Churchill Chargers race to boys track title, C1

Thursday
April 15, 1999

Westland Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

COUNTY

Fund-raiser: *Vacations, sports memorabilia and other special items will be on the auction block Friday night at Madonna University's 11th annual Around the World Scholarship Dinner Auction in Laurel Manor.* /**A11**

OPINION

Books and more: *Libraries play a key role in enhancing community quality of life.*/**A14**

COMMUNITY LIFE

Coffee with a message: *They've been popular with Generation X-ers for several years, now churches are cashing in on the coffeehouse craze to serve up a "cup of joe" with the message of God.*/**B1**

AT HOME

Decorating on a shoestring: *Here are some easy, inexpensive ways to beautify your home.*/**D8**

ENTERTAINMENT

Opera: *Michigan Opera Theatre honors the tradition of "Madame Butterfly" with its production, which opens April 17 at the Detroit Opera House.*/**E1**

Music: *Nancy Wilson is proud to call herself a "saloon singer."*/**E1**

REAL ESTATE

Get to work: *What you can do to get your home ready for summer.*/**F1**

INDEX

■ Obituaries	A6
■ Classified Index	F6
Real Estate	F6
Crossword	G2
Jobs	G6
Home & Service	H7
Automotive	H8
■ Opinion	A14-15
■ Calendar	B4
■ Sports	C1
■ Real Estate	F1

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Mayor: City's future promising

Westland Mayor Robert Thomas delivered his 10th State of the City address Wednesday evening. Calling it "the place to be," Thomas said he sees a bright future for the city as property values increase.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
dclem@oe.homecomm.net

Mayor Robert Thomas, in his 10th State of the City address, said Wednesday evening that Westland faces a promising future following a decade of landmark growth.

Thomas touted citywide property values that have risen from $842 million to $1.7 billion – more than doubling during his tenure as mayor.

Early in the next millennium, he said, "I think we'll hit the $2 billion mark."

Thomas, the longest-serving mayor in the city's 33-year history, received a standing ovation from a crowd of nearly 300 people who came to the Hellenic Cultural Center to see his decade-crowning State of the City speech.

Thomas said he wants outsiders to choose Westland when they search for a new place to live, and he laced his speech with reasons why he believes they should.

Consider:

■ The southeast side is rebounding with new housing and a planned fire station, and the city is planning to install roads, water mains and sewers for dozens of new homes planned just south of Carver subdivision.

■ With a "can-do attitude," Thomas said his administration has sparked improvements in snowplowing, leaf pickup, police and fire protection, library services and streets. Audience members applauded when he mentioned the 1998 completion of a multi-million dollar project on Newburgh

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Address: *Westland Mayor Robert Thomas talked about Vision 2000 at his State of the City address Wednesday evening at the Hellenic Cultural Center.*

Please see **STATE OF CITY, A2**

Cheering section

In the spirit: *Amber Fernitz, 9 and a fourth-grader at Wildwood Elementary, takes part in learning cheers at the Bailey Center this past week. Elementary school kids are learning cheering routines in a 12-week class with the Cheer America organization. The group will perform in a contest May 1 at Dearborn Crestwood High School. They will also participate in the July 4th parade in Westland. Below, Tiffany Larson, 10 (right) lets it all out learning a cheer.*

STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

Kids' class is 'cheer'ful

Elementary school kids are learning cheering routines in a 12-week class with the Cheer America organization. Classes meet on Mondays until May 10 at the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland for school kids ages first grade and up. One class meets at 4:15 p.m. and the other at 5:15 p.m. Cost is $5 a class. Call Westland Parks and Recreation at (734) 722-7620 for more information.

Thomas backs seizing land for rec center

BY DARRELL CLEM
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Mayor Robert Thomas confirmed Monday that he supports condemning and seizing property northwest of Ford Road and Central City Parkway to build an upscale recreation center and a new city administration building.

But Thomas said during a telephone interview that he won't try to force a divided Westland City Council to take that politically risky step, even though he believes "it's the right thing to do."

The mayor's remarks came 10 weeks after he halted negotiations between the city and property owners who wanted nearly $4 million for the land – more than double what city officials say it's worth.

Council President Sandra Cicirelli said Tuesday that a

Please see **REC, A2**

4 candidates seek school board seats

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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Four candidates will compete for two seats at stake in the June 14 Wayne-Westland school board election.

They are:

■ Skip Monit, a Wayne resident who helped the board win voter support for a $108.3 million bond proposal for building improvements and classroom technology. He now serves on a bond construction committee.

■ Martha Pitsenbarger, a Wayne resident who is seeking re-election as she nears the end of her first four-year term. She is board secretary.

■ Brenda Smith, a first-time candidate and 1997 graduate of Westland John Glenn High School. She attends Henry Ford College and is editor of the school newspaper.

Please see **SCHOOLS, A3**

10 seek council seat

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
dclem@oe.homecomm.net

Lobbying efforts involving a Westland City Council appointed post had begun even before Wednesday's deadline passed for candidates to apply, officials said.

Council President Sandra Cicirelli said local police and firefighters had previously contacted her to show support for David Cox – a former councilman ousted by voters in 1995. He now serves as Wayne-Westland school board president.

Nine others also are hoping for consideration. According to the city clerk's office, they are:

■ Jim Chuck, Westland library board member.
■ Georga Conant, who is active in civic groups.
■ Reasther Everett, longtime city precinct worker.
■ Debra Fowlkes, former Wayne-Westland school board president.

Please see **COUNCIL, A3**

City-owned property sales bring in $500,000

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
dclem@oe.homecomm.net

The sale of 74 city-owned properties will boost Westland's budget by $500,000 and free up land for new development – particularly on the south side, officials said.

The bulk of new land sales will occur in neighborhoods bounded by Middlebelt, Annapolis, Inkster and Van Born roads – an area fueling renewed interest among local developers and outside investors.

"We think this is a sign that these neighborhoods are going to come back strong and be as vital as any other part of Westland," James Gilbert, Westland housing/community development director, said Monday.

"People are wanting to invest money there now, and that says something," Gilbert said.

City council members pledged to sell 74 properties after administration officials sought bids for scores of parcels acquired through nonpayment of taxes or abandonment by previous owners.

Accepted bids ranged from $500 to $55,151, and Assessor James Elrod hopes to complete the sales by this summer.

"I'd love to shoot for June 1," he said.

Elrod estimated that as many as 25 of the properties will be suitable for new housing, while other

Please see **SALES, A3**

State of City

from page A1

Road between Palmer and Enterprise Drive.

■ A Westland Police Department expansion will soon house a new radio system and central dispatch program for this city and several surrounding communities.

■ Wayne-Westland schools are on an upswing that includes massive building renovations and new classroom technology – under the leadership of Superintendent Greg Baracy's administration.

"What a wonderful vision that they have obviously had for our Wayne-Westland school district," Thomas said.

■ A 14-year streak of balanced budgets continues for the city of Westland, coinciding with improved services and a tax rate that slightly declined, he said.

■ Thomas' administration has boosted public safety by implementing new programs such as placing bike-riding police officers and paramedics in neighborhoods.

■ Reviving his city slogan, Mayor Robert Thomas said Westland "truly can be the place to be," and he commended his staff and the Westland City Council for supporting his vision.

Reviving his city slogan, Thomas said Westland "truly can be the place to be," and he commended his staff and the Westland City Council for supporting his vision.

However, not all of the mayor's State of the City address portrayed Westland as a leader among other communities. He continued to express hope for a new recreation center and a new city administration building – projects that have proved elusive.

And he cited a dire need for an expansion of an 18th District Court building where two judges and their staffs "turn over more cases than some courts twice their size."

Earlier in the week, Thomas told the Observer that he favors allowing the court to use its own revenues to pay for a ground-level expansion. Construction could start later this year, he said.

Thomas also conceded that local motorists could face some headaches as a wide array of road projects get under way in 1999. He cited a current project – a fifth lane on Newburgh between Warren and Ford – as an example.

"When it's all done," he said, "we're going to have some much better roads to drive on."

Thomas held out hope that Westland will continue to improve as the city enters a new millennium.

Said the mayor: "I want the best service for our people."

Coming Sunday: The mayor didn't just tout his own accomplishments Wednesday. His State of the City also included honors for the city's top mother, father, student and teacher, plus a special award for Westland City Council member Justine Barns.

Rec

from page A1

council majority opposes condemnation.

"We have talked about it," she said, "but the support is not there."

In another clear indication that administration officials haven't abandoned new building proposals, a public forum has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, at John Glenn High School to hear comments on a recreation center.

"This gives anybody in Westland a chance to come and tell us what they think," Thomas said.

But some officials criticized the way the mayor is handling the issue of new buildings.

"On one hand I applaud any sincere effort to get input from the community on the proposal," Councilman Glenn Anderson said, "but I question why the administration continues to send mixed signals. Just a couple of months ago (the mayor) announced the proposal had been abandoned, and yet he continues to signal that it hasn't."

Proving he still is willing to fight for new city buildings, Thomas' latest statements marked a strong public stance for seizing property behind a Kroger-anchored retail strip center on Ford Road.

Had Thomas, alone, been empowered to condemn the property, he said, "I probably would have done it a year ago."

But he conceded that he understands why council members are reluctant to seize property and become embroiled in a court battle that would ultimately decide the city's price tag for the land.

"I just know in my heart ... that that would be the right thing to do for the city," Thomas said.

Survey says

He also pointed to a January survey, conducted by an outside firm, that indicated a majority of Westland residents support building a new recreation center. The poll also found respondents would pay to use it.

Anderson said the same survey indicates that "an overwhelming majority" of residents who use the existing Bailey Recreation Center are satisfied with it.

Thomas has said the Bailey Center and Westland City Hall are becoming increasingly shabby and inefficient.

Still, some city leaders say new buildings and condemned property shouldn't come at any cost.

"I am not supportive at this time of condemning that property, and I don't see that position changing," Councilman Richard LeBlanc said. "The biggest issue with securing that property for hopeful or eventual city use is the price. When you get into condemnation, your price has the potential to be significantly inflated both over its real value and its perceived value."

Thomas and his supporters want to pay for new city buildings – estimated at $20 million or more – by using tax revenues from a special Tax Increment Finance Authority district north of Ford Road.

"We're kind of in limbo," Thomas said Monday. "There is no absolute plan that we're going to do it."

Some officials, such as LeBlanc, Anderson and departing Councilman Charles Pickering, support abolishing the TIFA district and funneling those tax revenues into citywide services.

TIFA worries

"My fear is that this big money tree called TIFA is going to be financially occupied for so long a period that it will have a negative effect on the city," LeBlanc said.

He estimated the TIFA district would have to be extended another 20 years to pay for a new recreation center and city administration building.

"That's just too long to have that money being out of the at-large budget of the city," LeBlanc said. "It is time to disband TIFA. It did its job."

TIFA dollars have helped pay for a wide array of improvements such as a new public library on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren.

In fact, Thomas used the library as a key example of how city officials can boost public services without asking for a tax increase.

He said the city spent $13 million on the library.

"Not one resident had to pay one dime extra to build that library," Thomas said, although he conceded that city dollars are used to operate it.

Some officials have suggested that the city could end TIFA, return revenues to the city budget and then plan how to pay for new buildings, though not necessarily on Thomas' preferred site.

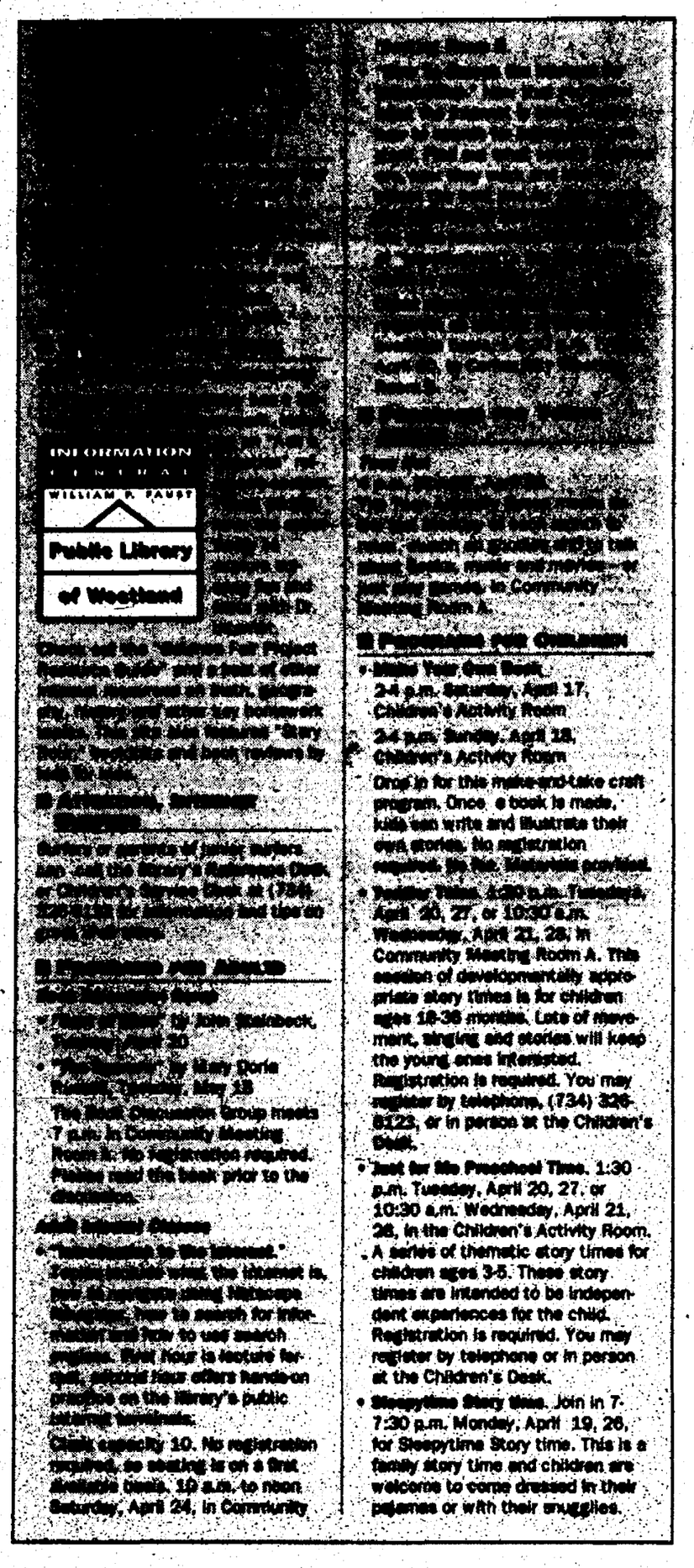
Some political observers also say the issue over possible condemnation could become a major issue this election year as voters fill four council seats. Two incumbents, Pickering and Councilwoman Justine Barns, have already announced they are stepping down.

Pickering, in fact, will step down effective April 30 and be replaced by an appointee who could cast crucial votes on city building proposals.

Cicirelli acknowledged that condemnation talks may not be dead because it's possible the mayor "may present it to us again."

Thomas said he hopes the April 27 public forum will give city officials a deeper understanding of how residents feel about a possible recreation center and a new city hall.

The forum can only add to information gleaned from January's official survey results, he said.



CHAMBER NOTES

JOB FAIR

Job seekers and employers will have a chance to get together in Westland on Saturday, April 24.

The Westland Chamber of Commerce annual Jobs and Careers Fair will be held 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Westland Shopping Center.

This is the third year for the event, which drew more than 2,000 job seekers last year. The entire mall will be filled with more than 70 tables for employers to meet job seekers.

All types of businesses will be in attendance including: retail, manufacturing, engineering, technical, professional, sales, marketing, health care, trades, financial, office/clerical and organizational. The major sponsor is the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. WYCD Young Country will be sponsoring radio advertising. Employers who wish to reserve a table may call the chamber at (734) 326-7222 or visit the chamber's Web site at www.westland.org

Businesses may choose from two levels of participation: the Premium Deal at $350 ($300 for chamber members) which offers a 6-foot skirted table at the fair and a listing in the fair's promotional material, Observer Newspaper advertising, direct mail, signs at the mall prior to the event and the chamber's Internet home page; the Basic Success Deal at $200 ($150 for chamber members) which provides employers with a 6-foot skirted table at the fair.

Job seekers who fill out a survey will be entered in a drawing for a $250 gift certificate.

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newsroom@oeonline.com.

Homeline: 734-953-2020

➤ Open houses and new developments in your area.
➤ Free real estate seminar information.
➤ Current mortgage rates.

Classified After Hours: 734-591-0900

➤ Place classified ads at your convenience.

Circulation Department: 734-591-0500

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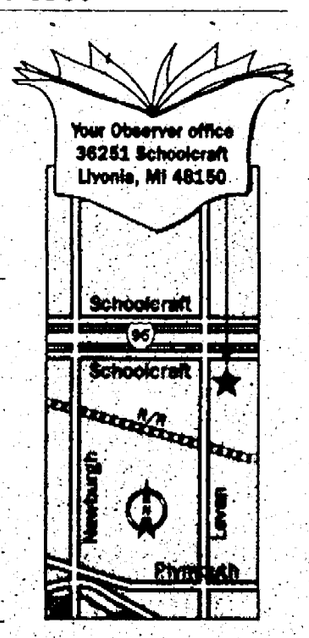
Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.



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All advertising published in the Westland Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, Westland Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. (734) 591-2300. The Westland Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric® ad-takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS

To the owner or occupant or any person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any land in the City of Westland: (APPENDIX A)
Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, must be destroyed on or before the 15th day throughout the months of May, June, July, August and September of 1999. Any person failing to comply with this notice on or before the dates mentioned shall be liable to the imposition of penalties set forth in Section 106-97 of the Westland Code of Ordinance and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the City in destroying said noxious weeds, which expenses, if unpaid by the owner, occupant, or agent, shall be spread against the property on the next County and School tax roll or the next general City tax roll. _____, 1999

City of Westland
Commissioner of Noxious Weeds

APPENDIX A

001-99-0010-000	030-99-0008-004	045-99-0024-701	070-01-0029-001	083-03-0183-000
001-99-0027-000	032-02-0387-000	047-02-0001-001	070-01-0030-302	083-03-0199-000
001-99-0028-000	032-02-0535-000	048-01-0044-000	073-01-0001-000	083-03-0219-000
001-99-0049-000	032-02-0536-000	048-01-0075-302	073-02-0265-000	083-03-0236-000
001-99-0052-000	032-02-0537-000	049-04-0949-003	073-02-0270-000	083-03-0238-000
001-99-0062-001	032-02-0538-000	051-99-0057-002	073-02-0282-000	083-03-0244-000
001-99-0066-000	032-02-0539-000	051-99-0059-000	073-02-0283-000	083-03-0245-000
002-99-0007-000	032-02-0562-300	051-99-0060-000	073-03-0305-000	083-03-0246-000
003-04-0004-000	032-02-0581-000	051-99-0064-000	073-03-0335-000	083-03-0247-000
004-01-0088-000	032-03-0810-000	052-99-0015-705	073-03-0352-000	083-99-0028-000
005-02-0023-000	032-99-0007-001	052-99-0024-002	073-03-0353-000	084-01-0021-000
005-02-0024-000	033-01-0027-300	052-99-0028-001	073-03-0406-000	084-01-0024-000
005-02-0025-000	033-01-0029-300	052-99-0030-001	073-03-0409-000	084-01-0026-000
007-01-0581-002	033-01-0055-303	054-99-0011-002	074-01-0682-000	084-01-0034-000
007-01-0581-003	033-01-0055-304	054-99-0011-003	074-06-1062-000	084-01-0043-000
007-01-0581-004	033-01-0056-307	060-06-0186-000	074-06-1213-003	084-01-0044-000
007-01-0585-001	034-01-0018-001	061-01-0280-002	078-10-0354-000	084-01-0061-000
007-01-0585-002	034-01-0026-000	061-01-0339-000	078-01-0032-001	084-01-0062-000
007-01-0602-006	034-01-0027-000	062-01-0166-004	081-99-0021-703	084-01-0064-000
009-03-0047-300	034-02-0009-000	065-99-0001-013	081-99-0043-000	084-01-0073-000
009-03-0049-000	034-99-0018-001	066-01-0530-301	082-01-0107-002	084-01-0074-000
009-99-0007-002	034-99-0021-001	066-01-0543-301	082-01-0122-000	084-01-0093-000
012-01-0001-000	034-99-0030-005	066-99-0008-001	082-01-0126-000	084-01-0094-000
016-99-0005-001	035-99-0002-000	066-99-0010-001	082-02-0144-000	084-01-0096-000
018-99-0007-000	036-99-0008-000	066-99-0021-001	082-02-0146-000	084-01-0102-000
018-99-0012-000	036-99-0009-001	067-03-0078-000	082-99-0016-000	084-01-0125-300
021-99-0001-710	038-99-0004-000	067-99-0012-000	083-01-0792-003	084-01-0132-000
023-99-0006-703	042-02-0447-300	067-99-0016-701	083-02-0007-000	084-01-0133-000
024-99-0013-000	042-03-0685-312	067-99-0022-002	083-02-0039-000	084-01-0134-000
025-99-0004-001	042-03-0685-313	069-01-0177-002	083-02-0063-300	084-01-0136-000
025-99-0019-701	042-03-0696-001	070-01-0026-001	083-02-0112-000	084-02-0689-000
026-02-0004-000	042-03-0696-004	070-01-0027-001	083-03-0159-000	
028-99-0005-715	042-99-0005-000	070-01-0028-001	083-03-0175-000	
029-99-0014-701	043-01-0118-000			

