of the best bands in the Metro area. Peter



Poulos of Karl's Cabin in Plymouth is one of those people. He booked the Tarantulas, along with the Chef Chris Blues Band, to perform at a show for the millennium — 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31 at Karl's Cabin, 9779 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at door. Call (734) 455-8450.

### Get down and dance to

■ Singles can celebrate the century at a millennium gathering that features all the decades of the 20th century. Sponsored by Single Spirit, a group of single Christians in their 20s and 30s, the party starts at 6 p.m. with games, dancing, refreshments, dinner, party favors and door prizes. Dress semi-formal or decade attire. Dance until dawn — which in this case means 1:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31 in the Waterman Campus Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Tickets are \$30 each. Call (248) 374-5934 or check the Web at [SingleSpirit@wardec.org](mailto:SingleSpirit@wardec.org) for more information.

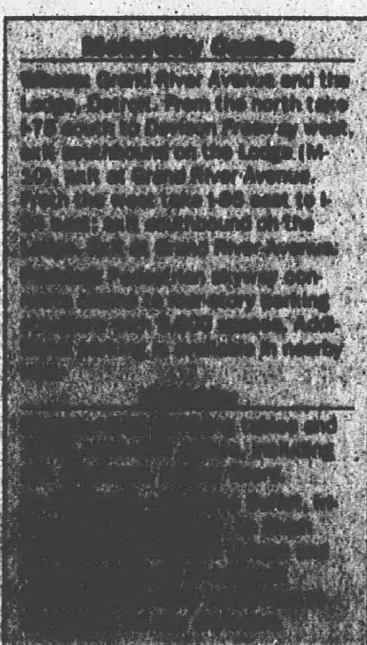
■ All the latest hits as WDRQ rings in 2000 with DJ Lisa Lisa broadcasting live. The party starts at 8 and won't end till Y2K. Enjoy a full dinner buffet, party favors, a champagne toast and money drop at midnight, special effects and breakfast 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, Fourth Street and Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak.

Tickets are \$99. Charge by phone at (248) 645-6666 or on the Web at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

Please see NEW YEAR, E2

## GAMING

# MotorCity Casino ready to roll



BY KEELY WYGONIK  
STAFF WRITER  
kwygonik@oe.homedcomm.net

Here's the deal, the Michigan Gaming Commission was expected to vote on and approve a gaming license for the new \$160 million temporary MotorCity Casino on Tuesday. If all goes according to schedule, the casino will be open by the time you read this article.

Save your nickels and quarters and get ready to bring home some bread, and we're not talking "Wonder."

The former home of Wonder Bread has been transformed into a glamorous casino.

David Codd of Livonia, one of the card dealers, believes it's going to be the best casino in Detroit.

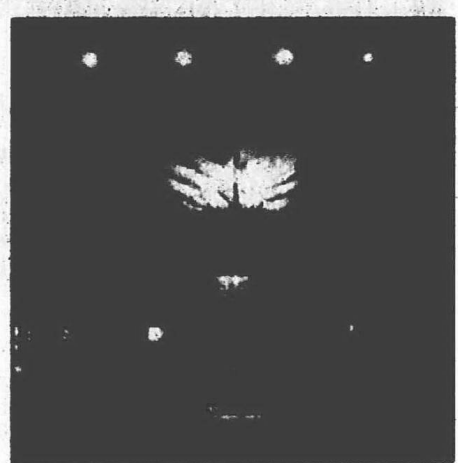
"Our company vision is fun," said Codd, a Vietnam veteran who learned about the job opportunity after reading an ad in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. "Win or lose, the idea is to have fun."

For Codd, being a card dealer is the per-

fect job. "I've loved to play cards all my life, but I hate to gamble. This is ideal," he said.

Applying for a job at the casino was a gamble for Michael Russell of Rochester Hills, a part-time instructor at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, and one of 58 certified master chefs in the U.S.

"I sent my resume out, but I didn't think I'd qualify," said Russell who has been a chef for more than 38 years and worked at the Detroit Yacht Club, Travis Pointe Country Club (Ann Arbor), the Skyline Club (Southfield), the Kingsley Inn (Bloomfield Hills) and the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club. "I went from supervising a staff of 17 to 305. It's a great opportunity to do a lot. I love training and teaching people. The down side is I don't get to cook a lot, but I hope to once things get going. I'm very organized, we're all very down to earth, and we're all cooks. I have drawers



Are you game?: The main gaming pit on the second floor of the MotorCity Casino features a range of table games under its towering ceiling. Craps, blackjack, roulette and pai gow poker entertain the gamer with a wide variety of slots waiting in the wings.

Please see CASINO, E2



# The WAR

## Holiday Show At Laurel Park Place

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9am - 8 pm Daily

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Sponsored in part by Observer & Eccentric

## New Year from page E1

Dennis Miller brings his brilliant wit and social commentary to Detroit on the first day of 2000, and he also straightens the family tree. Miller has found success on both network and cable television and in film. Using his unforgettable years on

Saturday Night Live as a career springboard, Miller hosts the Cable Award-winning show "Dennis Miller Live" on HBO. During his weekly stand-up and live performances, Miller can be seen in such movies as "Murder at 1600" and "Disclosure." See

him at his comedic best 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1st in the Fox Theatre in Detroit.

Tickets are \$42.50-\$50. Charge by phone at (844) 848-8888 or on the Web at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Casino from page E1

full of ideas and books full of stuff I always wanted to do; now I can. My staff is great, they're so hungry for knowledge."

Covering a space of approximately 20 acres bound by Grand River and the Lodge service drive, Trumbull and on the west, the Motor City Casino is not far from Tiger Stadium.

Except for Carl's Chophouse there's not a whole lot happening in this area. Continental Baking Co., which owned the former Wonder Bread factory, closed the 75-year-old facility on July 20, 1985.

MotorCity Casino is a joint venture between the Magdaly Resort Group, formerly Circus Circus Enterprises, and 114 local investors.

Terry Dougall of Dougall Design of California, Klai-Jupa of Las Vegas and BEI Associates of Detroit turned the former factory into a glamorous gaming area they describe as having a "sense of Las Vegas with a Detroit twist."

Architects visited homes in Detroit's New Center area to get ideas. Slot machine signage was

custom designed out of old gears valves, gauges and other parts found in attics and basements. Signs beckons gamblers to try their luck "Detroit Dollars \$1," "Fabulous Fins \$5." Slot machines range from 5 cents to \$100.

This casino is very open; the ceilings on the second floor are 26 feet high. MotorCity Casino is handicap accessible, and no smoking is allowed on the third floor. On the fourth floor, high rollers can take a rest from gambling in their very own lounge where they're served by butlers. Equipment such as the continuous shuffling machines at gambling tables are state-of-the-art.

Edward Avila of Dougall Design worked on converting the factory into a casino.

"We've done well with what we had to work with," he said. Artists in California did the Detroit-themed murals, which include a photo of Henry Ford. Different patterns of carpeting and motifs define gaming areas.

Avila described the fourth floor as being very elegant and upscale. The third floor has a

1980s feel. The second floor is very "Motor City," with an automotive theme, and the first floor is more industrial. Copper is predominantly used on the first floor, gold on the second, and their third floor is a mixture of both.

"We want you to walk in and be surprised at every turn," said Avila.

When you visit the MotorCity Casino, you might want to consider signing up for a free Player's Card. The credit-card-like device plugs into slot machines and into the rail at gambling tables. The card tracks how long you play and where you're playing. As you play, you earn "comps" such as tickets to a concert, sporting event, or dinner.

If you visit the Motor City Casino, let me know what you thought about it. Send me an e-mail, fax (734) 591-7279, or note with your comments, attention: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

## AT THE GALLERIES

**JEFFREY CLAY GALLERY**  
Opens Thursday, Dec. 16 - the lustrous Paul Katrich. 404 East 4th Street, Royal Oak. (248) 584-2223.

**CASS CAFE**  
An exhibition of photography by Millard Berry, Ralph Rinaldi and Bill Waters. 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. (313) 831-1400.

**COMMUNITY ARTS GALLERY**  
Graduate Works in Progress exhibit.

28 5400 Gullen Mall, Wayne State University, Detroit. (313) 577-2423.

**CPOP GALLERY**  
Through Jan. 14 - Glenn Barr: Underbelly. 4180 Woodward, Detroit. (313) 833-9901.

**DETROIT CONTEMPORARY**  
Through Jan. 9 - "364 Days" featuring Paul Snyder, James Stephens and Robert Berry. 5141 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit. (313)

898-4278.  
**GALERIA CASA DE UNIDAD**  
Through Dec. 17 - Day of the Dead-Ofrenda exhibit. 1920 Scotten, Detroit. (313) 843-9598.

**JELANE JACOB GALLERY**  
Through Feb. 4 - Misbehaving! Works from the studio of Sandy Skoglund. 480 W. Hancock, Detroit. (313) 993-7813.

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# Country music's Joseph James poised for stardom

**STEPHANE A. CASOLA**

In Europe he's featured alongside country mega-stars like Shania Twain and Faith Hill. He gets e-mail messages from all over the world requesting autographed pictures and CDs. He's even interviewed the likes of Garth Brooks on his own radio show.

