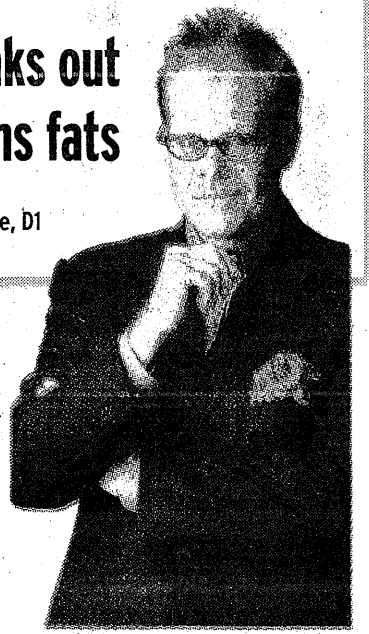


## Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest play hits the Fisher filter

**Holiday hoops highlighted**  
Sports, B1

## Alton Brown speaks out against trans fats

Hometownlife, D1



**THURSDAY**  
January 3, 2008

# Observer

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# Driver faces homicide charges in grisly crash

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

A 24-year-old Adrian man has been charged in connection with the grisly freeway crash that killed five members of a family Sunday night. A Redford girl was killed in the crash and her sister is still in critical condition.

Michael Gagnon was arraigned Wednesday morning on five counts of aggravated vehicular homicide in Toledo Municipal Court. Bond was set at \$1.25 million. Police reports said he had three times the legal amount of alcohol in his system at the time of the accident.

Gagnon had been drinking in a bar in Oregon, Ohio, Sunday when he left

to get food at a Taco Bell, Toledo police reported. Restaurant management called police to warn them that a visibly intoxicated man had left the store in a car.

Before police were able to intercept him, Gagnon got onto I-280 going the wrong way in the southbound lanes, police said.

Meantime, 36-year-old Danny Griffin Jr. of Parkville, Md., was driving a minivan home from visiting family for the holidays in Michigan and heading south on I-280.

According to police, the two drivers tried to swerve, but Gagnon's pickup sideswiped the Griffins' vehicle and tore the right side doors off. Several victims were thrown into the road.

Four were pronounced dead at the scene. Killed were 10-year-old Jordan Griffin of Redford, and 36-year-old Bethany Griffin and daughters, 7-year-old Lacie Burkman and 10-year-old Haley Burkman, all of Parkville, Md. Eight-week-old Vadi Griffin was later pronounced dead at St. Vincent Hospital.

As of Wednesday, Beu Burkman, 8, and Danny Griffin Jr. were listed in stable condition and Sidney Griffin, 8, of Redford was in critical condition.

Charlotte Tripp, a friend of the Griffin family, said Danny Griffin was in town to visit his father and daughters with his family from Maryland.

Sidney was removed from a respirator Tuesday, Tripp said, and further

treatment is being considered.

"She has blood on her brain and a lacerated liver," Tripp said. "She possibly has a broken foot as well, but they aren't going to do an X-ray until later. The doctors have said all of her injuries are healable."

Both Griffin girls attended Grandview Elementary School, where their mother, Jodie, is a paraprofessional. Tripp said the tight-knit school community is trying to support the family.

The girls had been going back east with their father and his family, Tripp said, to spend a few days before the end of winter break.

alundberg@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2109

### SPECIAL FUND-RAISER SET

A spaghetti and pizza dinner fund-raiser to help the Griffin family after its loss will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at Grandview Elementary School, 19814 Louise, just west of Middlebelt and north of Seven Mile in Livonia.

Bob Evans, Munchies Pizza, Westborn Market, Jet's Pizza, Gordon Food Service and The Deli — all of Livonia — are supporting the event.

Tickets are \$12. They're available at the school after Jan. 7 or by calling Charlotte Tripp at (248) 471-2075.

# Charities report: Need is great, so is generosity

BY MATT JACHMAN  
STAFF WRITER

With the needs in some communities greater than last year, officials at area charitable organizations are keeping their fingers crossed as they total the results of holiday fund-raising.

Preliminary numbers appear to be on track, most say.

"I think we're close. God bless the people of the area," said Kelly Boelter, coordinator of the Plymouth Salvation Army's 2007 red kettle campaign.

"We did real well. We did a lot better than what I anticipated," said Hank Cable, chairman of the Garden City Goodfellows. "With the economy, I was a little bit leery."

The Plymouth Salvation Army, Boelter said, had a fund-raising goal of \$205,000. The group had bell-ringers at 19 different sites and, on many days, had all sites covered, she said.

"Yet again, I was blown away by the generosity of the folks in this area," Boelter said.

The Goodfellows — the No Child Without a Christmas people — didn't have a goal in Garden City; they just hope for enough to pay the bills, Cable said. He figures the group raised around \$17,000, a little more than last year.

"The people that gave very generously this year," he said.

However, Cable said, requests for help nearly doubled over last year. The Garden City Goodfellows assisted 95 families, with about 225 children among them, this year, he said.

In Livonia, Goodfellows president Bill Heaton estimated the group raised a little more than \$100,000 — about the same as last year. "I think we did quite well," Heaton said.

Livonia Goodfellows provided a Christmas for 736 children in 281 families, he said. Children get toys and families get donated, nonperishable food and vouchers to shop for food and clothing. Some families — those that appear to have the greatest needs — were also "adopted" for Christmas, Heaton said.

### NEEDS GROW 'ALL THE TIME'

"The needs are just tremendous out there, and they're growing all the time," said Marie Morrow, president of the Plymouth

Community United Way, which had a \$1.3 million goal when it began its annual campaign in August. The campaign continues, she said.

The United Way in Plymouth also worked with local companies, service groups and individuals on holiday food drives, which, Morrow said, proved successful.

"It went very well. People were very helpful," she said.

As in Garden City, the Canton Township Goodfellows don't set a fund-raising goal. "We just pray to be able to fulfil the kids' wishes and get the food," said president Nancy Spencer.

Spencer estimated the group raised about \$17,000; she credited the Chamber of Commerce and the business community for their support, and Meijer, Sam's Club and former resident Jamie LaGrow, who won \$10,000 at a poker tournament, for sizeable donations.

The Canton Goodfellows assisted 240 households, including 569 children — both records, Spencer said.

The group also works with individuals and groups to "adopt" needy children for the holidays, she said. "Everybody pitched in and it just worked beautifully," she said.

### MONEY STILL COMING IN

Requests for assistance from the Westland Goodfellows were up this year, said president Jim Rachwal. Last year, the Goodfellows helped over 225 families with more than 600 children among them, according to the group's Web site.

Rachwal didn't have a fund-raising total for 2007, but said revenues were up thanks to the involvement of Ford Motor Co. and the United Auto Workers, plus fund-raisers by the Westland Jaycees and the Wayne-Ford Civic League.

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army set a goal of \$135,000 for its red kettle campaign and mail solicitations, and Capt. Matt O'Neil thinks that goal will be met.

"We had a lot of good donations in our community," O'Neil said. Money is still coming in and some of the red kettles are still out, he said.

About 650 families sought help from the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, O'Neil said. That's up about 100 over last year.

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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SMART General Manager Hayes Jones talks about the future he sees for the regional bus system.

# SMART boss has vision, road map for bus system

BY STACY JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER

Hayes Jones wants people to ride the SMART bus system, even if it's not their only option.

Most riders of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation bus system do so because they do not have a vehicle or they're unable to operate a vehicle due to physical limitations.

"But there are people who have options," said Jones, general manager of SMART. "I want to create an atmosphere where choice riders feel comfortable riding SMART. We want to provide a level of service they're accustomed to."

That service includes prompt,

reliable bus schedules throughout the communities serviced by SMART.

"I don't want our citizens to stand at a stop and not know if the bus will arrive and if the bus will be on schedule," he said.

Easy access to bus schedules via the Internet is also a necessity, he said. SMART will unveil a program to make that a reality in 2008 through its www.smartbus.org Web site. Jones said riders should be able to map their bus route via the online schedule.

"It's those kinds of services," he said. "Time is money and we can't afford to have our customers standing at a bus stop wondering when it's going to come and if it's

going to come."

### CONTIGUOUS SYSTEM

Jones, who took over as general manager in July, wants to see continuity in the system. Currently, all of Macomb County is serviced, at varying levels, by SMART, because a countywide vote was taken. In Oakland and Wayne counties, however, the "opt-in" vote is taken community by community.

The vote authorizes the county's regional transportation authority to levy a millage for SMART service. Past concerns such as the alleged lack of transparency, communication and responsiveness

Please see **SMART, A5**



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# Purr-fect pets abound at Humane Society

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Once Christmas was over, thoughts turned to pets for a number of western Wayne folks, including Sam Leggat of Redford.

"Looking for two companions of the feline species," he said Thursday at the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care Adoption Center. He'd had a cat that died in the spring; Leggat had rescued that cat from a co-worker.

"They're fun, they're entertaining," he said while looking at the cats up for adoption. "I've grown up with them."

Leggat has a roommate but no kids, and noted "Dogs are more needy than cats." He does consulting work, and finds cats suit him well. He'd had some work done on his house, and wanted to avoid exposing a pet to dust.

Leggat was in a day earlier and spied a cat that was adopted. "Good for him," he said.

The Michigan Humane Society got right down to business after Christmas, with the center in Westland open for pet adoptions. It's at 900 N. Newburgh in Westland, at Marquette, and can be reached at (734) 721-7300.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The MHS also operates adoption centers for pets in Rochester Hills and Detroit. The Web site is [www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org).

Tim Bury of Westland brought daughter McKenzie, 10, and son Travis, 12, to the Berman Center Thursday. "We were donating some supplies," Tim Bury said. "We always walk through when we come here."

The Bury family has a dog, Holly, a yellow lab, at home, so they weren't looking for another pet. "They wanted to see the dogs and cats," Bury said of his kids, a Stevenson Middle School seventh-grader and Patchin Elementary fifth-grader.

Tim, who works at a steel mill in Plymouth in computer entry and as an uncoiler operator, likes having a pet. "It teaches the kids responsibility," he said. "They get a companion out of it." Holly, about a year old, is also a watchdog.



Martha Tibai, 5, (from left) and her sisters Michelle, 10, and Megan, 8, of Wayne visited the Michigan Humane Society in Westland and had the chance to play with a cat named Chubs, who was up for adoption.

The family donated a collar, and hamster supplies: "We figured we'd make good use of it," dad said.

Barb Lungaro of Canton was at the Westland shelter with son Shawn, who works in a machine shop. Their family has four dogs, two cats (Barb's daughter's pets) and a cockatiel.

"We're just looking around for dogs," said Shawn Lungaro, who'd like a small dog. "We usually stop and look around here."

"Just fun to have around the house," he said of pets. "My mom treats them like they are kids."

His mom was excited to find a gift at the Humane Society, a plaque that read: "There is always room for one more dog." She loves her pets.

"They don't talk back to you and they love you unconditionally," Barb Lungaro said. If

you're down or sick, your pet will stay by you.

She doesn't have any trouble with her pets and has never hit them. "I raise my voice and they know, don't they? I love my animals."

Lungaro encourages new pet owners to spend a lot of time with the animals, and to make sure vaccines are up to date. She has a veterinarian here and one Up North by their place in Gladwin.

"If you want to have a healthy pet, you've got to take care of it," she said.

Taniya Hanspard of Livonia brought son Andre Roberts, 12, to the Westland shelter. He's a seventh-grader at Emerson Middle School, and she's an engineer with

Siemens VDO in Dearborn.

"We had a dog a few years ago," she said. "We loved him so much." That golden retriever got away, and she thinks another family kept him.

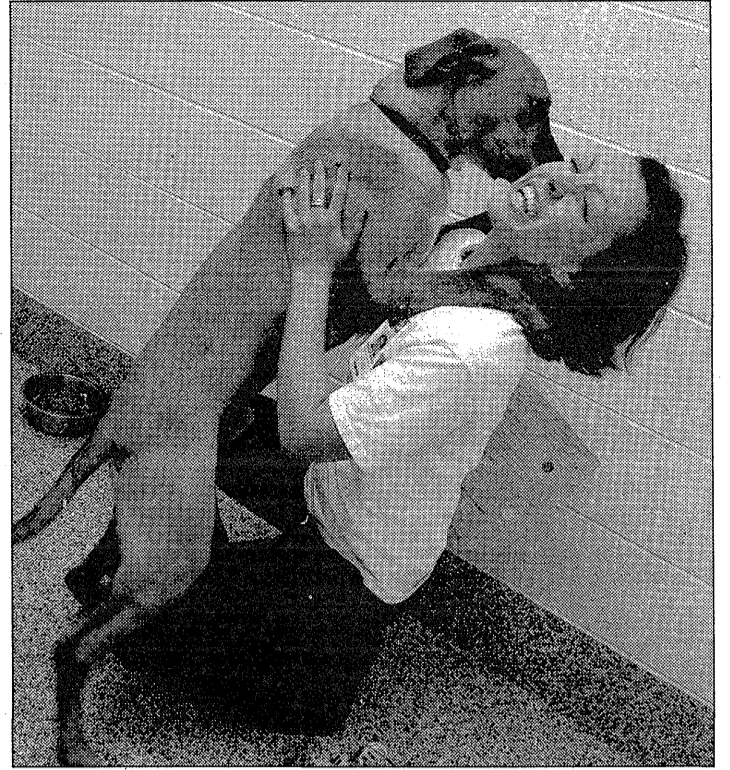
They'd been thinking about a new dog for several months, and have done research on pets. "Now we know a little more about the behavior of the dogs," she said as Andre visited with Ripley, a dog, in a "get acquainted" room.

MHS spokeswoman Stephanie Baron noted just after the holidays can be a great time for a new pet. "It just depends on what your holiday activities are," said the owner of two cats. "If you're done with entertaining, you can welcome a new pet; otherwise, it's better to wait."

"It's enough of an adjustment for the new animal to be in the home," she said, without a lot of party guests around.

Chubs, a domestic shorthair cat, was popular with visitors to the Westland site. "He's about nine months old," Baron said as she played with Chubs. "He's a purr machine."

She encourages the whole family to come in to adopt. "We try to match up lifestyle of the animal with lifestyle of the person," Baron said. Once a pet's home, adjustment will take some time.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephanie Baron of the Michigan Humane Society receives a big kiss from Ripley, a one year old Labrador retriever mix that is up for adoption.

Some animals end up at the shelter due to moves or financial difficulties. "Some people have babies and it doesn't mix with the baby," Baron said, emphasizing it's not their fault and the good fortune of animals having a second chance at a home.

There are adoption fees for MHS animals, who arrive at the shelter consistently throughout the year. Animals are spayed or neutered as part

of the adoption package.

Forms at the shelter tell people what the animal needs from them, and what current social skills the animal has. The Humane Society offers Pet Education Center classes at Westland and Rochester Hills, as well as off-site locations, for animals with problems like urinating on the carpet.

"You get to know your dog a little better which is nice, too," Baron said.

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# Fire destroys construction business

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

Earl Hall said ringing in the new year is supposed to bring "optimism and a fresh approach."

Both will certainly be key for Hall after fire destroyed the building housing his company, E.G.H. Construction, and Van Buren Electric in Plymouth late Tuesday night.

Plymouth Community firefighters were called to the building about 11:30 p.m., and remained on the scene until about 6:30 a.m. Wednesday morning. The fire department was aided by crews from Northville and Northville Township.

"I was surprised to see it this (Wednesday) morning and find the office completely destroyed," said Hall, who noted he was notified of the blaze about an hour after firefighters responded, but decided not to go watch it burn. "It was a sick feeling, it's a total loss."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Van Buren Electric and E.G.H Construction company in Plymouth suffered damage in the New Year's fire Tuesday night.

Hall said the fire is more of an inconvenience as his construction company remains in business, and he's already had offers of office space from several people.

"It's mostly an inconvenience of having to deal with relocation and setting up a new office," Hall said.

"Fortunately, no one was hurt in the fire, or any firefighters were injured."

Hall said no cause for the fire has been determined, "but it doesn't look to be anything intentional."

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First event of the series:  
**A Community Divided: Segregation in Metropolitan Detroit**  
Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 7:00 pm  
Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan

**Kurt Metzger:**  
Demographer and Research Director for United Way of Southeast Michigan.

**Thomas Sugrue:**  
Professor of History and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania and author of *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*

Additional series events:  
**Dispelling Myths and Stereotypes of Muslim and Arab Communities**  
Tuesday, February 12th 2008 at 7:00 pm  
Lawrence Technological University, Southfield

**A Conversation with Abraham H. Foxman: Evolving Trends of Anti-Semitism**  
Wednesday, March 26th 2008 at 7:00 pm  
Birmingham

**Immigration Today: Balancing Our Security, Humanitarian and Economic Interests**  
Tuesday, April 29th 2008, 7:00 pm  
Lawrence Technological University, Southfield

**Impact of a Community Divided: Moving Forward**  
Thursday, May 29th 2008 at 7:00 pm  
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit

**SMART**  
FROM PAGE A1

by SMART have led to some communities opting out of the system.

Livonia recently opted out, creating a gap in coverage between West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills, to Detroit Metro Airport, for example.

"There are serious concerns about the situation we're in," said Steve Brock, Farmington Hills city manager, who serves on the Oakland County Transit Authority, formed via Public Act 197 to collect the tax for the SMART service. "What if West Bloomfield opts out — we become a peninsula."

Novi and Canton are not in SMART, so there is a west-to-east disconnect. The opt-in or opt-out structure creates a checker board for SMART routes.

"When you have those misconnections, you don't truly have a regional service," Jones said.

To change that, Jones said it's up to the municipal leaders and the county commissions in each county to make that change.

"My hope, as general manager, is to share the vision," said Jones, who noted he wants to work with the counties to create a strategic plan. "We need a road map, where we are at and where we want to be."

**HIGH DEMAND**

By 2030, the senior population is expected to double, creating a greater need for transportation services, Jones said.

"Our connector program and our community partnership program are growing by leaps and bounds," he said. "But it is very critical that we find a way to expand our services."

Ridership was up in 2007, Jones said, noting about 11 million people used the SMART system.

"This year is the first time in history that our ridership is going through the roof," he said. "We had to cut \$2 million from our budget, yet ridership has gone up."

High fuel costs are likely prompting people to ride the bus, he added.

"If we continue to grow the way we are growing now, we'll need to find ways to support this growth," Jones said.



SMART general manager Hayes Jones

2010.

**A RENAISSANCE MAN**

Jones has experience in business management, public service, government, politics, education, entrepreneurship and even the Olympic Games.

Before being hired as general manager of SMART in July, Jones, 69, of Pontiac, was director of Economic Development and Community Affairs for Oakland County, where he focused on business retention and expansion. He was also senior adviser for Automation Alley, where he organized global trade missions for small- to medium-sized businesses.

Prior to working for American Airlines and Pro Air for a combined total of 20 years, Jones was a school teacher at Denby High School in Detroit. He took a leave of absence when he was appointed to the Youth Empowerment Project by Detroit Mayor Jerome P. Cavanaugh.

He accepted an appointment in 1968 from New York Mayor John V. Lindsay to be the city's first recreation director.