NOTICE TO CUT

Publish: April 15 and 22, 1999 L891611

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Tuesday, April 20, 1999, the Westland Police Dept. will conduct Public Auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 AM at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

?? TRAILER	OFFICE	WHITE	NONE
?? MAJESTIC	23FT TRAILER	WHT/GRN	NONE
86 PONTIAC	4DR GRAND AM	BLUE	1G2NV69U9GC661541
85 CHEVROLET	CAVALIER WGN	GRAY	1G1JC35P3F7124887

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00 AM at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Road, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

?? YAMAHA	MTRCYCLE	GREEN	NONE
84 OLDSMOBILE	CUTLASS 2 DR	GRAY	1G3AR47Y8EM454476
81 MERC	2DR ZEPHYR	BLUE	1MEBP70BOBK617810
85 OLDS	2DR CUTLASS	GRAY	1G3GR47A2FP304148
87 OLDS	4DR DELTA 88	BURGY	1G3HY5139HW331699
89 FORD	ESCORT 4D	BLACK	1FAPP9596KT138543
81 TOYOTA	2DR CELICA	BROWN	JT2RA44C0B0025847
83 CHEV	4DR CAPRICE	BLUE	2GIAN69H3D1260140
86 PONT	2DR GR AM	BLACK	1G2NV27U2GC642468
83 BUICK	ELECTRA 4D	GRAY	1G4AW69Y4DH281095
87 OLDS	4DR	BURGY	1G3CW5138H1301512
88 MERC	4DR MARQUIS	WHITE	2MEBM74F4JX694827
86 MERC	2DR COUGAR	GRAY	1MEBP9233GH735341
88 FORD	4DR TAURUS	BLACK	1FABP52U8JG232586
89 DODGE	2DR SHADOW	BLACK	1B3BP44D2KN696960
85 PONT	2DR GR PRIX	BLUE	2G2GK37H0F2270914
75 BUICK	2DR RIVIERA	BLUE	4Z37K8H508411
87 PONT	4DR 6000	GRAY	1G2AF51R7HT261282
85 GMC	VANDURA	WHITE	2GTCG15H0F4523642
87 FORD	2DR CROWN VIC	BLACK	2FABP70F7HX137456
88 GMC	SUBURBAN	WHT/GRAY	1GNEV16K1JF125694
88 FORD	RANGER PU	WHITE	1FTCR14T4JPA78626
90 FORD	4DR TAURUS	WHITE	1FACP54Y5LA199119
87 PONTIAC	SUNBIRD 2 DR	BLUE	AG2JD11K6H7506082
90 EAGLE	TALON 2 DR	BLUE	4E3CT64U1LE068263
87 HYUNDAI	EXCEL 4 DR	GRAY	KMHLF21J1HU239474

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION

Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after May 15, 1999, unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time:

72 FORD	2 DR	GREEN	2H30H184589
93 GEO	2 DR	GREEN	2C1MR2469P6754210

Publish: April 15, 1999 L891523

Dump day

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Taking out trash: *Westland residents took advantage of free dump days Friday and Saturday at the Westland transfer site at the Department of Public Services yard, 37137 Marquette. The center is open to Westland residents 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays until Saturday, Nov. 6. The site doesn't accept stumps, dirt, cement and roof shingles. Fees are based on size of the vehicle used: $11 for a car or station wagon, $21 for a small pickup or van, $29 for a standard pickup or 4 x 6 trailer, $44 for a 4 x 8 or 5 x 8 trailer, $60 for a large trailer.*

Sales *from page A1*

parcels will allow for home additions, garages or merely more yard space.

Officials say the land sales will boost redevelopment efforts by organizations such as Peoples Community Hope for Homes, a nonprofit church group that already has built two new homes, relocated one and spruced up two former dilapidated houses, making them livable again.

The group's efforts have focused on Carver subdivision, southeast of Middlebelt and Annapolis, where city officials say redevelopment is ending 25 years of stagnation. A new fire station also will be built during the next year.

The property sales – approved last week by council members – will pump an estimated one-time $500,000 into city coffers and lead to new construction, which will generate annual tax revenues.

On the down side, Elrod said the round of property bids didn't spark as much interest as had been hoped for parcels in Norwayne subdivision – bounded by Palmer, Wildwood, Glenwood and Merriman.

"We didn't have any luck with our Norwayne properties," Elrod said.

City officials rejected some bids as low as $100, choosing to keep the property until a better offer emerges.

■ Officials say the land sales will boost redevelopment efforts by organizations such as Peoples Community Hope for Homes, a nonprofit church group that already has built two new homes, relocated one and spruced up two former dilapidated houses.

"We just want to make sure, in an area where we want to see some redevelopment, that we look at all those options available to us," Elrod said.

Properties not sold during this initial round of bidding will be returned to a bid list, likely by early June. Those parcels could be sold piecemeal if potential buyers meet minimum prices established by the city.

Call the assessor's office at 467-3160 for more information.

City officials will likely sponsor another round of open bidding after the city acquires a substantial number of other properties from the state for nonpayment of taxes or abandonment by previous owners, Elrod said.

He didn't know when that might occur.

Schools race

5 candidates seek office in Livonia

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER
mchestney@oe.homecomm.net

■ At 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 26, the Livonia PTA Council will host a candidates' forum for residents to question the five candidates for the Livonia board.

School board campaigning gets under way in earnest now that five candidates have stepped forward to vie for two seats in the Livonia district.

In Livonia Public Schools, with James Watters' decision not to run again, it's a certainty that, come July 1, at least one new face will be on the Livonia Board of Education.

Incumbent Frank Kokenakes, an attorney who lives on Mayfield Street, has filed for one of the two four-year terms open on the Livonia board.

Four other contenders for the two four-year terms are Karen Egan of Golfview Street, owner of a child care business; Kristen Galka of Ronnie Street, a registered nurse; Larry Naser of MacKenzie Street in Westland, a mortgage broker; and Kevin Whitehead of Minton Street, a marketing analyst.

Candidates have until 4 p.m. Thursday to withdraw from the race.

There are no tax questions on the June 14 ballot for Livonia schools.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 26, the Livonia PTA Council will host a candidates' forum for residents to question the five candidates for the Livonia board. The forum will be held in the board room of the Livonia schools' central office, 15125 Farmington Road.

Schools *from page A1*

■ WAYNE-WESTLAND

■ Marshall Wright, a Westland resident who has become a familiar face at Wayne-Westland school board meetings. Wright, who lost a previous bid for a school board seat, has become more involved in the district in recent years.

In filling two four-year terms, Wayne-Westland voters will elect at least one new school board member.

Incumbent David James announced earlier that he will step aside when his term ends June 30. He has said he plans to run for a Westland City Council seat this year.

School board members who win election this year will take office at a time when the district appears to be on the rebound.

The district has a $14 million budget surplus, compared to a $278,000 deficit in 1993-94, and many school building renovations and additions are under way.

Moreover, school officials have been touting improvements in classroom instruction and student scores on state achievement tests.

Election winners will take office July 1, joining holdovers David Cox, Mathew McCusker, Robin Moore, Teresa Robbins and Ed Turner.

Council *from page A1*

■ Diane Fritz, retired Westland city clerk.

■ James Godbout, president of the Millwood Village Condominium Association.

■ Michael Kehrer, former precinct delegate.

■ Michael Rintz, Westland Zoning Board of Appeals chairman.

■ Dorothy Smith, longtime council watcher and veteran council candidate.

Cicirelli and her colleagues haven't announced a process for choosing an appointee, although veteran Councilman Charles Pickering's resignation is effective April 30 – eight months before his term expires.

"I'm in favor of doing some interviews," Cicirelli said Wednesday.

She indicated that she would prefer to narrow the field of 10 candidates and then interview finalists.

Cicirelli said she didn't know when an appointee will be named, although she said it could be "sometime in May."

Earlier this week, some political observers speculated privately that Cox already has substantial council support – although not necessarily a majority – for the seat.

Cox would have to resign his Wayne-Westland school board post.

"Certainly I would step down," he said Wednesday. "As to the exact day, I don't know."

■ 'I'm in favor of doing some interviews.'
Sandra Cicirelli
council president

Cox is nearing the end of his third year of a four-year school board term. He confirmed Wednesday that he plans to seek a city council seat in this year's election.

Without criticizing Cox, some officials have said they hope the council will seriously consider the field of candidates and not let political lobbying decide the appointment.

"I would hope that the council would appoint someone who has the ability of independent thought or the wherewithal to make independent decisions and not be swayed by a political group or a political faction," Anderson said.

"I would hope the majority (of council members) would try to find someone along the lines of the ideology that Chuck Pickering had – and the way he approached issues," Anderson said.

Pickering has been considered an independent voice on the council.

As of Wednesday, no council study session had been scheduled to discuss replacing Pickering, who chose to resign after deciding he wouldn't seek reelection this year.

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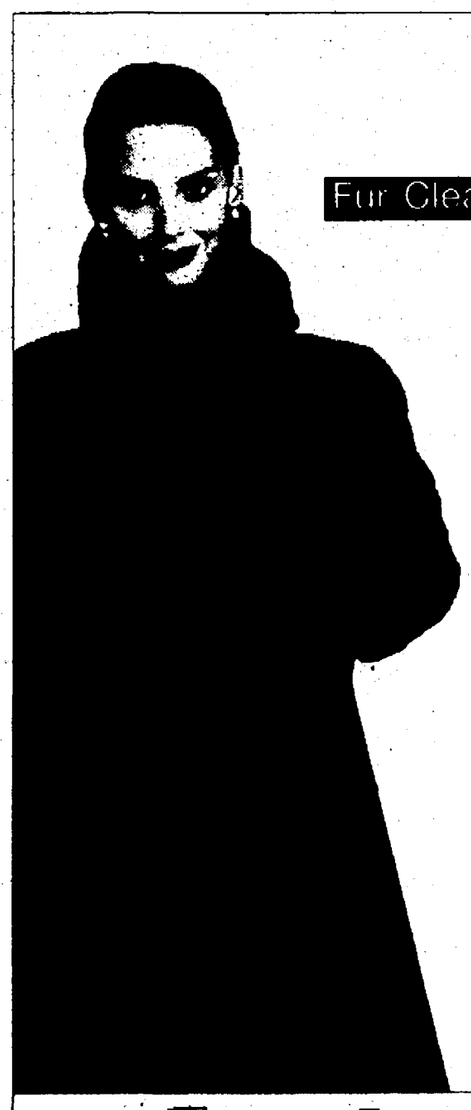

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John Glenn High School honor roll listed

The honor roll for Westland John Glenn High School includes:

MEGHAN ABBOTT, KRISTIN ABRAHAM, DEVON ABRAMSKI, REYLAN ACUNA, ANGELA ADAMS, HEIDE ADAMS, DENARIO ADOLPHUS, ARIFA AFZAL, OUSMAN AFZAL, BRANDON AJLOUNY, ARIANNA AKERS, ERIK ALDER, BRUCE ALLEN, SHARONDA ALLEN, NICHOLAS AMAD, ROLA AMAD, ALPESH AMIN, BRIAN AMMONS, KARRI AMMONS, DAYNA AMOLSCH, JEFFREY ANDERSON, AMANDA ARAKELIAN, TRACY ARMSTRONG, MARIANNA AYDOS, ANDREA BAGGS, IAN BAIN, SARAH BAIN, LISA BAKER, SHANNON BAKER, SUZANNE BALAN, MARIA BALDYSZ, BRYAN BALILO, JEFFREY BALLARD, JUSTIN BALLARD, BRIAN BARBER, TIFFANY BARROWS, STEVEN BARSY, ERIC BATES, AMANDA BAUER, ALICIA BAXTER, JESSICA BAXTER, JESSICA BEACH, LINDSAY BEARD, DAVID BEDWELL, BENJAMIN BEE, DEANNA BELANGER, AMANDA BELL, CLIFFORD BELL, COLLEEN BELL, MELISSA BELL, KELLY BENNETT, MATTHEW BERENT, JENNIFER BERNARD, CARINA BERSANO, KRISTY BIDDINGER, AMY BIDWELL, ROSALYN BILBERRY, JENNIFER BLACK, NICOLE BLAN, AMY BLIGHT, CHRISTINA BLOOM, JENNIFER BLOOMER, TODD BOARDMAN, BRIAN BODLE, LAUREN BOESEN, BRENT BOGLE, JEREMY BOGUSLAW, KRISTY BOGUSLAW, NICOLAS BORK, DEREK BOROWIAK, TRACY BOROWIAK, IZABEL BOTA, AARON BOU, LEAH BOULTON, SARA BOURGOIN, ERIC BRAUNSTEIN, SAMANTHA BRAY, ABIGAIL BRENNAN, AMY BREWER, JETTA BREWER, TIFFANY BRIDGES, JUSTIN BRIGHT, HANNAH BROWN, RODNEY BROWN, STEPHANIE BROWN, NICOLETT BUCAR, ADAM BUEHNER, MEGAN BUGASKI, JON BUHRO, MATTHEW BULLOCK, KELLY BURNS, TODD BUSH, SARAH BYRAM, JILLIAN CALKA, HEATHER CAMPBELL, NATHAN CAMPBELL, CHRISTINA CANALES, ANTHONY CANFIELD, KATHLEEN CARPEN, CARRIE-ANNE CASE, RUSSELL CASSARA, JEREMY CATARINO, LACEY CATARINO, MELISSA CAVENDER, LESHAWNTA CHAMBERS, BRANDON CHANDLER, ANGELA CHARBENEAU, RICHARD CHASE, LISA CHEBATORIS, AARON CHILES, ERIC CHILES, ZANDELI CHIRUNGA, GERALD CHOMOS, BRADFORD CLARK, CHRISTOPHER CLARK, KELLI CLARK, PHILLIP CLARK, SCOTT CLARK, SEAN CLARK, ANGEL CLEMENTS, JOEL CLENNEY, MARCELLA COATS, BLAKE COLBERT, COREY COLLINS, MICHAEL COLLINS, JENNIFER COLWELL, STEPHEN CONN, SHARRAH COOLEY, AARON COPELAND, ANDREW COPLAND, SARAH CORNEY, RENAE COSGROVE, KRISTEN COSTANTINO, MARIA COSTELLO, MURIEL COTE', JEAN COULTER, JASON COURLAS, AUTUMN COVER, AMY COX, CHRISTINA COX

LAURA COX, ZACHARY CRAWFORD, MARTHA CROFTS, TIMOTHY CUMMINGS, JEREMY CUPP, JODY DAFOE, COREY DAHN, HARDIK DALAL, ANETA DANOWSKI, MATTHEW DARNELL, KIRAN DASHAIRYA, RAJIV DASHAIRYA, RAJNI DASHAIRYA, MIGUEL ANTO DAVID, CORTNEY DAVIS, DAVID DAVIS, JULIE DAVIS, JOSHUA DAY, SAMANTHA DEAN, BARBARA DECKER, JOSEPH DECKER, JOSHUA DEE, HOLLY DEEDLER, BRIAN DEGIORGIO, SHEREE DEROSIA, KATHERINE DERWICH, KEVIN DERWICH, JENNIFER DETHLOFF, JASON DEVORE, BRANDON DICKERSON, JENNIFER DILLON, NINA DIMACHKI, DAWN DISHONG, JAMES DOHERTY, JONATHAN DOHRING, STACY DONALL, DANIELLE DOWNS, JEFFREY DROTAR, KRISTINA DUNNY, PATRICK DURHAM, KEVIN DURIGON, RENEE DURIGON, JAMES EDWARDS, JESSICA ELDERKIN, MATTHEW ELLSWORTH, ATHENEE ELRINGTON, DOUGLAS ELSEY, ALLISON EMMERT, JAMES ENGLAND, CARA ENGMARK, CHELSEY ENNIS, MARC FABREY, AMANDA FAIRBAIRN, JEFFREY FAIRCHILD, AMANDA FANNIN, ROBERT FANT, SAM FARHAT, DIANNA FARR, LLOYD FARR, VALERIE FAY, STEPHANIE FEDULCHAK, LEAH FELESKY, ERICA FELLOWS, JUSTIN FENDELET, LAURA FENNER, MELISSA FERGUSON, JAQUELINN FERNANDEZ, KATHRYN FERRY, KRISTEN FIDH, MICHAEL FILLION, GARY FINKLE, SHANE FIONDELLA, KRISTEN FISCHER, MARY BETH FIXLER, GABRIEL FLEMING, JENNIFER FLEMING, CRYSTAL FLOWERS, AARON FOLTZ, LANCE FORMOLO, DANIEL FOWLER, KATHRYN FOWLER, DUSTIN FOX, MEGAN FRANKS, THOMAS FRENO, JENNIFER FRITZ, SHANON FROST, JOSHUA FUHRMAN, JADE FUKUDA, KEITH FUKUDA, BRETT FULLERTON, BRANDON FULTON, FRODE FUSKELAND, JODIE GALVAN, CARLOS GAMMONS, MEGAN GAW, CHRISTOPHER GAZDAG, MICHELLE GENO, LATASHA GERRIN, MEGAN GIACCHINA, NATHAN GIACCHINA, KRYSTEN GIACHINO, MATTHEW GIBBS, AARON GIERADA, AMANDA GILBO, HOLLY GILBO, JENNIFER GILLIES, KATHERINE GILLIES, FARIDEH GIRGIS, DEREK GISMONDI, KAREN GLASS, LEANN GLEASON

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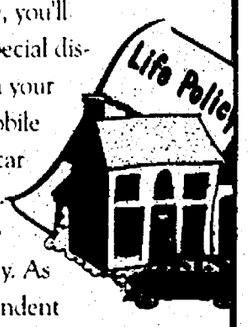

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Canfield Community Center
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(Between Cherry Hill and Ford Rd.)
(Refreshments will be served)

ST. CLAIR SHORES
Tuesday, April 20
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
St. Clair Shores Civic Center
20000 Stephens Drive
(9 ½ North of Little Mack)
(Refreshments will be served)

WESTLAND
Wednesday, April 21
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Melvin Bailey Recreation Center
36651 Ford Rd.
(Between Newburgh and Wayne Rd.)
(Refreshments will be served)

STERLING HEIGHTS
Wednesday, April 21
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Best Western Sterling Inn
34911 Van Dyke Ave.
(SW corner of 15 Mile & Van Dyke)
(Refreshments will be served)

LIVONIA
Thursday, April 22
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Livonia Civic Center Library
32777 Five Mile Rd.
(South side of Five Mile and East of Farmington)
(Refreshments will be served)

ALLEN PARK
Saturday, April 24
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Greenfield Inn
30000 Enterprise Dr.
(Cross streets are Oakwood and I-94)
(Refreshments will be served)

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Verda Smith and daughter Gerri Witowski

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County may require septic tank inspection

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

Homeowners with septic tanks may soon have pay $50 for a septic system inspection every five years or when their home is sold under an ordinance proposed by the Wayne County Department of Environment.

Wayne County officials will meet Friday with community representatives from western Wayne County to discuss the ordinance designed to eliminate one pollution source of the Rouge River: failed septic systems. Jim Murray, director of environment, expects to forward the ordinance to county commissioners in May for discussion and approval.

The ordinance calls for homeowners with septic tanks to obtain inspections from county health officials once every five years or when the house is sold. Communities have the option to sign up with the county for the program, said Murray to members of the Conference of Western Wayne Friday.

The CWW is a legislative consortium of elected officials from the cities of Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland and the townships of Canton, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren.

Septic systems are wastewater treatment systems that use septic tanks and drain fields to dispose of sewage in soil. Typically they are in rural or large lot settings where a sanitary sewer is not available, but some of the older communities have homes with septics where it was cost-prohibitive to connect a new sewer line when the home was built. Failed septic tanks near the Rouge can increase bacteria levels and affect the river's water quality.

Murray recently said Wayne County was finding a failure rate of 20 percent for septic tanks. Fifty to 75 percent of tanks older than 15 years failed.

Most Wayne County communities have agreed to initiate inspection programs for on-site sewage systems, according to the general permit applications filed with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Murray expects to bring the ordinance before U.S. District Judge John Feikens at a court hearing May 17. Feikens has overseen the cleanup of the Rouge River, which is an "area of concern" of its water quality, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Please see SEPTIC TANK, A8

Plant tours celebrate clean water

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department will celebrate the importance of safe, high quality drinking water with other water utilities nationally in May.

The educational campaign is aimed at telling the public about the meaningful role that quality drinking water plays in daily life. The theme of this year's event is "Celebrate Water."

"Providing safe drinking water is everyone's business," said Stephen F. Gorden, director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and president-elect of the American Water Works Association.

"Issues such as source water protection, new methods of water treatment and increased regulations make drinking water an important public concern."

Free Drinking Water Week/Month activities offered by DWSD for adults and children in its 126-community, four million-customer service area include:

■ Water plant tours for neighborhood/school groups at the Northeast Water Plant, 11000 E. Eight Mile, just east of Van Dyke in Detroit. Northeast is one of five water plants in the DWSD system and serves as host plant during Drinking Water Week/Month. Tours last approximately 40 minutes. Souvenirs will be provided. (Regular tours are offered year-round.)

■ Speakers' Bureau presentations – DWSD representatives will visit school and community groups to share important information and fascinating facts about the water that comes from your tap.

■ Drinking Water Week/Month Ceremony/Luncheon – Ten students who submitted water-related projects to the Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit held in March at Cobo Center will be presented with U.S. Savings Bonds in denominations of $50 to $300. The students, their parents and teachers will be recognized at the ceremony Tuesday, May 18, in the Water Board Building, 735 Randolph in downtown Detroit.