And yet country singer-songwriter Joseph James lives a quiet, unassuming life amid the quaint charm of Rochester Hills — just as he has for the past 21 years.

Born Joseph James Giordano, he took to singing at age 5, around a campfire at his grandmother's cottage. He picked up the guitar just four years later and prepared his solo act in the years that followed.

The Harper Woods native had a natural affinity for making

music. Some of his favorite musicians growing up ran the gamut from Johnny Cash to James Taylor, but James claims he's remained a little bit country all along.

"(Country music) is music for people, about people," said James. "It tells a story about people. Also, there is a realness about country music and I think it'll always continue to be the everyday person's music."

His latest single "One Track Mind" has topped European record charts since its release last July. Poring over letters, e-mails and playlists from all over the country and the globe, he blushes a bit when speaking about his burgeoning success.

"I had the best musicians in Nashville," he said of those who played on his new, self-titled album. "The list is a who's who in country music."

That list includes bassist Mike Chapman and drummer Terry McMillian who worked with Garth Brooks. They're both part

of James' self-proclaimed "dream team."

While he'd had his fill of playing the local club scene years ago with his former band Cold Water, James hasn't lost a bit of passion toward live performance. "What I like about (performing) is the tension release," said James, sitting in his comfortable Rochester Hills office. "I really love interacting with people. I'm a people person."

**Taking it to the next level**

He's simply trying to take his music to the next level. That means signing to a record label. While the buzz is strong in Nashville, no deals have been

made just yet.

But James said the outlook is good. With so many women gaining accolades in country music, there's room for more male performers in the genre. If someone has to follow in the golden footsteps of the Dixie Chicks, James is ready and waiting.

Currently working on a new release early in 2000, James seems poised for success. "One Track Mind" has all the elements of a hit — it's a catchy, cross-over country song with a universal theme, attempting to get back a lost love. It doesn't get more country than that.

While James has a voice for

song and a heart for touching a head for business.

lyrics, he's also been blessed with **Please See COVER, 17**

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## A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

### THEATER

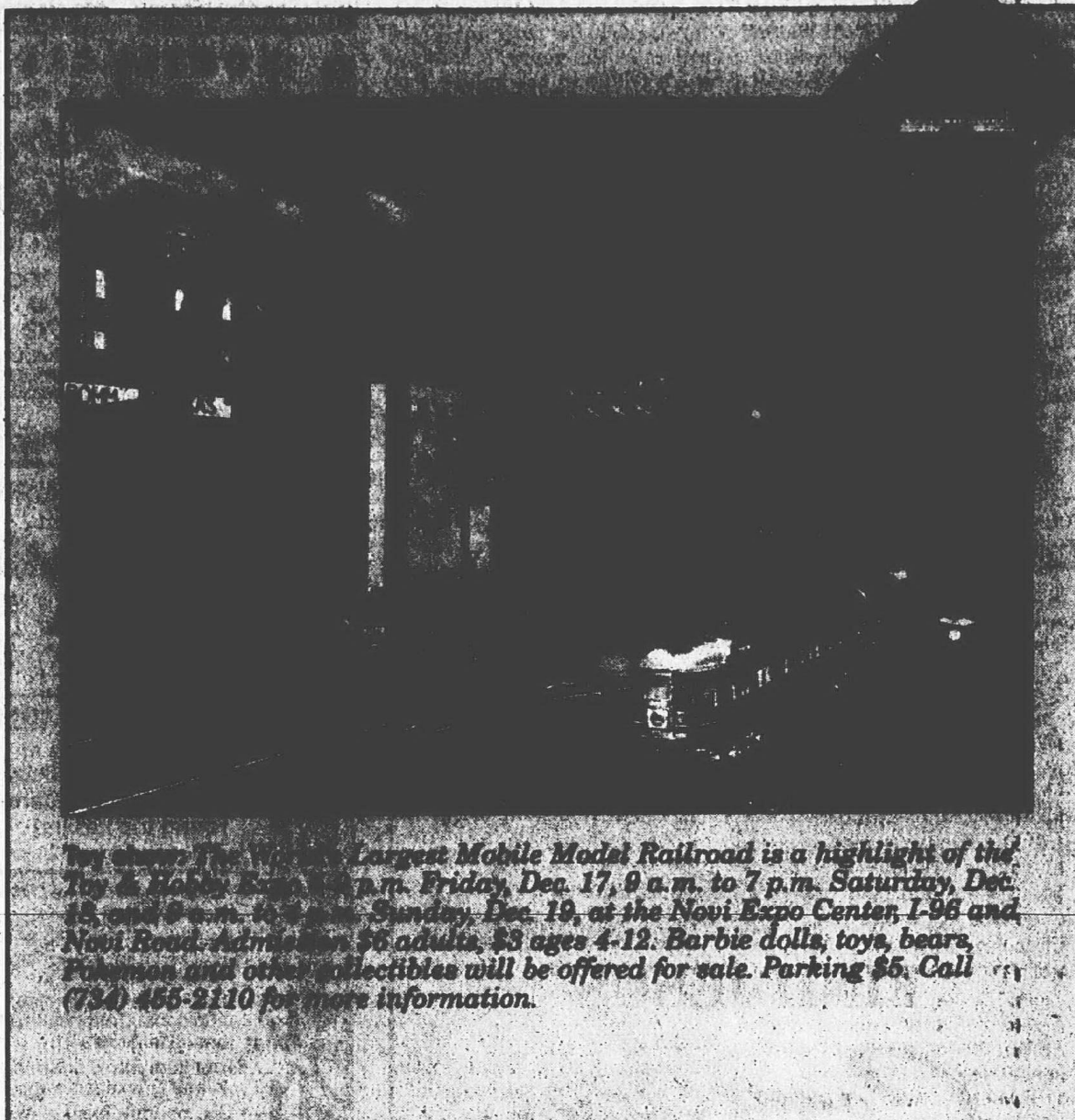
**CENTURY THEATRE**  
"Forbidden Hollywood," through Dec. 31, 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Fridays, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 5:30 p.m. Sundays, at the Century Theatre, 333 Madison Avenue, Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800

**DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE**  
"Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church," through Dec. 31, at the theater, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. \$15. (313) 868-1347

**FISHER THEATRE**  
"Martin Guerre," continues through Sunday, Dec. 19, at the theater, Detroit. (248) 645-8666

**GEM THEATRE**  
"Escanaba in da Moonlight," a comedy by Jeff Daniels, through March 26, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays, at the theater, 33 Madison Ave., Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800

**JET THEATRE**  
"Prisoner of Second Avenue," previews Wednesday-Sunday, Dec. 22-26, show dates Dec. 29-Jan. 2, Jan. 5-9, Jan. 12-16, Jan. 19-23, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday and Sunday, 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday and Wednesday, in the Aaron DeRoy Theatre, lower level of Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road at Drake, W. Bloomfield. \$15-\$25. (248) 788-2900



The show's **largest Mobile Model Railroad** is a highlight of the **Toy & Hobby Expo**, 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 17, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the Novi Expo Center, I-96 and Novi Road. Admission: \$6 adults, \$3 ages 4-12. Barbie dolls, toys, bears, Pokémon and other collectibles will be offered for sale. Parking \$5. Call (734) 455-2110 for more information.

### COLLEGE

**WSU HILBERRY**  
"Some Americans Abroad," through Feb. 5, at the theater 4743 Cass, Detroit. \$11-\$18. (313) 577-2972

### COMMUNITY THEATER

**AMANI AND THE NIGHT VISITORS**  
The Friends of the Opera of Michigan and Conien Productions present this tender, Christmas season musical-drama for the entire family 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at St. Martha's Church, 18200 Oakwood Blvd., across from Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn. \$10. (313) 582-0997

**"MY THREE ANGELS"**  
Classic off-beat holiday production by Sam and Bella Spewacks, 8 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 17-19, at The Trumbull, 4210 Trumbull Avenue, Detroit. (313) 365-8185

**PLANET ART THEATRE**  
"Sexual Perversity in Chicago," through Sunday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday, at the theater, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. \$10, \$35 season tickets available until Dec. 19. (313) 365-4948

**DINNER THEATER**

**BACI THEATRE**  
"Flanagan's Wake," 8 p.m. Thursday-Fridays, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays (\$25 Thursdays and Sundays, and \$30 Fridays-Saturdays), and "Tony n' Tina's Wedding," 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Sundays, at 40 W. Pike, Pontiac. (248) 745-8668/(248) 645-6666

### YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

**ANNIE JR.**  
Runs 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16, 23, 30 and 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 22, 29. Scottish Rite Cathedral Theatre, Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, Detroit. (313) 535-8982

**MARSHALL THEATRE**  
"Jack in the Beanstalk," through Sunday, Jan. 16, at the theater, 125 E. Main, Northville. \$7. (248) 548-8110

**THEATRE GUILD OF LIVONIA**  
"The Nutcracker," 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, at the theater, 333 Madison Avenue, Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800