His experience also includes owning J&J Airport Services, a baggage service operation.

The political bug bit him in November 2006, when he ran for an unexpired term in the Michigan House of Representatives representing Pontiac and Auburn Hills. He lost the following election to the two-year term by 84 votes.

Jones is also an Olympic champion. He brought home a gold medal from the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo in the 110-meter hurdles. Four years earlier, he competed in the 1960 Olympics in Rome and brought home a bronze medal in the same event.

Jones is married to Rhonda and they have two children and three grandchildren.

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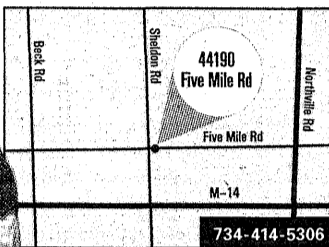
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## OUR VIEWS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Every community is targeting new businesses and retaining businesses. An example of redevelopment is the collection of new shops at Wonderland Village, on Plymouth and Middlebelt.

## New year will require plenty of resolve

Often a time of optimism and resolutions, this new year begins with our state facing an economic recession pushed by the loss of jobs and mortgage foreclosures. Forecasters see more doom and gloom in 2008. Those of us with jobs and homes must increasingly realize our role in helping sustain our areas' economy.

Whether it's visiting local restaurants from Livonia to Canton, shopping in downtown Plymouth or Westland, or even hiring a service company from Redford or Garden City, it's as important as ever to choose wisely the places we spend our precious dollars. Look at businesses that you'd want to keep around and choose those that invest in our community by who they hire, how well they serve, and what kind of corporate citizenship they display.

Livonia begins the new year with a new, though familiar, group of city leaders facing major challenges, mostly wrought by the difficult economy. We wish Mayor Jack Kirksey, City Council President Laura Toy, Clerk Linda Grimsby and Treasurer Dennis Wright success in trying to continue to provide Livonia with top-notch services and public safety protection amid the dwindling funding sources. Finding ways to retain and attract new businesses will be the key to the town's future.

We hope a new year brings a speedy resolution to the whistleblower lawsuit brought by a former controller against Livonia Public Schools and two top administrators. This is a serious allegation and the district says it's unfounded. A court decision on the issue should clear the air, one way or the other.

In Canton, township officials should continue to court retail and other businesses to move in along the Michigan Avenue corridor, which has seen a remarkable transformation in recent years and may someday rival Ford Road as the town's main thoroughfare. Ditto for Cherry Hill Village, which is finally starting to gain an identity for itself with new stores and some nightlife.

Let's hope the Plymouth-Canton Schools Board of Education can find a suitable replacement for popular Supt. Jim Ryan, who is retiring at the end of February. The new superintendent is going to have to deal with some big challenges, mainly cutting costs while trying to maintain small classroom

sizes. Whoever gets the job, he or she will have some big shoes to fill and have to deal with huge expectations.

Political candidates in Plymouth and Canton townships should resolve to keep it clean. All the board seats in both towns are up for grabs this year. We're hoping the incumbents who get into the race, and their potential challengers, campaign on issues and keep personalities out of it.

The City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township need to resolve to settle the whole fire department issue. Individuals in both governmental bodies have said they believe a joint operation is the best option for both communities; however, when they sit down to negotiate, that thought seems to go out the window. Get it settled.

Garden City officials should continue to make local water and sewer improvements, while working within a five-year funding plan to remain solvent and avoid big rate increases.

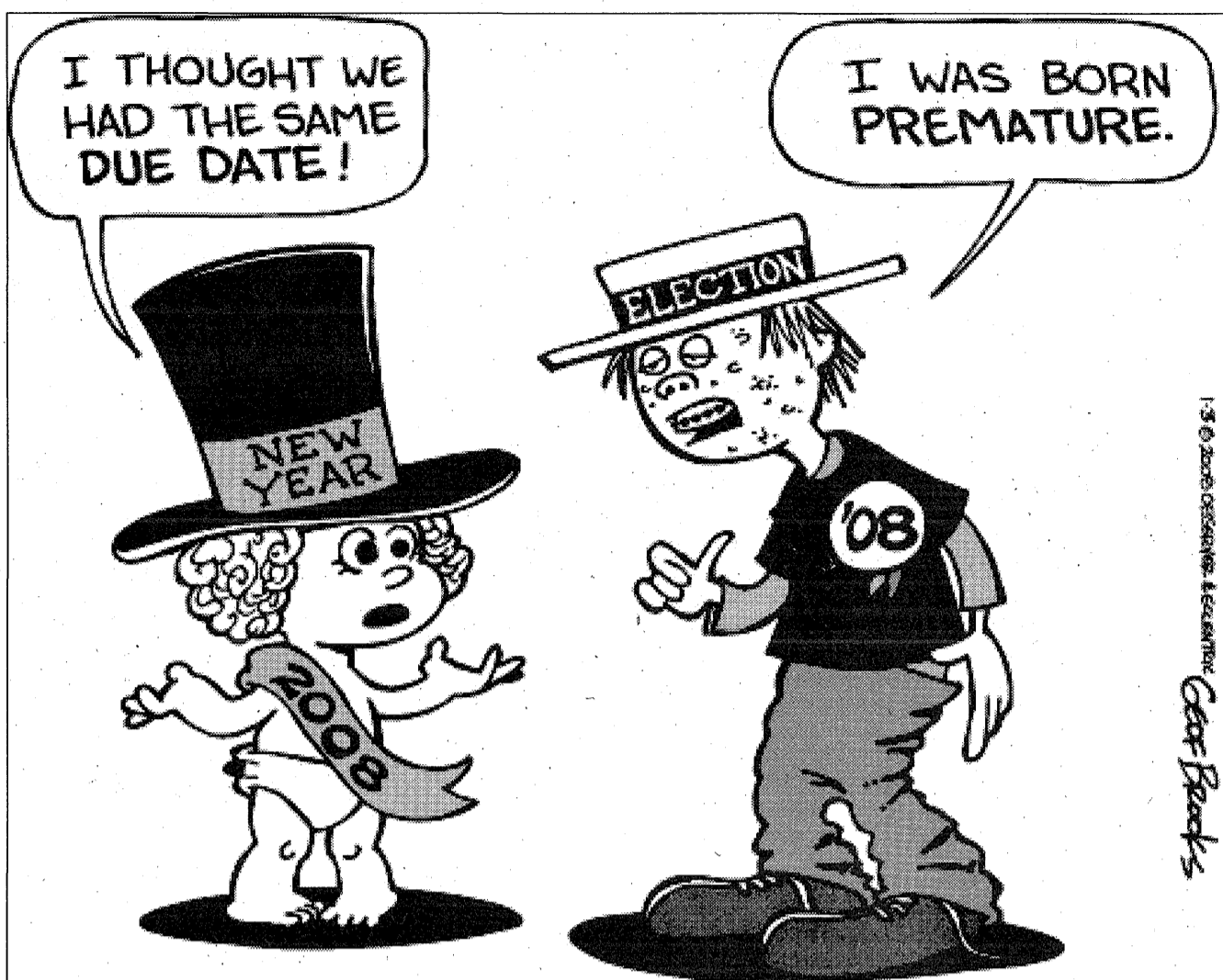
Another big challenge for Garden City officials is to continue trying to attract new businesses to town, while encouraging existing business owners to keep their locations looking attractive.

Redford Union Schools are staring down a dismal financial future, with the projected increase in the district's budget deficit. Given all the cuts needed to trim the deficit so far and knowing there's so much further to go, we urge district officials the fortitude to face this new challenge in ways that least impact the classroom.

As Redford Township faces an election year for township offices and state offices, we have an early message for all candidates: Let's keep it clean, stick to the issues, and not focus on tearing down the opposition. People want to know what you can do or have done, not how badly you can smear the other side. And please, no hiding behind outside groups to actually sling the mud.

Westland officials should continue pushing to clean up the contamination at Central City Park, which is the crown jewel of city's park system. They should work with the state and county to get this resolved as soon as possible, so residents can once again enjoy the park.

Westland officials should also make it a priority to try and lure new businesses to the city, particularly to fill the vacancies near Westland Shopping Center.



Greg Brockus

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bills are flawed

Regarding HR 1955 and S 1959, both versions of this bill are too flawed to consider making them law as they are written.

I am sick to death of hearing President Bush state that he needs to be able to spy on Americans to protect and keep them safe from terrorism. This has already gone on too long and is too far reaching to be acceptable by the American people.

Please let this type of activity revert back to being covered under the current FISA laws and protect the American people from the unnecessary loss of privacy they have already been experiencing since early 2001, when George W. Bush first took office.

All we need is the government now deciding that we are guilty of crimes not committed, based on faulty information from eavesdropping on conversations or misinterpreting anything written in e-mails or blogs on the Internet.

Patricia Linna  
Westland

but instead, about the redistribution of wealth from industrialized nations like the U.S., to the Third World. Meanwhile, the bankers profit and Michigan suffers.

During his nearly 20 (nonconsecutive) years in Washington, Dr. Ron Paul has never voted to raise taxes. He has never voted for an unbalanced budget. And he's never voted for a congressional pay raise — he even returns a portion of his salary every year to the Treasury. Ron Paul has been given the nickname "Dr. No" for his steadfast adherence to the Constitution — if a bill is unconstitutional, he simply will not vote for it, even if the resulting tally is 434-1.

Michigan voters have a unique opportunity to send a strong message in support of an unconventional politician: An honest one. That man is Dr. Ron Paul. Please vote for him Jan. 15.

Bruce Hartdegen  
Plymouth

the Senate and the White House. Compare this to the pork barrel projects that cost Americans over \$200 a year per person (check www.just6dollars.org for more info).

It's not only practical but far more fiscally responsible to have the public fund elections (politicians can still collect small donations from supporters).

Yes, decreasing term limits will lead to more experienced congressmen. But look where that's gotten us — on a death track in Iraq! We don't need "experience" if it's going to blow our country straight to hell. We need fresh faces and open access for everyday folks to be able to run for office. Expanding term limits is a joke. If we want representatives who actually represent us (and not the lobbyists and corporate powers that be) then we need to publicly fund elections. Let's start thinking about some real electoral reforms here.

Brianna Knoppow  
Farmington Hills

### Seek information on candidates

We, at least some of us, will go on the 15th of January to the polls to cast our ballots. It will be for presidential candidates most likely chosen for us, promoted, and given the most exposure by those who control the mainstream news media and public opinion polling.

From past experiences, we can infer that the candidates who are the media's choices, when elected are likely to cater to the interests favored by those who are in control of the media that had been instrumental in their election, not necessarily to the best interest of the country. The voting public is hardly aware of the existence of other, truly worthy candidates who are largely ignored and often unjustly and purposively, it seems, detracted by the media. That is perhaps the reason why there is a dearth among hopefuls of good, capable, truly deserving persons willing to offer themselves as presidential candidates. Those of them who do, facing such formidable antagonists, likely stand not much of a chance of being elected.

Obvious promotion of a particular presidential candidate by controlled news media may be an indication to many of us that the candidate is perhaps not good to be our president. On the other hand, undesired detracting from and largely ignoring of a candidate or candidates by the media may be a sign to us that he, she, or they are most likely to have desirable attributes, are worthy of being elected to the office of the president, and will do good for this country. The voting public, in order to make wise choices, should seek information about candidates from impartial, independent sources.

Joseph Wira  
Plymouth

### Reject socialized medicine

The lineup on the Socialist side, oops, the Democrat side is Clinton, Obama, Edwards, Kucinich, and Biden. Pick one, get the second free.

None of the above carries a card, but their socialist inclinations are sure. Socialized medicine, sometimes euphemistically called universal health care is their bag. No debates need to take place on the left. They all seek to bring our economy to its knees.

Given the election of one of the socialists, how far behind will nationalization for the top ten industries be.

No need to scoff. England not too many years ago tried the socialization or nationalization of the 10 major industries, fell into decline, thousands hungry, thousands out of work, wages at a low ebb. Margaret Thatcher reversed the nationalization when she became prime minister, placing the socialized businesses in private hands once again.

A healthy economic system developed soon after. People were working and eating. Once again, socialism proved inefficient. It doesn't have to happen here.

Neil Goodbred  
Livonia

### Why are taxes going up?

I happen to be a senior citizen. I've lived in the same home since I built it in 1966.

My 2007 homestead property taxes have increased by about 2.5 percent over the last year. The taxable value, according to the city of Farmington Hills, has increased over last year about 3.6 percent. However, the actual value of my home has decreased from that of 2006. In short, I have to pay more even though my property is worth less.

I guess it has something to do with Proposal A.

Question: Is the state of Michigan or the city of Farmington Hills going to lower my assessment for 2008 to bring it in line with what it should be? Were all Proposal A homeowners in Michigan affected the same way? Don't hand me an explanation. Just tell the truth.

Kenneth Kemp  
Farmington Hills

### Paul: An honest politician

So-called "free trade" deals like NAFTA and CAFTA were supposed to bring millions of new jobs to the United States — so said former President Clinton. The residents of Michigan know the truth, though. They can see the devastation by looking around them.

Unfortunately, the leadership of both major political parties support these trade compacts and none question our membership to international governing bodies — such as the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and the United Nations — all of which are a direct threat to our national independence and sovereignty.

But there is only one candidate who actually has a bona fide, pro-American voting track record. His name is Dr. Ron Paul. Dr. Paul understands that NAFTA, CAFTA, and the WTO are not about "free trade,"

### Real reform needed

Expanding term limits completely misses the point. We need real election reform and that means it is imperative that we adapt public financed elections!

Let's get lobbyists out of this "game" of politics all together. It is time we ended the corporate purchase of elections/politicians. On the national level that means per person we would spend only \$6 a year to publicly fund each and every election for the House,

Larry Loewenthal  
Southfield

## Observer

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

## Two-party political system has stranglehold on our democracy

Finally! Iowa voters will go to the polls today, in what, thankfully, marks the beginning of the end of an incessantly long presidential primary campaign.

I don't know about everyone else, but for me this primary season has gone on far too long — so long that it has numbed a lot of voters to the whole process of picking our next president.



Kurt Kuban

Of course, that probably doesn't bother the leadership of either the Republican or Democratic parties. It is clear they aren't really interested in getting more voters involved in the process.

Case in point, look at the sad situation we face here in Michigan. The national leadership of both parties decided to essentially void our primary votes, because we — gasp — chose to hold our primary at an earlier date than they thought we should.

Whether you agree with it or not, the leaders in the Michigan Democratic and Republican parties decided to move our primary up and hold it before the Iowa Caucus and New Hampshire Primary, which are the traditional forerunners of the primary season. Their logic was to make sure Michigan had more of an influence on who the nominees would ultimately be. If we went first, the nation would take notice of the results, and force the candidates to address the state's economic struggles and other Michigan-specific issues.

The response of the national parties was swift and pretty brutal, even though Iowa and New Hampshire moved their dates up. The Democrats have stripped Michigan of its 156 delegates for this

year's national convention, and the Republican Party will only count half of the state's delegates.

(Florida was hit with a similar penalty for scheduling it's Jan. 29 primary.)

So when Michigan voters, at least some of us, head to the polls on Jan. 15, it will really be a fruitless endeavor. Heck, there will only be four Democrats (Hillary Clinton, Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut, Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio and former Alaska Sen. Mike Gravel) on the ballot, because all the other candidates decided it was best to go along with the party rules than to let Michigan voters have their say. Democrat candidate Joe Biden's campaign even referred to the Michigan primary as a "beauty contest."

Biden was partially right. The whole election process in this country has become a beauty contest — thanks to the Republicans and Democrats.

Just look at this primary campaign. How many times do we have to see the candidates answer the same questions? Of course, their answers change as pollsters tell them what they think the American public thought about their previous answers.

The two parties have essentially said to voters, abide by our rules or go somewhere else. Of course they have set up a system where there is nowhere else to go. They have essentially locked out any independent or third party candidates from the process. They don't allow third party candidates in any of their debates, and it is much more difficult to even get on the ballot for independents.

The question I have is how long will we as Americans watch the Republicans and Democrats flush our democracy down the toilet?

If they think the American people are happy with this

system, they are mistaken. Look at voter turnout. In the 2004 presidential election, 64 percent of eligible voters decided to go to the polls. While that might seem fairly abysmal considering democracies like Australia and Malta (yes Malta) typically have a turnout of 90 percent or higher, it was actually the largest turnout we've had since 1968.

And in off-presidential elections, turnout is usually in the mid to high 30s. It is clear there is a growing disconnect between our electorate and our political system.

And just what have the Dems and Republicans done after the campaign is over? Their fervent partisanship has created a dysfunctional government that appeals to the far left and far right, while middle America is left in the dust wondering what happened to their government. And it's not just at the federal level. We in Michigan have had a front row view of the ugliness of Democrat/Republican partisanship.

I know, I know. People have told me time and again, a third party will never work, that our problems must be solved in the two-party system we have now. But there is something seriously wrong with our democracy, and our two-party system (or at least the two parties in it) is the main problem.

Our founding fathers never said anything about having to be a Republican or Democrat to get elected in this country. Yet, we are in a trap we don't seem to know how to get out of.

Think about that when you waste your gas and time to vote on Jan. 15. What a sad situation. Democracy indeed.

Kurt Kuban is editor of the Canton Observer. He can be reached at (734) 459-2700 or by e-mail at [kkuban@hometownlife.com](mailto:kkuban@hometownlife.com).

## Here's hoping 2008 brings political results, not rhetoric

Promises, promises. It's New Year resolutions time again. You know, those promises you make to yourself that are often forgotten or not acted upon until it is time for the following year's resolutions. According to Wikipedia, "a New Year's resolution is a commitment that an individual makes to a project or habit, often a lifestyle change, that is generally interpreted as advantageous."

During a recent presidential debate, the moderator asked the Democratic candidates to tell the audience their New Year resolutions. Predictably, we heard more campaign rhetoric from most of them. Gov. Bill Richardson got the laugh line of the evening when he said, "I am going to lose weight — again, this year!"

As Wikipedia indicates, "many resolutions go unachieved and are often broken fairly shortly after they are set." Here are some promises or resolutions that I hope defy the odds and are not only made for 2008, but are implemented.

■ The governor will call for a "shared vision and common agenda" conference. This meeting will consist of the diverse interests that comprise our state, including Republicans and Democrats; business, labor and academia; nonprofits and those struggling to make a profit; city, suburbs and rural from Saugatuck to St. Clair and from Monroe to Menominee. The Henry Ford should be used as the conference setting, using the backdrop of Henry Ford, Edison, Firestone and other innovative entrepreneurs as inspiration for us to build a new Michigan. We need leadership that has us rowing in the same direction if we expect to move forward in the future.

Are their political risks of such a gathering? Of course. But the risks to all of us by not coming together and taking action are far greater.

■ The rhetoric in our state capitol about reforming and restructuring government will be more than lip service and real change will be acted upon. This will mean putting the needs of citizens, the people that pay the taxes, above the special interests that are well-represented in Lansing. The structure and overhead of our governments at the state and local levels exist as if nothing has changed when the contrary, that everything has changed, is true.