Requests for tours and speakers are still being accepted and are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are required and can be made by calling DWSD's Public Relations Division at (313) 964-9570, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

S'craft to host secretary's day seminar, speaker

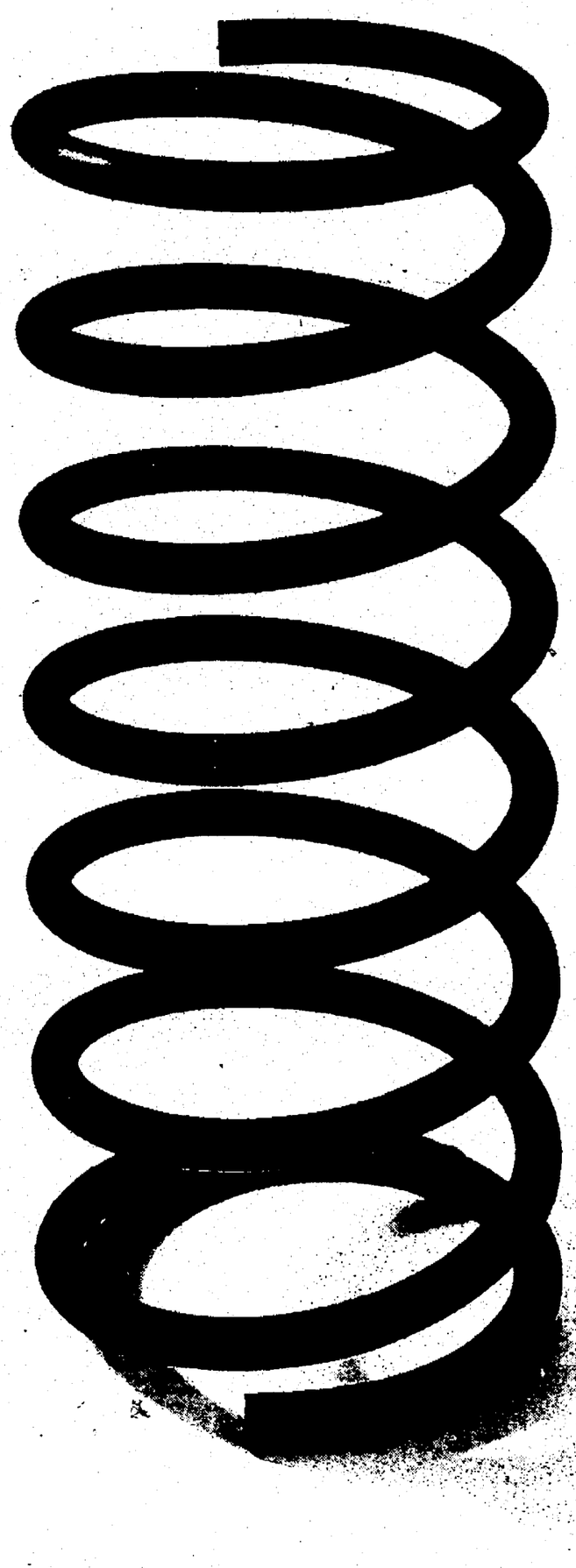
Celebrate Secretary's Day with a day-long session that emphasizes self confidence and harmony Wednesday, April 21, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Livonia.

Schoolcraft College's annual Secretary's Day Seminar begins with author and international consultant Lois Wolfe-Morgan, who will conduct a three-hour session, "Projecting a Professional Image." Her presentation will offer participants the tools to develop a professional style that commands respect, exudes confidence and gives a presence in any setting.

After lunch and a vendor showcase, afternoon sessions will feature an introduction to feng shui, the ancient practice of energy balancing in physical space and an introduction to aromatherapy, the use of essential oils to enhance the quality of life, body, mind and spirit.

The fee for the day-long session and lunch is $89. To register or for more information, call Continuing Education Services, (734) 462-4448.

(do you need a little lift?)



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Honor from page A4

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OBITUARIES

JAN P. LANG

Services for Jan (John) Lang, 88, of Westland were April 14 in L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Canton with burial at Roseland Park Cemetery. Officiating was the Rev. Drexel Morton.

Mr. Lang, who died April 11 in Wayne, was born Oct. 5, 1910, in Indonesia. He was an accountant.

Surviving are his son, Fred (Patricia); daughters, Janet (Gordon) Lakeman, Geraldine (Bill) Bruckel and Jolette (Dennis) German; one sister; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Lang was preceded in death by his wife, Johanna.

RICHARD TREVINO

Services for Richard Trevino, 72, of Westland were April 12 in Vermeulen Funeral Home in Westland. Officiating was the Rev. Wayne Parker.

Mr. Trevino, who died April 8 in Garden City, was born Nov. 27, 1926, in Wayne. He was chief mechanic for the city of Westland. He served in the Navy during World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Roberta; son, Kenneth (Barbara) Trevino of Lincoln Park; daughters, Linda (Doug) Trevino-Smith of Holland, Roxanne (Michael) Caesaro of Florida and Theresa (William) McEvoy of Allen Park; brothers, Reuben Trevino of Detroit and Louis (Sarah) Trevino of Allen Park; and five grandchildren.

JEAN CORTE

Services for Jean Corte, 75, of Westland were April 13 in St. Bernardine Church with burial at St. Hedwig Cemetery. Arrangements were from L.J. Griffin Funeral Home.

Mrs. Corte, who died April 10 at her residence in Westland, was born Dec. 1, 1923, in Vincennes, Ind. She was a secretary for Livonia schools.

Surviving are her husband, Joseph; sons, Dennis (Nadine) and Steven; daughters, Susan (Joseph) Owsley and Jane (Michael) Hardybala; six brothers; two sisters; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Corte was preceded in death by a son, Philip.

EILEEN E. GRIFFEN

Eileen Griffen, 68, of Wayne died April 9 in Dearborn. She was born July 12, 1930, in Cleveland, Ohio. She was a homemaker.

Arrangements were from Uht Funeral Home.

Surviving are her sons, Ronald (Robin) Griffen of Westland and Gary (Colleen) Griffen; two brothers; two sisters; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Griffen was preceded in death by her husband, Wilson.

WALTER JOSEPH MISTAK

Services for Walter Joseph Mistak of Dearborn Heights were Tuesday from Sajewski Funeral Home in Detroit and St. Dunstan Church in Garden City. Burial was in St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights.

Mr. Mistak, the founder of the Walter's Home Appliance chain, died April 8 in a Florida hospital following complications from surgery. He was 77.

A pioneer in the local appliance business, Mr. Mistak opened his first store on McGraw Avenue on Detroit's west side in 1950. Walter's Home Appliances added stores in Livonia, Canton, Dearborn and Brighton.

Mr. Mistak was co-founder of MARTA Cooperative of America, a buyers group for independent dealers in the appliance/television industry.

The son of Polish immigrants, Mr. Mistak was born Dec. 29, 1921, in Detroit.

He attended St. Andrew's grade school, Munger Junior High School and Chadsey High School.

He served in the Armed Forces during World War II.

He took great pride in his Polish heritage and was a member of the Polonaise Club and the Bieniak VFW Post.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Michaeline Mistak; sons, John Michael Mistak and Walter Jr. (Melissa); daughters, Mary Frances (Jeffrey) Hearn and Lisa (William) Seymour; sisters, Anna Hanley and Eleanor Maciejewski; and grandchildren, Michael and Christopher Mistak, Jeffrey and Stephanie Hearn, Julie Seymour and Rachel, Monica and Walter Mistak III.

Memorial donations may be made to Orchard Lake St. Mary's seminary.

WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by Walker Elementary School, 39932 Michigan Avenue, Canton, Michigan 48187 for:

FURNISHINGS

Proposals are to be submitted in accordance with contract documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. 11911 W. Square Lake Road, P.O. Box 289, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303-0289 dated April 30, 1999.

0.01 DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A. Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after, April 16, 1999. Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC.

B. Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Architect's office, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

0.02 DUE DATE

A. Bid Proposal will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Date and Time: April 30, 1999 at 2:00 p.m.

Place: Wayne-Westland Board of Education
36745 Marquette Road
Westland, MI 48185

0.03 GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of ninety (90) days after date for receipt of bids. **A 5% bid bond is required** in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders (See Section 00100-F-1, 0.02,G).

B. Accepted Bidder shall be required to enter into a contract with Wayne-Westland Community Schools and furnish satisfactory Performance Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. (See Section 00100-F-2, 0.02,L).

C. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein. If in the Owner's opinion it is in their best interest, the contract may be awarded to other than the lowest bidder, for reasons of establishing uniformity, delivery time, etc.

Publish: April 15 and 18, 1999

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
MICHIGAN
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received at the City Clerk, in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135 (735-525-8808) on or before April 29, 1999 at 2:00 pm. for the following items:

BLACK DIRT
COLDPATCH MATERIAL
TRAFFIC MARKETING PAINT
READY MIXED CONCRETE
REMOVAL OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL
SUMMER RECREATION STAFF SHIRTS
MASON SAND
BAGGED CEMENT AND MORTAR
60-40 GRAVEL
CLAY PIPE, PBC PIPE AND MASTIC
CORRUGATED STORM SEWER PIPE
CATCHBASIN BRICK AND BLOCK
ELECTRIC SEWER SNAKE

Bids most be submitted on forms furnished by the City Clerk, in a sealed envelope endorsed with the name(s) of item(s).

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole or in part and to waive any informalities when deemed in the best interest of the City of Garden City.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: April 15, 1999

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
MICHIGAN
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received at the City Clerk, in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135 (734-525-8808) on or before April 28, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. for the following items:

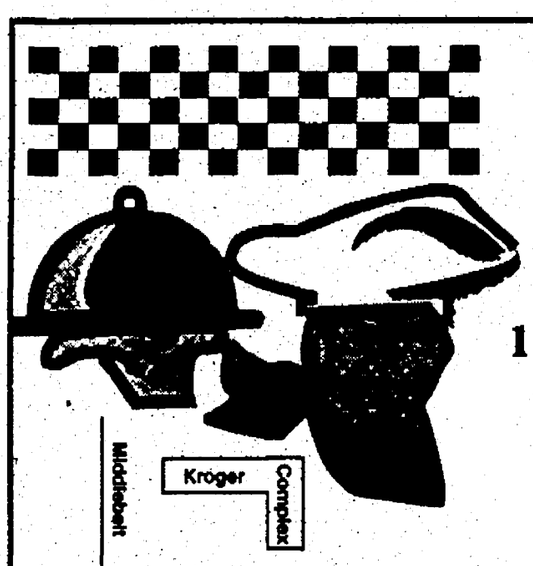
ASPHALTIC MIXES
LIMESTONE/CRUSHED CONCRETE
GRASS SEEDS
YELLOW BANKRUN SAND
SOD
AMBULANCE BILLING

Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the city Clerk, in a sealed envelope endorsed with the name(s) of item(s).

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole or in part and to waive any informalities when deemed in the best interest of the City of Garden City.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: April 15, 1999



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#3 Pancakes w/Bacon or Sausage or 1/4 lb. Ham $2.10
#4 2 Extra Large Eggs, 2 Bacon or 2 Links Sausage, or 1/4 lb. Ham, Hash Browns or Pancake, Toast & Jelly $1.99
#5 3 Eggs, Baked Ham (Approx. 1/2 lb. Dearborn Ham) Hash Browns, Toast & Jelly $2.99
#6 Ham & Cheese Omelette Hash Browns, Toast & Jelly $2.99
#7 Genie's Omelette $3.95
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WESTBORN MARKET

Hearing examines plan to cover Westland landfill

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

A former Nankin Township landfill contains groundwater contaminated by barium.

The Westland landfill would be covered by soil and a liner, but the barium will not be removed, according to a remedial action plan completed by a consultant for Wayne County and Crestwood Development Co., the co-owners of the 17-acre site. The landfill is about 12 acres.

A hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. today at the Bailey Center, 36651 Ford Road, Westland, by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on the plan to cover the landfill. The MDEQ will accept public comments through May 3, then decide on whether to approve the plan or amend it with changes.

Located approximately 1,200 feet northeast of the intersection of Newburgh and Warren Road, the site consists of undeveloped land, covered by grass and trees.

The site is bordered on the north and west by Tonquish Creek and the Holliday Nature Preserve, while on the south and east lie residential multi-family housing units. A security fence restricts site access. Small amounts of municipal waste are evident on the surface of the site.

Consultants ARCADIS, Geraghty & Miller Inc. of Novi believe a "mixing zone" area for the barium adjacent to Tonquish Creek meets MDEQ criteria, as the consultants used engineering formulas and a study of soils and potential discharge to evaluate the zone. Consultants have requested the MDEQ surface water quality division reaffirm the consultants' analysis.

Open grass and forested barriers are proposed for the site's western portion.

Grass barrier

The grass barrier will consist of a geosynthetic fabric covered by 12 inches of soil material, then covered by 3 inches of topsoil and seeded with grass. The barrier is designed to allow tree growth and achieve an effective exposure barrier, covered by 6 inches of topsoil and seeded with grass.

An erosion barrier will be installed along approximately 1,900 feet of Tonquish Creek, which will require a reshaping and grading of the creek bank. Any fill material removed from the creek bank area will be moved back into the fill area to be covered by the exposure barrier.

Five years ago the site was considered an environmental "hot spot" and cleaned up by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In June 1994, the MDEQ completed fieldwork at the site, and found arsenic, barium, cadmium, copper, mercury, zinc and toluene dissolved concentrations in groundwater exceed the MDEQ groundwater/surface-water interface or generic cleanup criteria. Surface soil and sediment samples showed arsenic and lead concentrations that exceeded the MDEQ's direct contact standards.

Between November 1994 and February 1995, the EPA removed 5,009 tons of waste including 800 cubic yards of

Please see LANDFILL, A10

GOP dinner set

The Wayne County Republican Committee will host its fourth annual Eisenhower Day Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 28 in St. Mary Cultural Center, Livonia.

State Sen. Majority Leader Dan De Grow will be the keynote speaker. He will provide a legislative update and discuss the GOP agenda.

Cost is $40 per person or $75 per couple. For tickets call Margy Van Houten at (313) 278-4419 or Donald Knapp at (734) 522-8293.

St. Mary Cultural Center is at 18100 Merriman, between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

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Four candidates in race for Schoolcraft board

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

Voters in the Schoolcraft College district will pick two out of four candidates June 14 to serve six-year terms on the college's Board of Trustees.

Two current trustees and two other residents of the college district filed before a 4 p.m. deadline Monday to officially declare their candidacies.

Patricia Watson of Northville, current board president, will seek re-election, while Greg Stempien, a Northville resident who was appointed by trustees last year to fill a vacancy on the board, will run in his first election.

Michael Novak of Westland and Richard Reaume of Plymouth Township also filed petitions.

The college district includes the school districts of Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth-Canton and part of Novi school districts. Novak resides in the Livonia school district, so he is eligible to run.

Trustees do not receive compensation. They oversee an annual budget that exceeds $43 million.

Here is a summary of each candidate:

Novak

Novak is a Livonia police officer and an assistant coordinator with the police academy at the Schoolcraft's Radcliff Center in Garden City. As coordinator, he is responsible for a 40-hour block of training of academy students in traffic-related and nighttime stops, and felony arrests.

Last year he was elected by Livonia police officers and firefighters to represent them as one of five members on the city of Livonia's Pension Board, which has a fund about four times that of Schoolcraft's budget, Novak said.

His contact with Radcliff students and administrators had helped him form a dialogue with them, which he believes will help him on the board if he is elected. Job fairs help inform residents about the programs, Novak said.

"I would like to see more (college) involvement with the local communities and bring the possibilities of jobs to communities," Novak said.

Novak said he is concerned about the financial burdens of a college education for local students. "I'd like us to keep tuition costs where they are," Novak said. He would like to see more satellite programs explored by the college.

Novak has a bachelor of science degree from Madonna University.

Last year Novak applied for the vacancy that Stempien eventually received.

Stempien

Stempien was appointed by trustees in January 1998 to the college's board of trustees to fill a vacancy left by John Walsh, who resigned after he won election to the Livonia City Council.

Prior to his board selection, Stempien told trustees he believed a trustee should work for a consensus, which he has experienced in resolving legal disputes as a mediator and an arbitrator.

At that time, Stempien said maintaining academic quality should be a top priority of the board, and the board should continue to improve programs.

Stempien obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 1966. In 1971, he received his juris doctorate from Detroit College of Law.

Stempien's law office is located in Livonia. He was a co-founder and president of the University of Michigan Club of Northville, a member of the Rotary Club and co-chair of the Fourth of July

Please see BOARD, A13

Septic tank from page A5

Murray was careful not to force the inspection requirement on the communities but also wanted them to know that they were on their own with the DEQ – and ultimately Feikens and the EPA – without Wayne County's program.

"If you do not exercise this option, you would have to start your own program and submit it to the state for their approval," Murray said. Murray encouraged the CWW communities to send representatives and attorneys to Friday's meeting in case they had questions. None of the CWW board members opposed it at last week's meeting.

On April 1, Wayne County commissioners approved grants for the Rouge River Wet Weather Demonstration Project. A $42,000 grant was earmarked for the Wayne County Department of Environmental Health to enter data onto a computer of on-site sewage disposal systems, while a $10,000 grant will pay for an educational manual for homeowners.

Wayne County communities use 6,000 septic tanks. In the 48 Rouge basin communities in Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties, 17,500 tanks are in use.

In western Wayne County, Canton has 1,170 tanks. Others are Plymouth Township, with 478; Livonia, 294; Westland, 266; Redford, 101, and Garden City, 34.

Oakland County approves 2,000 new tanks a year, Murray said.

Murray believes septic systems should be inspected statewide. Septic systems can fail any time, but they do so generally in a range between 10 to 20 years.

"So if they are not kept up, we will end up with problems."

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Water heater defect

Granholm seeks relief for consumers

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

Millions of Michigan residents may well have defective water heaters due to faulty equipment.

State Attorney General Jennifer Granholm has called on four water heater manufacturers and a supplier of a manufacturer of a "dip tube" to notify consumers of the problem, repair the defects for consumers and stop selling the defective tube, which was manufactured between 1993 and 1996.

Granholm was accompanied at her press conference Wednesday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers columnist and "Appliance Doctor" Joe Gagnon, who first publicized the dip tube problem last year in his columns.

The dip tube supplies cold water to the bottom of a water heater tank.

"It is costing consumers millions of dollars and it affects millions of people," Granholm said.

Granholm issued a notice of intended action and opportunity to cease and desist to the five manufacturers. The notice alleges the companies violated the Michigan Consumer Protection Act for failing to inform consumers of a potential defect in dip tubes in water heaters. It also alleges that the manufacturers have not fully disclosed the nature and extent of the problems to consumers, despite having knowledge of the deterioration and resulting complications.

State action

On resolving the case, Granholm said: "We will require the manufacturers to both stop the sale of water heaters containing defective dip tubes and develop a plan for repaying the consumers the costs of necessary repairs. The manufacturers must stop burying their corporate heads in the sand and own up to this problem."

Granholm said her office will seek restitution that includes repairs or other appliances, such as dishwashers or washing machines.

Gagnon noticed last year that when he used his bathroom sink and noticed the water was not coming out with any force. He removed the aerator and found it was fill with white chips. He cleaned it out, but the aerator filled again with chips as did a shower head and other faucets throughout the house.

He thought it might be salt from his water softener, but it was not.

He wrote columns about his problem in the O&E and discussed it with listeners on WJR. Gagnon said he received 2,000 phone calls about the dip tube problems. Tests showed later the substance was plastic.

Gagnon's column, radio show and a story in the Kansas City Star have drawn national attention to the problem. Gagnon appeared Wednesday on the ABC-TV show "Good Morning America" to discuss the consumer issue.

Other lawsuits

Consumers have filed lawsuits in Birmingham, Mich., Missouri and Kansas and seeking to recover damages. The suits state that the defendants did not adequately warn the public and hadn't take full responsibility to replace the defective dip tubes.

The former owner of Carmack Appliance in Garden City, Gagnon says until recently that the industry has kept the problem hidden.

"In the way it's understood in the industry, it's a secret warranty," Gagnon said. "If the consumer complains, then they charge the manufacturer."

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHMANN

Tank problems: *Joe Gagnon, the "Appliance Doctor," shows what happens inside a water tank when the dip tube deteriorates. The cutaway tank was supplied by A. Burton & Sons Plumbing & Heating Inc. in Garden City. Gagnon is holding a dip tube.*

The dip tubes were manufactured by Perfection Manufacturer of Madison, Ohio, while the water heater manufacturers are Rheem Manufacturing Co. of New York, American Water Heater Co. of Johnson City, Tenn., A.O. Smith Corp. of Milwaukee, Wis., and Bradford-White Corp. of Ambler, Pa.

The tubes in question are made of plastic, but they lack a specific chemical component to stabilize the plastic. Virtually all the water heaters in the United States and Canada con-

Please see GRANHOLM, A10

Senior citizens are targets for spring home repair scams

Every spring, many seniors are targeted for home repair scams, schemes and swindles. Before you buy new windows, have your driveway paved, or have your gutters cleaned, call the Legal Hotline for Older Michiganians for advice and helpful tips on how to handle home improvement contracts and contractors at (800) 347-5297. The Legal Hotline provides basic legal advice and information to Michigan residents age 60 and older on a wide range of legal issues, including home repair contracts. There is no charge for the service, but donations are welcome.