**WOLVERINE SILVERSPUR DANCERS**  
7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31 (doors open 6 p.m.), at the Italian American Cultural Center, 12 Mile, east of Hoover, Warren. \$35. (810) 774-9148 or E-mail Spurdancers@aol.com

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOURS**  
Experience an old-fashioned Christmas in a Candlelight glow, 6-8 p.m. Sunday-Monday, Dec. 26-27, Greenmead's Historic Village Buildings. Tickets \$7/person and family tickets \$20 in advance. (248) 477-7375

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHORAL SERVICES**  
7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, at Mariner's Church, 170 E. Jefferson, Detroit. (313) 259-2206

**HOLIDAY CONCERT & SING-A-LONG**  
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. \$8. (248) 541-6430

**MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION**  
Complete with sit-down dinner, premium bar, comedian and dancing, Friday, Dec. 31, Pine Knob Carriage House, Clarkston. \$125 per person. Call (248) 673-4932

**TOY & HOBBY EXPO**  
And model railroad display 5-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the Novi Expo Center, I-96 and Novi Road. \$6, \$3 ages 4-12. (734) 455-2110

**RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR**  
Starring the Rockettes Friday, through Friday, Dec. 30, at the Fox Theatre, Detroit. \$20-\$55. (248) 645-6666/(248) 433-1515

**"WILD LIGHTS"**  
Continues through Sunday, Jan. 2, 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, until 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, at the Detroit Zoo, Woodward and I-96, Royal Oak. \$3-members (\$3 ages 2-12), \$4 non-members (\$3 ages 2-12). (248) 541-5835

### FAMILY EVENTS

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
"Holiday Carnival of Stars," noon, 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, in the Food Court at Wonderland Mall, Plymouth and Middlebelt, Livonia. Free. (734) 522-4100 or www.newwonderlandmall.com

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
"Frank Sinatra Tribute," 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Fridays-Saturdays through November, at Anderson's Music West, 6676 Telegraph Road at Maple, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300

**ALTON SHELTON**  
The musical impressionist sings "A Motown Tribute," voices include Stevie Wonder, Sammie Davis, J.J. "Red Fox" and Nat King Cole, 9 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at the Park Chateau Hotel, Washington Blvd. and Jefferson, Detroit. No cover. (313) 965-0200/(248) 354-1194

### GAELIC LEAGUE/IRISH-AMERICAN CLUB

8 p.m. catered dinner, 9 p.m. dancing, with entertainment by Inish Coel, Black Brimmer and Walter Walsh, 2068 Michigan Ave., Detroit. \$25. (313) 964-8700

**GALLAGHER II**  
at the Fisher Theatre, Detroit. (313) 872-1000

**NORTHVILLE MANOR**  
8 p.m. dinner (7 p.m. hors d'oeuvres), Haggerty between Five and Six Mile, Northville. \$100. (734) 420-0144

**SOKOL DETROIT**  
8 p.m. dinner followed by dancing to the Joe Tomes Band, at the Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren, Dearborn Heights. \$50. (248) 437-8976/(248) 478-8151

**"STROLLING THROUGH THE CENTURY"**  
Evening begins with 7:30 p.m. performances of "Escanaba in da Moonlight" and "Forbidden Christmas," followed by food, live music and dancing to Ed Wells and Gem Jazz Ensemble, at the Gem Theatre and Century Club, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (\$225). (313) 963-9800; also an Early-to-Bed celebration 2-6 p.m., \$95, includes performance and dinner.

**WEST SIDE SINGLES**  
7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., appetizers, pizza, fruit and dessert table, dancing, at Burton Manor, Schoolcraft, west of Inkster, Livonia. \$25 advance, \$30. (734) 427-9110/(734) 981-0909

### CLASSICAL

**DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
Holiday Pops Yuletide Celebration, Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 16-20 (\$18-\$68); "A Century of Song: From Vienna to Broadway to Hollywood" featuring Maureen McGovern, 10:45 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, and 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31 (\$14-\$95), at Orchestra Hall, 3611 Woodward, Detroit. (313) 576-5111

### POPS/SWING

**JIM PARMENTER & COMPANY**  
"Frank Sinatra Tribute," 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Fridays-Saturdays through November, at Anderson's Music West, 6676 Telegraph Road at Maple, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300

**ALTON SHELTON**  
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Detroit. No cover. (313) 965-0200/(248) 354-1194.

### AUDITIONS

**CHORUS LINE AUDITIONS**  
Ages high school and older be prepared to sing and dance for the show. Bring a snapshot of yourself to auditions, 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Jan 3-4. Call backs are set for Wednesday, Jan. 5., all at Scottish Rite Cathedral Theatre in the Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, Detroit. (313) 535-8962. Performances run Feb. 18-27.

**HFCC THEATRE**  
Auditions for "Rumours," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 in the Adray Auditorium in the Mackenzie Fine Arts Building on campus, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. (313) 845-6475

**LIVONIA YOUTH PHILHARMONIC**  
Auditions for the youth orchestra will be held Saturday, Jan. 22. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (734) 591-7649

**SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHOIR**  
Auditions for all voice parts, in room 530 of the Forum Building, at the college, 18600 Haggerty, between Six and Seven Mile, Livonia. (313) 937-0975

**THEATRE GUILD OF LIVONIA REDFORD**  
Is searching for directors, choreographers, musical directors, and all others interested in musical comedy theater. Call (313) 531-0554 for information, or glwlr resumes and letters of interest to the Theatre Guild, 15138 Beech Daly, across from the Township Hall in Redford.

### CHORAL

**CANTATA ACADEMY**  
4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale. \$15, \$12 seniors/students. (248) 358-9868

**LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS**  
LCC presents "Once Upon a December" 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at Clarenceville High School Auditorium on Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia. Free.

### ORGAN

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION**  
Music for Advent and Christmas, noon Thursday-Friday, Dec. 16-17, at St. Paul's Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.

### JAZZ

**PAUL ABLEN**  
9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

**TODD GRANT**  
Thursdays, at Elie's, 243 Pierce Street, Birmingham. (248) 647-

2420

**BILL NEED**  
8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

**GEM JAZZ TRIO**  
Performs 7-11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at the Century Club Restaurant, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

**RICH K. TRIO**  
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150; 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at Big Fish, 700 Town Center Dr., Dearborn. (313) 336-6350

**MATT MICHAELS TRIO**  
With saxophonist Larry Nozoro 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, with vocalist Barbara Ware 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, at Ron's Fireside Inn, 28937 Warren, east of Middlebelt Road, Garden City. \$5 cover. (734) 762-7756

**SHAHIDA NURULLAH**  
8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

**JANET TENAJ TRIO**  
Featuring Sven Anderson, piano and Kurt Krahnke, bass, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays, at Fishbone's Restaurant, 29244 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. (248) 351-2925

**ED WELLS**  
The pianist performs 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, at the Century Club Restaurant, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

### FOLK/BLUEGRASS

**SONGWRITERS GOIN' ROUND**  
Jere Stormer, Judy Insey and Dan Hazlett, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at Xhados, 240 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. All ages. \$5. (248) 399-3946/(248) 674-4610

### POETRY/ SPOKEN WORD

**POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN**  
Workshop for poets looking for more members, 2-4 p.m. third Tuesday of month, in the Jenkins rooms on the third floor of the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. (734) 762-7586

### DANCE

**BALLROOM DANCING**  
9 p.m. Saturdays, at the Dance Scene, 25333 Van Dyke, Centerline. \$6. Also swing and Latin classes. (810) 757-6300

**COBBLESTONE FARM DANCERS**  
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor Saline Road, south of I-94, Ann Arbor. \$7. (734) 665-8863/(734) 426-0241

**CONTRA DANCE**  
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, at Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor Saline Road, south of I-94, Ann Arbor. \$15. (734) 665-8863 or pjb@peterjbaker.com

**DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
"The Nutcracker" with Ballet Internationale through Sunday, Dec. 19, at the Detroit Opera House. (313) 576-5111/(313) 874-SING

**ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING**  
7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, at Chapel Hill Condominium Clubhouse, 3350 Green Road, north of Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor. \$5. (734) 662-5158

**FREEDOM DANCE XPRESSIONZ**  
Open House with performances by Freedom Ink, The Company, The X Generation, Onyx Dancers, Inner City Dance Scope and vocalists Savannah and SADA, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at 229 Gratiot, Detroit.