■ The statement that "I will go anywhere and do anything" to bring jobs to Michigan will include China, Russia and India, countries with more than three billion new capitalists/consumers with the

fastest-growing, largest economies in the world. Here we are at the beginning of the eighth year of the 21st century and no statewide elected official has traveled to these countries to "bring home the bacon" for Michigan. With an unemployment rate of nearly 8 percent and good-paying jobs fleeing our state, a job reconnaissance mission seems in order.

■ Budgets are statements of priorities. Politicians on both sides of the political aisle make the claim that education is the most important investment our state can make to help prepare our people for the transformational, technologically-driven, global, knowledge economy. Yet funding for education at all levels has been cut and increases have not kept pace with rising costs for several years in a row. Voters need to hold our elected leaders accountable. Don't just "read their lips" when it comes to educational funding — "watch their hips." The bulk of all new resources invested in our schools goes to pensions and health care for employees. Actions do speak louder than words and the actions have not caught up to the rhetoric when it truly comes to funding education.

■ Efforts that have been made to diversify our state's economy will continue and intensify. Tapping life sciences, alternative energy, homeland security and other 21st century knowledge-economy jobs like Google and E-Prize hold promise for Michigan. The University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University together with our other wonderful universities, can and should be utilized to help jump-start new, creative, innovative and entrepreneurial ventures.

■ Our system of community colleges will be recognized for the value they add to help prepare our traditional and nontraditional students for this fast-paced, ever-changing world economy. A summit should be held with the leaders of the 28 community colleges, from the western edge of the U.P. to Monroe, to stimulate their thinking on ways their talents can be better utilized.

Change is the most talked about and least acted upon concept in Michigan today. As a new year begins, we have the opportunity to embrace and lead change. Will we allow another year to pass without making commitments with the corresponding action for real change?

Resolutions, rhetoric or results — which will prevail in 2008?

Tom Watkins is an education and business consultant. He served as Michigan's state superintendent of schools from 2001-05 and mental health director from 1986-2001. He can be reached at [tdwatkins@aol.com](mailto:tdwatkins@aol.com).

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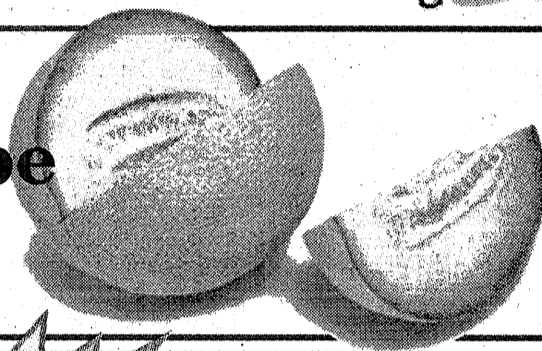


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## SPORTS

B

Thursday, January 3, 2008

The Observer &amp; Eccentric Newspapers

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## HOLIDAY HOOPS EXTRAVAGANZA

## Ladywood blazes to Loy Norrix title

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

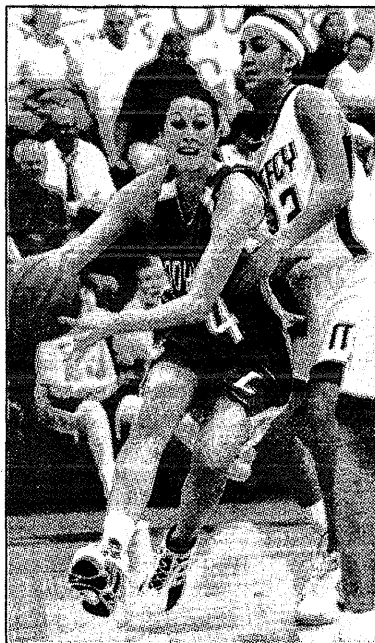
While millions of Americans were taking down trees last week, members of the Livonia Ladywood basketball team were firing up threes.

And when it mattered most the Blazers found the bottom of the net with their long-range bombs en route to taking first-place honors at the talent-rich Kalamazoo Loy Norrix Holiday Hoops Tournament.

Ladywood hung on to knock off previously unbeaten and state-ranked Benton Harbor, 54-47, in Friday's semifinal contest before slipping past the host Knights, 59-54, in Saturday's title game.

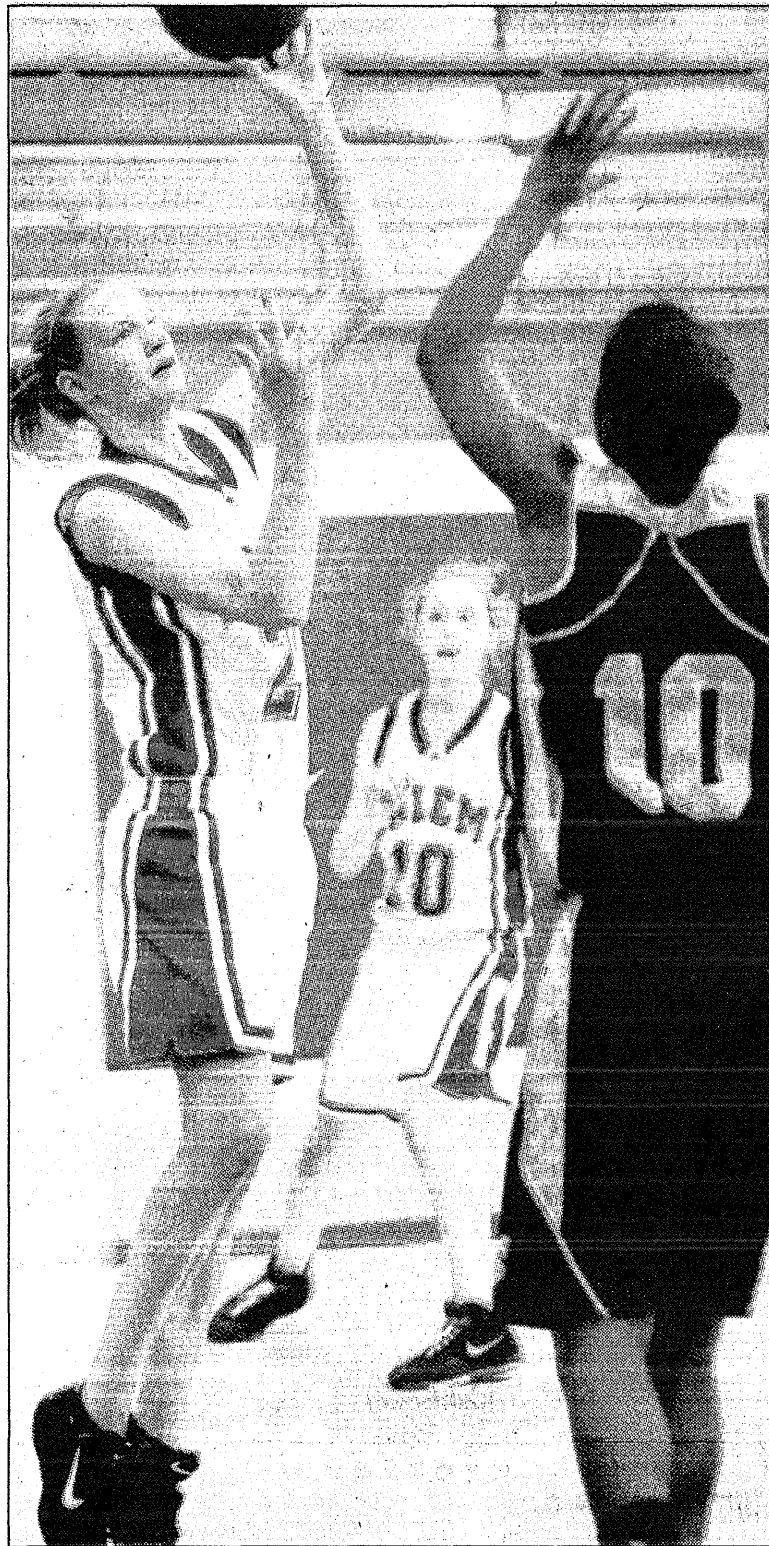
The two-day effort gave Ladywood a 6-2 record, an impressive trophy and a dose of invaluable confidence heading into Friday's home game against Regina.

"Going into the tournament, we knew that no matter who we played, we'd get two good games in," said Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski. "Benton Harbor was a much bigger team than we were — they had two 6-foot-2 forwards — and Loy Norrix was quicker than us, but we made some big three-point shots and played out-

Please see **LADYWOOD, B2**

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Ladywood's Alison Sczypka, pictured above in a game last season against Farmington Hills Mercy, played a huge role in the Blazers' championship effort at last weekend's Kalamazoo Loy Norrix Holiday Hoops Tournament.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Victoria Brotz launches a shot over the outstretched hand of Detroit Community's Nya Jordan during Friday's non-conference showdown at Salem. Brotz scored five points in the Rocks' 52-33 setback to the state-ranked Hurricanes.

## Community's pressure cooks Salem, 52-33

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

When faced with the best Michigan has to offer Friday night, Salem's girls basketball team fared rather well.

At least in the first half.

Visiting Detroit Community, which is regarded as one of the state's elite teams regardless of class, ran its record to 10-0 with a 52-33 decision over the Rocks, who trailed just 25-17 at the half.

"They're a very, very good team — probably the quickest team we'll play this year," said Salem coach Fred Thomann.

The setback dropped Salem to 5-2 heading into Friday night's Western Lakes Activities Association contest at Walled Lake Central. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m.

Salem only led briefly in the game's opening minutes, but the Rocks played toe-to-toe with the Hurricanes throughout most of the first half. Community, which routinely blows teams out with its high-intensity defense and well-orchestrated offensive scheme, led just 21-17 with 55 seconds left in the first quarter after Salem's Victoria Brotz swished a long triple.

However, the Hurricanes countered with a 25-8 run that left Salem looking up at what proved to be an insurmountable 46-25 deficit.

Nya Jordan was the Hurricanes' MVP on Friday as she consistently earned inside position on the Rocks' post players, received the ball deep in the lane then converted several short spin-and-bank layups for 19 points. Jordan also hauled down a team-high 10 rebounds — four on the offensive end.

Iniqua Snell and Ashley Watson

Please see **SALEM, B2**

## Panthers earn Grosse Ile crown

## BOYS HOOPS

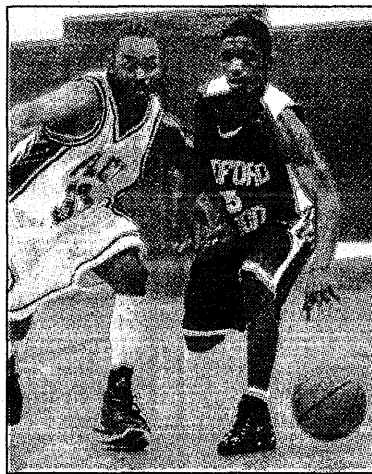
The Redford Union boys basketball team's first holiday tournament experience in coach Brett Steele's seven-year tenure proved to be a worthwhile one as the Panthers earned the first-place trophy of the Grosse Ile Holiday Tournament Saturday night with a 49-34 victory over the host school.

"This is the first time we've played in a Christmas tournament in my seven years, so it was nice that the kids were able to go out and play very well in both the games and win the tournament," said Steele, whose team improved to 4-3. "Hopefully, we can build on this now as we head into our league schedule starting Friday."

RU was paced by tournament Most Valuable Player Terrell Beard, a senior guard who followed up a solid 14-point effort in the first-round game with a 21-point night in the title contest.

Doing most of the inside damage for the Panthers was junior center Leonard Wernette-Leff, who poured in 10 points.

RU returns to action Friday when it hosts Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

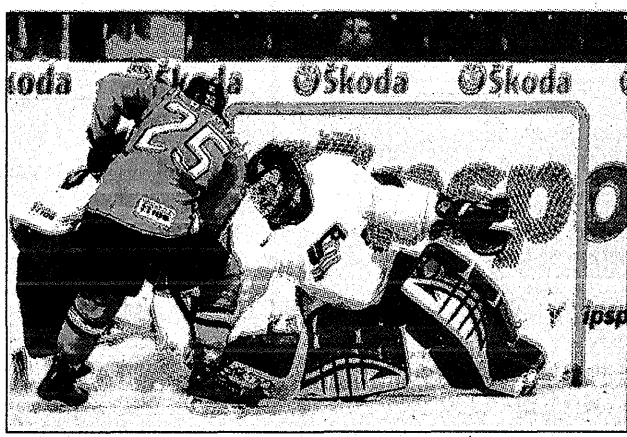


BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Union senior guard Terrell Beard (right), pictured in a game last season against Salem, was named Most Valuable Player of the Grosse Ile Holiday Basketball Tournament after leading the Panthers to the title.

## Mr. Smith goes to Liberec

Plymouth Whalers goaltender Jeremy Smith is shining between the pipes for the United States in the World Junior Hockey Championships, which are being held in Liberec, Czech Republic. Smith has led the Americans to a 3-0 record and a bye into the WJC semifinals. On Saturday, he stopped 28 shots in his team's dramatic 3-2 victory over Russia.



IHF/HOF MIKA KYLMANIEMI

## Ignition to host Cougars

On Friday night, fans of the Major Indoor Soccer League's Detroit Ignition can score two goals with one shot, so to speak.

Along with watching their favorite club battle the California Cougars in a game set to kick off at 7:35 p.m. at the Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township, backers of the Ignition can donate to a

good cause as \$4 of every \$19 ticket purchased for the game will be donated to the Gobles, a Canton family that lost most of their belongings in a house explosion on Nov. 19.

The Ignition will also be holding a silent auction during the game to raise additional funds for the family.

For more information, call (888) 436-4625.

## Motorcycle show

The Cycle World International Motorcycle Show will cruise into the Rock Financial Showplace as part of a 13-city nationwide series Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The show offers attendees an up-close look at hundreds of 2008 model street bikes, dirt bikes, cruisers, ATVs, concept bikes, customs and vintage bikes.

A new display this year will feature a collection of historical record-setting bikes, including the world's fastest motorcycle.

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For more information, visit www.motorcycleshow.com or call (800) 331-5706.

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### WINTER CAR CARE SPECIALS



# Franklin cagers drop pair at L'Anse Creuse tourney

The Livonia Franklin boys basketball team may not have unwrapped any victories at last week's L'Anse Creuse Holiday Tournament, but the Patriots received a ton of valuable experience against top-notch competition.

Franklin dropped both of its games — 72-54 to South Lake on Thursday and 85-76 to Port Huron on Friday — to drop to 2-4 heading into Friday's WLAA Western Division contest against Walled Lake Western.

"These were our first real non-league games (the Patriots' previous opponents included WLAA foes Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Churchill and Plymouth), so it was nice to play some different teams in a tournament-type atmosphere," said Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault.

The Patriots were hampered by shoddy free throw shooting in the loss to South Lake as they canned just half of their 30 attempts. Senior guard Ryan Matthey turned in a stel-

## BOYS PREP HOOP

lar effort for Franklin, scoring a game-high 24 points. Kevin Percin (nine points) and Jeff Poole (eight) also played well for Rheault's crew. Quintin Jones led the winners with 21. South Lake led 16-11 after one quarter, 35-21 at the half and 57-35 with eight minutes to play.

"We didn't shoot well from the line and we had too many turnovers," Rheault said, assessing his team's opening-game performance. "We came out a little flat like a lot of teams do when they play in the holiday tournaments. We dug ourselves into a deep hole that we couldn't dig out of."

The Patriots' offense was hitting on all cylinders against Port Huron, but they couldn't slow the talented Big Reds.

Three Franklin players excelled on the offensive end: Matthey, who tallied 23; and Poole and senior forward Israel Woolfork, who both twined

20. Chris Cotton (26) and Sam Seppo (24) paced the winners.

Port Huron led a tight game from the get-go, extending a 22-18 first-quarter lead to 40-35 at the half and 59-56 after three stanzas.

"We played much better on Friday than we did on Thursday," said Rheault. "We were down 12 at one point in the first half, but battled back to take a one-point lead in the third quarter. Turnovers cost us tonight. To their credit, they played good defense and we didn't finish."

Matthey and Woolfork both earned spots on the All-Tournament team.

"Ryan was extremely aggressive in both games," said Rheault. "He made some very good decisions against Port Huron's zone and against South Lake he was able to get to the rim."

"Israel played outstanding defense in both games. He made some incredible blocks and he hit his open looks on offense."

# Tars stifle Rockets' win streak, 62-47

State power Detroit Renaissance proved to have a little bit too much for Westland John Glenn Saturday night in the Detroit Public School League's Holiday Classic basketball tournament.

The Tars (7-1) handed the Rockets (5-1) their first setback of the 2007-08 campaign, 62-47, in a game played on the winners' home court.

Senior guard Keshawn Martin paced the Rockets with 16 points. Earl Hardison chipped in with 11 while senior guard Stefan Marken added six.

Paul Williams led Renaissance with 18 points.

The Tars let from the outset as they outscored John Glenn 11-7 after one quarter and 31-18 at the half. John Glenn cut their deficit slightly to 42-31 with eight minutes to play, but couldn't close the gap.

The Tars were near-perfect at the free throw line, canning 11-of-12. The Rockets hit 6-of-11 from the stripe.

**CLARENCEVILLE 53, MELVINDALE 48:** On Friday, Dec. 28, the Trojans were led by junior guard Jamie Stewart's 25 points in the Motor City Roundball Classic played at Oakland University. Six of Stewart's points came on three rim-rattling dunks. He also contributed seven

steals.

Junior center Jeremy Gainer also played well for the winners, netting 17 points and 10 rebounds. Gainer was 5-of-6 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter.

Sidney Hall led Melvindale with 22 points.

Clarenceville led 16-14 after one quarter, 25-22 at the half and 36-32 with eight minutes to play.

"We led the entire game," said Trojans coach Corey McKendry. "Melvindale was scrappy and we came out flat; maybe it was the noon start. It's nice to win when you don't play well. We're starting to mature."

# Chargers skate past Pats, 6-2

The Livonia Churchill boys hockey team defeated Livonia Franklin, 6-2, Friday, Dec. 28, at Eddie Edgar Arena.

The victory improved the winners' record to 9-1 while Franklin slipped to 3-5.

Churchill scored a pair of goals in each period as it outshot the Patriots, 36-14.

Scoring for the Chargers were senior forward Nate Milam, whose three power-play net-finders give him 24 goals for the season; Keith Yackley, Garrett Miencier and Cody Atkins.

Churchill goalie Derrick Daigneau recorded 14 saves while Franklin net-minder Austin Mesler registered 30 stops.