When considering a repair contract, follow these minimum protections:

n Never be pressured into a "today only" offer. The story, "we are in the neighborhood today and since we're here it will be cheaper to redo your driveway" is a classic home repair scam.

n Get the deal in writing. At a minimum you need: The contractor's name, phone number and address (this is important if you have to file a complaint). If the job is for more than $600, the contractor should, by law, be licensed. Get the license number. What is the total price, and what is included in it? Who pays for the Dumpster and clean up? Are you buying the materials or is the contractor? When does the job start and when is it to be finished? Jobs that are left unfinished for months are a common problem. Address this in writing up front so there is no misunderstanding.

n Get references and check them.

Remember, if you are age 60 or older and have a legal question, you can contact the Legal Hotline at 800-347-5297 for basic legal advice over the telephone. Calls are returned by an attorney in one to two business days.

Granholm will headline S'craft commencement

Michigan Attorney General and Northville resident Jennifer Granholm will be the keynote speaker at the 34th Schoolcraft College commencement May 8.

Granholm made history in November when she was elected the state's first female attorney general.

Granholm is Michigan's first new attorney general in 37 years, following the retirement of Frank Kelley. Granholm graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a perfect academic record and graduated with honors from Harvard Law School.

Granholm clerked with the U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Damon Keith, and was a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office, achieving a 98 percent conviction rate. She was rated "outstanding prosecutor" by the U.S. Department of Justice each year she served as a prosecutor.

In 1994, she became the first woman and youngest person appointed Wayne County corporation counsel, overseeing 75 employees, 2,000 cases a year and an annual budget of $9.5 million. Her office reduced by 87 percent the money Wayne County taxpayers paid to defend lawsuits brought against the county. In 1997, she was named one of Crain's Detroit Business's "Top 40 Under 40" and one of the YWCA's Women of Achievement. In 1998, Michigan Lawyers Weekly selected her as one of the 10 "Lawyers of the Year."

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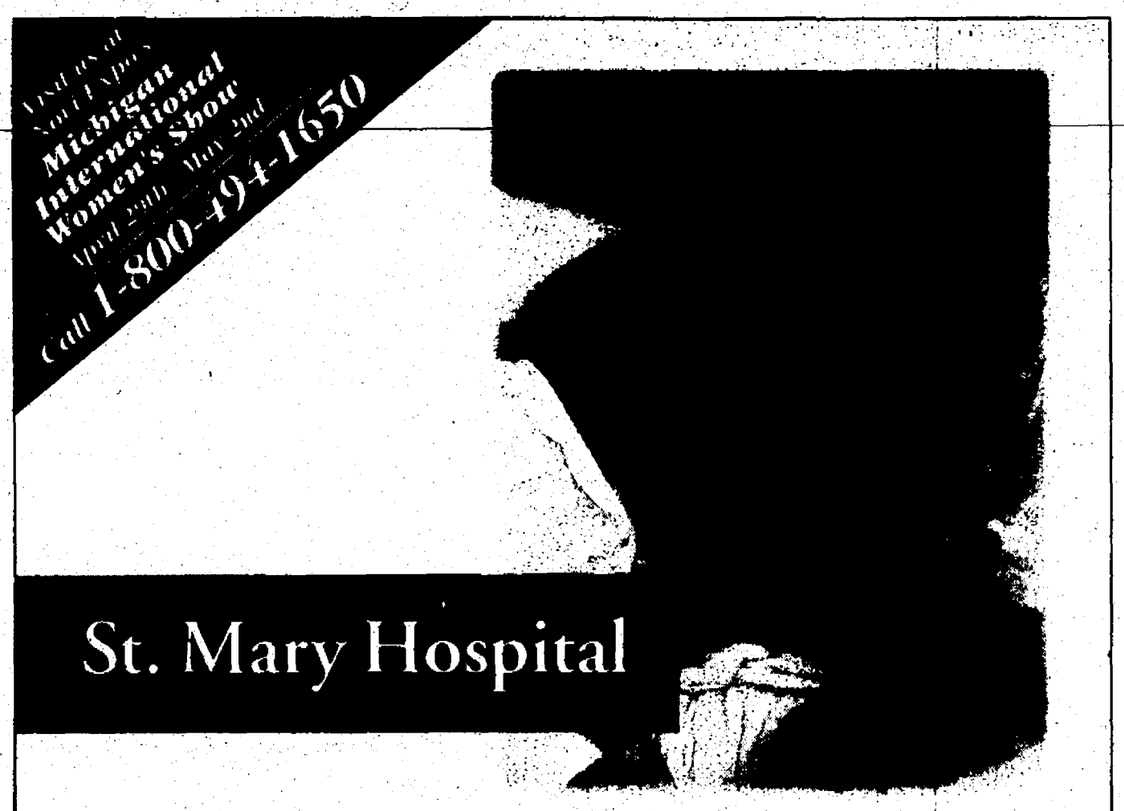

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Maybury State Park to host Earth Day celebration April 24

Maybury State Park will host its 10th annual Earth Day Celebration 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 24.

This celebration of Mother Earth will feature many natural resource-related programs and displays. There will be nature hikes, a scavenger hunt, seed planting and earth craft activities. The Earth Day event is co-sponsored by the Friends of Maybury State Park.

Maybury is on Eight Mile, one mile west of Beck Road in Northville Township.

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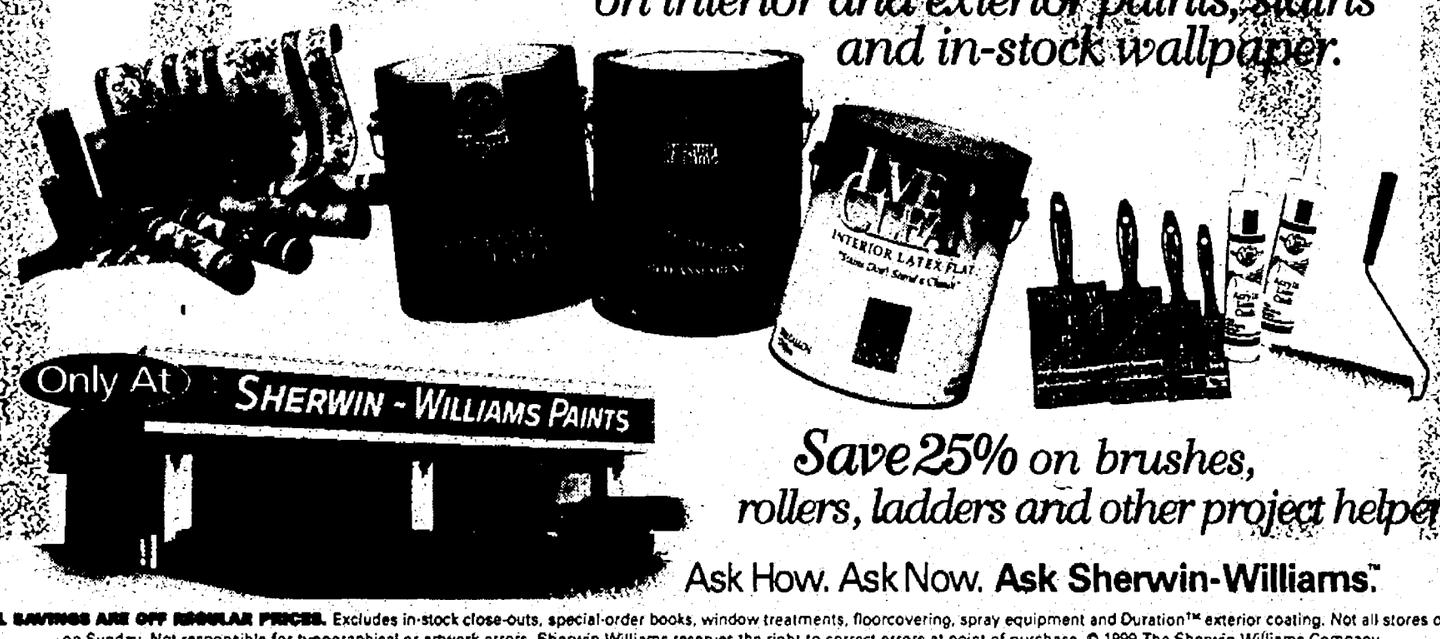

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Lawsuit costs set record for state

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

Lawsuits cost state government a record $236 million last year. But 90 percent – $211 million – was due to the so-called Durant case over low funding of public education.

Otherwise, it would have been a normal year, with the state paying $25 million. And the trend has been downward over the decade of the 1990s because of steadily decreasing payouts by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The Senate Fiscal Agency compiled the numbers in its annual "Status of Lawsuits Against the State of Michigan" report.

In the record case, the state Legislature dipped into its "rainy day" fund to pay off the Durant suit.

Durant said the state shorted suburban school districts, in particular, on special education, special ed transportation, bilingual education, driver education and school lunches. The programs are required by law.

An old school desegregation case from Benton Harbor is still costing the state $2.7 million a year.

Other departmental payouts, either in court judgments or settlements, last year:

■ **Transportation $8.3 million.** Most payouts were for failure to maintain a smooth road with adequate shoulder. A Wayne County case was settled for $1.7 million. In general, MDOT payouts were far below fiscal 1991's $22.8 million, 1993's $21 million and 1990's $20.7 million.

■ **Corrections (prisons) $3.2 million.** Biggest payout was $385,000 for a contempt judgment, followed by $369,000 for failure to protect a prisoner and $300,000 for one of many employee discrimination suits.

■ **Natural Resources $2.9 million.** Biggest payout was a $2.6 million judgment to Carnagel Oil Associates in Mason County for a state "taking" of mineral rights.

■ **Military Affairs $2.4 million.** The entire amount was an Ingham Circuit Court judgment in a class action suit for nonpayment of enlisted personnel's per diem.

■ **Community Health $2.13 million.** A patient-prisoner suicide case in Jackson County was settled for $69,000. Three suits involved violation of handicappers' rights.

■ **Family Independence Agency $2.1 million.** Most ($2 million) went to survivors of social worker Barbara Synnestvedt, who was strangled at the Maxey training center in Livingston County. (This newspaper, relying on an attorney's brief, misspelled the victim's surname in a recent account of the appeal to the Supreme Court of Jermel Johnson, who was convicted of the murder.)

■ **State Police $868,000.** The department settled for $385,000 in a Wayne County case where excessive force resulted in a man's death; for $200,000 in a Livingston County suit where a white man charged discrimination because of age and race; and for $8,000 for detaining a Toledo Blade photographer until he surrendered film of a plane crash in Ohio near the Monroe County line.

Wrongful (or wrong person) arrests were the biggest source of complaints against State Police, and two denials under the Freedom of Information Act cost the state $1,400.

Granholm from page A9

tain a dip tube manufactured by Perfection Corporation.

The tubes contain a chemical defect which causes them to deteriorate "prematurely," Granholm said. Once they deteriorate, plastic pieces may settle within the water heater itself or smaller pieces flow into the pipes throughout the house, clogging washing machines and dishwashers. Smaller pieces may actually enter drinking water.

In 1998, the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department sent out letters about the white plastic particles and informed customers that the water was safe and the plastic was not toxic.

Perfection Manufacturer of Madison, Ohio, the dip tube manufacturer, notified the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission but the CPSC did not issue a recall because the situation did not involve a safety hazard.

The American Water Works Association says that although "the plastic chips are a nuisance and may decrease the performance of appliances," they are non-toxic and do not pose a health threat.

Granholm reached into Gagnon's hot water tank and pulled out plastic pieces to show to reporters. Granholm and Gagnon said there was a gelatinous substance at the bottom of the tank.

Granholm said that substance has been sent to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for tests.

Time to respond

Perfection Manufacturer and water heater manufacturers have 10 days in which to respond. If they do not, a lawsuit may be filed by Granholm.

Granholm said by denying consumers the opportunity to request restitution for repair and replacement costs, the companies are engaging in an unfair or deceptive practices under the Consumer Protection Act.

"If consumers don't know there is a problem, they've got no way of correcting it or of seeking reimbursement for the damage it causes," Granholm said. "This is simply a case of a manufacturer withholding information at the direct expense of consumers."

Gagnon said consumers may be buying new washing machines, dishwashers and new shower heads to take care of the problem. "Plumbers don't even know about the defects in the dip tube," Gagnon said.

Gagnon estimated the cost of a new water heater is about $400-$500, while a flush of the heater costs about $175-200. Heaters are difficult to drain because the outside drain is located higher than the bottom of the tank. A dip tube costs about $6.

He thinks the way the tank used to be built is better and that some of today's engineers build for obsolescence.

"The dip tubes are still plastics," Gagnon said. "I want to copper tube back in the hot water tank and get it back to where it lasts for 15 or 20 years."

Staff writer Susan Rosiek contributed to this report.

Landfill from page A7

asbestos-containing material. In addition, 4,000 gallons of nonhazardous liquids were also transported off-site.

Today, the oil and groundwater outside the fill area meets the state's residential criteria, but the soil in the fill area poses a direct contact risk.

The groundwater is not used as a water source, but it flows toward Tonquish Creek and shallow groundwater "likely discharges" to Tonquish Creek, according to the plan.

Regular inspections

Wayne County will conduct routine monthly inspections to monitor any potential contact with fill materials due to burrowing animals or erosion. The parks division will evaluate the grass area, forested area and creek bank erosion barriers.

Consultants stated that groundwater monitoring will not be required as part of the monitoring plan.

A copy of the remedial action plan is available at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, and the city clerk's office, City Hall Building, 36601 Ford Road, Westland. Residents can comment at Thursday's meeting or they can submit written comments, which will be accepted until 5 p.m. May 3 by Steve Hoin, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Response Division, 38980 Seven Mile, Livonia 48152

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Madonna auction benefits student scholarships, dorms

Madonna University will hold its 11th annual Around the World Scholarship Dinner Auction Friday in Laurel Manor Banquet and Video Conference Center in Livonia.

Proceeds from the event will provide scholarship opportunities for Madonna students and renovation of the residence halls.

The Kresge Foundation recently approved a grant of $350,000 toward the renovation of the University Center and Residence Halls. The grant is made on a challenge basis to assist in raising the balance of more than $1 million required to complete the project's funding by July 1, 2000. The project is the final phase of the $15 million Comprehensive Campaign which began in July 1994.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. with a silent auction followed by a dinner and live auction. The goal for this year's auction is more than $280,000.

General admission tickets are $75 and include dinner, open bar and live and silent auction. Gold Inner Circle seating tickets are $125 and allow special seating near the center stage.

Birmingham auctioneer Dan Stall Jr. will conduct the bidding. A sampling of items up for bid include Northwest Airlines tickets to Hawaii and other destinations throughout the continental United States, weekend getaways to the Stratford Festival in Ontario and the "Somewhere in Time Weekend" on Mackinac Island at the Grand Hotel, a weekend sailing trip on the award-winning "Charisma" from Mackinac Island to Beaver Island, a cruise aboard the new "Infinity" yacht and several Florida vacations.

Also featured are Charles Bragg bronze sculptures geared specifically for members of the legal profession, dinner for 40 at Under the Eagle Restaurant, a 20-person suite with food and drinks for a Red Wing playoff game and signed sports memorabilia from Ted Lindsay, L. Little, Alex Delvecchio, Adam Oates and John Salley.

Also on the auction block is a 1984 World Series poster signed by the champion Detroit Tigers and baseballs signed by the 1968 World Series Tigers and 1984 World Series Tigers.

The auction will also include a wide selection of retired Beanie Babies.

John and Lina DelSignore are general chairs for the event.

Livonia's Laura Frances Welling, the reigning 1998 Miss Michigan and Ladywood High School graduate, will attend the auction.

One lucky raffle ticket winner will be the proud owner of a 1999 Don Massey Cadillac Sedan DeVille. No more than 750 raffle tickets will be sold at $200 each.

Sponsors for the 1999 auction are Don Massey Cadillac Inc., Northwest Airlines, Kimcraft Printers, Inc. and Al Long Ford Inc.

For tickets or more information, call (734) 432-5588 or 432-5421.

The Laurel Manor banquet and Conference Center is at 39000 Schoolcraft, between Newburgh and Haggerty in Livonia.

The auction is coordinated by Rose Kachnowski, director of corporate development and special events, under the supervision of Sister Mary Lauriana, vice president for university advancement.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Let the bidding begin: *The auction has helped many students including (middle from left) Nicholas Popadich, a recipient of the Catholic Student Award, and Laura Cummings, a recipient of the Joyce and Don Massey Scholarship. Also pictured are (left) Andrea Nodge, director of marketing and public relation at Madonna and Rose Kachnowski, director of corporate development and special events.*

Auction: *John and Lina DelSignore are general chairs for the event.*

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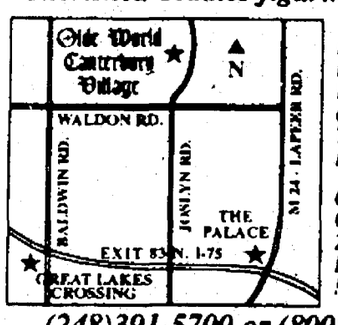

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Schoolcraft history prof shares his passion for trains

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHMANN

Train buff: *Evan Garrett, a history professor at Schoolcraft College, has more than 25,000 slides which represent his interest in photography, history and locomotives.*

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

When Evan Garrett was a boy growing up in a small Iowa town, he spent his Saturdays watching his grandfather unload coal from a steam locomotive.

"I'd sit there utterly fascinated," Garrett said.

Five decades later, the professor of ancient and early modern history at Schoolcraft College since 1968 is still amazed by the transit system that's fading from the American landscape. With 25,000 film slides representing countless hours chasing railroads, his hobby neatly melds his passion for photography, history and locomotives. They tell a story about how trains have evolved, how society has changed and about the man behind the camera.

"We think of history as names, dates and dead people and I tell my students that history isn't something in books – it's what we're living," said Garrett, whose 91-year-old father remains a local historian in the same town where he grew up.

"We keep thinking of history as a big deal. Actually, history sneaks up on you. It's subtle and quiet and at one point you look back and say: 'Gee, things changed.' It's hard to say there's a beginning and an end.

"Railroads tend to illustrate that, because you can see how they've changed and how the world is changing," said Garrett, past president of the Ann Arbor Historical Society and program chairman of the Ann Arbor Train and Trolley Watchers. Garrett's slides and memory are proof of that logic. He tells how his grandfather used to receive one train car of coal and deliver it to his customers' homes. Today, hundreds of cars of coal are delivered to power plants.

Learning photography

The little boy in awe of his grandfather, grew up and went off to college. By that time Garrett, 56, had become a photography buff who loved to shoot the Formula One races for three days every year.

"It was very exciting, but it doesn't give you much to do the rest of the year," said Garrett, explaining that he rediscovered railroads in 1977 while visiting his family in Iowa and he learned that the Milwaukee Railroad was going to be eliminated. Garrett spent an entire day chasing trains and documenting the line's last runs. Some of the photos still hang in his Ann Arbor home, which is about five blocks from the Ann Arbor Railroad.

"I am an historian and I like to see the way things evolve – society, institutions and people's understanding of things and to see this in something that affected my own life meant a lot," Garrett said. "It felt good and I kept doing it."

When he isn't working, Garrett drives across the United States and Canada capturing glimpses of these railroads and how they've changed. Shortly before a recent trip last December, Garrett was suffering from pneumonia and could barely get the words out during his lectures. On Christmas break, he drove to Albuquerque where the weather was mild, the trains were rolling and the scenery was breathtaking.

"I soaked up sun and watched the Santa Fes come past," Garrett said. "It's nice sitting there enjoying the weather and listening to the birds. Basically, it's how I relax. And I could talk when I came back."

Garrett, who would much rather be outside a train photographing than inside one as a passenger, stores his slides in stacks of boxes in his Ann Arbor study. They come out of storage when he gives a slide presentation or has another project in the works, like writing articles for local newspapers and Trains magazine. In 1979, he developed drawings from his slides and published a book, "Trackside of Southern Michigan," of 30 sketches. He sold 300 copies.

Tracking change

His themes vary, but it all comes back to a clear documentation of the history we're living. Over the years, he said, the biggest change in railroads is that there aren't as many as there used to be.

Trucks and automobiles took a large portion of the railroad business during the 1930s and 1940s, when the road systems improved.

"You didn't have to depend on railroads to get to where you were going," he added. "But a lot of people don't recognize that there is more freight being carried by trains today then there ever was.

"There's just fewer lines and they tend to be very busy," said Garrett, noting that the CSX Railroad and Norfolk Southern are jointly buying Conrail this summer.

"I think we'll have railroads for a long time," Garrett added.

Referring to the mammoth trucks that hog the roads, Garrett said it's more efficient to haul loads on trains, because they save fuel and there is less overhead. New technology, like remote control railroading, will likely take part of the business.

Meanwhile, the little boy who drove his mother crazy screeching out whistle sounds and clanging an iron bar across their cement porch, continues to nurture his fantasy by driving across the country, preferring side roads to interstates, where the tracks lie and the people live.

"It ties in with history and I can understand how people lived and live and I use these ideas in lectures," he explained. "I tell my students that it never hurts to get out and take a look around. Look what's over the next field.

"Satisfy your curiosity and have some curiosity," the professor said.