**HUNGARIAN FOLK DANCE**  
Language and zither lessons. (248) 352-0927/(734) 946-8261

**LAKE AREA CIVIC BALLET**  
"The Nutcracker," 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, at Clarkston High School Auditorium, 6093 Flemings Lake Road, off Clarkston Road. \$14, \$12, \$10. (248) 666-1971/(248) 625-7500

**POLISH ALLIANCE DANCERS OF DEARBORN**  
Dance and language classes for ages 3 to adult have begun Saturday mornings at Prince of Peace Church, on Altar Road, Dearborn. (313) 581-3181

**STARBUCK BALLROOM**

Dance parties 9 p.m. Fridays. Lessons also available, at the dance studio, 29651 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. \$8. (248) 356-5678

**SWING CLASS**  
5-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, in the Food Court at Wonderland Mall, Plymouth and Middlebelt, Livonia. Free. (734) 522-4100 or www.newwonderlandmall.com

### COMEDY

**ELDORADO COUNTRY CLUB**  
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, Kirk Noland with Tiffany Jones and Dee Proffitt; 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Bryan McCree with Dan Logan and Rich Higgenbottom, also 2XL band, at 2869 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Township. (248) 624-1050

**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB**  
J.R. Brow through Saturday, Dec. 18; Kirk Noland and J.R. Remick Friday, Dec. 31, at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Third Level Improv and new talent nights, 8 p.m. Sundays (\$5). (734) 261-0555

**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S**  
Arturo Shelton, Friday, Dec. 31 and Sunday, Jan. 2, at the club, 5070 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885

**MAINSTREET COMEDY SHOWCASE**  
314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 966-9080

**MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE**  
at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. (248) 542-9900 or http://www.comedycastle.com

**SECOND CITY**  
"Phantom Menace to Society" Wednesday-Sunday, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Mainstage comedy acts: \$10 Wednesdays, Thursdays, Sundays, \$17.50 on Fridays, and \$19.50 on Saturdays. (313) 965-2222

### MUSEUMS AND TOURS

**ANN ARBOR HANDS-ON MUSEUM**  
Re-opened its door Oct. 19, the celebration continues with more than 250 interactive exhibits intended to make science fun, at the museum, 220 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. \$6, \$4 children/seniors/students. (734) 995-5439

**DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
Christmas in Other Lands Family Workshop 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 (\$5), (313) 833-9720; "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, 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 INSTITUTE OF ARTS**  
Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery in India will construct a mandala sand painting Monday-Friday, Dec. 27-31 as part of special holiday programming, ceremony begins noon to 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, during which time the monks consecrate the site, at 3 p.m. visitors have the opportunity to ask the monks questions, they continue work daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30 the monks perform "Sacred Music, Sacred Dance" (\$10, \$8 Founders Society members) (313) 833-4005, in the DIA Theatre, at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave. Other programs during the holiday break week include puppet shows, storytelling, drop-in work shops, and drawing in the galleries. Other than the concert, programs are free with recommended museum admission of

Please see next page



# 8 Guays a week

Making contact? Please submit popular music items for publication to Stephanie Casola; 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

\$4, \$1 children. Holiday hours (Sunday-Friday, Dec. 26-31) are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For a schedule of programs, call (313) 833-4249. PuppetArt, Detroit Puppet Theater, presents the Russian version of "The Gingerbread Man" (Kolobok) 2 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 29-31.

**DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER**  
IMAX movies include "Tropical Rainforest" at 10 a.m. Mondays-Fridays, "Thrill Ride: The Science of Fun" at 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and "Everest" and "Whales" multiple showings seven days a week, at the center, noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sundays, at 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

**DETROIT ZOO**  
The exhibit, "Inside/Outside: The Art of Caring" continues through Jan. 2, in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile, Royal Oak. \$7.50, \$5.50 seniors/students. \$4.50 ages 2-12. (248) 398-0903

**DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM**  
Ford Fleet Festival 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 28-30, retired and active members of the Detroit Lodge of the International Shipmasters Association will be on hand to talk to the public, first 75 visitors each day receive a copy of "The Christmas Tree Ship," visit the newest exhibition "Folk Art of the Great Lakes" or "Racing on the Wind: Sailing on the Great Lakes," also a temporary exhibit on the construction and launch of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, at 100 Strand Drive on Belle Isle, Detroit. Regular admission \$2, \$1 seniors/children ages 12-18 during the hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. (313) 852-4051

**HENRY FORD ESTATE-FAIR LANE**  
"The Spirit of Christmas" continues through Dec. 31, enjoy guided historic tours of the estate festively decorated for the holidays. Special events include Tea, Tour and Treasure, Monday, Dec. 20; Santa's Workshop Friday, Dec. 17, and Candlelight Tours Sunday-Monday, Dec. 26-27, at 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. (313) 593-5590 or www.umd.umich.edu/fairlane

**HENRY FORD MUSEUM/GREENFIELD VILLAGE**  
"The Magic of Flight" IMAX film continues through Friday, Dec. 31 on the hour 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday (\$7.50, \$6.50 seniors and children ages 5-12, \$6 members and children under age 4). (313) 271-1570, at the museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. \$12.50, \$11.50 seniors, \$7.50 kids 5-12, members and children under 5 free. (313) 271-1620

**MEADOW BROOK HALL**  
Tours of the 110-room historic mansion built by Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer John Dodge and her second husband Alfred G. Wilson, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester. \$12, \$6 children ages 3-12. (248) 370-3140

**MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY**  
"I Made This Jar..." the life and works of the enslaved African American potter, Dave continues through Jan. 2, at the museum, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. (313) 494-5800

**PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
"Celebrate the Century" exhibit continues at the museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth. \$2, \$.50 kids. \$5 family. (734) 455-8940

**SPIRIT OF FORD**  
Interactive automotive science and technology experience with exhibits and theaters for all ages. NASCAR Pit Stop Challenge. Turbo Tour full-motion simulator ride, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, at 1151 Village Drive, across from Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, Dearborn. \$6, \$5 seniors. \$4 ages 5-12. (313) 317-7474

## POPULAR MUSIC

**LORI AMEY**  
With Under Construction, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, Xhedos Cafe, 240 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. \$6 cover. (248) 399-3946; 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. 21 and over. (248) 642-1135 (folk/pop/rock)

**ANN ARBOR FOLK FESTIVAL**  
Featuring Shawn Colvin, Arlo Guthrie, Great Big Sea, Matt Watroba and more, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. Tickets \$30, \$25. (248) 645-6666.

**BARENAKED LADIES**  
With Tal Bachman, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, The Palace of Auburn Hills, Tickets \$50 and \$35 reserved. (248) 645-6666

**BECK**  
7:30 Thursday Feb. 3, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave. in Ann Arbor. All ages, Call (248) 645-6666 or (734) 763-TKTS.

**BLUE HAWAIIANS**  
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

**BOY SETS FIRE**  
With Reach the Sky, 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Tickets \$7. (313) 961-MELT

**BROTHERS GROOVE**  
7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

**BUMP N' UGLIES CD RELEASE**  
With Teenage Frames, Guttermouth, The Outsiders, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. \$5 advance/\$7 day of show. (313) 961-MELT

**EDDY CAMPBELL**  
10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi. No cover. (248) 735-4011 (blues)

**ALEX CHILTON**  
8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Tickets \$13.50 advance. (313) 961-MELT

**COMPANY OF STRANGERS**  
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan 14-15, Cowley's, Grand River at Farmington Road, Farmington. (248) 474-5941

**THE CROMAGS**  
With All Out War and Shutdown, 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. \$10. (313) 961-MELT

**CROSBY, STILLS, NASH AND YOUNG**  
8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets \$76, \$51, and \$40.50 reserved. Eight ticket limit per person. (248) 645-6666 or (248) 377-0100

**DEEP SPACE 8**  
9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, Karl's Cabin, 9779 Gotfredson Road, Plymouth. (734) 455-8450

**DISCIPLINE**  
10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, Lilis 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. 21 and older. (313) 875-6555

**DOMESTIC PROBLEMS**  
With Pat McGee and FunkIntelligence, Tuesday Dec. 28, Majestic Theater, 4140 Woodward, Detroit. 21 and over. Tickets at the Majestic Cafe, TicketMaster (248) 645-6666

**EKOOSTIC HOOKAH**  
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. \$12 advance. (248) 544-3030

**ELECTRIC BOOGALOO**  
With Clovis Minor and Giant, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$5. (734) 996-8555

**WRQ ELECTRIC KRINGLE JINGLE**  
Starring Sugar Ray, Blessid Union of Souls, Enrique Iglesias, Lou Bega, Jessica Simpson, LFO, Shaggy, Amber, Len, Mandy Moore. 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, Joe Louis Arena, Detroit. Tickets \$39.31, \$29.31. Call (248) 645-6666

**ESHAM AND NATAS**  
With Workhorse Movement, Friday, Dec. 17, Clutch Cargo, 65 E. Huron at Mill Street, Pontiac. Tickets \$12. (248) 645-6666.