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### NOTICE OF ELECTION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS of the Charter Township of Canton, notice is hereby given that a Presidential Primary Election will be held in the Charter Township of Canton on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., at which time Republican and Democratic nominees for the office of President of the United States will be placed on the ballot for consideration as follows:

#### REPUBLICAN PARTY NOMINEES FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE:

Sam Brownback	Rudy Giuliani	Mike Huckabee
Duncan Hunter	John McCain	RonPaul
Mitt Romney	Tom Tancredo	Fred Thompson

#### DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOMINEES FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE:

Chris Dodd	Mike Gravel
Dennis Kucinich	Hillary Clinton

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the following polling locations:

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON PRECINCT NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS

Precinct No.	Name of Facility	Address
1, 23	Discovery Middle School	45083 Hanford Rd
2	Connection Church	3855 S. Sheldon Rd
3, 10, 21	St. John Neumann Church	44800 Warren Rd
4, 13	Miller Elementary School	43721 Hanford Rd
5, 31	Crescent Academy	40440 Palmer Rd
6	Royal Holiday Clubhouse	39500 Warren Rd
7	Salem High School	46181 Joy Rd
8	Resurrection Catholic Church	48755 Warren Rd
9, 34	Eriksson Elementary School	1275 N. Haggerty Rd
11, 19	Tonda Elementary School	46501 Warren Rd
12, 14	Hulsing Elementary School	8055 Fleet St
15	Walker-Winter Elementary School	39932 Michigan Ave
16, 17	Bentley Elementary School	11100 S. Sheldon Rd
18, 29	Field Elementary School	1000 S. Haggerty Rd
20	Fire Station # 1	1100 S. Canton Center Rd
22	Hoben Elementary School	44680 Saltz Rd
24, 25	Canton High School	8415 N. Canton Center Rd
26, 27, 36	Summit on the Park	46000 Summit Parkway
28	Agape Christian Center	45081 Geddes Rd
30	Mettetal Airport	8550 N. Lilley Rd
32	Main Street Baptist Church	8500 N. Morton Taylor
33 & 37	Dodson Elementary School	205 N. Beck Rd
35	Canton Community Service Center	50430 School House Rd
38	Cherry Hill School	50440 Cherry Hill Rd
39	Plymouth High School	8400 N. Beck Rd

The Office of the Township Clerk, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 12, 2008 for obtaining and casting absentee ballots. Qualified voters must appear in person to receive a ballot.

On Monday, January 14, 2008, those requesting an absentee ballot must appear in person at the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m. Emergency absentee ballots ONLY will be issued on Election Day, January 15, 2008. All absentee ballots that are returned in person, must be received in the Clerk's office by 8:00 P.M. JANUARY 15, 2008.

If you are unsure of your voting location, please refer to your current voter registration card, the Canton Township Website, www.canton-mi.org, or contact the Clerk's office at 394-5120.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

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Bob Neugebauer Bob Neugebauer Travel	Bob Neugebauer	5-7 126-78	Seattle	Washington
	Washington		Washington	Washington
Mike McKenzie Royal Oak Ford	Mike McKenzie	6-6 134-70	Washington	Washington
	Seattle		Seattle	Washington
Brian Harlow Tires	Brian Harlow	6-6 128-76	Seattle	Washington
	Washington		Washington	Washington
Justin Thomson Thomson's Automotive	Justin Thomson	7-5 131-73	Seattle	Washington
	Washington		Washington	Washington
ROYAL OAK Ford	Mike McKenzie	6-6 135-69	Green Bay	Wisconsin
	Bullfrogs Bar & Grill		Tampa Bay	Florida
Keith Lang Chevrolet	Keith Lang	4-8 132-72	Seattle	Washington
	Washington		Washington	Washington
Tony Kubiak World Of Floors	Tony Kubiak	5-7 118-86	Washington	Washington
	Washington		Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania
Steve Viso Jack Demmer Ford	Steve Viso	6-6 130-74	Seattle	Washington
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AUBURN PONTIAC GMC	Jim Masterson	5-7 129-75	Seattle	Washington
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# Ultimate Fishing Show returns

It's hard to believe a new year is upon us. With the changing of the calendars comes a brand new lineup of outdoor shows to keep us occupied over the next three months.

The first show of the season in the metro-Detroit area is the Ultimate Fishing Show - Detroit, which returns to the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi, Jan. 10-13.

If you like to fish, this is the show to attend. It's billed as Michigan's largest pure-fishing show and that fact would be tough to dispute. This year's show features over 150 booths of fishing

gear; 200 new fishing boats; outfitters and charter boat captains; a trout pond; a rock climbing wall; virtual fishing; conservation groups; B.A.S.S. Kids Casting Competition and much more.

Want to learn a new technique or a different strategy to catch your favorite game fish? Check out one of the show's 100 seminars by some of the best anglers in the world, including Kalamazoo's Kevin VanDam (bass).

Some of the other speakers are Kim Stricker (bass), Wayne Carpenter (bass), Gerry Gostenik (bass), Tommy Skarlis (walleye), Mark Martin (walleye), Mark Romanack (walleye/salmon), Lance Valentine (electronics), Mike Pittiglio (muskie), Bob Brunner (muskie), Pete Maina (muskie), Dan Donarski (outdoor cooking/U.P. fishing), David Rose (panfish),

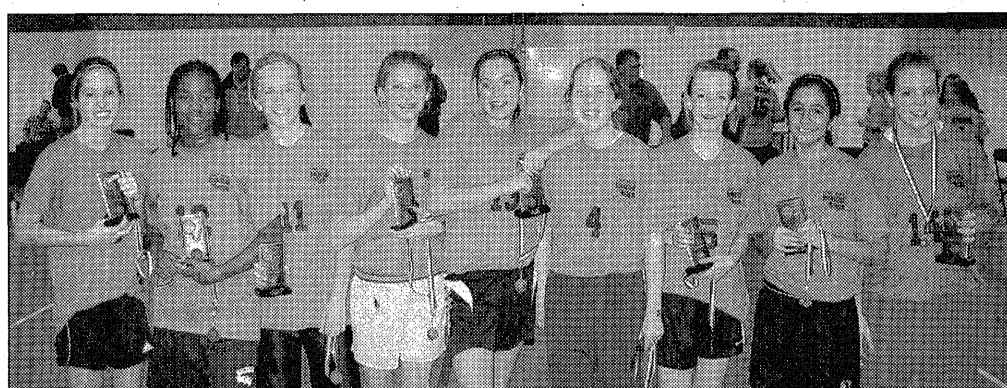
Dave Engel (salmon), Bill Bale (salmon) and Jerry Lee (walleye/salmon).

For the full seminar schedule visit www.UltimateFishingShow.com. Show hours are 2-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10; noon-9:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 11; 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$4 for children six to 14, and free for children five and under.

Discount coupons are available at Wendy's restaurants and online at www.UltimateFishingShow.com.

(Bill Parker covers the outdoors for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Bill Parker, c/o Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.)



## Monarchs rule

The Monarchs captured the Community Education Basketball League's girls 'A' tournament earlier this month, defeating the Storm, 38-35, in the title game at East Middle School. At one point, the eventual champs trailed 20-4 before battling back to post the dramatic win. Pictured (left to right) are Rachel Burnard, Robyn Mack, Kristin Klavon, Courtney Smith, Rachel Harrison, Kiersten Gunderson, Kelly Kerwin, Parisa Rashidi and Sarah Dean. The team is coached by Kenneth Harrison.

# It's a 'Dunn' deal

## Wayne grappler takes gold at Salem tourney

Wayne Memorial wrestler Chad Dunn had a Saturday to remember at this past weekend's Salem Holiday tournament.

Dunn, the Zebras' 112-pounder, earned a gold medal and improved his record to 18-3 against a competitive slate of opponents.

Dunn, who was seeded No. 2 heading into the event, ousted No. 1 seed Dan Flowers of Dexter in the finals.

"Chad was losing 10-4 after two periods due to the excellent riding ability of Flowers," said Wayne coach Steve Vasiloff. "But Chad is excellent

### PREP WRESTLING

on his feet, so in the third period we had Dunn let (Flowers) up after every takedown. After three takedowns and a reversal, Chad put him on his back and scored a three-point near fall."

Dunn notched 11 third-period points to pull out a dramatic 15-14 victory.

Complete results of the tournament were not available to the Observer as of Monday night's deadline.

The Zebras' junior varsity squad excelled at the

previous weekend's Salem JV Tournament as seven of its 10 competitors took home medals, including Darryl Ison (fourth at 103), Mike Wallace (third at 119), Tevin Hines (fourth at 135), Brandon Whittenberg (second at 145), Eric Butler (seventh at 189), Amanda Prough (sixth at 171) and Andy Morton (second at 285).

"This gives me hope for the future," said Vasiloff. "We were .500 last year as a team and this year we're 2-13. Last year we had 14 wrestlers; this year we have six. My lineup is mostly freshmen or first-year wrestlers."

# Bowling Congress slates annual meeting Jan. 13

The Metro Detroit U.S. Bowling Congress announced that its annual meeting will start at 6 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 13, at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights.

The meeting will include progress reports from the past year and elections of president, five adult members of the board, youth committee members and delegates to the United States Bowling Congress convention in May and state delegates to the respective state meetings. Two amendments to the MDUSBC bylaws will also be decided upon. All members of the MDUSBC are eligible and are invited to attend the meeting. Most of us just pay our annual dues and give in no further thought.

Perhaps there are things going on during the season that you wonder about but don't bother to follow up on or even ask questions.

This is your meeting. It is of the bowlers, by the bowlers and for the bowlers. Each league

should be represented and it does not necessarily have to be a league officer. The Metro Detroit USBC Association is the single largest of all local USBC organizations anywhere in the United States and along with the large membership, they can have a positive influence on the rest of our bowling population. This meeting is well worth the time and the short trip to Sunnybrook Lanes, it may very well enhance your bowling experience by knowing what goes on beyond the lanes.

I have often tried to remind bowlers to bring in the balls from the car in colder weather. The freezing temperatures may ruin any bowling ball. I now have another reason to not leave it in the car at any time. This is from personal experience as my own vehicle was stolen a couple weeks ago, but they did not get my bowling stuff as it was safely in the house. The Dodge Caravan was recovered quickly by Detective Sgt. Crittenden of the Redford Police.

The high school varsity bowling season is well underway.

Reports are starting to roll in now and one particular standout was the performance of Jennifer Maples of North

Farmington High. She bowled a 299 game, starting with eleven consecutive strikes and leaving just a single pin on her attempt for the twelfth strike. On the boys team, freshman phenom Ryan Turner is turning heads. Now bowling on the varsity team, Ryan destroyed an opponent recently with a 247 game, and he's only thirteen years old.

The 2nd Annual Metro Detroit USBC Queens Tournament was held a couple weeks ago at Beech Lanes in Redford. Many of the gals from O&E cities fared well, led by Jenny Long of Livonia, qualifying 14th with 846 total pins; Kim Cox of Southfield qualified 16th, 816 total; Anuca Felton of Canton, 19th with an 807; Betty Trimmer of Redford, 26th with a 787; Kendra Hopson, 30th, 779; Angela Wilt of Westland, 33rd with 769; Julie Halstead of Redford, 38th, 756; Erica Sharp of Redford, 43rd; Aleta Humphrey 52nd, 698; and Kathleen Bishop of Westland, 688.

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached by e-mail: tenpinalley@sbc-global.net

# MU women's cagers go 2-1

The Madonna University women's basketball team defeated Cedarville, 53-46, on Dec. 29. The victory improved the Crusaders' record to 5-9 while Cedarville slipped to 6-6.

Tabatha Wydryck led the Crusaders with 19 points. Salem graduate Alyssa Guerin chipped in with 11 points and six rebounds.

Christie Carrico led MU with

11 boards. Alison Lemon led Cedarville with 14 points. Aubrey Siemon contributed nine points while Rachel Hurley had seven.

Madonna led 32-26 at the half.

On Dec. 28, MU dropped a 48-42 decision to Indiana Wesleyan University. Guerin led a balanced Crusader attack with 12 points.

Caryn Inman added 10 and Carrico scored eight and grabbed a team-high seven rebounds. Brooke Amstutz led the winners with 14 points. MU led 23-21 at the break.

The Crusaders defeated Warner Southern College, 62-60, on Dec. 27.

The winning points came on Cali Crawford's pair of free throws with six seconds left.

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**Do you have an adorable baby that was born in 2007?**

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Fill out the coupon below and send it along with a photo of your cute adorable baby. Be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, if you'd like your photo returned.

**All entries MUST be received no later than January 21, 2008.**

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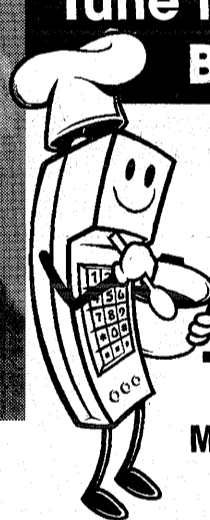
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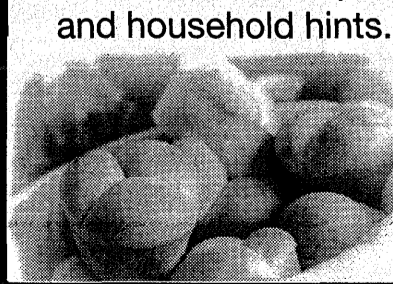
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# PCEP gymnastics teams are beaming with talent

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

## PREP GYMNASTICS PREVIEW

It may be a new season, but the forecast is a familiar one for the area's gymnastics teams: bright and sunny.

Canton lost several key performers — most notably All-Stater Alyssa Kelley — to graduation, but its shelves have been restocked with an array of talented freshmen.

Meanwhile, Salem should be much improved this season as nearly all of its key competitors return from last year's squad that barely missed qualifying for the state meet.

Following is a look at the upcoming season on the bars, vault, floor and uneven bars for the Chiefs and Rocks.

### CANTON

The Chiefs graduated one of the school's best all-time senior classes — one that included Kelley, Kaitlyn Burns, Kate Staley, Courtney Ward and Chelsea Selden — but veteran coach John Cunningham is nonetheless optimistic heading into the 2007-08 campaign.

"This could be a very good team potentially," said Cunningham, whose teams have three top-seven finishes in the state meet the past three seasons. "I've been very pleased with how well the girls have

performed at our first two meets. We have good depth at all levels.

"There are five very good teams in our region, so the girls are going to have to perform well to make it back to the state meet. Salem has everybody back, so they're loaded, the two Livonia schools are always good and Northville has a lot of girls back. We'll have to beat at least one of them to get back to the state meet."

The Chiefs will be led by senior captain Jessie Murray, who has been a solid performer her first three years at Canton.

Key juniors include Olivia Stephens, Sam O'Flynn, Amber Smith and Kate Carroll. The Chiefs' top sophomore is returning letter winner Mallory Hudak, who Cunningham predicts could be a 36-point all-around as the year progresses.

Among the most-promising newcomers are freshmen Robyn Piwowar, Cathy Huang, and Kali Pierce.

### SALEM

The Rocks return four individual state qualifiers from last year's squad that barely missed qualifying for the state meet.

"We're looking good so

far," said Salem coach Dana Driscoll. "We only lost one girl (Sarah Bugosh) to graduation and we added some good freshmen. The girls are working hard."

The Rocks will be led by three senior captains: Brittany Young, Autumn Collins and Katerina Kariotis.

"Brittany is a good, all-around gymnast, but her best events are probably the beam and the bars," said Driscoll. "Autumn is another strong all-arounder whose best events are the vault and the beam."

"Katerina has really improved her skills over the past four years. She's really worked hard over the summer."

The Rocks' best junior is two-time state qualifier Katie Koetting, who is also a top-notch diver for the school's swimming and diving team.

"Katie will probably be our highest scorer in most meets," said Driscoll. "She's very good in all four events, but the floor is probably her best and favorite event."

Jennifer Rice and Katherine Negele are also promising juniors.

Sophomore Kasey Wizchowski is a fast-rising all-arounder, according to Driscoll.

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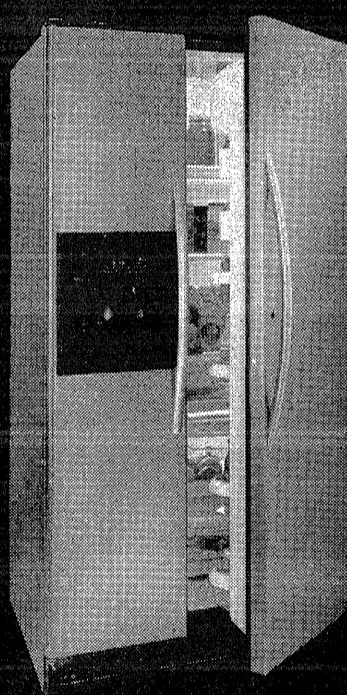
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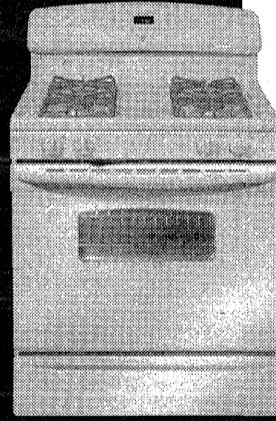
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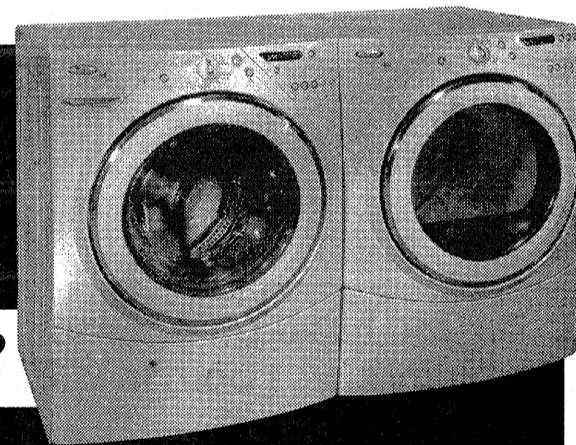
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## Food world will focus on safety, sex appeal in '08

BY J.M. HIRSCH  
AP FOOD EDITOR

Americans are getting increasingly intimate with their food, and 2008 likely will see the relationship deepen.

That's because two forces — the proliferation of foodie culture and its obsessive desire for provenance, and growing worries over food safety — have combined to create a whirlwind of information about food and drink.

### PREDICTIONS FOR 2008

What will you be eating next year? Food world authorities name some of their picks for the food trends of '08.

#### Food & Wine magazine

- Old-fashioned candy
- Wild American shrimp
- Muesli will become more popular than granola
- Chef-run noodle bars
- Barrel-aged beers
- Chardonnay from Oregon
- Haute frozen food

#### Mintel International Group (a Chicago-based market research firm)

- Functional waters (those with added nutrients)
- Virtually anything fair trade
- Ancient grains, such as amaranth, quinoa and teff
- Easy-to-understand nutritional labels

#### Baum & Whiteman Co. Inc. (restaurant consultants)

- More restaurants will accept takeout orders via text messaging
- Restaurants with ultraspecialized menus (such as breakfast cereal or grilled cheeses)
- Cocktails enhanced with functional foods
- Offal
- Korean food

— Associated Press

And all signs indicate the storm is just starting. So here are some trends likely to influence what you eat in '08.

#### LOCAL FOODS

In marketing terms, "organic" has jumped the shark. Savvy food marketers today are latching onto the latest child of the natural foods movement — local — and are trying to take it mainstream.

As eco-sensitivity has grown, consumers have questioned whether eating organic grapes from Chile is a particularly "green" choice. Now people want to know how far their food traveled, and the closer the better.