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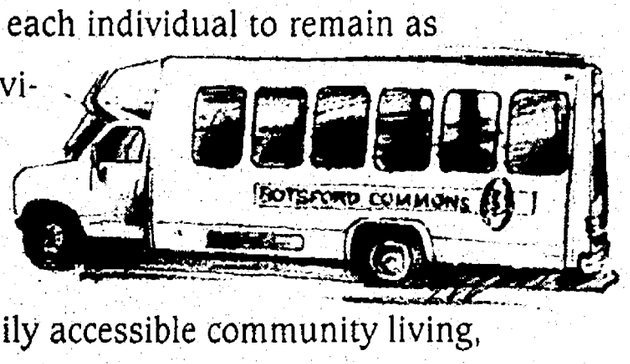

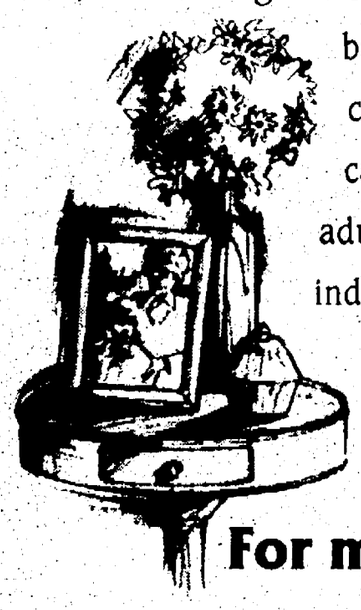

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CWW concerned about any cuts in state taxes on personal property

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

If state lawmakers want support from a group of western Wayne County elected officials to reduce personal property taxes, they'd better replace money lost to those communities from those tax reductions.

A letter approved Friday by the Conference of Western Wayne will let lawmakers know just that.

"Personal property tax concerns CWW communities because it accounts for a considerable portion of the budgets for many communities," wrote Marsha Bianconi, CWW executive director.

The CWW is a legislative consortium of elected officials from the cities of Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland and the townships of Canton, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren.

The Citizens Research Council recently indicated personal property makes up 17 percent of all property in Wayne County, but for some communities, the figure is as much as 63.6 percent.

In Livonia, Redford, Plymouth and Plymouth Township, personal property amounts to 10 to 20 percent.

"These figures indicate the importance of personal property tax to many CWW communities," Bianconi wrote.

Other bills supported

The CWW also approved a resolution to show support of legislation that will change the way money for transportation is allocated by eliminating spending restrictions for cities and villages on major and minor roads. Another resolution supports bills to increase local government influence and jurisdiction over mobile homes by revising the state Mobile Home Commission.

House Bill 4182, introduced by Rep. Gloria Schermesser, D-Lincoln Park, would provide more flexibility to cities when deciding which roads should be emphasized. Money designated for the major street system could be used for the local street system if matched equally by local revenue and construction expenditures.

Currently, 75 percent of the money to cities and villages are allocated for major roads, and 25 percent for local roads.

If a city or village transferred more than 25 percent of its major street money to the local street system, the local government would be required to adopt a resolution and send a copy to the transportation department. That resolution would include a list of the major streets, a statement that the major streets are adequately maintained, the amount of the transfer and local streets to be financed with the transfer.

The CWW joined the Michigan Municipal League in supporting the transportation bill.

The CWW also backed Senate Bill 43, sponsored by Sen. Alma Smith, D-Salem, which would increase the number of commissioners on the state Mobile Home Commission from 11 to 13, and include an environmental advocacy organization, an organization of township officials, an organization of city officials and a housing advocacy organization.

Nearly 66,000 mobile home units are housed in southeast Michigan, of which more than 11,000 are in the CWW area.

This bill would reduce the number of mobile home park operators on the commission from three to one. The bill is in the Senate Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs. A similar House bill has been introduced, while another House bill reduces the number of mobile home park operators from three to two and increases the number of residents groups from one to two.

The three bills are supported by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Townships Association.

"Anything going in the direction of local control goes with our philosophy," said Helen Foster, Van Buren Township supervisor who chaired the meeting in Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey's absence.

Board from page A8

Parade in Northville.

Stempien's wife, Jeanne, is a former Schoolcraft trustee and now a Wayne County circuit judge.

Patricia Watson

Watson was elected to the board in June 1993. Watson was chosen by trustees to be board president for two-year terms in July 1995 and July 1997.

A forensic and clinical psychologist with the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti, Watson has a bachelor's degree from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, a master's degree in clinical psychology from the University of St. Francis in Indiana and a doctorate from the University of Detroit in clinical psychology.

Watson wants to return to the board because she has enjoyed her time on it.

"I don't have political ambitions, but I have ambitions to see Schoolcraft flourish," Watson said. She wants to see the new Business and Industry Training Center constructed to help bring new information technology programs and careers to students.

Watson hopes to see administrative efforts continue to increase credit enrollment and retain students.

Reaume did not return the Observer's telephone calls to his home.

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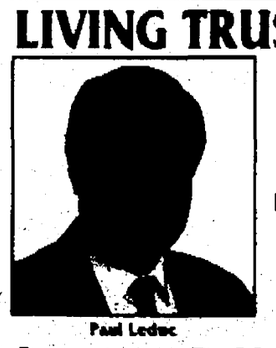
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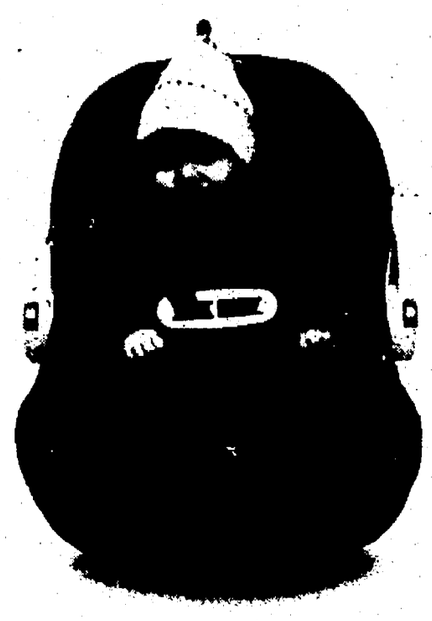
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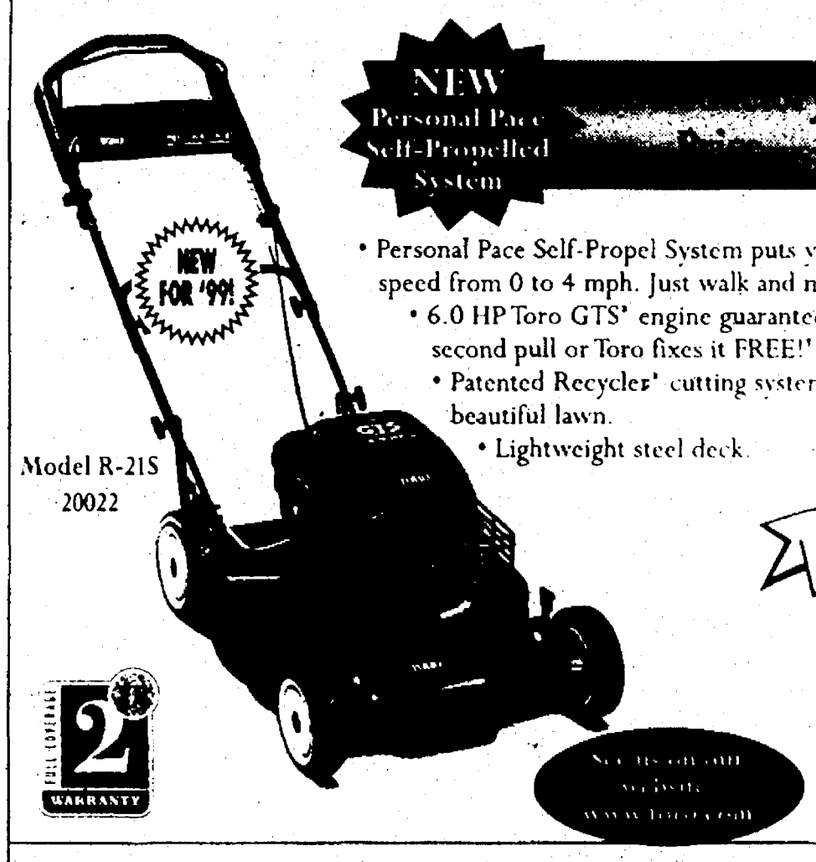
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Westland Observer

OPINION

A14(W) 36251 SCHOOLCRAFT, LIVONIA, MICHIGAN, 48150 THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1999

Board race

Take a look at district issues

The April 12 filing deadline gun has sounded and candidates in the race for the Wayne-Westland school board are off and running.

Now that the names are officially in the ring of those who are interested in serving the district on the school board, it's time for those candidates to assess where they are headed with their campaigns. Skip Monit, Brenda Smith, Marshall Wright and incumbent Martha Pitsenbarger filed petitions by the 4 p.m. deadline Monday. Incumbent David James is not seeking re-election. Two four-year seats on the Wayne-Westland board will be filled during the June school election.

Now it's time to get down to business, and we hope the candidates will turn their attention to issues that affect Wayne-Westland students and schools and away from issues that are just politicking.

As Wayne-Westland moves well into the work and improvements brought on by the approval of a $108 million bond issue, the district sits as never before on the brink of big change.

The changes that occur now will affect the district for years to come. This is also a chance for Wayne-Westland to move from being a district with a reputation for lagging behind to one that is at the forefront in education.

Unfortunately, the district has been struggling for years with money and image problems that it has fought hard to overcome.

We often see signs posted near certain developments in Westland, reading "Livonia Schools" as an incentive to entice buyers. This means: Don't worry about buying in this part of Westland you won't end up in Wayne-Westland schools, but rather in the higher quality district of Livonia.

That seems harsh, but unfortunately it's a reality.

But that can change now as the district embarks on large-scale improvements and changes.

That's where the school board comes in. We need strong leaders on the school board.

School board members should be playing an active role in improving and overseeing the district.

Students deserve the best education that they can get from their district. While it's up to students to take advantage of what's offered, the opportunities should still be offered to those who want to learn and succeed.

We hope the candidates for the board have specific plans for improvements in the district.

While it's important to even show an interest in serving on the board, it's also important to have studied the issues and have some sound ideas for change. Some, but not all, the subjects board candidates could discuss include: test scores, technology uses in the district, use of resources and parental involvement.

So voters, get ready to study up on those running to represent you on the Wayne-Westland school board.

And candidates, get ready to discuss the issues and your ideas and do more than just grandstanding on how much you care about education.

Library hits information age

Where do you go when you need to know? That question was asked and answered by the American Library Association in preparation for National Library Week, April 11-17. According to a poll conducted by the Gallup Organization for the ALA, about two-thirds of Americans said they go to the library to get books, use computers or find other resources they need in the "Information Age."

That statement seems to be borne out by the very number of libraries in existence today. The ALA estimates that there are more than 122,000 libraries of all kinds in the United States. That figure includes almost 9,000 public library systems housed in more than 15,000 buildings, more than 3,000 academic libraries and more than 98,000 public and private school libraries.

The ALA also estimates that these three categories of libraries employ more than 376,000 people. Ann K. Symons, president of the ALA, says the role of libraries and librarians in providing public access to information is more important than it has ever been before.

"There's an overwhelming amount of information out there – not all of it helpful or even accurate," said Symons, a school librarian from Juneau, Alaska. "Librarians can help you find the best source of information, whether in a book or online."

Thus the theme for this year's library week is "Read! Learn! Connect! @ the Library."

In last Sunday's Observer, we presented a package of stories profiling the libraries in our area. The stories pointed out that libraries have become much more than simply repositories of books. They are now repositories of *information,* in print, on audio and videotapes, on computer disks or somewhere on the Internet. They are also gathering places for public meetings, family-oriented activities and cultural events.

And now that the Internet has become a major player in the "Information Age," the local library isn't limited to resources physically present within its walls.

The ALA estimates that about 75 percent of public libraries now offer public access to the Internet, almost double the number from two years ago.

All but one of the libraries in our coverage area provides Internet access to patrons visiting the library and several of them allow patrons dial-up access through their home computers.

By accessing databases such as the Electric Library, students and researchers can literally locate and print out full-text articles from newspapers, magazines, books and encyclopedias, pictures and graphics, even transcripts of TV programs.

And while the community library may not be a full-fledged research institution, patrons can access the electronic catalogs of larger public libraries or academic libraries, print out the bibliographic record of the material they need and request it through interlibrary loan.

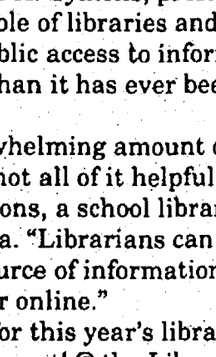
If you haven't been there lately, pay a visit to your local library. You may be surprised at what you find.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

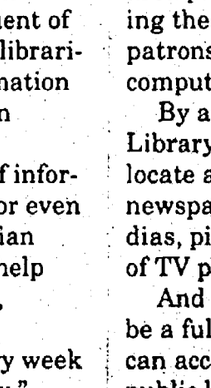
This is National Library Week. What is your favorite activity at your library?

We asked this question at the Westland William P. Faust Public Library.



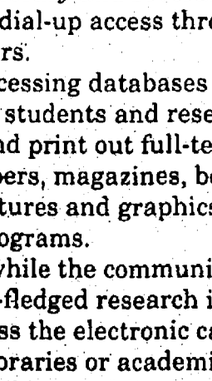
"Fiction books."

Mary Leviska



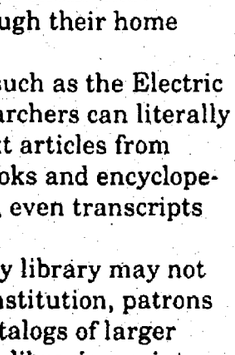
"Books, no special category."

Mike Sullivan



"Dr. Seuss books."

Natalie Sullivan



"When I'm bored, I like romance novels."

Joan Hensley

ARKIE HUDKINS

LETTERS

Genocide is the issue

I read with great interest Mr. Warren's letter regarding the recent bombing in Kosovo (Letters to the Editor April 8, 1999). You see, whether the Serbians or Albanians are angels or not really isn't the issue. Genocide is the issue. NATO attempted in vain to reach a peaceful resolution in Kosovo. President Slobodan Milosevic was unbudging in his positions. The only recourse left was to begin airstrikes. I wonder, Mr. Warren, have you read any of the firsthand accounts of Albanian refugees? Have you read the stories of some of the Albanian children?

There is a wonderfully informative page on CNN's Web site. The page is comprised of e-mail letters from a young Albanian girl to an American teen living in California. They began corresponding before the bombing began and have become friends. This young girl is afraid to leave her home because she fears that she, like many others, will be gang-raped and/or murdered. I encourage you to read it. I, like you, tend to take some of what our nation's leaders say with a grain of salt. To read accounts of the actual victims is truly fascinating, albeit quite disturbing and sad. Nobody should have to live in constant terror.

Nobody should fear leaving their home to visit a friend because they are afraid of being raped, murdered or tortured. This isn't a matter of "quaint and cruel traditions," it's a matter of basic human rights! It isn't a matter of our culture vs. their culture or our beliefs vs. their beliefs. Again, it is a matter of basic human rights. We all have different cultural beliefs and values, there is nothing wrong with that. There is, however, something seriously wrong with genocide. That is what is happening in Kosovo. And, although I'm quite certain that some of the Albanian people aren't the nicest in the world, I highly doubt that they, as a group, are so horrible that the only recourse available to the Serbs is to eliminate them. It's OK not to like everyone. It's OK not to get along with everyone, but it isn't OK to murder them.

I fully support the troops in Kosovo and totally support U.S. involvement. I'm not a warmonger, I would rather things be settled diplomatically, however that doesn't appear to be an option. President Milosevic doesn't seem interested in diplomacy. I am glad that we, as a nation, have refused to sit back and allow the "ethnic cleansing" to continue.

All human beings have a right to live without constant fear that they will be raped, murdered or tortured (or a combination of the three). "Cruel and quaint traditions" are not an excuse to systematically eliminate an entire group of people.

Natasha Harhold
Westland

School day added

I just received a middle school calendar showing Wayne-Westland students' last half-day is Monday, June 21. I have not received anything from the elementary school. Students have a half day off Friday, June 11, for records day. Why can't the teachers have their record day Monday and the students attend all day Friday? (I assume the additional day is to make up a snow day.) By going to school Monday, you just stopped my children from going to soccer camp and cub scout camp plus anyone having a vacation planned immediately after school lets out. Detroit Public Schools announced to the media their three-day extension; Wayne-Westland didn't even send a letter to parents of this change.

Ann Richards

GOP turns its back

Gov. John Engler and the Republican legislators recently pushed through a huge tax cut that clearly favors the rich rather than the middle-class working families and seniors. Under the Republican plan, someone earning $200,000 a year receives 10 times the tax cuts that a person who makes only $20,000 a year receives.

A better plan could have been put in to place by Democratic legislators, if only they would have had the chance. They proposed expanding the personal exemption to $6,400 per person, giving a better tax break to Michigan's working families. The other side has basically forgotten about Michigan families.

I propose in the year 2000 that each and every person vote for Democrats who look out for Michigan families and seniors. Republicans have turned their backs on their own constituents.

Roger Koromos
Wayne

Opinions are to be shared: *We welcome your ideas; as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity and brevity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a daytime contact telephone number. No anonymous letters will be published.*

The week prior to an election, this newspaper will not publish letters that discuss new issues, since last-minute attacks don't allow a chance for rebuttal. Responses to already published issues will be accepted.

Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Westland Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150; faxed to (734) 591-7279; or e-mailed with your name, city of residence and phone number to bjachman@oe.homecomm.net

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— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Local libraries make changes to meet people's needs

BY JOLEE KEMPF AND SANDRA WILSON
GUEST COLUMNISTS

As National Library Week is upon us, and the millennium looms in the very near future, it is a good time to reflect upon the changes that are assisting libraries to meet the future.

No longer are we looked upon as the revered (and feared) monuments of knowledge where anything above a whisper was looked upon as a capital offense.

Today's library is evolving into a new type of community center dedicated to enriching its community by providing a forum for recreation, socialization and communication. The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland was designed and organized to be a Year 2000 library.

Opened in November 1996, the library was built as a state-of-the-art facility where traditional library services have been combined with enhancements of modern technology; most currently, the personal computer.

Along with replacing the cumbersome card file of the past, the computer's storage capacity and connectibility have allowed patrons to search for books from other libraries, look for articles in periodicals, or search for business, health and reference information without opening an encyclopedia or picking up a magazine.

Print materials and traditional audiovisuals such as cassettes, videos and CDs have been supplemented by CD-ROMs and on-line services. Computers are available that even allow patrons to check out their own materials.

Today's libraries, while continuing to provide reference service, learning resources and programming, now also offer instructional classes in the use of computers such as learning how to log onto the World Wide Web, how to use the library's computer catalog or how to research your family tree using the Internet. Many libraries also sponsor community events, and some make their meeting rooms available for community groups and organizations to use.

Once banished to the remote regions of the children's library, young people are enjoying library services, with many services designed specifically for them.

Computers again prove their worth as they provide a platform for many of today's learning games. Now, color, movement, music, sound effects and a cyberguide help children learn to spell, read, count and improve their problem-solving abilities.

These games allow a child to learn at his or her own pace and are certainly a far cry from flashcards and multiplication tables. Puzzles, puppets, games and children's programs that can include magicians, live animals and other performers have also been added to the time-honored and always enjoyed story times.

Those who have not been in a library for some time will be in for a surprise on their next visit. New technology, people-friendly buildings and service-oriented staff have made for major changes in a library's approach to serving its clientele.

Auxiliary groups such as Friends of the Library, book discussion groups and Teen Net at Westland have provided library patrons, young and old, with the opportunity to become involved in their community while helping them meet the challenges of providing information, entertainment and recreation to residents.

Advancement in technology and accessibility will only improve in the next millennium. The future will provide increased accessibility from home via the computer and electronic books the size of pagers known as e-books. A stronger emphasis on education and training for the public will be a role in which library staff play a larger part. The public library and its staff will continually be changing and learning to meet the needs of library users. These are exciting times for libraries and the thousands of people who enjoy them.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is at 6123 Central City Parkway.

Jolee Kempf is the children's librarian at the Westland library, and Sandra Wilson is the library director.

Business bigwigs' pay adds up to sticker shock for many

A few years ago, I wrote about how Kmart – which was losing money, closing stores and laying off people – paid its CEO twice as much as competitor Wal-Mart, which was making money, opening stores, hiring and moving into the No. 1 retail spot nationally. Kmart's action was senseless.

And as Michigan National Bank limped toward a takeover, I reported the diamond-studded, platinum-plated parachute its outgoing CEO would keep even as he closed branches and laid off a ton of tellers.

It made me wonder if the big business in America is really run by the best and brightest or whether the top brass were ripping off not only the workers but also the stockholders.

The latest horrifying news comes from "Executive Pay," Section R of the April 8 Wall Street Journal. Not from the AFL-CIO agitators, environmentalists or some dang Ann Arbor socialists, but the Wall Street Journal. Honest.

Let's take a company close to home, DaimlerChrysler, formed by a merger in May 1998. Chrysler CEO Robert Eaton collected $16 million in salary, bonus, stock and options. Juergen Schrempp, CEO of the former Daimler-Benz, collected about $2 million. The WSJ story on Page R 6 adds:

"And Mr. Eaton, thanks to special conditions of the merger, gained nearly $70 million in cash and stock when it was completed, while Mr. Schrempp got nothing extra because of the deal."

The same story reports on the British Petroleum-Amoco merger, which other WSJ stories have reported was plainly won by BP. "In 1997, Amoco Chairman and CEO H.L. Fuller received total compensation – base salary, bonus, stock options and other compensation – of nearly $2.06 million, while BP chief John Browne received $1.6 million. Additionally, Mr. Fuller at the end of 1997 was sitting on $18.6 million of paper gains

TIM RICHARD

from exercisable stock options, while the value of Mr. Browne's unexercised options was about $650,000."