**FAN MAIL TOUR**  
With TLC, Christina Aguilera, Destiny's Child, 7 p.m. Sunday,

Jan. 16, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets \$39.50 and \$29.50 on sale. (248) 645-6666

**FUNNYBONES WRIN**  
Featuring Jim Perkins, 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan 28-29, Cowley's, Grand River at Farmington Road, Farmington. (248) 474-5941

**FREE**  
With Hate Mars, Red Dye 9, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$4. (734) 996-8555

**FULLY SHAVED**  
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Ford Road Bar and Grill, 35505 Ford, Westland. Free. 21 and over. (734) 721-8809 (blues)

**FUNKINTELLIGENCE**  
9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$15. (734) 996-8555; With Paradigm and Muzzle, Inc., 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. \$5 advance. (313) 961-MELT

**J. GELLS BAND**  
With The Romantics, 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets \$99.50, \$79.50, \$59.50, \$19.99 includes parking cost. Children 16 and under admitted free with purchase of adult ticket. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

**HARRINGTON BROTHERS**  
7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, 28 Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

**ROY HAMILTON JR. & THE GOLDEN BOYS**  
7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, 30, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

**AL HILL AND THE LOVE BUTLERS**  
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, Arbor Brewing Company, 116 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. (734) 213-1393; 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26, The Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor (734) 996-8555

**HOWLING DIABLOS**  
With The Still, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$5. (734) 996-8555; With Face, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. \$20. 21 and over. (248) 544-3030

**LISA HUNTER**  
5:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 16, Live at Laurel Park Place Mall, 6 Mile east of I-275, Livonia (248) 433-9887; 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, Lonestar Coffee, 207 S. Old Woodward (248) 642-2233; 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Kraftbrau, Kalamazoo (616) 384-0288; 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, Xhedos Cafe, 9 Mile west of Woodward, downtown Ferndale (248) 399-3946

**ICP BIG BALLER CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
With The Psychopathic Rydas, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Sold Out. (313) 961-MELT

**ALAN JACKSON**  
With Lonestar, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets \$32.50 and \$25.50. (248) 645-6666.

**JAH RULE AND THE MURDERERS**  
9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. \$15 advance. (313) 961-MELT

**JIMMIE'S CHICKEN SHACK**  
8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan 26, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. \$8 advance. (313) 961-MELT

**BETTY JOPLIN AND FRIENDS**  
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley Street, Ann Arbor. \$5 cover. (734) 662-8310 (jazz)

**THE JUDDS**  
With Jo Dee Messina, 8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 18-19, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets on sale Dec. 11 for \$65, \$32.50 and \$25. (248) 645-6666.

**KRESCENT 4**  
With Small Craft Sighting, 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$3. (734) 996-8555

**DAVID LABS**  
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Borders Books and Music, 3924 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 335-5013 (acoustic holiday)

**THE LOVEMASTERS**  
With Kidswitch and Agent 009, 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, 313jac upstairs from Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street. \$5. 18 and

over. (313) 962-7067 (glam)

**MACADAM**  
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan 21-22, Cowley's, Grand River at Farmington Road, Farmington. (248) 474-5941

**STONEY MAZAZAR AND THE WESTSIDERS**  
7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. New Years Eve Party. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

**MAZINGA**  
With Sublimation and 12 Angry Steps, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$4. (734) 996-8555

**MARY MCGUIRE**  
3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26, Borders Books and Music, 3924 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 335-5013 (folk rock)

**JOHN MULLEN CAMP**  
"Rural Electrification Tour 1999" With Shannon Curfman, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28, The Palace of Auburn Hills. \$45, \$35. (248) 645-6666

**MICKY STRANGE AND THE KINGS OF PAIN**  
With Face, Thursday, Dec. 23, The Token Lounge, Westland. (734) 513-5030

**EDDIE MONEY**  
With Stewart Francke, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, The Palace of Auburn Hills. \$15 reserved. \$9.47 general admission. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

**MUZZLE**  
9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$3. (734) 996-8555

**JO NAB**  
With A Coupla Fat Guys, 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi. No cover. (248) 735-4011

**ODD ENOUGH**  
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan 7-8, Cowley's, Grand River at Farmington Road, Farmington. (248) 474-5941

**THE O-JAYS & THE WHISPERS**  
With Gerald Levert, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Fox Theatre, Detroit. Tickets \$75, \$62.50. (248) 645-6666.

**ORIGINAL HITS**  
7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, 27 Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800

**ROBERT PENN**  
10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main Street, Royal Oak. (248) 543-4300

**PILFERS**  
With The Exceptions and Wristrocket, 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$7. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

**THE PORTERS**  
With Driftweed, 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, 313jac, upstairs from Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street. \$5. 18 and over. (313) 962-7067 (r&b/punk)

**THE PRIME MINISTERS**  
Friday, Dec. 17, Rivertown Saloon, 1977 Woodbridge, Detroit. 18 and over. (313) 567-6020

**RACHEL AND KAPP**  
7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

**RADIUM**  
Thursday, Dec. 16, New Way Bar, Ferndale.

**KENNY RANKIN**  
8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale. \$15. (248) 544-3030.

**JAKE REICHAUT**  
4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, Borders Books and Music, 3924 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 335-5013 (holiday instrumental)

**SGT ROCK**  
Thursday, Dec. 23, Bogy's Bar and Grill, 142 E. Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake. (248) 669-1441

**KRISTYN SMYTH**  
10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi. (248) 735-4011 (rockin' blues)

**SOUL CLIQUE**  
With Jazzhead, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, Motor Lounge, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. \$10 admission or \$5 with canned good/warm winter coat. This show benefits Cleaners Food Bank. Cool Papa Ron spins between sets. Or check it out on the Web at www.playground.com

**SPINFIST**  
with Fuzzbox Twins, Friction and Don't Ask, 6 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 4, Shelter, 431 E. Congress,

Detroit. All ages. \$5. (313) 961-MELT

**STETIX X**  
Saturday, Dec. 18, Harpo's, Detroit. (248) 645-6666.

**SUNSHINE MACHINES**  
With Bottomdead and The Outsiders, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$9. All ages. (248) 645-6666; With PT's Revenge and Cold as Life, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$9. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

**TELEGRAPH**  
With Moods for Moderns and Capture the Flag, 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$8. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

**JACK WHITE AND THE BRONKS**  
With Come On, 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, 313jac, upstairs from Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street. \$5. 18 and over. (313) 962-7067 (garage rock)

**WORKHORSE MOVEMENT**  
With Forge and Fringe, Thursday, Dec. 16, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 996-8555

**YOUNG COUNTRY CHRISTMAS WITH STEVE WARNER**  
6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, State Theatre, Detroit. Tickets \$27.50, \$22.50. (248) 645-6666

**20 MILES**  
Featuring Judah Bauer of Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, and JBX and Bob Log, 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$8. All ages. (313) 961-MELT.

**2XL**  
Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, Bogy's Bar and Grill, 142 E. Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake. (248) 669-1441

## CLUBS

**ALVIN'S**  
The Hush Party with resident DJs Melvin Hill and Cent, 10 p.m. Mondays; and Club Color, featuring funk and disco, 8 p.m. Wednesdays (free before 10 p.m.), at the club, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or www.alvins.xtcom.com

**ARBOR BREWING COMPANY**  
Latin dance night, 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tuesdays, 114 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. Free. 21 and older. (734) 213-1393 or www.arborbrewing.com

**BIRD OF PARADISE**  
The Bird of Paradise Orchestra performs Mondays, cover \$5; Ron Brooks Trio performs Wednesdays and Thursdays, with guitarist Dan Faehnle on Dec. 8-9, cover \$5; Paul Klinger's Easy Street Swingtet plays Dixieland 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Friday, cover \$2; Paul Finkbeiner's Jazz Jam can be seen 9 p.m. Sundays, free, all at the club, 207 S. Ashley Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 662-8310 (jazz)

**BLIND PIG**  
"Swing-a-billy" night with dance lessons, dancing, 7 p.m. Sundays at the club, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$3 in advance, \$5 at the door. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 or www.intuit-solar.com or www.blindpigmusic.com

**BULLFROG BAR AND GRILL**  
Acoustic night with Pakistani Tambourine Mondays; Karaoke with DJ Eric Tuesdays. Bridge performs Thursday-Sunday. After-work party with Joint Venture 6-9 p.m. Fridays, all at the club, 15414 Telegraph, Redford. (313) 533-4477

**CLUTCH CARGO'S/MILL STREET**  
"Flashback" night with "The Planet" WPLT on level two (Clutch Cargo's), old school funk on level three, and techno and house on level four, 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, at the club, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Free before 9 p.m. 21 and older. Alternative dance night, 8 p.m. Wednesdays in Clutch Cargo's, 18 and older. (248) 333-2362 or www.961melt.com

**FLYING FISH TAVERN**  
See Larry Arbour live 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays. Thursdays, at the tavern, 17600 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills. (248) 647-7747 (acoustic folk)

**GOLD DOLLAR**  
Hip-hop and dance hall reggae dance night with DJ Chino, 8 p.m. Wednesdays at the club, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or www.golddollar.com

**THE GROOVE ROOM**  
Alternative, underground and club classics with DJ Mike Tuesdays; Goth and industrial with D.J. Paul Wednesdays. Free admission with Goth attire. On Wednesday, Dec. 22 the club hosts it Christmas Extravaganza; Funk, hip-hop and top 40 with DJ Mac D, Thursdays. Women admitted free; "Love Factory" alternative mix of 80s and 90s with D.J. Matt Fridays; Alternative dance with DJ Matt Saturdays, at the club, 1815 N. Main St. (at 12 Mile ), Royal Oak. Free before 10 p.m. nightly. 21 and older. (248) 589-3344 or www.the-grooveroom.com