Hence, the growth in farmers markets, community supported agriculture, restaurant menus bragging about local sourcing, and the naming of "locavore" as word of the year by The New Oxford American

#### Dictionary.

Even mainstream grocers are jumping on, offering and advertising a growing number of locally produced goods. The question is whether "local" will lose cachet once big box retailers co-opt it as they did organic.

#### VARIETAL

Where once it was enough to say where and how a food was produced, consumers now also want to know the specific varieties of ingredients and breeds of animals it was produced with.

As in, whether Macouns or Red Delicious were used to make an applesauce. Or which breed of cow produced the milk used to make a particular cheese, and olive oils pressed from specific varieties of olives.

#### FOOD SAFETY

Repeated recalls of meat and produce have drawn attention to the sluggish and outdated American food safety system, and the government has faced mounting calls for an overhaul.

That likely won't happen quickly. But unlike government, marketers work quickly. For example, some toy catalogs already labeled their products "lead-free" in time for the 2007 holiday season.

Expect food companies to be as nimble, touting new and increased safety measures. The issue (including demands for a streamlined and effective government agency to oversee the issue) also will get more headlines.

#### OTHER TRENDS TO WATCH FOR:

##### ■ "Bad" foods fight back

Tired of being the nutritional bad boys, foods of questionable nutritional value are fighting back. The white bread industry recently ran an ad saying eating enriched white bread may help improve your memory.

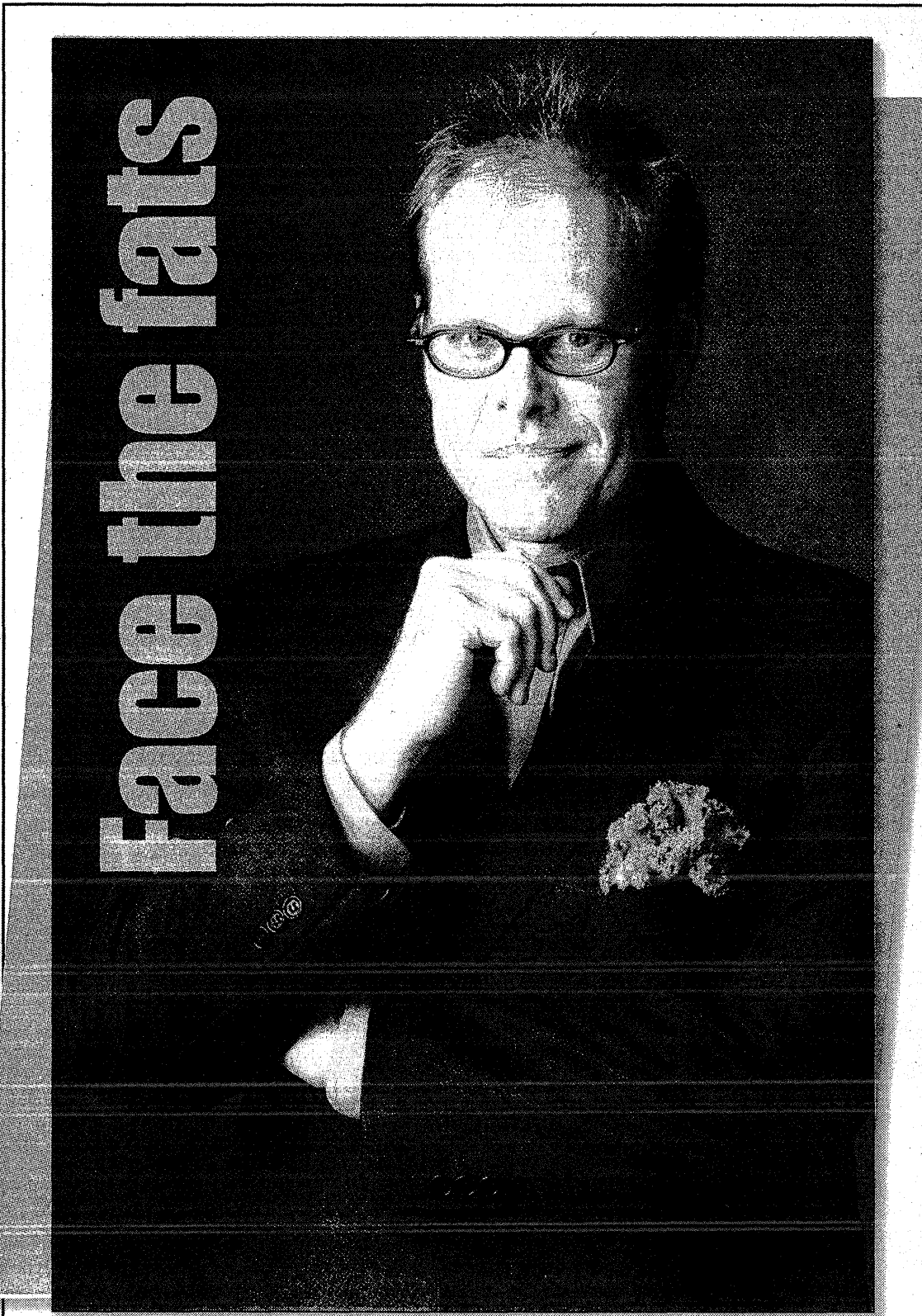
Fat-laden foods also are joining the fray. Unilever-owned Hellmann's recently had an ad that admonished, "It's time to say no to fake food." New jars of Hellmann's mayonnaise are labeled "Real."

The butter industry is taking the same tact, with a holiday ad urging consumers to "Unwrap the natural flavor of real butter for holiday entertaining."

##### ■ New "sugars"

Speaking of nutritional culprits, sugar had better watch its back. A growing variety of alternative natu-

Please see **TRENDS, D2**



Food Network star Alton Brown, host of Iron Chef America and Feasting On Asphalt, is spokesperson for the American Heart Association's "Face the Fats" campaign.

## How to avoid trans fats

BY LANA MINI  
STAFF WRITER

As you make your New Year's resolutions this year, consider banishing bad fat from your diet. There's only one way to avoid the dreaded trans fats: take the matter into your own hands.

Both trans and saturated fats raise LDL ("bad") cholesterol levels and are linked to clogged arteries which increase the risk of heart disease and stroke, according to the American Heart Association. Trans fat is a type of fat formed when hydrogen is injected into liquid oils and made into a solid fat — like shortening or hard margarine. Food processors and manufacturers use it to extend shelf-life and some

say give foods desirable taste, shape and texture.

But, without trans fats, foods taste good. Oreos, for example, removed trans fat from its cookies and studies show the taste didn't change.

So, you study nutritional labels for the words "zero trans fat" and think you're safe, right?

Wrong. If the label says "zero trans fat," don't automatically believe it. If it contains the words "partially hydrogenated" or "shortening," then it has trans fat.

Here's why: According to regulations by The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, if "the serving contains less than 0.5 grams of trans fat, the labels shall express it as zero."

"Suppose a product contains 0.4 grams per serving and you eat four servings (which is not uncommon). You have just consumed 1.6 grams of trans fat, despite the fact that the package claims the product contains zero grams of trans fat per serving," says the public watchdog group [www.ban-transfats.com](http://www.ban-transfats.com). "Changing this rule is a high priority. We are working on it."

"Trans fat has received a lot of well-deserved scrutiny — at the same time, while it's critical that we continue to push aggressively to minimize its consumption, trans fat is just one part of the 'big fat picture,'" said Robert H. Eckel, M.D., AHA chair of

Please see **FATS, D2**

## Make the most of your new Windows Vista PC

Did you find a new PC under the tree, menorah, or non-denominational holiday symbol this year? If so, chances are good it came loaded with Windows Vista.

For anyone accustomed to Windows XP (or an earlier version of Windows), Vista can seem quite foreign. Let's look at some ways to fix, enhance, and embrace the new operating system.

#### Tech Savvy

#### Rick Broida

#### MOVE YOUR STUFF

The real challenge in adopting a new PC is moving all your stuff — programs, data, settings, and the like — from the old PC.

Vista comes with a utility called Windows Easy Transfer that promises to help with the move, though it doesn't migrate programs, just settings, contacts, e-mails and other data.

If you want something a little more robust, try Laplink PCmover ([laplink.com](http://laplink.com)), which will also copy over your programs and includes a USB cable for connecting the two PCs. It sells for \$59.95.

IMPROVE PERFORMANCE

I've tested numerous Vista systems over the past few months, and many of them have proven painfully slow — for various reasons.

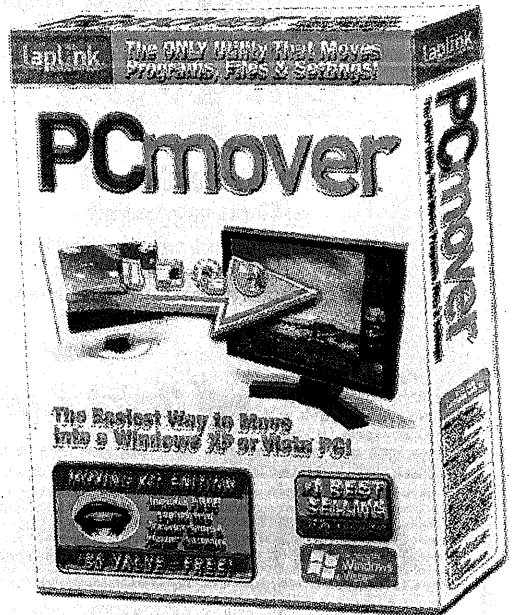
If you bought a budget PC that came with only 1 gigabyte (GB) of RAM, I strongly recommend doubling it. Check with your vendor for upgrade options; an additional gigabyte should cost no more than \$50, and it should give Vista a speed boost.

If your system seems particularly slow, try uninstalling the bundled security software. I say this based on experience: When I removed the preloaded security suites from three separate budget notebooks, performance improved considerably.

Yes, it's important to protect your system from viruses, spyware, and the like, so I realize this presents a conundrum. My advice: Read security-software reviews (check CNET.com and PCWorld.com) and choose a suite that doesn't seriously impact performance.

Meanwhile, consider turning off some of Vista's

Please see **TECH SAVVY, D2**



Windows Vista comes with its own utility for migrating data from your old PC, but you might want to consider a more robust solution like Laplink PCmover.

## Accents

### Peanut butter powder?

Powdered peanut butter sounds like something only a person hiking the Appalachian Trail could love.

But PB2, as the new product from Tifton, Ga.-based Bell Plantation is called, isn't aimed just at the hiking set, and has real potential to win over the rest of us.

PB2 is an ultrafine powder made by roasting and pressing peanuts, a process that removes much of the fat found in traditional peanut butter. While you can simply reconstitute PB2 with water, this isn't where the product shines.

Instead, PB2 is perfect for tossing with warm oil or broth and hot noodles for a near-instant peanut sauce. It also can be used in baked goods, giving the luscious flavor of peanut to recipes such as banana bread and sugar cookies.

If you do want to use it on a sandwich, take the label's advice and reconstitute it directly with the jam.

NEW TASTES: PB2 by Bell Plantation is available at [www.bellplantation.com](http://www.bellplantation.com) for \$11.96 for four 6 1/2-ounce jars.

—Associated Press

### Gluten Free & Fabulous foods

A new company, Gluten Free & Fabulous, has announced their line of gluten-free foods.

The team at Gluten Free & Fabulous has made it their mission to revolutionize the gluten-free food industry and provide better tasting gluten-free foods to people with Celiac Disease. According to the Celiac Sprue Association, approximately 1 in 133 people have Celiac Disease or gluten sensitivities. Gluten Free & Fabulous foods satisfy the needs of those who must maintain a medically-required lifestyle free of wheat, barley, rye and oats. Products include Macaroni & Cheese with quinoa and rice flour noodles (6.5 oz./\$3.95); Chocolate Chip Cookie Bites (6.5 oz./\$5.95); and Karen's Kookie Krisps, a unique blend of sweet and savory ingredients that go great with dips, cheeses, peanut butter (6.5 oz./\$5.95).

Gluten Free & Fabulous products are available at Vitamin Village and Meijer stores in Michigan, or online at [www.glutenfreefabulous.com](http://www.glutenfreefabulous.com).

# FATS

FROM PAGE D1

its trans fat task force and professor of medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center at Denver. "It's equally important that we avoid increasing saturated fat in its place."

Try to replace trans fat-laden partially hydrogenated vegetable oils with oils high in unsaturated fats — monounsaturated and polyunsaturated — as stated in today's *Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association*.

Here's what you should know:

- Fully hydrogenated oils do not contain trans fat. Partially hydrogenated oils do.
  - Be careful when consuming products with labels from outside the United States. Sometimes they contain partially hydrogenated oil but it's not on the label, according to Bantransfats.com.
  - In restaurants ask whether partially hydrogenated oil is used for frying, baking or in salad dressings. If they use vegetable oil, ask whether it is partially hydrogenated. Don't be shy.
  - Polyunsaturated fat and monounsaturated fats are good fats.
  - On average, American adults consume approximately 2.2 percent of total calories from trans fat and four to five times as much saturated fat a day — far more than the limits recommended by the AHA.
  - To better understand the recommended fat limits and make smarter choices, visit My Fats Translator, on [americanheart.org/FaceTheFats](http://americanheart.org/FaceTheFats). Users can input their age, gender, height, weight and level of physical activity to learn their personal daily limits for total fat, saturated fat and trans fat consumption.
- FOODS WHERE TRANS FATS ARE FOUND**
- The majority of trans fat can be found in foods made with partially hydrogenated vegetable oil. Look for trans fat in margarine, butter, cookies, crackers, chips, taco shells, snack foods, fried foods (including fried fast food, such as French fries and fried chicken), biscuits, doughnuts, muffins, pie crusts, pastries and baked goods.
- Small amounts of trans fats are also found in some meat and dairy products, according to the AHA.

# SAVVY COOKING

Here's a healthy recipe to satisfy your taste buds and heart by the American Heart Association.

## GRILLED PORTOBELLO MUSHROOMS WITH COUSCOUS AND GREENS

- Serves 4
- 4 whole portobello mushrooms
  - 4 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
  - Vegetable oil spray
  - 1/2 cup low-sodium vegetable broth
  - 1/2 cup water
  - 1/4 teaspoon turmeric
  - 1/2 cup couscous
  - 1/2 cup dried cranberries
  - 1/4 teaspoon grated lemon rind
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
  - 1 teaspoon olive oil
  - 2 cloves garlic
  - 6 ounces fresh collard greens or kale or 8 ounces fresh spinach, chopped (about 4 cups)
  - 2 tablespoons water
  - 1 tablespoon light margarine
  - 1/2 red bell pepper, finely chopped

In the top of each mushroom, cut four slits, each two to three inches long and about 1/2 inch deep. Remove stems.

Place mushrooms, top side up, in a shallow casserole dish.

Sprinkle mushrooms with half the balsamic vinegar. Lightly spray top side of mushrooms with vegetable oil spray. Turn mushrooms over and sprinkle with remaining vinegar.

Lightly spray bottom side with vegetable oil spray. Cover container with plastic wrap and set aside. (Will keep in refrigerator for up to one hour.)

Combine vegetable broth, water, and turmeric in a medium saucepan. Bring

to a boil over high heat, two to three minutes.

Stir in the couscous, cranberries, lemon peel, and salt. Remove pan from heat and let stand, covered, for at least five minutes, or until time to serve.

Meanwhile, heat a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add oil and swirl to coat bottom of pan. When oil is hot, add garlic. Cook for one minute, two to three, or until greens are tender.

Add the margarine and stir until it melts, about 30 seconds. Remove pan from heat and cover to help retain heat.

Grill mushrooms over medium-hot coals (or medium-high heat if using gas, electric, propane, or stove-top grill) for two to three minutes on each side.

Place mushrooms stem side up on serving plates. Spoon couscous on top of each mushroom. Spoon greens on top of couscous. Sprinkle with bell pepper. Serve warm.

Calories: 208  
 Protein: 6 g  
 Carbohydrates: 40 g  
 Total Fat: 3 g  
 Saturated Fat: 0 g  
 Polyunsaturated Fat: 1 g  
 Monounsaturated Fat: 2 g  
 Cholesterol: 0 mg  
 Sodium: 224 mg

Source American Heart Association Low-Fat, Low-Cholesterol Cookbook, 2nd Edition Copyright ( ) 1989, 1997 American Heart Association Published by Times Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

# TECH SAVVY

FROM PAGE D1

unnecessary features, like the Windows Sidebar and Windows Aero. (Not sure how? A little Google searching will produce simple instructions.) You won't miss either one.

Finally, turn off Vista's incredibly annoying User Account Control, which pops up whenever you try to install a program, change a setting, or do just about anything else. Yes, it's there to protect you, but it will drive you insane in the process.

You can find simple instructions for deactivating UAC here: <http://tinyurl.com/2ehc5m>.

## THE NEW START MENU

One of Vista's best assets is its search feature, which appears immediately above the Start button when you click it. Type a few letters into the box and Vista immediately begins to display matching results: applications, documents, Web favorites and so on.

As an added perk, you can launch programs without ever taking your hands off the keyboard.

Just press the Windows button, type the first few letters of the desired application (such as "pic" for Picasa), then

press Enter to launch it. Don't like the new Start menu? Right-click Start, choose Properties, and then select Classic Start Menu. You'll lose the search function, but gain that familiar XP look and feel.

## ADD A TV TUNER

The Home Premium and Ultimate versions of Vista come with Windows Media Center, which affords TiVo-like TV viewing, recording, and timeshifting. To take advantage of these features, however, you'll need a TV tuner.

Keep it simple: Plug in a USB tuner like the ADS MiniHDTVUSB or Pinnacle PCTV HD Ultimate Stick. I've got both on my workbench for testing; watch for detailed reviews in an upcoming column.

In the meantime, trust me when I say that once you've experienced TV — particularly, HDTV — on your PC, you'll be more than willing to forgive Vista its various transgressions.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the "Observer & Eccentric Newspapers." Broida, of Commerce Township is the co-author of numerous books, including "How to Do Everything With Your Palm-Powered Device, Sixth Edition." He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

# TRENDS

FROM PAGE D1

banking, dry cleaning and enough varieties of bread, ice cream and frozen dinners to induce culinary stupor — or sparse warehouses.

Today, the trend is toward glamping up the grocery experience. You'll see lots of attractive displays of prepared foods, as well as a deconstruction of the traditional aisle layout in favor of a more open market feel.

Safeway, for example, says it is overhauling its markets (or opening new ones) as "lifestyle" stores, which sport larger departments, wood-like flooring, specialty food bars and soft lighting.

ral sweeteners, from honey-like agave syrup to ultrasweet stevia, are crowding grocers' shelves.

Many of these products once were limited to the lower shelves of natural foods stores, but now are showing up in mainstream markets and in a growing variety of products (including soda).

■ Grocery stores get increasingly sexy

The '90s were all about grocers becoming either massive superstores — offering onsite

## HOME CALENDAR

**Green Design Workshop**

Learn about sustainable 'green' remodeling and building materials as The Community House hosts "Green Design: Remodeling Our Homes and Our Future" 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17. Instructor Debra Christy-Merriman, interior designer and owner of "Wake Up Your Space," will share how and where to find products and materials that have the lowest negative impact on our planet. The Community House is located at 380 South Bates Street in Birmingham. Call (248) 644-5832, or visit [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com).