The WSJ then quotes a study by consultant William M. Mercer Inc. of the 20 top-paid CEOs in two countries that found:

- The Americans' salaries averaged 40 percent higher than their British counterparts.
- Americans' bonuses averaged 210 percent of base salary compared with 50 percent for British CEOs.
- "The American CEOs, on average, were sitting on an astounding $80 million in paper gains, while their British counterparts had $2 million each in such unrealized gains."

The WSJ section hesitated at suggesting reasons why American CEOs were pocketing so much. Certainly it isn't business genius. One story suggested that Germany's powerful unions dampen executive pay. Another pointed out, "At a surprising number of corporations, the chief executive officer ignores an obvious conflict of interest by serving on the board's compensation committee."

Now, if John Engler and Candice Miller sought posts on the State Officers Compensation Commission, their own party would scream bloody murder. But such conflicts of interest are hardly blinked at by private companies such as Nike, Philip Morris and Innovex. At Innovex, the chief exec got an 18.7-percent pay boost over the previous year and installed his wife as vice president and general counsel. "Her salary and bonus climbed to $214,712 in fiscal 1997 from $159,038 the prior year," WSJ reported. Shucks, not even the "National Extortion Association," as the right wing calls the teachers union, ever bargained for a 35-percent pay boost.

Some kind of prize should go to Eastman Kodak CEO George Fisher, "whose compensation climbed to $3.9 million from $1.9 million after he moved to cut 14,100 jobs at the Rochester, N.Y., photographic-products maker in 1993 and 1994."

After throwing the equivalent of a small city onto the economic scrap heap, Mr. Fisher must have been extremely tired at the end of the day and needed $2 million worth of gratitude. Let's hear the Mackinac Center give three cheers for "supply and demand" and "competition."

Tim Richard reports on state and regional events. His voice mail number is (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1881.

Poor planning, monopoly equal major problems at airport

They sure are scraping dirt out at Detroit Metro Airport these days.

My Northwest Airlines flight last week from Albany landed (on time) on the south runway. We must have taxied for a good 10 minutes past giant earth movers, big holes in the ground, piles of drain pipe and lots of construction workers.

The theory is the new $1.2 billion midfield terminal project will open some time in 2001. The project will feature a new mile-long East concourse that will include gates for international flights and a 700-foot-long passenger tunnel connecting with the smaller West concourse. All in all, the project is supposed to add some 60-odd new gates, nearly all destined for Northwest.

That's what has a lot of people worried.

Northwest has exploited its near-monopoly position at its "fortress hub" at Detroit Metro to increase its prices to among the highest in the nation, while simultaneously allowing passenger service to deteriorate. The question is whether the new terminal project will merely extend Northwest's market dominance or open the, ahem, gate to increased competition.

Airport director David Katz says he's "confident that as the terminal project gets to completion, we will be able to increase competition at Detroit Metro and, hopefully, bring prices down and increase service quality."

How? Here's Katz's reasoning:

Later this year, he will solicit bids to renovate the old Smith and Davey terminals, now the workhorses of Detroit Metro. At present, there are just 14 jet gates available for non-Northwest airlines. Once Northwest moves to the new midfield terminal and after the renovation (which will include eliminating the A, C and E concourses at Smith), a total of 24 gates will be available for non-Northwest carriers, a substantial increase.

Katz says he expects Southwest Airlines to step up its presence at Metro, along with Pro Air, which may find the runways at Detroit City Airport just too short and move some operations to Metro. Although Katz says there's no prospect of other big national carriers – American, Delta, United – taking on Northwest by building hubs at Detroit. But he's hopeful each will choose to add gates once the construction is over. And there are other possibilities for increased competition, including TWA, which

PHILIP POWER

just bought a bunch of new aircraft.

The obvious fear in all this is that Northwest, anxious to maintain its monopoly, will try to buy all the new gates for its own use. Other airlines, just as anxious as Northwest to maintain their own fortress monopoly hubs, in the past have traded gates around from one airport to another to maintain dominance.

Katz says he doesn't think that will happen. He says the old gate leases, going back to 1958, were "exclusive," which in practice meant they guaranteed Northwest's monopoly. New leases after 2001 will be "preferential" – that is, not exclusively held for one airline or another.

Moreover, says Katz, "I don't think Northwest wants any of the old gates that will be modernized at Smith and Davey terminals." Andrea Fischer Newman, Northwest's vice president of government, law and civic affairs, agrees: "Northwest is not in line for any of these gates."

There's no doubt that the poor state of airline service in Detroit is in large part the result of Northwest's monopolistic practices. But it's also the consequence of outmoded terminals at Metro, planned and built before the enormous increase in traffic that resulted from Northwest's hub.

Maybe, just maybe, the new midfield terminal and the rebuilt old terminals will result in a better facility for all passengers and a more competitive environment between air carriers. This might even bring down airfares and improve passenger service.

If so, that's called getting the best of both worlds.

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

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CLASS REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please include the date of the reunion and the first and last name of at least one contact person, and a telephone number.

CHERRY HILL
Class of 1983
Reunion and alumni family picnic is planned for August.
(734) 729-6783

CHIPPEWA VALLEY
Class of 1979
A reunion is planned for Sept. 18.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636
Class of 1989
A reunion is planned for July 16.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

CLAWSON
Class of 1949
A reunion is planned for July. 2.
(248) 366-8053 or (248) 628-2077

CLINTONDALE
Class of 1989
A reunion is planned for Nov. 26.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

FARMINGTON
Class of 1989
Nov. 26 at the Best Western Hotel in Farmington.
(248) 360-7004, press #4

FARMINGTON HILLS HARRISON
Class of 1978
Nov. 27 at the Best Western Hotel in Farmington Hills.
(734) 397-8766 or www.reunion-works. com

FRASER
Class of 1979
A reunion is planned for Nov. 19.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636
Class of 1989
A reunion is planned for Nov. 26.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

FERNDALE LINCOLN
Class of 1949
A reunion is planned for June 5.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

GARDEN CITY WEST
Class of 1968
A reunion is planned for September.
(517) 522-4893, (734) 213-4350 or (248) 486-5170
Class of 1979
Oct. 9 at the Holiday Inn-West in Livonia.
(734) 397-8766 or www.reunion-works. com

JOHN GLENN
Class of 1979
Oct. 2 at the Wayne Ford Civic League in Westland.
(734) 595-7892 or (734) 722-7214
Class of 1989
Oct. 9 at Roma's of Garden City.
(248) 366-9493, press #2

LIVONIA BENTLEY
Class of 1964
July 24 at the Holiday Inn- Laurel Park in Livonia.
(734) 416-5993 or Tink@mediaone. net
Class of 1969
A reunion is planned for Nov. 27.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636
Class of 1989
A reunion is planned for Oct. 15.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Class of 1979
Aug. 7 at the DoubleTree Suites in Southfield.
(248) 366-9493, press #3

MERCY
Class of 1949
noon-4:30 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Marriott Inn in Livonia
(248) 349-8589.
Class of 1950
Is planning a reunion for June 2000.
(248) 851-7620
Class of 1989
Nov. 27 at Baker's of Milford.
(313) 621-8350
Class of 1979
Nov. 27 at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi.
(248) 344-8767
Class of 1994
A reunion is being planned.
(248) 476-3270

PLYMOUTH
Class of 1969
Aug. 6-8 at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi.
(248) 446-1028 or Karlancast@aol.com, or (734) 420-3811 or PHS1969@ aol. com
Class of 1964
A reunion is planned for June 25-27.
(248) 486-7917 or (734) 994-3438

PLYMOUTH CANTON
Class of 1979
Aug. 7 at the Holiday Inn-West in Livonia.
(734) 397-8766 or www.reunion-works.com

PLYMOUTH SALEM
Class of 1979
Aug. 14 at the Holiday Inn-Laurel Park in Livonia.
(800) 677-7800 or by e-mail at reunions@taylorpub.com.
Class of 1973-74
A reunion is planned for Oct. 9.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

REDFORD THURSTON
Class of 1969
May 1 at St. Michael's Church in Redford, with a pre-reunion get-together on April 30 at Wooly Bully's in Northville.
(734) 453-0157, (734) 261-4827 or (517) 548-3535

REDFORD UNION
Class of 1979
Aug. 28 at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi.
(313) 592-8537 or (734) 416-0807
Class of 1949
Is planning a reunion for September.
(313) 937-9329 or (734) 427-4208 or (248) 349-1331
Class of 1964
A reunion is planned for October; all former RU students welcome.
(734) 427-1327
Class of 1989
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 532-9414 or reunion89@juno.com
Class of 1969
A reunion is planned for July 16.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

RIVERSIDE
Class of 1969
Aug. 21 at the Northfield Hilton Hotel in Troy.
(248) 641-1859 or (248) 333-7671

ROYAL OAK
Class of 1949
A reunion is planned for June 26.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

ROYAL OAK DONDERO
Class of 1989
Oct. 9 at the Fox and Hounds in Bloomfield Hills.
(248) 366-9493, press #5

ROYAL OAK KIMBALL
Class of 1989
Nov. 26 at the Fox and Hound in Troy.
(248) 366-7004, press #8
Class of 1979
A reunion is planned for Aug. 28.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636
Class of 1959
A reunion is planned for July 24.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636
Class of 1969
A reunion is planned for Nov. 20.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

ST. ALPHONSUS
Class of 1954
Sept. 18 at Toppers in Dearborn.
Sybilla Roy, 29839 Greenland, Livonia 48154
Class of 1979
A reunion is planned for May 8.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

ST. HEDWIG
Class of 1954
Oct. 1 at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.
(313) 278-8890

ST. LADISLAUS
Classes of 1978-79
Are planning a reunion.
(261) 370-8537 or (248) 543-8664

ST. MARY'S OF REDFORD
Class of 1979
Sept. 11 at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi.
(734) 432-0774 or (734) 254-9616

TAYLOR CENTER
Class of 1979
Nov. 27 at the Marriott Hotel in Romulus.
(248) 360-7004, press #7

TAYLOR TRUMAN
Class of 1989
Nov. 6 at the Holiday Inn Heritage Center in Southgate.
(734) 467-7694 or (734) 676-8906
Class of 1979
Nov. 13 at the Holiday Inn Heritage Center in Southgate.
(734) 397-8766 or www.reunion-works.com
Class of 1984
A reunion is planned for Aug. 14.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

WATERFORD
Class of 1979
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 674-3946

WATERFORD KETTERING
Class of 1979
A reunion is planned for May 15.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

WATERFORD MOTT
Class of 1979
A reunion is planned for July 31.
(800) 548-6666 or (810) 446-9636

WAYNE
Class of 1950
Is looking for classmates for its 50th class reunion.
(734) 428-9379 or (734) 721-8036

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Class of 1983
Sept. 26 at Roma's of Garden City.
(248) 360-7004, press #1

GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Garden City Schools is accepting sealed bids for specific floor coverings at Garden City High School. For questions or specifications, contact Gary Narchel at (734) 762-6306. Deadline for sealed bids 3:00 p.m. on May 5, 1999. There will be a mandatory walk through for all perspective bidders conducted on April 23, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. at Garden City High School.

Publish: April 15 and 18, 1999

L621888

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A request for approval has been presented to the Westland Planning Commission for the following items:

#1529A, Proposed Split of Lot No. 609C of Supervisior's Nankin Plat No. 12, East of Merriman, South of Warren, NW-11, David W. Evens & Donnie Evens

#1918A, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Wireless Communications Facility at Westland Municipal Golf Course, Parcel #65-99-0001-005, 500 South Merriman Road, South of Cherry Hill, West of Merriman, NE-22, Lauren J. Cato (Mayor Robert J. Thomas)

#1947C, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Mini-Storage Warehouses (Shurgard), Lots #1 - #4 and Lot #13 Middlebelt Warren Subdivision, NE Corner of Warren and Middlebelt Road, SW-1, Jack Zelazny (Irene Szczodrowski)

#2000D, Site Plan Approval for Proposed McDonald's Restaurant with Drive-Thru, Parcel 3063-02-0001-000, Northeast Corner of Wayne Road and Palmer Road, SW-1, Ronald J. Nelson

#2007A, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Advance Auto Parts Retail Store, 1615 Merriman, Lots #31 & 32, Ideal Community Little Farms Subdivision, East Side of Merriman, North of Palmer, SW-23, Nick Asmar

#2010, Proposed Split of Lots #41-45, Carver Subdivision, Southwest Corner of Annapolis and Irene Avenues, East of Middlebelt Road, SW-36, Sam Brown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, at 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, May 4, 1999.

Written comments may be sent to the Westland Planning Department at 37095 Marquette Avenue, Westland, Michigan - 48185.

ROBERT C. BOWERS, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: April 15, 1999

L691610

WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School, 36075 Currier Street, Wayne, MI 48184 for:

FURNISHINGS

Proposals are to be submitted in accordance with contract documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. 1191 W. Square Lake Road, P.O. Box 289, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303-0289 dated April 30, 1999.

0.01 DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A. Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after April 16, 1999. Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC.

B. Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Architect's office, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

0.02 DUE DATE

A. Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Date and Time: April 30, 1999 at 2:00 p.m.

Place: Wayne-Westland Board of Education Office
Board Room
36745 Marquette Road
Westland, MI 48185

0.04 GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of ninety (90) days after date for receipt of bids. **A 5% bid bond is required** in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders (See Section 00100-F-1, 0.02, G).

B. Accepted Bidder shall be required to enter into a contract with Wayne-Westland Community Schools and furnish satisfactory Performance Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. (See Section 00100-F-2, 0.02,L).

C. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein. If in the Owner's opinion it is in their best interest, the contract may be awarded to other than the lowest bidder, for reasons of establishing uniformity, delivery time, etc.

Publish: April 15 and 18, 1999

L692112

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DIMENSIONAL VARIANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the provisions of Act Number 207, Public Acts of 1921, as amended, that a public hearing will be held by the City of Garden City Zoning Board of Appeals at 7:30 p.m., April 28, 1999 at the City of Garden City City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City Michigan.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the purpose of the public hearing is to hear and consider public comments on the proposed Dimensional Variance from Section 21.02, Schedule of Regulations, of the Zoning Ordinance to permit the construction of an attached garage located .47 feet into the required side yard setback, and to reduce the total sideyard setback for both side yards by 3.47 feet. The property is located at 30848 Dawson Street.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the proposed Amendment to the Official Zoning Map application may be examined at the City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135 during regular office hours until the date of the Public Hearing. Written comments may be sent to the above address.

ALLISON M. BETTIS, City Clerk
EDWARD KANE, Planning Commission Chairman

Publish: April 15, 1999

L692109

CITY OF WESTLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 248-A-8

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND WESTLAND ZONING ORDINANCE 248, ARTICLE IX, BY AMENDING ARTICLE IX, SECTION 9:6.1(B), and ADDING SECTION 9:6.2(D) TO CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS OF MINI OR SELF-STORAGE WAREHOUSES TO REQUIRE SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL

Section 1. That Article IX, Section 9:6.1(b) of Westland Zoning Ordinance 248 is hereby amended to provide as follows:

Permitted Principal Uses

The following land and/or structure uses shall be permitted by right in the CB-3 General Commercial Business District:

* * *

b. General commercial uses as listed below:
- Amusement establishments, including bowling alleys, pool halls, dance halls, gymnasiums, swimming pools and skating rinks.
- Art, sculptor, and composer studios.
- Auction rooms.
- Automobile accessory stores, provided no installation of accessories and part occurs on the premises.
- Blueprinting and photostating establishments.
- Catering establishments.
- Clubs and lodges, private.
- Exterminating shops.
- Greenhouses and nurseries.
- Kennels.
- Locksmith shops.
- Mail order and catalogue stores.
- Meeting halls.
- Newspaper distributing agencies.
- Parking lots and garages.
- Pawn shops.
- Physical culture and health services including exercise and physical fitness establishments, gymnasiums, reducing and massage salons, and public baths.
- Printing and publishing shops, less than 10,000 square feet in area.
- Taxidermists.
- Theaters, indoor.
- Veterinary establishments.
- Motels and hotels.

Section 2. That Article 1X, Section 9:6.2(d) of Westland Zoning Ordinance 248 is hereby amended to add the follows:

Special Land Uses

d. Mini- or self-storage warehouses.

Section 3. That all other provisions of the Westland Zoning Ordinance #248 shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clauses is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. Repeal. All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such inconsistencies, hereby repealed.

Section 6. Publication. The city Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication as required by law.

PATRICIA A. GIBBONS
Westland City Clerk

Adopted: April 5, 1999
Effective: April 15, 1999
Publish: April 15, 1999

L691608

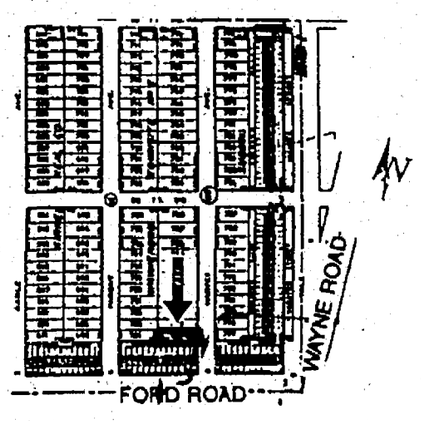
CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, which affects property at the following location:

#1077B, Proposed Rezoning from R-5 to CB-4 (Single Family Residential to Vehicle Service), Lot #748, Kirke Neale Co. Wayne Ford Townsite #2 Subdivision an One-Half Adjacent Vacated Alley, North of Ford Road, West of Wayne Road, SE-8, William Winter.

Present Zoning: R-5 (Single Family Residential)

Proposed Zoning: CB-5 (Vehicle Service)



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, at 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, May 4, 1999.

ROBERT C. BOWERS, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: April 15, 1999

L691609

WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG NO. 7 - 4/5/99

Presiding: Council President Cicirelli
Present: Anderson, Barns, Griffin, LeBlanc, Pickering, Scott

62: Approved: - minutes of regular mtg held 3/15/99
- Approved request from Momentum IMC Co host "Kmart Kids Race Against Drugs: event on 7/17/99 & 7/18/99 at Kmart store, 165 Wayne Rd with contingencies
- Approved request from Wayne-Westland Veterans Parade Council conduct its annual 1999 Memorial Day Parade on 5/30/99 at 1:00 pm commencing north on Wayne Rd
- Adopted resolution proclaiming the month of May as "Better Hearing & Speech Month" in City
- Adopted resolution to support Rouge River Remedial Action Plan Revisions
- Adopted Budget Amendment 99-20: Police Dept Overtime, amt $13,000
- Adopted resolution to support application for funding under Act 515, PA 1998 for demolition of state owned properties
- Adopted prepared lot split resolution splitting lots #4-13, Wayne Plymouth Sub
- Approved traffic control sign #98-26, install 2 "NO TRUCKS" signs on each sign stating "EXCEPT DELIVERIES" on NB John Hix, N of Cherry Hill & on SB Hix, S of Abruzzi
- Approved Change Order #1 - Radcliffe Paving Project, amt $200 to Hard Rock Concrete
- Approved Bid-Pole Barn for Municipal Golf Course to Leyman Construction, amt $68,082
- Approved bid for Asphalt Patch Mix to Asphalt Products of Novi for 2 yr period expires 6/30/2001
- Approved bid for Sod to Artman's Nursery for 2 yr period expires 6/30/2001
- Approved bid for Top Soil & Sand to Nankin Sand Co for 2 yr period expires 6/30/2001
- Approved second amendment to Painter & Ruthenberg, Inc Professional Service Contract by changing number of units from 25,934 to 26,050 & monthly increase fee $5,972 through 6/30/2000
- Adopted Ordinance 248-A-8, to change the requirements of mini or self-storage warehouses to require special land use approval
- Approved request from Administration to go into closed study session 4/12/99 at 6:00 pm to discuss settlement claim
- Approved request from Administration to go into closed study session 4/12/99 at 6:30 pm to discuss settlement claim
- Approved recommendation of Administration to accept 72 bids for purchase of listed parcels of property & payment to City of bid amount & $320 processing fee

63: Granted site plan approval for renovations & additions to existing commercial building, 35100 Central City Pkwy with contingency
65: Granted Special land use approval for proposed Westland Fire Dept Station #5, S side of Annapolis, E of Irene
66: Granted Site plan approval for proposed Westland Fire Dept Station #5, S side of Annapolis, E of Irene
67: Approved agreement for Sanitary Sewer Construction & Services/ Westland-Sumnitt Investment Co
68: Granted request from Keyboard Enterprises, Inc to drop W Reiser as stockholder in 1998 Class C license business with dance permit, 1870 S Wayne through transfer of all his 1,000 shares to new stockholder, J Reiser
69: Granted request from Backdrafts Brewery & Grill, Inc to add M Reddy as stockholder in 1998 Class C & Brew Pub licensed business, 6677 N Wayne through issuance of 10,000 shares of stock from corporation
70: Approved request from N Djolijaj, Inc to transfer ownership of 1998 Class C licensed business with dance permit only, 35230 Central City Pkwy
71: Granted request from A & N Amad to split lots #9 & #10 of Henry Gowdy Farm Sub
72: Granted Site plan approval for proposed Network Operations center, lots #27-29, Ford-Hix Westland Industrial Sub #2
73: Denied the offer to purchase city-owned properties
74: Granted authorization for city attorney to execute certain release & settle agreements related to litigation arising out 2/97 sewer back-up
75: Denied approval of resolution of Consent to Representation from Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone
76: Closed nominations to Zoning Board of Appeals for 3 yr terms, expires 5/9/2002
77: Approved Check List - $1,589,156.83 & Prepaid - $3,077,868.42

Mtg adjourned at 9:53 pm
Minutes available in City clerk's Office

SANDRA A. CICRELLI
Council President
PATRICIA A. GIBBONS
Westland City Clerk

Publish: April 15, 1999

L691617

Community Life

The Observer

INSIDE: *Bridal Registry Page B3*

Sue Mason, Editor 734-953-2131 | on the web: http://observer-eccentric.com | Page 1, Section B | Thursday, April 15, 1999

JACK GLADDEN

Libraries take tough stance about 'MIAs'

This week (as regular readers of this newspaper must know by now) is National Library Week. So, in the immortal words of television Judge Mills Lane, "Let's get it on and get it decided."