**JD'S KEY CLUB**  
Singles night with dueling pianos, doors 7:30 p.m., \$2 cover, held the first Tuesday of every month; Working Wednesdays with free food buffet, \$1 off drinks, featuring Matt Safranek, Jimmy Sullivan, Marc Dolron and WIZ, doors at 4:45 p.m. Wednesdays; Ladies Night featuring Rod Norman, Jimmy Sullivan, Gary Mumford and WIZ, doors at 7 p.m. Thursdays; Matt Safranek, WIZ, Rod Norman, Gary Mumford, Marc Dolron and Jimmy Sullivan perform, \$5 cover and doors at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, all at the club, 1 North Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 338-7337. (dueling pianos)

**LA BOOM TEEN NIGHTCLUB**  
Dance night for teens ages 15-19, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the club, 1172 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. Ages 15-19. (248) 926-9960

**MAJESTIC THEATRE CENTER**  
"Good Sounds," with music by The Tonehead Collective and images by Thomas Video, 9 p.m. Fridays at Magic Stick. 18 and older. Free: "Work Release," Rock 'n' Bowl happy hour with bowling, music and complimentary food from the Majestic Cafe, 5-8 p.m. Fridays at Garden Bowl. \$6. 18 and older; "Rock 'n' Bowl" with DJ Del Villareal, 9 p.m. Fridays and DJ Guttenball, 9 p.m. Saturdays at Garden Bowl. Free. 18 and older; "The Bird's Nest," punk rock night with live performances, 9 p.m. Mondays at Magic Stick. Free. 18 and older; "Soul Shakedown" with DJ Big Andy, 9 p.m. Tuesdays at Magic Stick. Free. 21 and older. (313) 833-9700

**MOTOR LOUNGE**  
"Back Room Mondays," service industries employee appreciation night, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Mondays. Free. 21 and older; "Family" with DJ's Derek Plasiako, Echo and Deep, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesdays, 18 and older; "Maximum Overload" on Fridays, 10 p.m., \$6. 18 and older; "Big House," 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturdays, \$6. 21 and older, all at the club, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. (313) 396-0080 or www.motordetroit.com

**ST. ANDREW'S/THE SHELTER**  
"Three Floors of Fun," 9 p.m. Fridays, \$3 before 11 p.m., \$5 afterward. 18 and older; X2K dance night, 10 p.m. Saturdays; "Incinerator," 9 p.m. Wednesdays in The Shelter. \$6. 21 and older. St. Andrew's and The Shelter are at 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

**STATE THEATRE**  
"Ignition" dance night, 10 p.m. Saturdays at the club, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 18 and over. (313) 961-5451 or www.statetheatre.com

**24 KARAT CLUB**  
"Cruise Night" with hot rods, Harley's and live bands, 8 p.m. Thursdays; Latin/House dance night, 9 p.m. Sundays; intermediate swing lessons, 9 p.m. Tuesdays, and beginner swing lessons, 9 p.m. Wednesdays, at the club, 28949 Joy (two blocks east of Middlebelt ), Westland. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 513-5030

**VELVET LOUNGE**  
"Viva La Noche Latina!" with dance lessons from 9-10 p.m. followed by dance night, Fridays, at the club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. (248) 334-7411

**XHEDOS CAFE**  
Sista Otis performs 8-10 p.m. Sundays at the club, 240 West Nine Mile, Ferndale. All ages. Free. (248) 399-3946



# 'The Green Mile' long, but awe-inspiring

BY JON KATE  
SPECIAL WRITER

There are two possible reasons why movie audiences leave a theater in total silence. They could be numbed by the movie's plot. Or, they could be numbed by the movie's length.

"The Green Mile" will numb you both ways. The three-hour, seven-minute adaptation of Stephen King's serialized novel must have film editors clawing over each other for the chance to slice it to a more marketable 120-140 minutes. Scenes are overly long to the point of making you want to yell "cut" right

there in the dark. Other scenes could have been lost entirely and not have been missed. It often seems like the projectionist got a rough edit by mistake.

But on to better things. The story is undeniably awe-inspiring. A 7-foot black man condemned to death who can heal the sick and raise the dead? Merry Christmas. Speaking of which, the gentle giant's character name is John Coffey, and the significance of his initials hasn't been lost on anyone either.

"Ole Sparky" is what they call the electric chair in Louisiana's Cold Mountain Penitentiary. It's 1935, and the eight-celled Death

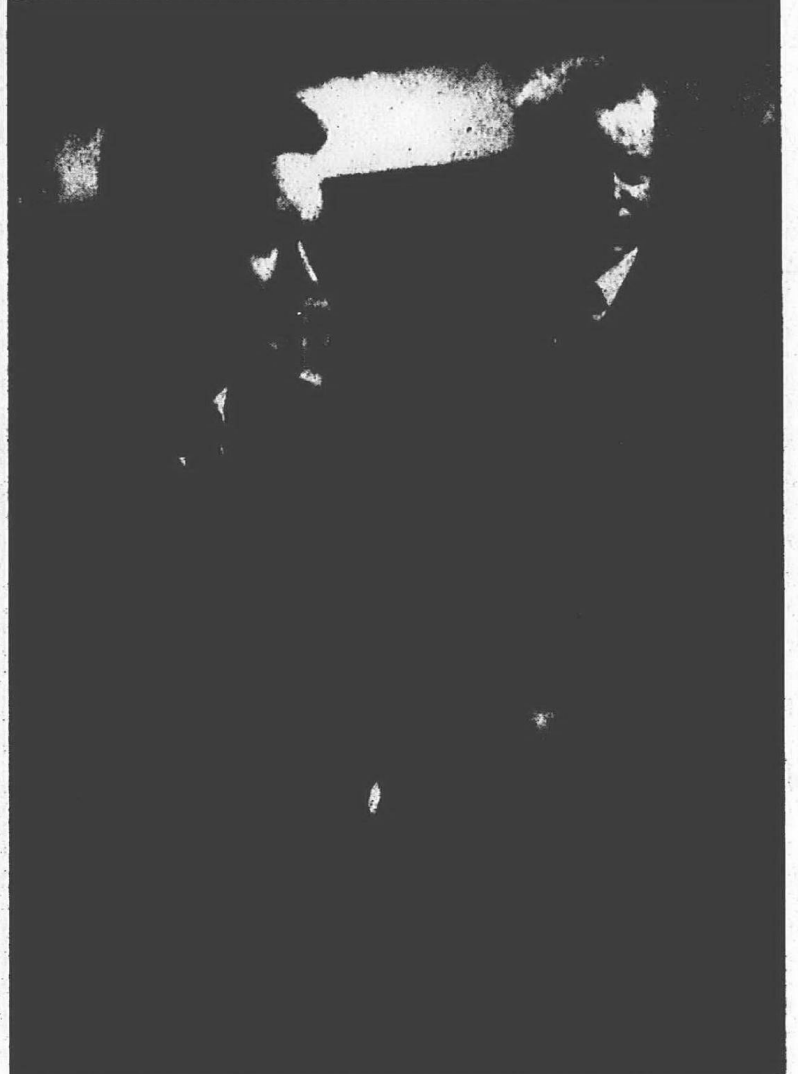
Row is more like an assembly line to the hereafter. Tom Hanks is Paul Edgecomb, head guard of the Green Mile, so-named for the lime-colored linoleum that leads to Sparky's door. He is desensitized by the routine of execution, although not insensitive to the inmates themselves. And then he meets big John.

Convicted of brutally raping and murdering two young girls, the new prisoner—as mild as he is massive—requests only that a light be left on. "Ah gets akereed of the dark sometimes, Boss," he explains softly. This is the first of dozens of extreme close-ups on actor Michael Clarke Duncan

("Armageddon"). Be assured you will grow very fond of his sad, sweaty face while Edgecomb grows to question his guilt.

More questions about John surface when it becomes apparent that he possesses spiritual, messianic powers. He cures Edgecomb's painful urinary infection with a touch and literally sucks a tumor out of the warden's wife's brain. Locking up at the stars, he points out the constellation Cassiopeia as if he knows the lady personally. This certainly is no murderer, despite his conviction. But there are courts and then there is a Higher Court, and each has pronounced a sentence that must be carried out to its own purposes.

Hanks is low-key as Edgecomb, and it is fair to wonder how this nice guy fell into such a dead-end job, even in the Depression. But only his character could care about as well as guard men like these, and Hanks is wonderful to watch as always. Fellow guards David Morse, Barry Pepper and Jeffrey DeMunn are a tight team of competent actors. Veteran Dabbs Greer, whom you've seen in thousands of bit parts, gets a meatier turn here as the old Paul Edgecomb, our narrator.



**Drama: Tom Hanks (left) stars as Paul Edgecomb, the Death Row head guard who relates in flashback his time at Cold Mountain Penitentiary where David Morse portrays his chief assistant guard in "The Green Mile."**

effects and a curious urination fixation. Ultimately the film belongs to mountainous Michael Clarke Duncan. Surrounded by death and despair, he fills the screen with life and hope.

## OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

<p><b>National Amusements Showcase Cinemas</b></p> <p><b>Shawnee</b> 1-14 2150 N. Oakley Rd. Between University &amp; Walker Blvd 248-373-2600 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed-Thurs, Fri, Sat. NP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP DUKE BICALOW: MALE CIGAR (R) NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (C) NP END OF DAYS (R) NP SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) NP THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) NP BOGEM (R) NP THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) NP THE BEST MAN (R) NP THE SIXTH SENSE (PG13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Shawnee</b> 1-5 6000 Wayne Rd. One Mi. S. of Warren Rd. 313-729-9600 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed-Thurs, Fri, Sat. NP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (C) NP THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) NP BOGEM (R) NP PORNOM (C) NP DOUBLE JEOPARDY (R) NP THE SIXTH SENSE (PG13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Southfield</b> 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off I-96 248-353-STAR No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>FOR SHOWTIMES AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE CALL 248-373-2222 WWW.SDS-SOUTHFIELD.COM</p> <p>NP DUKE BICALOW: MALE CIGAR (R) NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (C) NP END OF DAYS (R) NP FLAMELESS (R) NP THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) NP SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) NP BOGEM (R) NP PORNOM (C) NP THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) NP THE NUMBER (R) NP DOUBLE JEOPARDY (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>United Artists Commerce Township</b> 14 Located Adjacent to Home Depot Just North of the intersection of 14 Mile &amp; Haggerty Rd. 248-948-5881 All Stadium Seating High Back Reclining Chair Seats Two-Day Advance Ticketing</p> <p>DUKE BICALOW (R) NV THE GREEN MILE (R) NV TOY STORY 2 (C) END OF DAYS (R) FLAMELESS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) ANYWHERE BUT HERE (PG13) PORNOM (C) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) THE NUMBER (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>COME IN AND FIND OUT HOW</b> Box Office opens at 4:00 pm Monday - Friday only</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p><b>Main Art Theatre III</b> Main - 11 Mile Royal Oak (248) 543-0100</p> <p>DOGMA (R) BOYS DON'T CRAY (R) BENIC JOHN MALKOVICH (R) FELICIA'S JOURNEY (PG13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES Children Under 6 Not Admitted</p> <p><b>Main Art Cinema III</b> 4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph Bloomfield Hills 248-855-9999 DISCOUNTED SHOWS!</p> <p>THE STRAIGHT STORY (G) THE LEGEND OF 1900 (R) TRAIN OF LIFE (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>
<p><b>Shawnee</b> 1-3 Michigan &amp; Telegraph 313-851-3400 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri, Sat, &amp; Sun.</p> <p>NP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP DUKE BICALOW: MALE CIGAR (R) NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP END OF DAYS (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (C) NP SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) NP THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) NP PORNOM (C) NP THE BONE COLLECTOR (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Theatres</b> The World's Best Theaters Bargain Matinees Daily 11:00 AM Shows Starting before 6:00 pm Now accepting Visa &amp; MasterCard NP Denotes No Pass Engagement</p> <p><b>Star Grand Lakes Crossing</b> Grand Lakes Shopping Center 248-454-4200</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP DUKE BICALOW (R) NP PRINCESS BRIDE (PG13) END OF DAYS (R) TOY STORY 2 (C) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) PORNOM (C) DOUBLE JEOPARDY (R) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) BOGEM (R) THE SIXTH SENSE (PG13) FLAMELESS (R) THE NUMBER (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Winchester</b> 1136 S. Rochester Rd, Winchester 248-656-1100 No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP TOY STORY (G) PORNOM (C) ANYWHERE BUT HERE (PG13) STRAIGHT STORY (G) THE NUMBER (R) SIXTH SENSE (PG13) BENIC JOHN MALKOVICH (R) BENIC OF THE HEART (PG) THE BACHELOR (PG13) THE MESSENGER: THE STORY OF JOHN OF ARC (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Birmingham Theatre</b> 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-644-3456 NP Denotes No Pass Engagements</p> <p>Order Movie tickets by phone! Call 644-3456 and have your VISA or MasterCard ready! (A 5% surcharge per transaction will apply to all telephone sales)</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) TOY STORY 2 (C) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) NP END OF DAYS (R) NP SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) NP AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) BOGEM (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>OXFORD 3 CINEMAS, L.L.C.</b> Downtown Oxford Lapeer Rd. (M-24) (248) 626-7100 Fax: (248) 626-1300 DETROIT'S LOWEST PRICED FILM PRICES INCLUDING TWILIGHT PRICING \$3.00 4-5 PM.</p> <p>CLOSED FOR RENOVATION</p> <p><b>AMC Livonia 20</b> Haggerty &amp; 7 Mile 734-543-9900</p> <p>CALL THEATRE FOR FEATURES AND TIMES</p>
<p><b>Shawnee</b> 1-5 Telegraph Sq. Lake Rd. W. Side of 313-851-3400 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily NP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP DUKE BICALOW: MALE CIGAR (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (C) NP THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Lakes</b> 3229 John R. Road 248-385-3070</p> <p>No one under 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (C) NP END OF DAYS (R) NP FLAMELESS (R) NP THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) NP SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) NP PORNOM (C) NP BOGEM (R) NP SIXTH SENSE (PG13) NP MUSIC OF THE HEART (PG)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>United Artists Oakland</b> Inside Oakland Mall 248-980-0706</p> <p>DUKE BICALOW (R) NV ANYWHERE BUT HERE (PG13) THE BACHELOR (PG13) AMERICAN BEAUTY (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>United Artists</b> 12, Oaks Inside Twelve Oaks Mall 248-340-4311</p> <p>MUSIC OF THE HEART (PG) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) THE NUMBER (R) THE GIBBER GIB (PG13)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>MP THEATRES</b></p> <p>\$1.00 Front Tail \$1.50 313-561-7200 \$1.00 til 6 pm After 6 pm, \$1.50 Ample Parking - Tollard Center Free Buffet on Drinks &amp; Popcorn Please Call Theatre for Showtimes</p> <p><b>TARZAN (G)</b> <b>BLIND IN BROOKLAND (G)</b> <b>BASE STRIKE (PG13)</b> <b>AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG13)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>
<p><b>Shawnee</b> 1-12 2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of 313-851-3400 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri, Sat, &amp; Sun. NP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) END OF DAYS (R) FLAMELESS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) THE NUMBER (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Lakes</b> 2000 Lakeshore 248-385-3070</p> <p>No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP DUKE BICALOW (R) NP END OF DAYS (R) NP FLAMELESS (R) NP THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) NP SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) NP PORNOM (C) NP BOGEM (R) NP THE BONE COLLECTOR (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>United Artists</b> 12, Oaks 2 Blocks West of Middlebelt 248-788-6272</p> <p>DUKE BICALOW (R) NV THE GREEN MILE (R) NV TOY STORY 2 (C) END OF DAYS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) PORNOM (C) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) THE NUMBER (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Waterford Cinema II</b> 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner M-59 &amp; Williams Lake Rd. 248-666-7900 CALL 77 FILMS 6551 Stadium Seating and Digital Sound System for the Best Movie Experience in Oakland County \$2.25 (TWO LITE) SHOWS ONLY</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP DUKE BICALOW (R) TOY STORY 2 (C) END OF DAYS (R) NP THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) ANYWHERE BUT HERE (PG13) PORNOM (C) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R)</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES When &amp; How Often Available</p>	<p><b>Shawnee</b> 1-12 2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of 313-851-3400</p> <p>All shows 51 except shows until 6 pm All shows \$1.50 734-543-9900</p> <p>What you see is not what you get This is a "THEATRE" experience</p>

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 17**

**"ANNA AND THE KING"**  
Set in 19th century Thailand, the true story of the relationship between a British schoolteacher and the King of Siam. Based on historical information. Stars Jodie Foster and Chow Yun-Fat.

**"CHER HOUSE RULES"**  
Classic story of a young man's extraordinary journey: Leaving home, finding love and finding his place in the world. Based on the best-selling novel by John Irving. Stars Tobey Maguire.

**"BICENTENNIAL MAN"**  
Robin Williams, Embeth Davidtz, Sam Neil and Olive Platt star in this romantic drama that follows the life and times of an android programmed to perform menial tasks. Over time he recognizes that his destiny is become human.

**"HIDE WITH THE DEVIL"**  
Skeet Ulrich and Tobey Maguire team up in this drama that takes place during the Civil War as two young men join a gang of bushwhackers. During this time they find the friendship, loyalty and sense of family needed to survive during such desperate times.

**Scheduled to open Wednesday, Dec. 22**

**"MAN ON THE MOON"**  
Jim Carrey, Danny DeVito and Paul Giamatti star in this biographical drama based on the life and times of Andy Kaufman, a comedian who made a career out of being irreverent and keeping the audience guessing. Then, in the early 1980s, he started telling people he was dying, but many people thought it was just another hoax.

**"ANY GIVEN SUNDAY"**  
Drama about an aging star quarterback who is induced to play hurt because a gifted and unprincipled young talent is seeking to replace him. The coach who struggles to remain true to the ideals that drew him to his career.