**New Look for Tired Room**

Instructor Renea M. Lewis, owner of Design By Choice, will host "REDESIGN: A New Look for a Tired Room," 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15 at The

Community House. Learn to use furnishings you already own to maximize impact using principles of color, positioning and scale. Bring photos of rooms you would like to redesign. Fee, \$25. Call (248) 644-5832, or visit [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com).

**Design Center Sample Sale**

Save 60-70 percent off home furnishings — furniture, rugs, lamps, home accessories, artwork and more — as the Michigan Design Center hosts its annual Sample Sale, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. Admission, \$7, benefits COTS — the Coalition on Temporary Shelter. MDC is located at 1700 Stutz Drive, Troy Call (248) 649-4772 or visit [www.michigandesign.com](http://www.michigandesign.com).

## GARDEN CALENDAR

**Bird Feeders Wanted**

People who feed birds are invited to participate in a study on feeding habits of birds. Project Wildbird is a landmark \$1 million study of seed and feeder preferences of wild birds in the United States and Canada. The project seeks two types of volunteers: observational and experimental citizen scientists. For more information call 1-866-WILDBIRD or visit [www.projectwildbird.org](http://www.projectwildbird.org).

**Adaptive Gardening**

Ed Krappmann will present "Adaptive Gardening," solutions for problem gardens, presented at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14 at the Mahany/Meininger Senior/Community Center in Royal Oak. Krappmann has more than 30 years of experience as a tour guide and educator at the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory on Belle Isle. For more information on this free event, call (313) 861-6579.

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# pink



## pink picks

By Amanda Abukhader

In our first PINK Picks of 2008, we're taking a look back at some standouts from 2007...

**Experienced It!**

The new DIA

**Heard It!**

A my Winehouse *Back to Black*

**Read It!**

*The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne

Metallic clothing and accessories were ultra-hot staples in 2007, and promise to shine on in 2008.

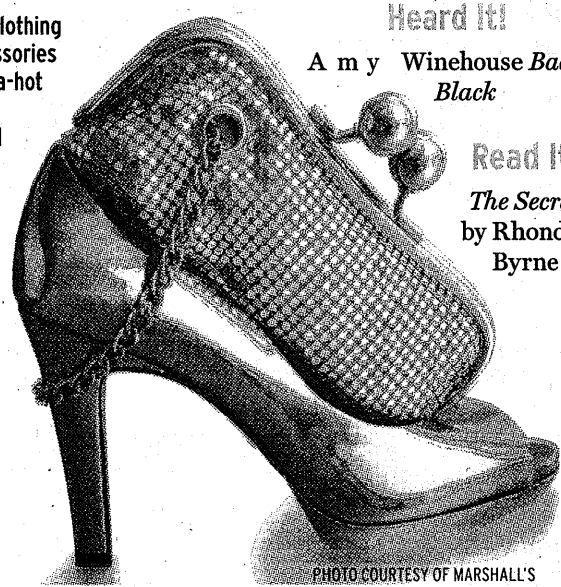


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARSHALL'S

## Get out your suits and gloves, the polished look is back

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)** — OK, it's time to get serious.

Fashion this year is about a proper suit, long leather gloves, an oxford shoe or a power pump, and a structured handbag. It completes the 180-degree revolution away from the loose and care-free bohemian styles that were all the rage mere seasons ago.

The word that best defines the new look is polished — which is, of course, an old look.

"It really is a head-to-toe look with matching handbags and shoes. When was the last time we saw that?" says Sandra Wilson, accessories fashion director at Neiman Marcus. "We feel good about ourselves when we dress like this. It just looks right. There's no more messiness — I feel that's the period we're in right now."

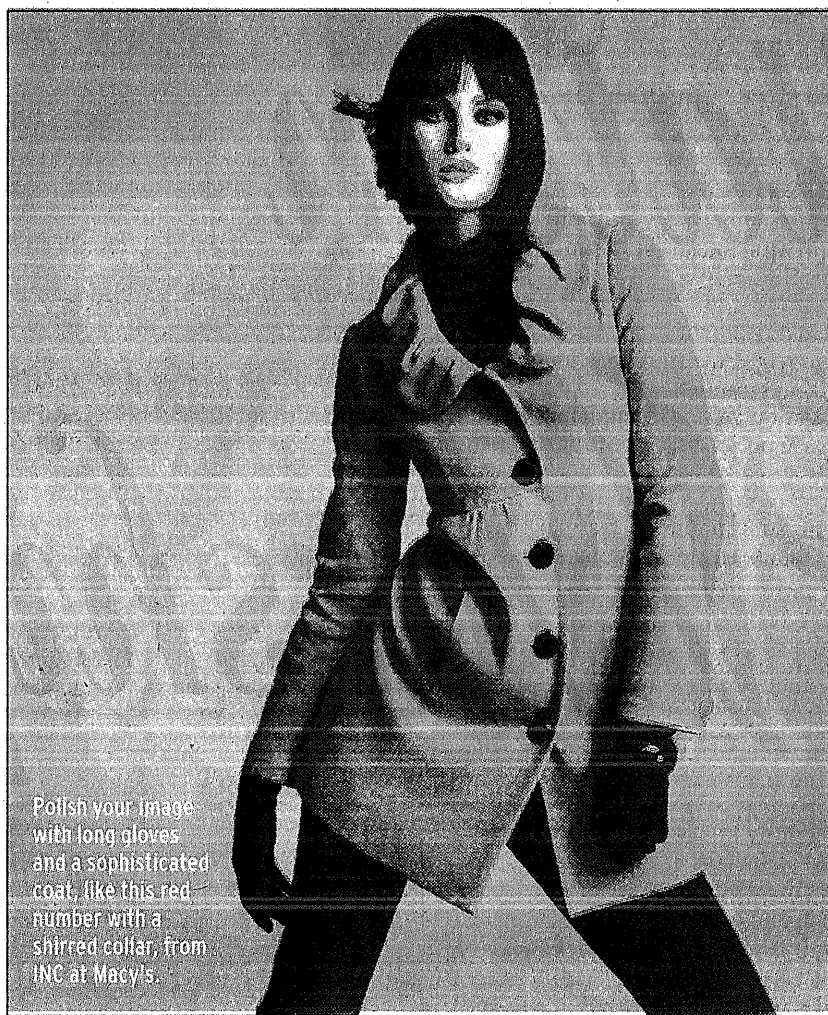
It's a reaction we've seen before: In the 1990s, for example, grunge in the early part of the decade was replaced by super-sleek styles as we headed toward the new millennium.

"We're coming off several seasons inspired by the '60s and the youthful mod look was in — babydoll and trapeze dresses all summer long. It's fun, but designers are always looking for something new and so are shoppers. The answer is a crisp, polished look," says Nicole Phelps, executive editor at Style.com. "It's a little bit 1940s with a sharply cut, nipped-waist suit. It's a little '80s with the strong shoulder."

Designer Elie Tahari thinks it's style with staying power. "Fashion always has a cyclical nature with past trends inspiring new collections. It is hard to gauge how long a cycle will last in the fashion world but the more polished, clean look is a classic one that never seems to go away."

It is, however, a dressier look than many women who've been wearing denim, loose layers and funky, chunky jewelry are used to. But it shouldn't be hard to acclimate to: This is practically a ready-made uniform to put on in the morning. The only thing missing are the personal touches.

With a suit as the centerpiece — Phelps chooses a pantsuit while Lucky fashion director Hope Greenberg suggests a men's style blazer that can be worn with wide-



Polish your image with long gloves and a sophisticated coat, like this red number with a shirred collar, from INC at Macy's.

Another wise purchase, she says, would be a gray dress. Women certainly showed their affinity with dresses this past spring when most retailers credited them for a boost in sales.

It's the color that's key this time around, not the shape or fabric. "It could be a heavier wool, wool jersey, even silk, just some type of sophisticated gray dress depending on what shape you are."

The nice thing about gray is that it's easy to coordinate accessories: brown, black, navy, hunter green, purple and burgundy all work.

Neiman's Wilson, thinks the most effective punctuation on an outfit will come from opaque tights; an elegant pump shoe — either peep-toe, round-toe or pointy-toe — but with a straight and substantial heel; a structured handbag in an exotic skin, gray or patent leather; a fur collar for the neck and red lipstick.

"The finishing polish in accessories would be a long glove," Wilson says. "On top of the glove could be a cuff bracelet."

And don't forget fall-favorite boots or, more important this season, booties, adds shoe designer Bettye Mueller.

"I like sort of a loafer stretch boot with a little heel or a low bootie that wraps around and is held with Velcro," she says. "You can put your pant inside of it or wear it with a dress. It's a little wide at the bottom so it stands away from leg. It's cool but polished. You look like you've made an effort," Mueller says.

Unlike other recent trends, such as the empire waists that don't flatter everyone or the teetering stiletto heels or chunky platform shoes that throw some people off balance, a neat appearance complement anyone — anywhere.

"I can't imagine a place where at least some elements wouldn't be appropriate," says Lucky's Greenberg.

The polished look also can go easy on that classy pocketbook you're carrying. "All of this is accessible. It's not just at the designer level so it's easy to find and all the pieces are easy to wear," Greenberg says. "You don't have to be especially tall or especially skinny. There are plenty of other trends when you do have to be those things."

leg cuffed trousers, a shorter skirt or a gray daytime dress — you wake up with a ready-made uniform. Just add your accessories.

"If you're afraid of the pant being too mannish, add a feminine bow-tie blouse, which are again pretty popular or something with a ruffle. Or, maybe a subtle metallic — that's a little less classic and a little edgier," says Greenberg.

Designer Tahari even thinks there is something sexy about this put-together look because it makes women feel confident. "My wife Rory is my inspiration, he says. "When she is dressing for an event, for instance, she usually bares a bit of her shoulders, décolletage or legs, never all at the same time. The best bet is to stay clean and tailored — slim fit trousers, a pencil skirt, etc. — and add sex appeal by wearing a blouse with an interesting neckline or even a sleeveless piece."

Greenberg envisions a style similar to Katharine Hepburn in "The Philadelphia Story."

"I think there's always an element every fall of classic, but I think that this fall, what makes it look modern, is it's a little less preppy and a little more sophisticated," she adds. "The twist to the blazer is that it's boxy, not fitted, and the shoe has a good substantial high heel."

**Wore It!**

Eco-chic fashion

**Didn't Wear It!**

Skinny jeans — turns out they just don't flatter!

**Shoed It!**

Ballet flats and ankle booties

**Toted It!**

Oversized clutches

**Accessorized It!**

A touch of bling — metallics continued to be hot

**Maned It!**

'The Posh'

**Shopped It!**

The New Nordstrom at Twelve Oaks Mall

**Saw It!**

*Knocked Up*

**Watched It!**

*Gossip Girl*

**Had to Have It!**

iPhone

**Understood It!**

Our carbon footprints

**Didn't Understand It!**

Our mortgages

## Allure's Linda Wells predicts the face of '08

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL  
AP FASHION WRITER

There will be three Cs the face of 2008 will need to know: color, cream and caffeine.

Linda Wells, editor in chief of Allure magazine, predicts those will be the beauty trends in the new year. They all lend themselves to a move away from the very ladylike style that dominated in 2007.

"The overall look isn't quite as prim and proper as we've seen in the recent past. You don't need a protractor to apply products," Wells says. "It's a little looser, you can use a little creativity."

**COLOR**

Color cosmetics is such a strong category right now, with market researcher The NPD Group reporting makeup leading the prestige beauty category for the first three quarters of this year — and a enjoying a 5 percent increase in sales from last year.

Growth will continue, Wells says, as fashion also delves into candy and sherbet shades for spring.

She expects women will be drawn to noticeable, not neutral, hues, including red matte lips and more color on the eye than we're used to seeing. "The colors sound intimidating — purple, orange, a peachy-yellow — but they will look really good. It'll be a sheer hint that gives you warmth," she says.

If you do go with the more pigmented eye shadows, Wells recommends a delicate rose color on the cheeks and lips. If you wear the bright red lips, tone down the eye makeup. "You don't want a lot of color on the rest of your face, that would be clownish."

**CREAM**

Applying a cream-based product, especially a cream eye shadow, allows you to easily control the intensity of the color. "You'll get a sheer wash," Wells explains. "It won't be vivid and frightening. It'll be just a hint."

Don't be afraid to use your fingers, either. It helps put the color where you want it and spread out the edges so it's not a harsh look.

For lipstick, Wells says, put it on straight from the tube. "Makeup isn't sitting on top of the face like paint. It has a more organic look to it," she describes.

If you do prefer pencils, brushes or sponges, don't be too perfect and embrace any smudges.

**CAFFEINE**

Caffeine is again causing a buzz in beauty circles. It's been used on its own as an ingredient for a few years to wake up tired eyes or stimulate skin cells.

What's new, says Wells, is that so many caffeinated products have also made their way into skin creams, gels and lotions, including green tea, ground coffee and CoffeeBerry, the fruit of the coffee plant.

"Caffeine has been found to fight wrinkles, calm redness, reduce swelling — because it's a vasoconstrictor. It's the most prevalent ingredient in cellulite creams, and is being used more and more in eye creams, face serums, and rosacea treatments," Wells says. "It's something people are talking about."

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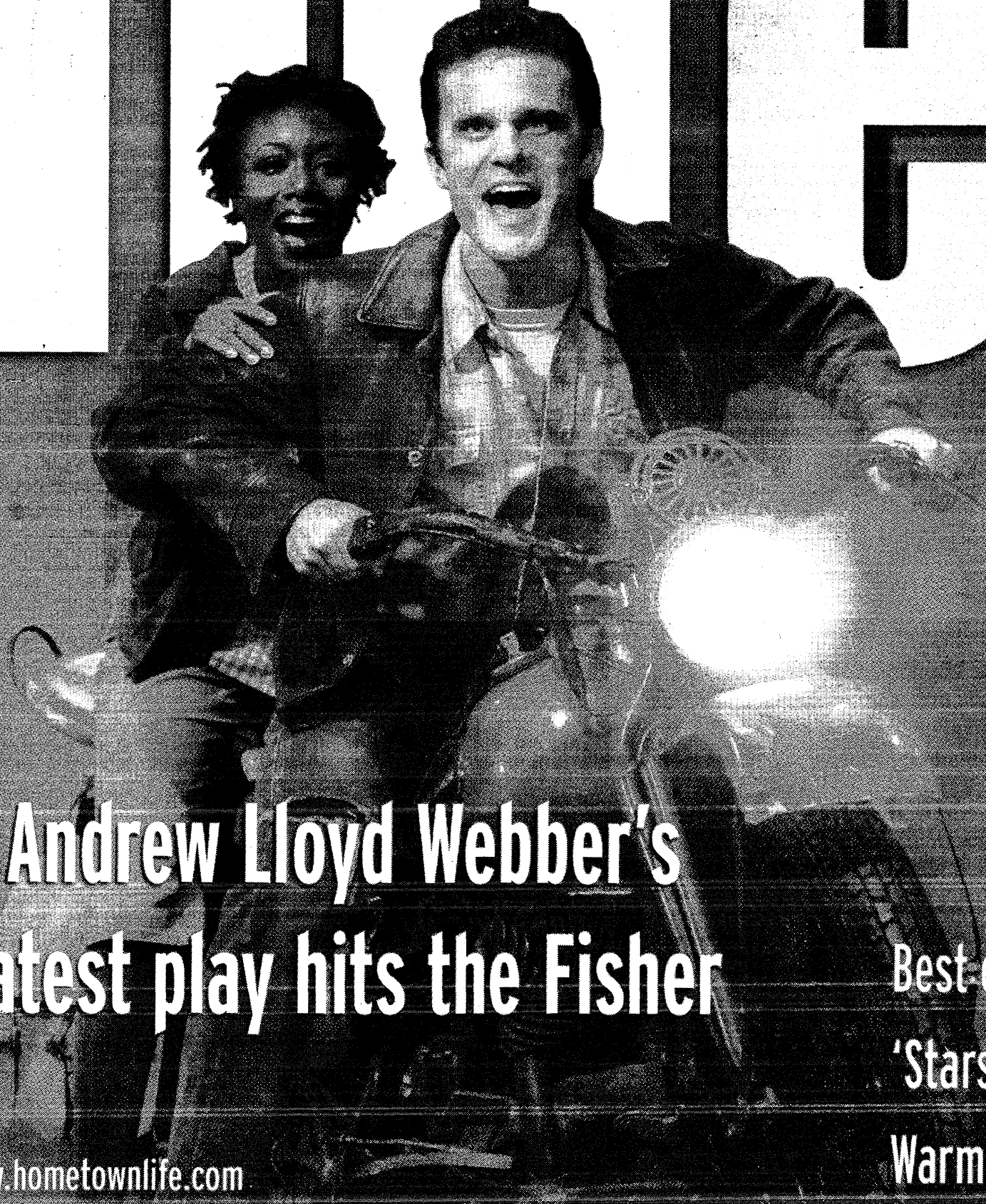
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Thursday, January 3, 2008

# FISH



**Andrew Lloyd Webber's  
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Best events of '07  
'Stars' dance in Detroit  
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# And the best local events of 2007 are ...

As expected, 2007 was packed with entertaining moments. There were the big events - like the Bob Seger, Hannah Montana and Kid Rock shows. There were the big CD releases like White Stripes' *Icky Thump* and the huge re-openings like the new MGM Grand and Detroit Institute of Arts.



Lana Mini

But then there's the smaller events that made our lives more enjoyable ... the local bars, local musicians

and local restaurants that make metro-

Detroit interesting.

Here's the top 2007 moments; and if you missed them, don't worry. These are events that haven't stopped:

■ **Gogol Bordello at The Majestic** in Detroit. The gypsy punk band based in New York, blends punk, cabaret, reggae and Eastern European influences into their sound and loyal fans (mostly teenagers, who always discover music first) follow them with fierce loyalty. Bordello's frontman, Eugene Hutz, is a survivor of the Chernobyl spill who lived for years in refugee camps where he



Black Lotus Brewing Company in Clawson is a Tuesday night hotspot with Blackman & Arnold playing its world jazz.

discovered gypsy-style music. The Majestic was sold out as the crowd jumped, swayed, sang and body-surfed to the accordion, fiddle, saxophone and percussion.

Gogol Bordello live like wanderers - on the road. Expect them back again next year, and until then, check out their MySpace page at [myspace.com/gogolbordello](http://myspace.com/gogolbordello)

Please see **2007, E4**



Gogol Bordello played its gypsy punk music at The Majestic to a roaring crowd.

## FILTERED TOP FIVE: FREER

Formed in the Fall of 2005 Freer marks a wide-open collaboration between brothers Jeremy and Jeffrey Freer.