If you wonder what library week has to do with a TV judge, it's just this: Hold on to those overdue items long enough and you could end up in his courtroom. Or at least in Westland's 18th District Court.

Whether the timing was deliberate or just coincidental, Westland library officials announced last week that they are going to start turning over the names of delinquent borrowers to the police department. A patron convicted under a city ordinance for theft of library materials could face a maximum of a 90-day jail term and a $500 fine.

Joe Burchill, assistant to the director of Westland's William P. Faust Public Library, says the library currently has overdue or unreturned items amounting to $72,500. Burchill says the library doesn't want to prosecute people but "we have an obligation to the taxpayers of Westland. It is our responsibility to maintain our collection and account for these items."

Not quite SCTV

While the "Library Police" may sound like a sketch from Second City TV, Westland isn't the only library to begin prosecuting book bandits. Last year, a woman in Orono, Maine, accused of the theft of three books and one audiotape from the Old Town Public Library, was fined $200 after she pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of violating library policy and failure to appear at an earlier court date. According to news accounts, she had already returned two of the items and reimbursed the library for the others.

The plea bargain came about because Maine's theft statute applied only to video stores and rental agencies, not libraries. The prosecutor in the case has since been working with a state representative in drafting a bill to make failure to return library materials a civil offense punishable by a fine.

Prosecutors in Burlington, N.C., weren't so hamstrung. In that state, stealing or even detaining library books worth more than $50 is a felony. So last year the Alamance County Memorial Library turned over to police a list of more than 60 patrons who had failed to return borrowed materials.

At least 35 people, including six juveniles, were arrested, with the adults facing five to six months in jail and the juveniles looking at time in a detention center.

One of those adults turned herself in to police after her father called her to say that officers had come to her house with a warrant. At the police station, she was charged, photographed, fingerprinted and released on a $300 bond, pending a trial at which she was told she could face up to three years in jail.

The items she was accused of not returning included "Sheep in a Jeep," "Paddington Goes to School," "Mooncake," "Of Color and Things," "The Princess and the Pea" and a video, "Why Won't My Child Pay Attention?" She was told at the police station that the items were valued at $142.11 and that her sentence probably would be to pay that amount plus a $30 processing fee and court costs of $80 or more.

While her case may seem like much ado about very little, Alamance Library officials say that when they started their crackdown, they had overdue and missing materials amounting to $102,000. One official said the library has since recovered more than $47,000 in missing items, some of which had been checked out as long as 10 years ago.

What do you do?

So what's a library to do? Just eat

Please see GLADDEN, B2

CUP JOE
WITH A MESSAGE

STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHMANN

'X-er'-citing: *Billie Schuttpelz of Royal Oak performs a soliloquy entitled, "The Quagmire," while Kristen Larsson, 18, of Plymouth, (top photo at right), makes cappuccino at the Vox coffee bar.*

Vox serves up God to 'X-ers'

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

"Generation X-ers" are filled with fear and need to be told that they matter to God, according to Wayne Kurtycz of Temple Baptist Church in Plymouth Township. So he and a group of Temple Baptist members are vowing to let God's voice be heard through its monthly program, "Vox."

"Vox" incorporates the latest technology in sound and video, drama, music and speaking to share the message of God in a culturally relevant way with adults ages 18-35.

Temple Baptist's senior pastor, Brad Powell, and Kurtycz began planning Vox eight years ago before launching it last fall. The goal was to create a ministry that would reach out to "Generation X" adults, many of whom are unchurched, Kurtycz explained.

"'Gen X-ers,' because of what's happened in the media, have a pretty cynical view of the church. Many have grown up never attending church. Some of them have no Christian memory at all," said Kurtycz, the pastor of singles and outreach events.

"When Baby Boomers were kids, there were actually a couple of Christian songs that actually became popular. I don't remember the artist, but 'Amazing Grace' was remade. If I asked, 'Have you ever heard of that song 'Amazing Grace?' The typical 'Gen X-er' would say 'No.'"

Because "Generation X-ers" are tech-savvy, the planning group recommended bypassing traditional methods and instead opting for video, drama, and "various styles of music that are popular today whether it's modern rock, post-modern rock, rave or alternative."

But just because the method is different, "that doesn't mean the message changes. Nowhere in the Scripture does it say that you have to have an organ on stage, or that you only do your services on Sunday morning. Those are traditions that started within the last couple centuries. Yet people believe that that's the only way to do church," he said.

Temple Baptist also lets real people tell their stories. On Saturday, March 6, York Moore of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship spoke about his belief in God. In June, comedian/motivation-

Please see VOX, B2

Godly humor: *Christian comedian and preacher Brett Ray of Livonia weaves tales for the Vox patrons.*

A Vox night out

Vox nights are held at 7 p.m. the first Saturdays of each month, except April and December, at Temple Baptist Church, 49555 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. The 1999 dates are May 1, June 5, July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2 and Nov. 6. There is no admission charge and no offering will be taken.

Comedian/motivational speaker David Dean will speak during Vox night June 5.

For more information about Vox, call (734) 414-7777 or visit http://www.thevox.com.

Teens find alternative in coffeehouses

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

Joshua Bonno can't wait to graduate from Plymouth Canton High School. His classmates, he said, don't relate to his belief in God, so he's looking forward to meeting adults who can.

"I think this generation sees miracles and I feel that they see so much happiness to their lives and they throw it toward the wind," said Bonno, a junior at Plymouth Canton. "They're more focused with self-gratification and getting what they want.

"A lot of them say, 'I believe in God, but I won't get serious about it until I'm older.' The holy spirit has convicted them but their house is built on the sand. They don't have a stable foundation."

In support of his strong belief, Bonno, 17, founded Emmaus Coffeehouse a year ago at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton Township.

"God just really gave me a vision of how to reach people of my age because God's really weighted on my heart for the youth," Bonno explained. "God just really gave me of vision. I didn't tell anyone about it. Personally, I thought it would never happen at the church."

While Bonno was mulling over the idea, one of St. Michael's pastors told Bonno he had the same vision. The coffeehouse was named after Jesus' destination following the resurrection.

"We thought Emmaus would be a good name for the coffeehouse. We looked up what Emmaus meant in Hebrew and it means warm water, similar to coffee," he said. "I thought that was really, really cool."

Emmaus Coffeehouse, which begins at 7 p.m., features poetry readings, concerts ranging from acoustic music to hard core. On Friday, April 30, Trip the Lightning Fantastic will perform.

Upcoming performers include Madison Greene on May 7, Trial by Fire on May 21 and The Israelites, a ska band, on July 9.

"Restoration Fest," featuring Face of Humanity, Outcry, Spite of Opposition, Xsubsistx, Fable, Bonno's band Trial By Fire and Stand Firm, is set for June 18.

All of the Emmaus Coffeehouses benefit Rock for Life, a Christ-cen-

Please see COFFEEHOUSE, B2

Click, click: *In 1983, Victor Thomas pointed his camera at some near and dear, capturing this photograph of his sister, Harriet Spurlin of Livonia.*

Family honor
Retirement is chance to do book

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER
smason@oe.homecomm.net

He had digs on Fifth Avenue and his camera caught the images of the rich and famous – actress Claire Bloom, former President Richard Nixon and author Philip Roth – and graced the pages of "Making of a Dancer."

A "famous photographer in New York," Victor Thomas' work is now packed into 10 boxes in Harriet Spurlin's Livonia home. And if she has her way, they'll be transformed into a tribute to her late brother.

"I have all of his pictures," said Spurlin, who was close to her brother. "And I intend to do a book on him to honor him."

Spurlin took nine months off from work to be with Thomas when he "took sick" and came to Michigan to live with her. And now that she's officially retired, she has plenty of time to organize his work in book form.

"Everything I do I put my heart into it," she said. "I was brought up that way, I don't shortchange a thing."

Spurlin "worked as a secretary all the way" for more than 38 years. She spent 6 1/2 years at Massey-Ferguson. She was married and her children were in school at the time, but a twinge of conscience forced her to leave.

"I thought I should be home making cookies for my kids," she said. "But it's hard to stay home, when you have the energy and want to work. I think you should be able to do the things you want to do and not feel denied."

So Spurlin made cookies for her four sons by her first marriage, but returned to work at the Ford Motor Co., where she worked for 20 years before accepting an early retirement offer.

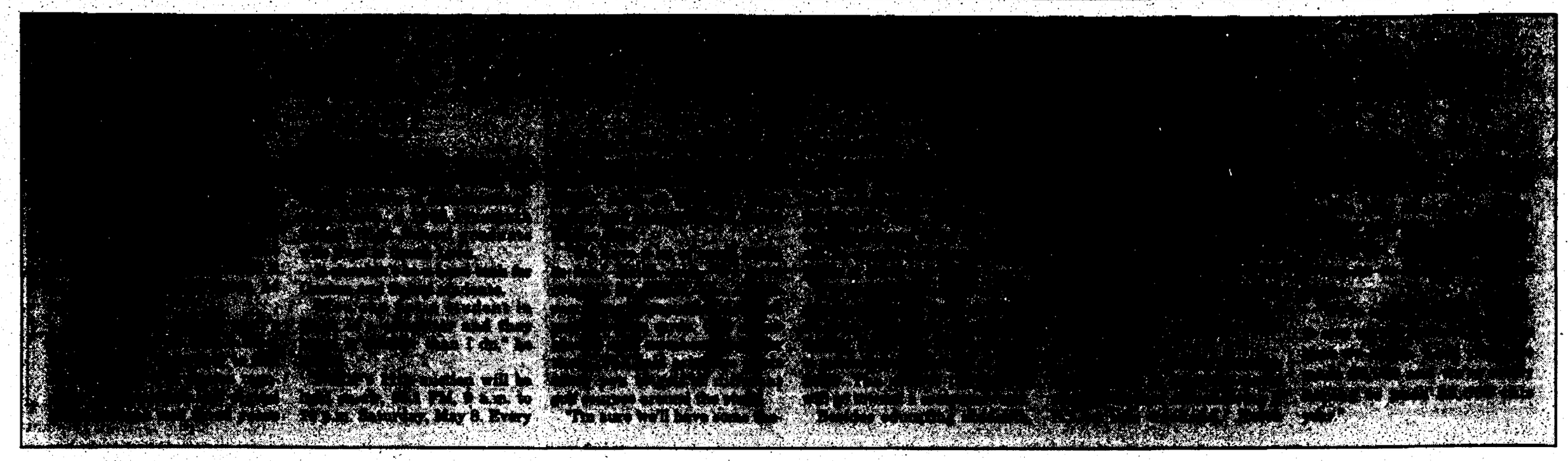
But the start of her golden years had to wait another 12 years.

"When I took the early (retirement) special, Bill Reese was a vendor and asked me if I'd like to work for Cooper (Engineered Products)," Spurlin said. "I ended up working for a wonderful man – Bill Reese."

If secretarial work wasn't enough, Spurlin also made a name for herself as a psychic. Her forte was reading cards – a regular deck of playing cards.

Her introduction was at a beauty shop where a woman – "the best reader" – told Spurlin she would be a reader and be "very famous."

Please see SPURLIN, B8



Coffeehouse *from page B1*

tered, anti-abortion organization. An avid anti-abortionist, Bonno prays in front of an abortion clinic in Southfield on Saturday mornings.

Generally, the cover charge for Emmaus is $3 and coffee, cappuccino, espresso and mocha are available with a free-will offering. For more information, call the church at (734) 459-3333.

■ 'A lot of the times, we end up giving away the cappuccino and the mocha and stuff and paying the music group. We've never come up negative. We get at least a 5 percent or 10 percent profit after taking care of everything.'

Joshua Bonno
–Emmaus Coffeehouse founder

"A lot of the times, we end up giving away the cappuccino and the mocha and stuff and paying the music group. We've never come up negative. We get at least a 5 percent or 10 percent profit after taking care of everything," Bonno said.

Bonno was saved in the eighth grade and has been attending church since he was in kindergarten. He balances running the coffeehouse with school, participating in the school band, and his job at Kid Kingdom.

"It's been going great. It's been a real blessing to have God use me in this way. I wouldn't be able to pull something like this on my own."

Like Emmaus Coffeehouse, the Praise Cafe at Solid Rock Bible Church is geared toward senior high- and college-age students.

"We usually have two or three bands play," said Brad Cannon, youth pastor. "We use video and, to introduce a hot topic, we'll use several different things. One time we used a Bart Simpson cartoon where Bart loses his soul. I taught about what the Bible says about losing your soul."

The Praise Cafe attracts about 150 and is held in the auditorium of Solid Rock Bible Church, 670 Church St., Plymouth.

"We don't have any pews in it any longer; we have an open floor and stage," said Cannon. "The building is old and gothic looking. It was built in the 1890s. We dim the lights and let the kids bring in a couple different Christian bands.

"We have coffee tables set up all over the place. We have a coffee bar, cappuccinos, specialty coffees and a snack."

Admission is free, but snacks and coffee cost $1 each. The last cafe of the spring is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, and features the punk bands Face Value and Extol. The Detroit Red Wings game will be shown on a big-screen TV. Solid Rock does not organize Praise Cafe events in summer.

"We don't do them in the summer, we do them more in the winter months when it's cold," Cannon said. "Kids want to be inside and have hot drinks."

For more information contact the Solid Rock Bible Church at (734) 455-7711, by e-mail at srbc@earthlink.net or its Web site at http://www.solidrock-biblechurch.org.

Vox *from page B1*

al speaker David Dean will make an appearance. Kurtycz explained that a future "Vox" topic will be the Y2K fear.

"We try to be thematic. Right now we're dealing with issues of fear. 'Gen X-ers' have certainly let us Baby Boomers know that they fear things like, 'You Baby Boomers aren't going to let us have a job because by the time you're 65, we'll be in our 40s, so we want jobs.' "

"Vox" nights run from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the church, 49555 N. Territorial, and afterward flavored coffees and pastries are served. Since its inception last fall, an average of 120 people have showed up at the events."Most of them are college, career-age singles and some couples. It's free and we don't take an offering and we don't pressure anybody. We just lay it out there."

Kurtycz came up with the name "Vox," which means "the voice."

"So it's kind of cool because we are using that idea of voice. We're voicing the fear of change. We're voicing all these different things that we come up with."

Kurtycz said he is passionate about sharing the message of God to "Gen X-ers" because they want the truth.

"They don't necessarily want glitz. They don't want polish. They want honest-to-goodness truth. They don't want the slick televangelist. That's the cool thing about 'Vox.' It's not about that," he said.

"It's just giving them the truth that they matter to God in a relevant relational format where they can make friends and hang out."

Gladden *from page B1*

the cost of the missing/unreturned items and chalk it up as doing business? Turn delinquent borrowers over to a collection agency? Some of the libraries in our coverage area do that, once the amount of fines and/or unreturned items exceeds a certain dollar amount. Or do they call in the Library Police to go after the Book Bandits?

The libraries that are turning to the cops for help do have a certain point. The director of the Alamance Library says she's not trying to be vindictive.

"We just want our materials back," she said. "The attitude of our patrons is they are glad we are doing this. It's not fair for these people to be keeping library materials."

But that North Carolina woman, the one who was photographed and fingerprinted, claims that she never received any overdue notices and that she didn't check the books out in the first place. She claims her sister-in-law took her library card without her knowledge and checked out the material.

I suppose it would be up to a court to decide whether she's telling the truth, but do we really want to end up in court because of overdue library books?

It seems like excessive use of force to me.

Jack Gladden is a copy editor for the Observer Newspapers. He lives in Canton Township.

Wayne State University
DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan

Twelve Oaks

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YMCA Healthy
Kids Day

Sunday
April 18, 1999

1- 4 p.m.

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400 E. Lincoln Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 644-0036

BOWRIVER
3211 Fort Street
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(734) 281-2600

EASTSIDE
10100 Harper Avenue
Detroit, MI 48213
(313) 821-0770

FARMINGTON
28100 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 553-4020

HURON VALLEY
305 Caroline Street
Milford, MI 48381
(248) 685-3020

LAKESHORE
23401 E. Jefferson
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
(313) 267-5300

LIVONIA
14255 Stark Road
Livonia, MI 48154
(734) 261-2161

MACOMB
10 N. River Road
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
(810) 469-1411

NORTHWESTERN
21755 W. Seven Mile Road
Detroit, MI 48219
(313) 533-3700

SOUTH OAKLAND
1016 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 547-0030
*will be held April 10

WARREN
8777 Common Road
Warren, MI 48093
(810) 751-1050

WAYNE-WESTLAND
827 South Wayne Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 721-7044

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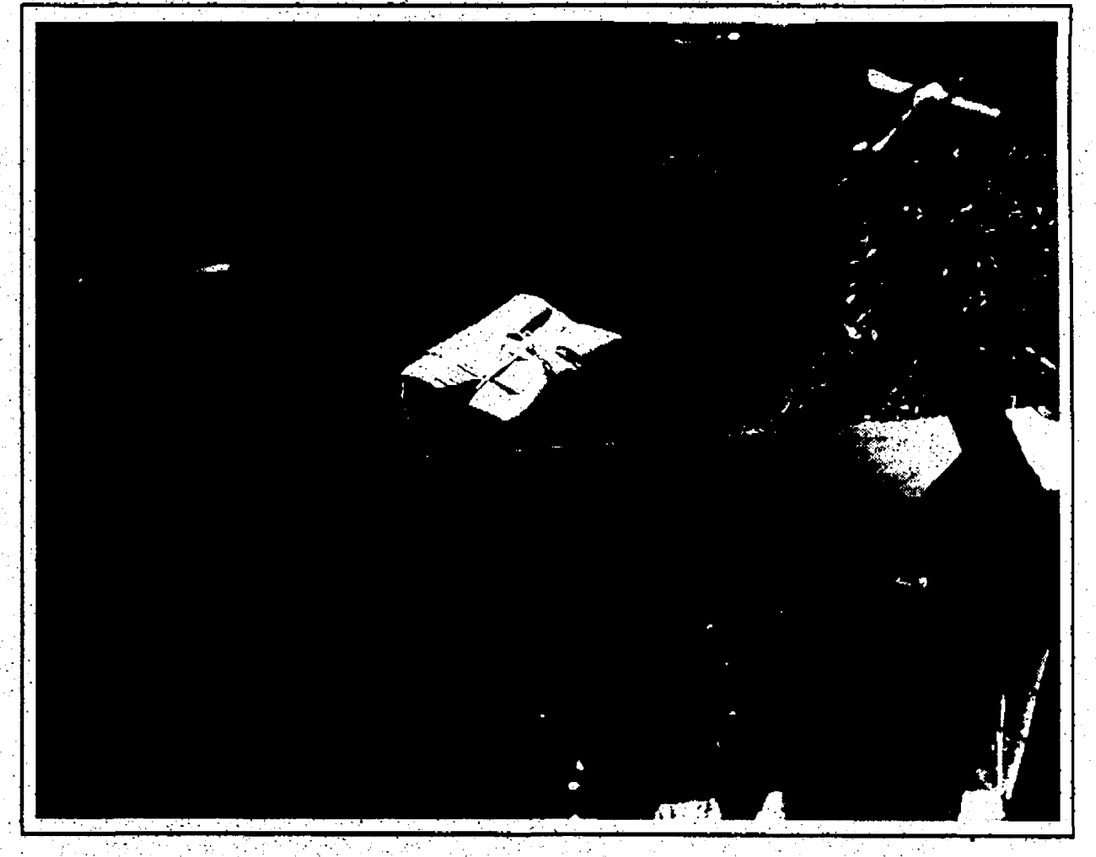

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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Davidson-Gable

Ken and Sharon Davidson of Awnlake, Ohio, announce the engagement of their daughter, Krista, to Pete Gable, the son of Edward and Susan Gable of Plymouth.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Toledo. She is employed as a regional human resources manager for Safety-Kleen.

Her fiance is a graduate of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He is a purchasing specialist at Ford Motor Company.

An August wedding is planned at Northville's Mill Race Village.

Mulder-Bos

Donna Mulder of Livonia announces the engagement of her daughter, Melanie Rena, to Adam John Bos, the son of Gary and Kyla Bos of Grandville, Mich., and the late Joyce Lemmen.

The bride-to-be, also the daughter of the late Paul Mulder, is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and Ferris State University. She is employed as a dental hygienist at Oakwood Canton Dental in Canton.

Her fiance is a graduate of Grandville High School and Grand Rapids Community College. He expects to receive his bachelor's degree in mathematics education from Ferris State University in December.

A May wedding is planned at Newburg Church in Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia.

Doran-Ringvelski

Michael and Donna Doran of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Renee, to Lt. Benjamin Ringvelski, the son of Roger and Carol Ringvelski of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 1992 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School and a 1998 graduate of the University of Michigan. She is employed as a teacher and is a graduate student at Eastern Michigan University.

Her fiance is a 1992 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School and a 1995 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. He is stationed at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, N.C., and is a graduate student at Boston University.