**Scheduled to open Saturday, Dec. 25**

**"MANSFIELD PARK"**  
Exclusively at the Landmark Maple Theatre. Based on the book by Jane Austen, the story of a young woman from a poor family, sent to live with her wealthy cousins at their estate. The plan is to arrange a marriage that will assure her



**Comic: Jim Carrey stars as Andy Kaufman, considered to be the most innovative, eccentric and enigmatic comic of his time, in "Man on the Moon," opening Dec. 22 at metro Detroit movie theaters.**

and the ambitious young owner of the team. Stars Al Pacino, Dennis Quaid.

**"LIBERTY BELLETS"**  
A dramatic look at the life and times of a Baltimore family in the mid 1950s which focuses on issues of religion, race and class distinction written and directed by Barry Levinson. Stars Adrien Brody, Bebe Neuwirth and Joe Mantegna.

**Scheduled to open Wednesday, January 12**

**"NEXT FRIDAY"**  
Ice Cub, Tamela Jones, Justin Pierce, and John Witherspoon star in this sequel to the 1995 urban comedy "Friday" about a laid back sort of guy who enjoys sitting on the porch talking with his friends. This time out he moves into his uncle's place in the suburbs, after beating up another guy who's now after him.

### Stay Tuned...

When is a bar more than just a bar? When it aims for a place in Detroit history.

The Attie Bar in Hamtramck, known for its 70-year history of Detroit blues, is extending into a recording studio and record label project which will be known as the **Beak, Pouch Blues Project**.

The project will seek to provide emergency funds for blues musicians in need, education on the blues, and other activities which will be sponsored by a board of directors from the Detroit Blues community.

Hamtramck's own "Beak & Pouch Blues Project" is the first apt

recorded on this new label, from their Nov. 27 performance at the Attie Bar. Clarence and Curtis Butler also serve as president and vice president on the board. Joe Van Beel, co-owner of the Attie Bar, is the project director and Kari Jordan is the secretary and treasurer for this project.

If names like Lee Alan, Tom Clay and Mickey Sherr ring a bell, you must be conjuring up memories of Detroit Radio.

Those nostalgic thoughts are brought back to life in "Beakin' Down the Dial: The Detroit Sound of Radio," a new book by

Royal Oak native and former deejay David Carson.

Published by Momentum Books, Ltd., in Troy, the book offers 238 pages chronicling radio history in the Motor City, including behind the scenes stories of the record payola scandal that received national attention. It comes complete with a Radio Roundup reference for younger generations — who might've grown up on Casey Kasem. Buy it for \$24.95 at your local bookstore, or call the publisher for a copy at (800) 755-1870.

— STEPHANIE ANGELEN CASOLA



# Country from page 15

"Someone once said don't put your eggs in one basket," said James, who graduated from Wayne State University with a degree in finance and economics. When he's not crooning country tunes, James is hard at work as president of Joseph James Financial Services, Inc. in Rochester Hills.

He doesn't have trouble balancing his financial business with his music. Over the years he's become so well-established that his business has allowed him to pursue his dreams in the music industry. It's also afforded him the business sense so crucial to survival in the industry.

His recipe for success? Make music as good as you can, take a realistic look at your

talents, and get a good understanding of the market. While the business side can force an artist to compromise some creativity and artistic freedom, he said, it also has the potential to reach a lot of people and get your music heard.

### Taking it to heart

He's seen the effects of the industry already. James wrote a song called "Little Joshua." It detailed the story of a 7-year-old boy who was tragically murdered, and was a story that truly touched the sensitive songwriter. But he knew it wasn't exactly a radio-ready hit.

"I felt so moved by the story when I recorded it," said James. "I thought by talking about it, maybe it won't happen again."

James, who primarily writes his own lyrics and music, is also a multi-talented performer. As a young guitar player taking lessons at Novak's Music store, he declared if he ever had the chance he would someday record his own version of "Nice to be with you," which was a hit in 1973 for Detroit's Jim Gold and his band, The Gallery.

James will likely release his own country version of "Nice to be with you" as his next single. A

few words of advice, county music fans — keep an eye out for Joseph James.

For more on Joseph James, check out his Web site at [www.josephjames.com](http://www.josephjames.com). His CD is available at Farmington Hills Music.

Stephanie Angelyn Coates writes about popular music for the Observer & Hearst's Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-8289 or e-mail at [sc@observer-hearst.com](mailto:sc@observer-hearst.com). To send a fax, dial (734) 951-1379.

**RASCAL**  
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One of the top Oscar contenders for Best Picture!  
Four Oscars, INCLUDING BEST DIRECTOR!

**★★★★!**  
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AMC FORUM 10 AMC SOUTHBIRD CITY SHOWCASE 11:30 STAR SOUTHFIELD 12 OAKS	AMC LAUREL PARK AMC WONDERLAND AMR SOUTHEAST 20 SHOWCASE 11:30 STAR SOUTHFIELD 12 OAKS	AMC LIVONIA 20 BEACON EAST NOV TOWN CTR S SHOWCASE 11:30 STAR GRATIOT STAR ROCHESTER COMMERCIAL TWP 12	AMC FORUM 10 AMC SOUTHBIRD CITY BIRMINGHAM 8 SHOWCASE 11:30 STAR SOUTHFIELD 12 OAKS
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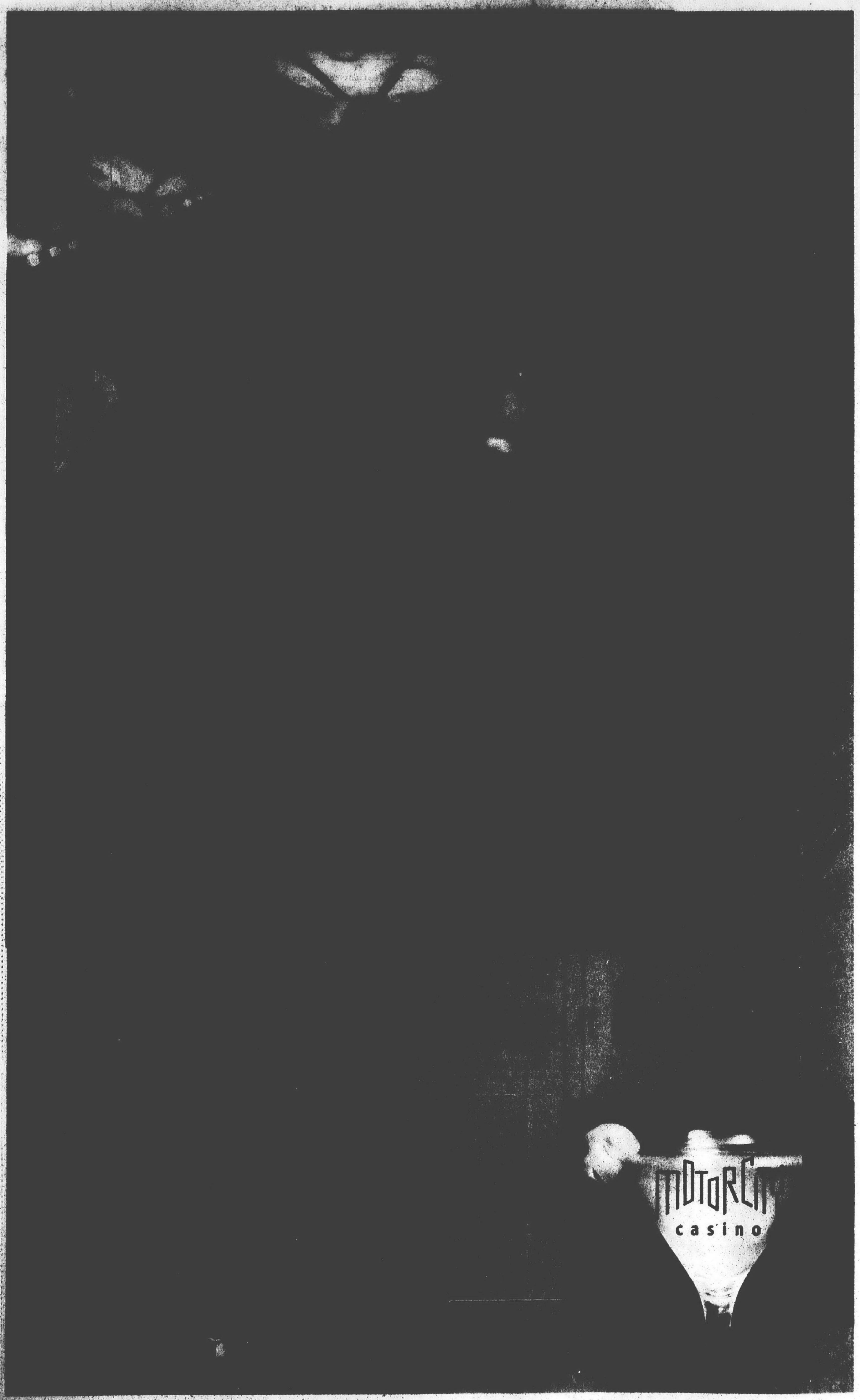
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