The Detroit-based band defies genre, ranging from influences of pure pop to bluesy ballads, as noted on its debut *Secret Chorus*. Before heading out on tour with The Von Bondies, Jeremy Freer took some time out to share his five favorite records of the moment. His picks are as sweeping as you might suspect, and don't discount the Best Of's of his own music collection. Here they are, his Filtered Top Five:

*Fulfillingness' First Finale* by Stevie Wonder

"Every song is beautiful even when it's edgy and funky. Stevie is one of the purest souls to ever record music."

*The Best Of David Bowie* by David Bowie

"White boy soul, sassy rock, strange pop. If you're a little weird and you like to feel good, Bowie makes the best weirdo



Freer is set to tour with fellow locals The Von Bondies.

feel good music ever."

*A Night at the Ritz* by Office

"These guys are from Chicago and they just released this record in September. If you want to hear true pop music with

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classically inspired arrangements, dance beats and original lyrics, you should go buy this record now."

*Era Vulgaris* by Queens of the Stone Age

"No other record sounds like this one right now. New-Wave, Punk Metal, Psychedelic Beatles music."

*The Best Of Daniel Johnston* by Daniel Johnston

"One of the most heartbreaking songwriters I've heard besides Billie Holiday. Go rent the documentary about him called *The Devil and Daniel Johnston*. To all open minds and hearts his music will be a revelation."

Don't miss Freer when they open for Detroit's The Von Bondies, along with SSM, 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. Tickets

Stephanie A. Casola

Inside this week's

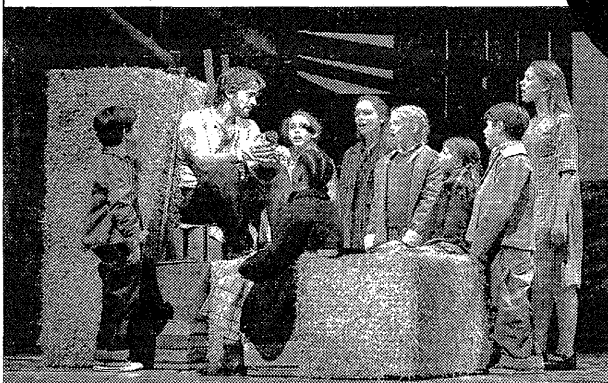
PURE ENTERTAINMENT  
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**GANNETT**

**WHISTLE - 5**

It's a perfect time to "Whistle Down the Wind."



**TABLE HOPPING - 6**

You will want to try the Rusty Bucket Corner Tavern.

**IT'S FREEZING - 9**

But the blues can warm you up, and The Magic Bag is the place to thaw out.

**GET OUT - 10**

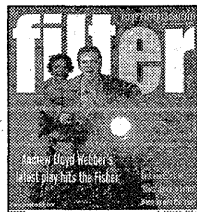
Clubs, theater, dance, and odd fun. There's so much to do already in 2008.

**WHAT'S HOT? - 11**

Not sure what to do this week? We have our top picks in Pure Picks.

**Observer & Eccentric**  
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"Whistle Down the Wind" opens Jan. 8 at the Fischer Theatre.

# Mother and son to conduct DSO

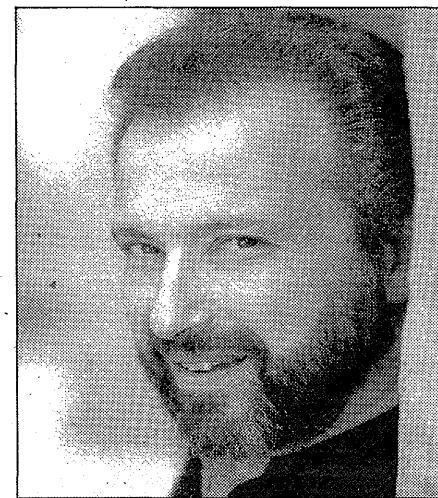
Mother and son join the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for a stirring rendition of Felix Mendelssohn's vision of Shakespeare's woodland fantasy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Conductor Dmitry Sitkovetsky (pronounced sitt-kuh-VETT-skee) leads the DSO and his mother,

**Hot Ticket**

legendary pianist Bella Davidovich, who will perform Schumann's beautiful *Piano Concerto* while Sitkovetsky himself takes center stage as soloist on Bach's *Violin Concerto No. 1*

in Orchestra Hall at the Max M. Fisher Music Center in concerts Friday-Sunday, Jan. 4-6.

Famed Russian pianist Bella Davidovich performs Schumann's *Piano Concerto*. Celebrating her 80th birthday in 2008, she began studying the piano at the age of 6. At 18 she entered the Moscow Conservatory and, in 1949, became the youngest pianist to win the prestigious Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw. She has been touring for more than half a century since then, performing with the most well-known orchestras and conductors around the



Bella Davidovich, at left, and son Dmitry Sitkovetsky, above, will lead the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Jan. 4

world. She has performed with her son Dmitry Sitkovetsky since 1966, and the pair has recorded sonatas together by Grieg, Brahms and Ravel.

These DSO concerts are led by Dmitry Sitkovetsky who is also soloist for the Bach Violin Concerto. This piece holds a special place in the conductor's repertoire; he performed it in his orchestral debut in 1969 with the Moscow State Orchestra. As a violinist, he has performed with many

of the most renowned orchestras in the world. He also is a founding artist of the Tuscan Sun Festival. Recently, Sitkovetsky has established his conducting career and worked with many symphonies in the United States and Europe. He is currently music director of the Greensboro, N.C. Symphony Orchestra and the principal guest conductor of the Russian

Please see **DSO, E11**

## Dancing with the Stars tour comes to town

BY WENSY VON BUSKIRK  
STAFF WRITER

It was a dramatic year for *Dancing with the Stars*. During the fifth season of the hit TV show, Marie Osmond collapsed on stage, then lost her beloved father. Jane Seymour was rushed to the hospital with food poisoning. And Melanie "Scary Spice" Brown waltzed her way to the final two while simultaneously rehearsing for the much-hyped, first-ever Spice Girls reunion.

All that amidst the swirl of sequined costumes, unbelievably fit dancers, and rumors of romance — it's no wonder DWTS is ABC's No. 1 unscripted show.

Now armchair fans will get to see some of their favorite celebrities and professional dancers in person as

*Dancing with the Stars — The Tour* comes to Joe Louis Arena at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5.

The one-night-only show features an all-star cast from the show's first five seasons.

Performers include season five's Wayne Newton with Cheryl Burke; season three's Joey Lawrence with Edyta Sliwinska and Monique Coleman with Alex Mazo; as well as professional dancers Derek Hough, Brian Fortuna and Kym Johnson.

Season five's unexpected winner, race car driver Helio Castroneves, will not appear at the show. But 'Cheetah Girl' Sabrina Bryan, who was voted off in a surprising upset, then said farewell by rocking what was arguably the most sizzling dance of the season, will perform at Joe Louis Arena with partner Mark

### DANCING WITH THE STARS — THE TOUR

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5

**Where:** Joe Louis Arena, Detroit

**Who:** An all-star cast from seasons 3-5

**Tickets:** \$52.50-\$168, available at all Ticketmaster locations.

**Information:** Call (248) 645-6666 or visit [www.TicketMaster.com](http://www.TicketMaster.com).

Ballas.

The Tour is produced by BBC Worldwide with numbers choreographed by Louis Van Amstel.

If it's anything like the show, there's bound to be some drama as the dancers take the stage.

Tickets, \$52.50-\$168, may be purchased at OlympiaEntertainment.com, the Joe Louis Arena and Fox Theatre box offices, Hockeytown Authentics in Troy (without service charge) and at all Ticketmaster locations, including Macy's and Ticketmaster.com.

To charge tickets by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

For additional information, call (313) 471-6611.

2007

FROM PAGE E2

■ **MOCAD - The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** has become the place for performance and other indie artists to express themselves. MOCAD is so cool, and diverse, that one Friday night, actor **Vincent Gallo** performed his music there and a few weeks earlier, **Windy & Carl** played. Windy & Carl are based in Michigan but are known worldwide for their dreamy, ambient space music. Not all ambient is like Brian Eno. This duo's drones come from guitar and reverb effects. Hear them at [myspace.com/windyandcarl](http://myspace.com/windyandcarl) and

then check out their shows in 2008.

■ **Tuesdays at The Black Lotus Brewing Company** in Clawson. It's often standing room only, but if you arrive by 8 p.m., you can get a seat. Why the crowd? Everyone is there for the good micro-brew and to hear the sultry sounds of Detroit's best world jazz group **Blackman & Arnold**. Hear them at [myspace.com/blackmanarnold](http://myspace.com/blackmanarnold) or visit [www.blackmanarnold.com](http://www.blackmanarnold.com)

■ **Sunday afternoons at La Dolce Vita** in Detroit. Brunch is not inexpensive; but the ambiance is upbeat, the mimosas are flowing, crowd is eclectic and it's a good way to relax on Sunday as **Blackman Arnold**, once again, pleases the ears.

■ **Turtleneck & Sweater Party** that was held this year at the **Magic Bag** in Ferndale

and hosted by **Drew Phillips & friends**

- The eighth annual holiday party keeps getting bigger, more festive and weirder. Money goes to charity and the theme is cheesy Christmas attire. For example, the normally hipster men who frequent the Bag grow bad moustaches, wear leisure suits and top them off with bad snowmen type holiday sweaters. The women, dress as sexy elves, or puff their hair up 80s style and don themselves in often-intentionally bad glittery sweaters with reindeer and snowflakes.

Catch the party again next year.

■ **Thursdays at The Bosco** in Ferndale. For years, the New York style lounge owned by **Daniel Haberman**, has been the place for upscale ad-industry, creative types.

Best drinks in town. The groove-factor has increased since electronic musician John Arnold took residency there on Thursday nights a few weeks ago. Hear him at [myspace.com/johnarnold](http://myspace.com/johnarnold)

■ **Rhythm Corps & Sponge** - The 90s alternative bands, played to roaring crowds at the **Royal Oak Music Theatre** a few weeks ago. Rhythm Corps reunited for its first show in years.

And Sponge, the band that still plays occasionally in Detroit, eloquently was second on the three-band lineup. Rhythm Corps headlined and the crowd was surprisingly packed with older fans and new. We don't expect this show to happen again in 2008, but we can hope.

Happy New Year.



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# Rochester Conservatory singers take to the Fisher stage

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Students from the Rochester Conservatory will join the touring cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Whistle Down the Wind* when it premieres in Detroit this month. Instead of hosting an open call at the Fisher Theatre, Rochester Conservatory directors Cliff and Kay Ellen Wilkins were asked to assemble a children's choir for the show, consisting solely of local performers.

What began with more than 40 children auditioning in October has been narrowed to 14 students, all ranging in age from 7 to 11. The young singers had to meet specifications for height and age. Cliff Wilkins described the group "quick learners." By their second rehearsal late last year, he felt they were well-prepared to take the stage, Wilkins said.

"It's true what they say, 'It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,'" said Kay Ellen Wilkins. "We're thrilled. We're proud of them."

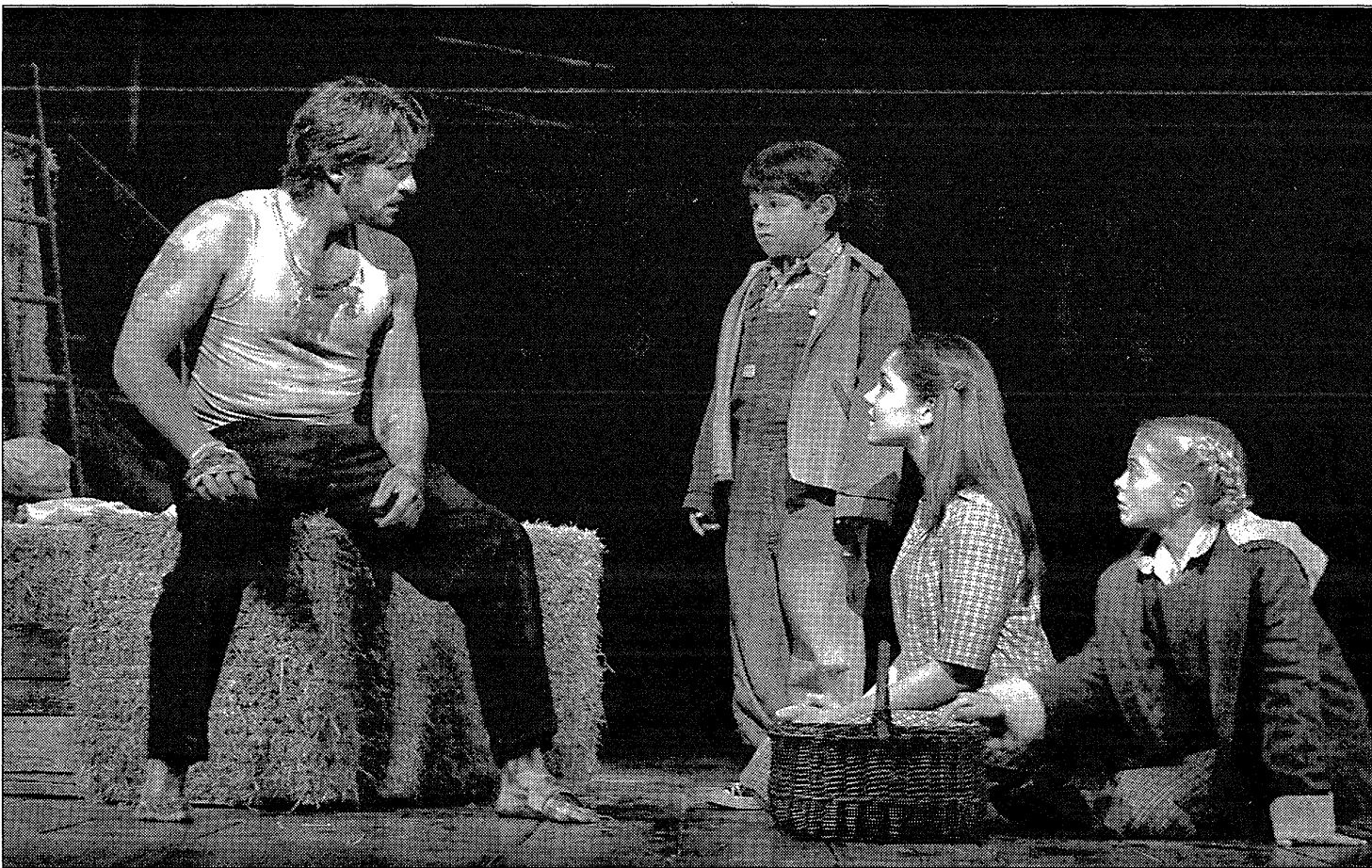
The student choir includes: Ryan Blankenburg of Rochester; Chris Chen of Troy; Kristina DeBlasi of Shelby Township; Lauren Ellsworth of Rochester Hills; Annika Ey of Washington Township; Reyanna Fermin of Rochester; Michael Jenuwine of Troy; Brittany Johnson of Rochester; Kendall McNeely of Rochester; Olivia Millerschin of Rochester Hills; Olivia Motzer of Shelby Township; Clara Stine of Sterling Heights; Jennalise Wolschlager of Rochester and Andrew Wright of Rochester Hills.

They will sing seven musical numbers throughout the show. Kay Ellen Wilkins described the music as "real rock n' roll, a lot of fast, upbeat songs." At certain points the choir will be expected to sing a call-and-response portion of dialogue, which means their timing has to be perfect.

Carole Denise Jones, who plays Candy in the national tour, said the young performers will be "on stage for a good amount of time." She called the groups she's worked with so far on the tour "little sponges" and she noted their important role in the show. "It's all about their innocence and their belief," said Jones. "And that's what I think the show is all about."

The Wilkins' plan to be in attendance on opening night, if not additional shows to support their students. The Rochester Conservatory opened in its current downtown Rochester location in 1985. The Wilkins' took over in 1991, and the school has since grown by 400 students. "I believe music adds color to their lives," said Cliff Wilkins.

It isn't the first time the young sing-



JOAN MARCUS

Eric Kunze is The Man, Austin J. Zambito-Valente is Poor Baby, Andrea Ross is Swallow, and Nadine Jacobson is Brat in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Whistle Down the Wind."

## 'Whistle Down the Wind' makes its Detroit debut

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Carole Denise Jones began performing on stage internationally at the age of 13 - but she started as a violinist not an actor. When her orchestra traveled to London to perform she took in her first true musical - Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* in the West End - and her career path was forever changed.

"I fell in love with it," she said, calling into *Filter* on Dec. 26.

The actress is now traveling the country as Candy, a pivotal character in Webber's latest musical sensation, *Whistle Down the Wind*. The show became a bona fide hit in London and is for the first time touring the U.S. It opened in September in Houston and hits Detroit Jan. 8 for a two-week run.

"My agent submitted me for the part," said Jones, who resides in New York City. "I had heard about the movie before but I didn't know a lot about it."

*Whistle Down the Wind* marks a collaboration between Webber and rock lyricist Jim Steinman, known for his work with Meatloaf on the classic *Bat Out of Hell* and for Bonnie Tyler's 1980's hit *Total Eclipse of the Heart*. The show is directed

and produced by Bill Kenwright, and was based upon a 1961 film of the same name, which starred Hayley Mills.

"*Whistle Down the Wind* is a fantastic story for a musical dramatist and it took me back to my rock roots," said Webber in a press release. "It's a primal tale about salvation and forgiveness that everyone can relate to. I'm absolutely delighted that Bill Kenwright's wonderful production is going to be seen in America."

With a score that reverberates the sounds of the American South, including blues, gospel, country and rock n' roll, the production tells the tale of a young Louisiana girl who finds a mysterious stranger hiding in her barn. When she asks his identity, the first words he utters are "Jesus Christ" and she takes him quite literally.

Jones said she nabbed a CD with music from the production to familiarize herself with the role of Amos's scorned girlfriend Candy. She was drawn to the "bad girl" role, one she said doesn't come naturally at all. Having portrayed Aida in the musical of the same name, Jones saw a kindred spirit in Candy - a girl who's determined to do as she wishes and happens to be in love with someone of a different race.

She won the role and began rehearsing for the show in August - just days after

### WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

**What:** Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical comes to the U.S.

**When:** 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; 7:30 p.m. Sunday, from Jan. 8-27

**Where:** Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit

**Tickets:** \$30-\$79, call (248) 645-6666.

moving into a new apartment. As Candy she sings a duet, performs parts with the choir, and enjoys a revealing moment in the final song of the show, *Wrestle With The Devil*. While the main character, Swallow, is attempting to hide The Man, whom she believes to be Jesus, Candy threatens to unveil the secret. All the while she struggles with the knowledge that her boyfriend Amos is truly in love with Swallow.

Reaction to the show, so far, has been mixed said Jones. Audiences either embrace the story of faith and are moved by it or, she said, "they don't get it." "It's not a jolly musical," she noted.

Her character endures an emotional struggle nightly.

"She's in love with this guy and all she wants to do is get out of this town," said

Please see **WIND, E11**

Cover  
Story

Please see **SINGERS, E11**

# The Rusty Bucket Corner Tavern

New neighborhood niche brims with delight

BY ELAINE PERLIN CROSSLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

One might think The Rusty Bucket Corner Tavern could be the namesake of a weathered village pub on the Irish coastline. Well, it all began in Dublin, all right — Dublin, Ohio, that is.

Several Rusty Bucket taverns now operate within Ohio, and the Columbus-based company has recently headed north to Michigan. Kurt Kramer, general manager at the inviting West Bloomfield location, says another tavern will open in Northville in a few months.

He smiled and explained, "I wish I could tell you an interesting story behind the name. Actually, as the concept developed, the investors just threw suggestions into a pot, kicked around ideas, and this one struck a chord."

Situated at Crosswinds Mall, the eatery offers a fun, fast, friendly atmosphere in which to savor English pub favorites and American bar fare. The innovative

**Table Hopping**



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BBQ Chopped Chicken Salad (left): mixed greens, corn, tomatoes, red onions, pepperjack cheese, cilantro ranch dressing, topped with fried tortilla strips and Double - Double Nickel Chicken Salad with marinated grilled chicken.

concept was launched by Gary Calliccoat, corporate president.

Thirteen large screen plasma TV's (and

even small ones in each restroom), a projection screen, a myriad of brews, a sporty theme and affordable prices all beckon a

## THE RUSTY BUCKET CORNER TAVERN

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Price Range: \$4.75 to \$16.95 (most items under \$10)

Attractions: Urbane and sporty eatery with neighborhood appeal. An affordable, diverse menu with plenty of comfort food, including daily blue plate specials. Plasma TVs provide wrap-around views, burgers and brews for the sports-minded crowd, but the atmosphere is also conducive to sophisticated dining. Larger parties can be accommodated.

Smoking: Bar area only.

casual, down-to-earth crowd. Yet, when a visitor realizes that famed restaurateur Cameron Mitchell is one of the corporate officers, the underlying elements of good taste and high quality make complete sense.

Please see **TAVERN, E7**

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**Mile High Turkey Stack:** oven roasted boneless turkey with buttermilk cheddar drop biscuits, sour cream mashers, covered with gravy and served with 'buccotash.'

## TAVERN

FROM PAGE E6

The upbeat décor of natural dark wood furnishings is stylish. Walls are adorned with pennants, photos and other cool sports memorabilia. A mellow bar area also offers high-top tables, while cozy booths and standard tables fill the dining space.

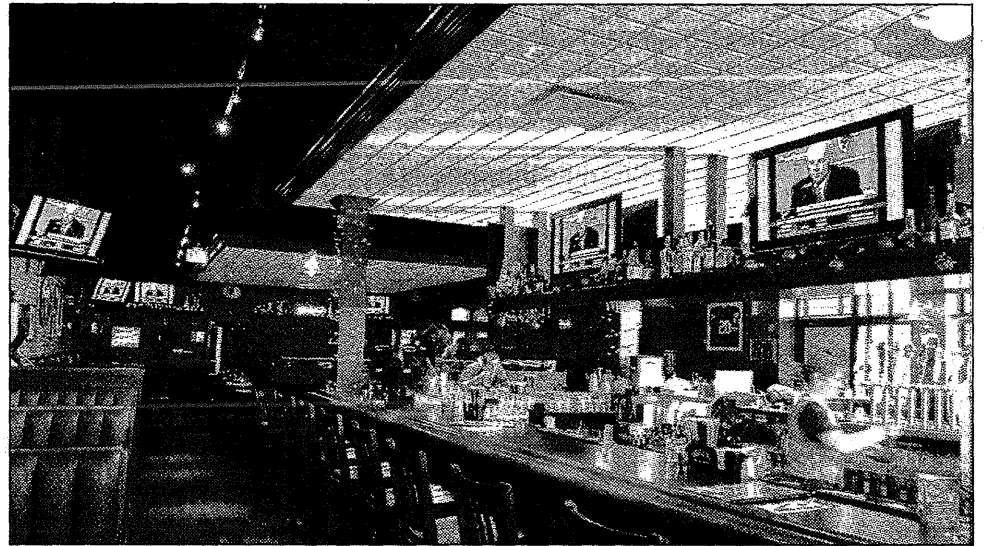
For starters, sink your teeth into Bucket Bites, mini burgers on potato buns with grilled onions and yellow Cheddar cheese, topped off with pickle chips. Speaking of pickles, tickle your taste buds with a Deep-Fried Pickle appetizer, served with ranch dressing for dipping.

The menu is diverse in all categories. Other starters include Hummus,

Nachos, a Bucket O' Shrimp, Pork Pot Stickers, Spinach Con Queso, and Rye Balls. The Texas Sirloin Chili and French Onion Soup are hearty, and several salads make for delicious entrees, like the popular Double Nickel Salad with mixed greens, tomatoes, red onions, chopped bacon bits, Bleu cheese crumbles, and signature dressing (chicken is optional).

House favorites include fresh beer-battered Fish 'n Chips, or a Codwich served with tartar sauce, lettuce, American cheese, tomato and onion. Many sandwiches, burgers and main plates are pure classics, while others take on contemporary flips.

Find such retro selections as Macaroni 'n Cheese, Salisbury Steak, Philly Cheese Steak, a diner-style Patty Melt, or the Elvis Velveeta Burger, dripping with Velveeta cheese, grilled onions, lettuce,



Dine at the Rusty Bucket in West Bloomfield.

tomatoes, sweet pickle relish and mayo. And newer trends include Gorgonzola Sirloin, Pan-Seared Salmon (with sugar cane glaze) and Shrimp Primavera.

Despite the pub atmosphere, children are welcome. "Kids often determine where families choose to go for dinner," Kramer said. So, a kid-friendly menu promises to satisfy the little ones.

Desserts "wow" with such choices as a Blueberry Stack, a mouth-watering blueberry and vanilla cream bread pudding, Strawberry Shortcake, Apple Brown Betty and Cookies & Cream - a sinful chocolaty surprise!

Daily drink specials are on offer, as well as imported and draft beers, arti-

sinal microbrews, and an appealing wine list.

"And we welcome suggestions for more Michigan labels," Kramer said.

The restaurant group builds its taverns in neighborhood niches where people can walk from their homes in nice weather, Kramer said. "And we're now working on a patio," he added. The company is community involved, and participates in sponsorship programs with high schools and other local organizations.

"Just like on the sit-com 'Cheers,' we see lots of familiar, friendly faces. Ultimately, that's the best form of marketing," Kramer said.

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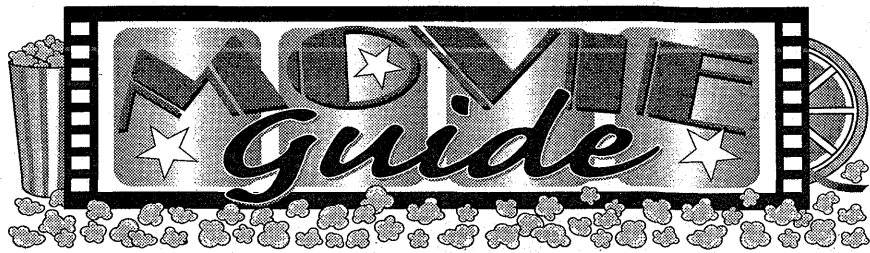
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# Anti-Freeze Blues Festival benefits musicians

The folks at The Magic Bag try to heat things up every January to get through winter.

Each year it's a success, accomplished with some sizzling blues to thaw us at the appropriately named Anti-Freeze Blues Festival, now in its 14th year, a benefit for the Detroit Blues Society.

The event helps keep the blues alive.

The festival is two nights, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 4 and 5. Each year the Bag creates a lineup completely different from the previous.

Highlighting Friday is the reunion of The Hodge Brothers (Catfish and Dallas), plus Thornetta Davis, The Erich Goebel Band, The Grandmasters and Mike Eyspy/Yakety Yak.

Saturday's show headlines with soul diva Bettye LaVette - with Johnnie Bassett plus The Laith Al Saadi Band, Count Bracey & The Pleasuretones and The Front Street Blues Band.

Blues rocker Bob "Catfish" Hodge was born and raised in Detroit. As a teenager he frequently snuck into Motown Records' Hitsville Studio to catch sessions by the Four Tops, The Supremes and The Temptations. Spurred on by soul and blues, Hodge formed his own band, Catfish, in 1970.

The band split up in 1973 and Catfish Hodge released the solo album *Boogie Man's Gonna Get Ya*, the title track of which is one of his most requested songs.

Over the years, Catfish Hodge has



Music

recorded and toured with Bonnie Raitt and Little Feat and released a series of solo LPs. He also formed bands like The Bluesbusters, moved to the Blue Ridge Mountains to take a break from the touring world and returned in the 1990s with more solo work, including the acclaimed 2002 album *Let's Eat* - which is an ode to food.

As for Dallas Hodge, he's described as the "bastard son of a Detroit roadhouse, born in the throes of late-night blues bands and primed in the house that built R&B guitar."

Dallas Hodge teamed up with brother Catfish to form the Catfish Hodge Band in 1970. Now, during the past six years, he's refined his craft both vocally and on the guitar as the front-man for boogie legends Canned Heat.

Dallas Hodge's tenure with Heat has taken him all over the world playing to sold-out venues. Splitting from the band in 2006, he released his first solo CD this summer titled *I Need A Holiday* and has been touring with his band The Modern Essentials.

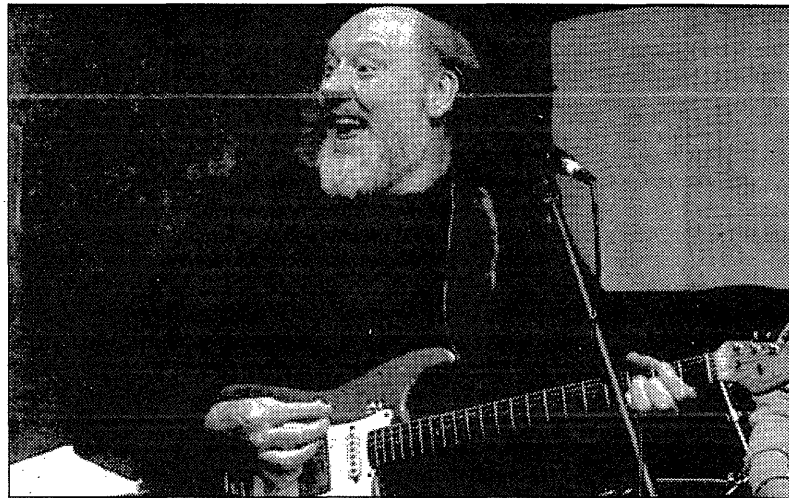
## BETTY LAVETTE

LaVette was one of the many soul divas who started her career in the Motor City. She recorded her first song *My Man, He's A Lovin' Man*, as a teenager in 1962. It was a hit and she signed onto Atlantic Records. LaVette spent the following years recording for labels such as LuPine, Calla, Big Wheel, Silver Fox and SSS International before returning to Atlantic in 1972. She also did a stint on Broadway. In the late 1990's LaVette was rediscovered by the European Northern Soul fans which lead to her comeback album in 2003 *A Woman Like Me*, which earned the prestigious W.C. Handy Award.

Appearances on *Late Night With David Letterman*, and glowing reviews from Bonnie Raitt and Elvis Costello finally, but just recently, made her the sensation she should have been 30 years ago. LaVette's newest CD *The Scene Of The Crime* includes painful soul, greasy rock n' roll and swampy guitars mixed with LaVette's strong vocals.

Lana Mini

Dallas Hodge unleashes some blues with for the Anti-Freeze Blues Festival.



Bob 'Catfish' Hodge performs on Friday.

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PURE PICKS JAN. 4-8

**4** SSM, Detroit's own supergroup consisting of singer and keyboardist John Szymanski, drummer Dave Shettler, and singer and guitarist Marty Morris, dare to fill the Diego Rivera-painted halls of the Detroit Institute of Arts with its own brand of garage rock. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 to the museum, at 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-7900.

**5** Wipe away your winter blues with the DSO's *A Midsummer's Dream*, conducted by Dmitry Sitkovetsky. The show begins at 8:30 p.m. and includes the music of Mendelssohn, Schumann and Bach, all at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313)576-5111.

**6** Brides-to-be won't want to miss the annual Bridal Celebration at the Palace of Auburn Hills. See the latest in gowns, cakes, photography and more from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets \$7 in advance, or \$8 on day of the show. Children 12 and under are admitted free, all at 5 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Call (248) 377-0100.

**7** Don't miss the latest supernatural thriller to hit theaters this month, *One Missed Call*. In it a chain of people receive terrifying cell phone messages foreshadowing their final breaths. Try to unravel the mystery before it's too late.

**8** Ann Arbor Book Festival continues with its Author Lunch series this month featuring a talk with Deborah Rodriguez, author of *Kabul Beauty School*. Meet the author and learn more about her acclaimed work at 11:30



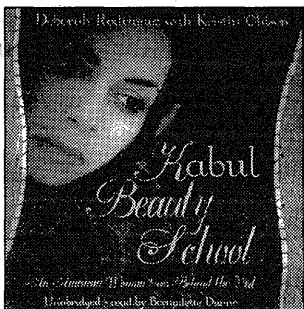
Ed Burns is Jack Andrews and Shannyn Sossamon is Beth Raymond in the supernatural thriller "One Missed Call," distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures and in theaters beginning Jan. 4.

GUY D'ALEMA



See SSM at the DIA.

a.m. at the Dahlmann Campus Inn, 615 E. Huron in Ann Arbor. Tickets \$50, visit [www.aabookfestival.org](http://www.aabookfestival.org) for more.



**WIND**  
FROM PAGE E5

Jones. "But he won't commit." Meanwhile, the character of Swallow undergoes the loss of her mother and she hopes that - in finding Jesus - she's found a way to bring her mother back. "I love the music," said Jones. "It has this drive to it." She said you can hear both Webber and Steinman's influences in the music and lyrics, and to her surprise, audiences are quite familiar with the songs. She encountered a karaoke singer belting out *Tire Tracks and Broken Hearts* while on tour. "It was amazing," she said. Adding to the experience of the show are the chorus of young singers who join

the actors on stage in each city. In Detroit, the students have been selected from The Rochester Conservatory. Jones said the students blend in "like magic" and it's hard to say good-bye to them after the two-week run.

"It's fun to watch them progress," she said. "On the first night, they're nervous. As the run goes on I can see how they start acting... They have all been really great. It's a great opportunity." One, she said, she wished she would've had at the age of 8.

As for the show, Jones said "Everyone can relate in some way. It's a lot about having faith. No matter what you believe. It's important to have something to believe in."

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**DSO**  
FROM PAGE E3

State Orchestra. In 2006, he was named artist-in-residence of the Orchestre de Castilla y Leon in Spain.

Felix Mendelssohn was a child prodigy and prolific composer who wrote the Overture to Shakespeare's romantic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1826 at age 17. In 1843, because of the fame of the overture, he was commissioned to write incidental music for a German stage production of the play. The Overture was also added to it, and both were used in most stage versions through the 19th century.

The popular *Wedding March* is the final movement of the incidental music and has been used in countless weddings since its debut. However, most wedding-goers do not hear the different verses Mendelssohn composed that appear between the march's stirring refrain.

While it might seem natural for Robert Schumann to write a piano concerto given the many compositions he composed for the instrument, he hesitated before tackling one due to Bach's proficiency. Schumann began several concerti before this one but never completed them for fear they could not hold up to Bach's works. The popular *Piano Concerto in A minor* started as a single movement completed by the composer in 1841. His wife, Clara, a renowned pianist, performed the piece and pronounced it "marvelous." In 1845 Schumann added the intermezzo and finale to finish the work. Its 1846 premiere was in Leipzig, Germany with Clara as soloist and remains the only actual piano concerto Schumann ever composed.

Also on the program is Johann Sebastian Bach's *Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor*, one of only two violin concertos written by the legendary composer.

The A minor concerto was likely composed in 1720 when Bach was Kappellmeister for Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Köthen (Germany). The A minor concerto closely follows the Italian model, a three-movement, fast-slow-fast plan, as Vivaldi's concertos were widely copied and imitated during Bach's time. The original conception of this concerto was considered chamber music as Bach had an orchestra of about a dozen players in mind when composing the piece.

**A MIDSUMMER'S DREAM**

**Who:** Dmitry Sitkovetsky, conductor and violinist, and Bella Davidovich, pianist, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra  
**When:** 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4; 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6.  
**Where:** Orchestra Hall, at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit  
**Tickets:** \$19 to \$71 (a limited number of box seats are available for \$65 to \$123, seniors (60 and over) and students can purchase 50 percent off RUSH tickets at the box office 90 minutes prior to classical concerts based on availability.)  
**For tickets, visit the Max M. Fisher Music Center box office, visit [www.detroitssymphony.com](http://www.detroitssymphony.com) or call the DSO at (313) 576-5111.**

**SINGERS**  
FROM PAGE E5

ers will perform in front of such a large crowd - though it is the first major Broadway production the Rochester Conservatory has been involved with, Wilkins said. The students have sung Christmas carols at the Palace of Auburn Hills prior to a concert by Manhattan Steamroller. And they have performed at tree lighting ceremonies and the kick off to Rochester's Big Bright Lights along Main Street. But the Fisher marks new territory.

"I want them to have the thrill of it all," he said, "a little bit of fame along with the excitement. I want them to understand what it's like in the big time." And *Whistle Down the Wind*, with two full weeks of performances, is about as big as it gets in Metro Detroit. The students sing in every show, twice a day on weekends. "They're determined to do it," said Kay Ellen Wilkins.

The show runs Jan. 8-27 in Detroit.

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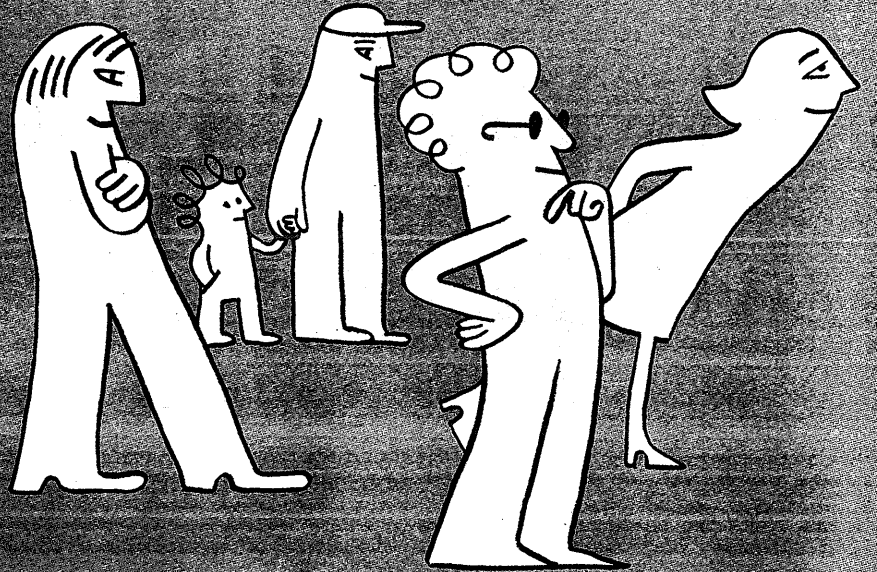
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**Now on View:**

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