An August wedding is planned at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dearborn.

Burman-Thompson

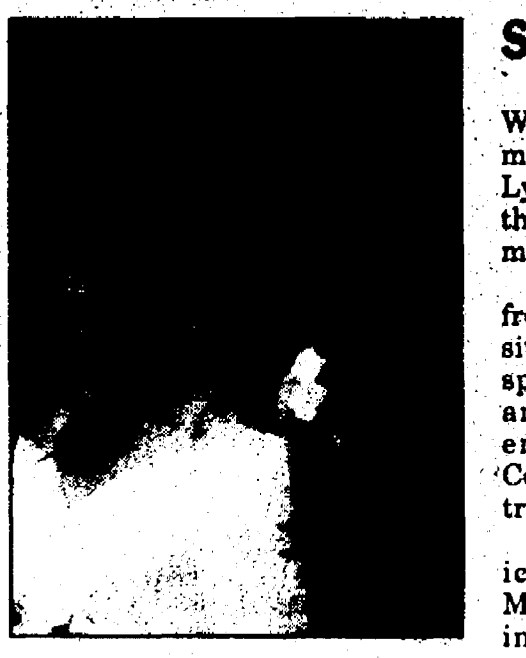
Ken Burman of Livonia and Karen Lange of Grosse Ile announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen Burman, to Keith Thompson, the son of James and Peggy Thompson of Manchester, Tenn.

The bride-to-be attended Plymouth Christian Academy, Grosse Ile High School and David Lipscot University. She is employed as a marketing manager for HADC in Nashville, Tenn.

Her fiance is a graduate of David Lipscot University and the University of Tennessee Medical School. He is a pediatrician in Nashville.

A May wedding is planned at Otter Creek Church of Christ in Nashville.

Pickett-Rice



Todd John Pickett and Kristin Mary Rice were married at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton by the Rev. George Charnley.

The bride is the daughter of Richard and Ruth Ann Wanserski of Plymouth and M. David and Joy Rice of Hudson, Ohio. The groom is the son of David and Linda Pickett of Allen Park.

The bride is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and Western Michigan University. She is employed by CSV Sales Inc.

The groom is a graduate of Allen Park High School and the University of Michigan with a bachelor of business administration degree. A certified public accountant, he is employed by Wayne County.

The bride asked Kathryn Rice to serve as maid of honor with Kristen Gignac, Nicole Stojeba and Lauren Rice Jr. as bridesmaids. Emily Rice and Amanda Lucas were the flower girls.

David Gallaro served as best man with Robert Witherspoon and Jeffery Lucas as groomsmen, Adam Rice as ring bearer and Scott Rice and Michael Carpenter as ushers.

The couple received guests at a reception at Summit on the Park in Canton. Following a honeymoon trip to Hawaii, the couple is making their home in Dearborn Heights.

Petrillo-Pichler

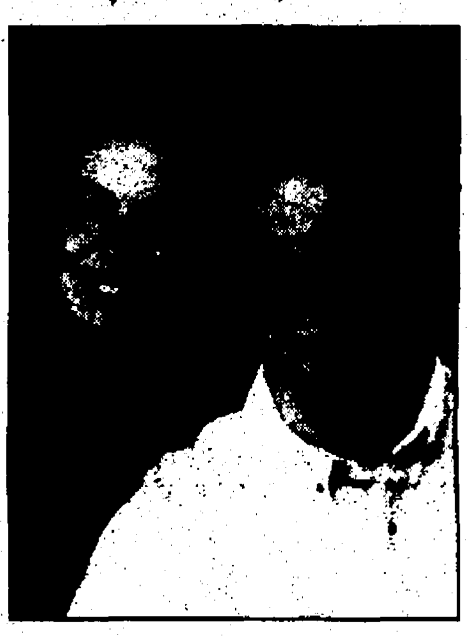
Mary Petrillo of Livonia and David Petrillo of Dearborn announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie, to Adam Pichler, the son of Herb and Jeanette Pichler, also of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 1993 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 1998 graduate of Madonna University. She is employed as a registered nurse at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Her fiance is a 1993 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 1997 graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy. He is employed as an assistant manager at Comerica Bank.

A May 2000 wedding is being planned at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Livonia.

Yeomans-Smith



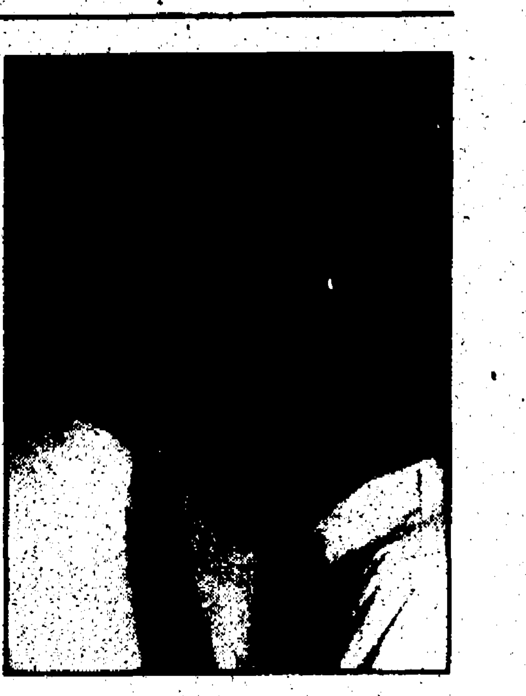
David and Kathy Yeomans of Pleasant Lake announce the engagement of their daughter, Adrienne, to Troy J. Smith, the son of Ken and Sue Smith of Canton.

The bride-to-be expects to graduate in April from Western Michigan University's speech pathology program.

Her fiance is a 1998 graduate of Western Michigan University. He is employed by Ikon.

A July wedding is planned at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Wayne.

Spieles-Engeman



Thomas and Sandra Spieles of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Anne Lynn, to Kevin James Engeman, the son James and Bonnie Engeman of Newaygo, Mich.

The bride-to-be will graduate from Western Michigan University in December with degrees in speech pathology and audiology and Spanish. She is currently employed by the Van Buren County Intermediate School District.

Her fiance is studying mechanical engineering at Western Michigan University and has an internship at Stryker Instruments in Kalamazoo.

An August wedding is planned at St. Thomas More Student Parish in Kalamazoo.

Gaul-Tureaud

Robert and Shirley Gaul announce the engagement of their daughter, Shari, to Johnny S. Tureaud, the son of Elizabeth Tureaud of Canton and the late Aloysius Tureaud.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of South Dakota. She is employed as a dental hygienist.

Her fiance is a graduate of Adrian College and the University of Detroit Mercy. He is the director of revenue systems at Marian Health Center.

A May wedding is planned in Sioux City, Iowa.

Kamen-Ross

Donald and Elaine Kamen of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen, to Gunner Ross, the son of Robert and Haroldean Ross of Evergreen, Colo.

The bride-to-be is a 1990 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 1994 graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor of science degree in biology. She expects to complete work on a bachelor of science degree in pathology assistance at Wayne State University in July.

Her fiance is a 1989 graduate of California Polytechnic State University with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He is employed by Lucas Varity Automotive.

An October wedding is planned at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville Township.

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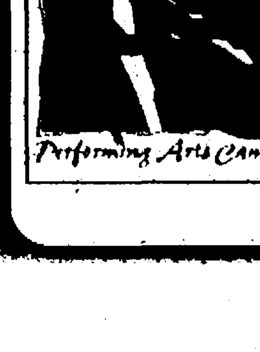

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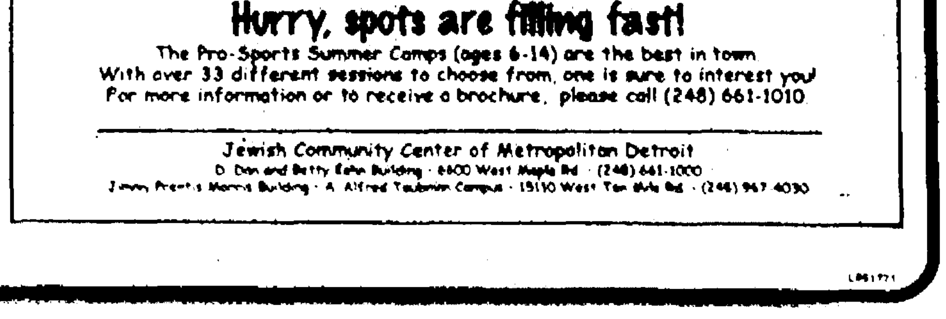

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CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

KINDERGARTEN TALK
Representatives from each elementary school in the Wayne-Westland school district will be available to talk to parents of children about to enter kindergarten 6:30-7:30 p.m. today, Thursday, April 15, at Stottlemyer Early Childhood Center, 34801 Marquette, between Wayne and Wildwood in Westland. Ice cream sundaes and face painting will be available for children.

CRAFT SALE
A craft and rummage sale to help pay for Allen Jensen's cancer treatment fund is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at Kirk of Our Savior Church, 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. For more information, call (734) 728-1921. Donations of returnable cans and bottles are accepted.

SOCIAL SECURITY FORUM
U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, who represents Westland, will host a forum titled "Social Security: What's Really Going On?" 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17, at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Rivers has invited a panel of experts who have varying perspectives on Social Security issues. After the panel discussion, the floor will be open for questions and comments. For more information call Deborah Johnson of Rivers' staff, at (734) 485-3741.

RECOGNITION BANQUET
VFW Post 3323 and Ladies Auxiliary will hold their annual policeman and firefighter recognition banquet and dance Saturday, April 17, at the post home, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Tickets are $12.50. Public is welcome. Call (734) 728-7405.

COUNTRY WESTERN JAMBOREE
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club is planning a country western jamboree with entertainment by Sherman Arnold and Interstate Band with tribute to Elvis and C.J. performing Neil Diamond for Saturday, April 17, at Local 735 UAW Hall, 48055 Michigan Ave. in Canton. Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and dancing 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are $20 a person, $35 a couple, $15 a retiree or senior citizen. For tickets, call (734) 729-8681.

CARD PARTY
A card party will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, at Church of the Divine Savior, 39375 Joy Road, east of I-275 in Westland. There will be door and table prizes, 50/50 drawing and cards and games of choice. Tickets are $4.50 and include desserts and snacks. For more information or tickets, call (734) 464-3366 or (734) 455-3620.

SURPLUS FOOD
The city of Westland will be distributing surplus food at the Dorsey Community Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 22, and Friday, April 23. Residents in the area bounded by Palmer, Stieber, Merriman and Wildwood roads, which is known as Norwayne and Oak Village, will pick up their commodities on Thursday, April 22. All other residents north of Michigan Avenue will pick up their commodities on Friday, April 23. Westland residents south of Michigan Avenue should pick up their commodities on the third Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church at 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt roads. Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food at Taylor Towers and must call their building manager for their day of distribution. For April, food to be distributed will include corn cereal, orange juice, white sliced potatoes and ground beef. For more information call the Dorsey Center's, hot line (734) 595-0366. The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Nutrition Services. All food allocations, distribution sites and dates of distribution are determined by that agency.

SPRING MUSICAL
The John Glenn Theatrical Guild is planning to perform George M. Cohan's "Give My Regards to Broadway," at 7 p.m. April 22, 23, and 24 at John Glenn High School Auditorium. Tickets are $5 for students and senior citizens and $7 for adults. They can be purchased at the door. The musical comedy takes place in a Broadway theater in the 1940s with chorus girls, a director and mobsters. Musical numbers include: "Yankee Doodle," "It's a Grand Old Flag," and "Give My Regards to Broadway."

DEMOCRATIC CLUB
State Sen. Gary Peters, Senate Democratic Caucus chair, will speak at the April meeting of the Westland Democratic Club. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey Road. For more information, call (734) 422-5863.

SKATING PROGRAM
Signs of the Seasons, will be presented by the Westland Figure Skating Club, at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 29-30, 6 p.m. Saturday, May 1, and 1 p.m. Sunday, May 2, at Westland Sports Arena, 6210 N. Wildwood, between Hunter and Ford. Guest skaters are Danielle and Steve Hartsell, national pairs champions. (Danielle Hartsell won't skate during the Thursday performance.) Admission is $6, $4 for seniors and children 12 and under. Tickets may be bought in advance at the arena concession stand.

AT THE LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY
The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The Friends also hold a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

WESTLAND CENTER

WALKERS MEET
The Westland Walkers meet the second Wednesday of each month, except during the summer. Westland Center opens its doors to walkers beginning at 7 a.m. at Arcade 2 by Olga's Kitchen. Mall walking ends at 10 a.m.

AT THE CHAMBER

JOBS AND CAREERS FAIR
The third annual jobs and careers fair is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at Westland Shopping Center. An advance signup list for tables and sponsorships is being compiled by the Westland Chamber of Commerce at (734) 326-7222.

AWARD NOMINATIONS
Nominations are being taken for the chamber's spring awards – the Athena Award and the Business Person of the Year Award. The Athena Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies excellence in a business or profession, serves the community in a meaningful way and assists women in developing their leadership potential. The Business Person of the Year recognizes a Westland business person or manager who works to improve the business climate and overcome adversity in some way. The awards will be presented at a murder mystery dinner, "Pasta, Passion and Pistols," beginning 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are $30 a person. For nomination forms, contact the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

GOLF CLASSIC
The 19th annual Westland Chamber Golf Classic at Pheasant Run Golf Club is planned for Tuesday, June 22. Reservations for foursomes are being taken now at the chamber office, (734) 326-7222.

RECREATION

RECREATION AND FUN
A recreational get-together for teens and adults who are disabled is the second Friday of each month at the Westland Bailey Center. Call (734) 722-7620.

FIGURE SKATING
The Westland Figure Skating Club has formed an adult introductory precision team. The team is for those who want to have fun with other skating adults and get exercise. Practices are 6-6:50 a.m. Saturdays. All levels are welcome. Call (734) 722-1091.

VOLUNTEERS

ASSISTED LIVING
Marquette House assisted living facility, 36000 Campus Drive, Westland, seeks volunteers to spend time with residents to provide an activity or a one-on-one visit. Call Peggy in the activities department, (734) 326-6537.

SCHOOLS

MCKINLEY COOPERATIVE
McKinley Cooperative Preschool, housed in Good Shepherd Reformed Church, Wayne Road at Hunter, is planning a Mom to Mom sale 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at the preschool, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter. Call (734) 729-7222.

SUBURBAN CHILDREN'S
Suburban Children's Co-op Nursery has openings in its 2-year toddler-parent class on Friday mornings; 3-year class Monday and Wednesday mornings; and the 4-year class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Classes run from September to May. Parents are required to help out at the school. All classes are in the Newburg United Methodist Church on Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne and Newburgh. For more information, call Susan at (734) 416-9543.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
The Wayne-Westland Community School District has ongoing registration for the preschool programs at Stottlemyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Programs include an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a preprimary impaired program and Sparkey Preschool. Registration is 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 595-2660.

CHURCH PRESCHOOL
The Westland Free Methodist Preschool has openings for 3- and 4-year-olds in the morning and afternoon sessions. The younger pupils attend Tuesdays and Thursdays, other pupils on Mondays and Wednesdays. A Friday enrichment class is also available. The preschool is at 1421 S. Venoy, Westland. Call (734) 728-3559.

GARDEN CITY CO-OP
The Garden City Co-op nursery has openings for preschool classes for ages 18 months through 4 years. Tots class meets on Wednesday mornings, and 3- and 4-year-olds meets Mondays and Thursdays. Parental involvement is required. Call Kelli at (734) 513-7708.

ST. MEL PRESCHOOL
St. Mel Preschool, 7506 Inkster Road, north of Warren Avenue in Dearborn Heights, has morning and afternoon classes for both 3- and 4-year-olds. Registration has begun. Call (313) 274-6270.

YWCA READINESS
The YWCA of Western Wayne County Early Childhood School Readiness Program is available to 4- and 5-year-old children. The YWCA is at 26279 Michigan in Inkster. Call (313) 561-4110.

CHARTER SCHOOL
The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves kindergarten through seventh grade. The school emphasizes a basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills. The school offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

LITTLE PEOPLES
Livonia Little Peoples Co-op Preschool is now enrolling for the fall in programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. For more information, call (734) 422-1176.

LITTLE LAMBS
Little Lambs Preschool, on Farmington Road south of West Chicago in Livonia, is accepting registration for the 1998-99 school year. Classes meet Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoons and Tuesday-Thursday mornings for 3- to 5-year-olds. Little Lambs is a nonprofit, nondiscriminatory preschool. Call (248) 471-2077.

FRANKLIN PTSA
The Franklin High PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and community. Members need not have a student in the school. Price is $3 for students, $5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy in Livonia 48150.

TUTORIAL PROGRAM
A free tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, is for students ages 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Leau'Rette Douglas, (734) 722-3660.

MOM'S MORNING OUT
Children, ages newborn to 6, and their mothers are invited to a Mom's Morning Out 9-11:30 a.m. every Thursday at Newburg United Methodist Church, on Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne and Newburgh, Livonia. Children are grouped together by ages in rooms with two caregivers per room. This program is an optional co-op, with parents working once each month. Call (734) 422-0149.

April foolin' drivers

Pulled over: *W4 Country's Michael J. Foxx and Michigan State police Sgt. John Lessnau pulled over Ronald Hoffman of Westland on April 1, April Fool's Day. They pulled over area motorists and then pulled their leg. Rather than issuing speeding tickets they awarded them with an Easter ham and W4 Country bumper stickers for being good drivers.*

HISTORY

BEGINNING GENEALOGISTS
The Westland Historical Commission and the Westland Library have scheduled a session on learning about family history 1 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at the Westland Library conference Room B. Information will include how to get started, forms and how to fill them out. If there is enough interest, a series of classes will be set up. Call Steve Keller at (734) 722-6305 or e-mail: stgakeller@aol.com

PERRINSVILLE
The historic Perrinsville one-room school will be opened to the public 1-4 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month from April through September. People are welcome to come and visit the renovated 1856 schoolhouse at Warren and Cowan roads, west of Merriman in Westland.

WESTLAND MUSEUM
The Westland Historical Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays at 857 N. Wayne Road, between Marquette and Cherry Hill. Call (734) 326-1110.

FRIENDS MEET
Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet 7 p.m. on the second Tuesdays of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Westland Meeting House, 37091 Marquette, between Newburgh and Wayne roads. Call President Jim Franklin at (734) 721-0136. Everyone is welcome.

FOR SENIORS

HEARING CHECKS
Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will be checking and cleaning hearing aids free from 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

LAS VEGAS TRIP
The Westland Senior Resources Department is sponsoring a Las Vegas trip Monday through Friday, May 3-7. Trip includes four nights and five days at the Stardust Towers, roundtrip airfare, hotel accommodations, airport transfers, federal excise tax, passenger facility tax and baggage handling. Cost is $460 a person. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

SOCIAL SECURITY
The Senior Resource Department of Westland (Friendship Center) is sponsoring a seminar, in cooperation with Michael Chappell, manager of the Dearborn Social Security Office, on the future of Social Security. The seminar is open to the public beginning at 1 p.m. Friday, May 14. Sign up at the desk or by calling (734) 722-7632. Refreshments will be served.

DEPRESSION SEMINAR
Learn to recognize the difference in the symptoms between sadness and depression at a seminar at the Westland Friendship Center 1-2:15 p.m. Friday, May 28. Light refreshments will be served.

TIGER GAMES
The Senior Resources Department Friendship Center is offering three trips to Tiger games this year: Tigers vs. St. Louis Friday, June 4; Tigers vs. Yankees, Thursday, July 8; Tigers vs. Angels, Friday, Aug. 13. Cost is $25 a person a game. Leave from the Friendship Center at 5 p.m. Games begin at 7:05 p.m. Return to the center between 11 and 11:30 p.m. Sign up at the front desk. First 23 seniors to register.

FRIENDSHIP PICNIC
A Friendship Center Summer Picnic will be held noon to 4 p.m. Friday, June 11, at Coburn Park behind the Westland Friendship Center. The picnic is open to Friendship Center members and Westland residents only. No tickets will be sold after Friday, June 4. Cost is $6 for Friendship members and $9 for nonmember Westland senior citizens.

SENIOR CHOIR
A Friendship senior choir, under the direction of Robert Cassidy, has been started. The choir meets 9 a.m. Thursdays at the Westland Senior Resources Department Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Anyone who enjoys singing may join.

EXERCISE
Musical Chairs is a new program from Jazzercise designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low to moderate workout geared for the older adult. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates resistance exercises using rubber tubing and light weights with walking and jogging patterns. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Robert Cassidy is the certified Jazzercise instructor. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

TRAVEL GROUP
The Travel Group meets 12:45 p.m. every Friday in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, unless a trip or program is planned. Programs include speakers, films, celebration of birthdays and weekly door prizes. There is a $3 membership fee for residents, $12.50 for nonresidents. Call (734) 722-7632.

CARD GROUP
The Friday Variety Card Group at the Westland Friendship Center meets 2 p.m. People play euchre, pinochle, bridge, Uno, rummy and poker. Light refreshments are served. Call (734) 722-7632 for information or just show up to play cards. The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh.

MONTHLY MEAL/DANCE
The Wayne Ford Civic League schedules its senior meal for people 50 and older 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at the league hall, on Wayne Road two blocks south of Ford. Cost is $5 for members and $7 for nonmembers. The meal includes beer, beverages, dancing to Big Band music and door prizes. Call (734) 728-5010.

WORK REFERRAL
Information Center Inc. refers workers to seniors who need help. The program is for people interested in providing transportation, yardwork, housework, etc. Workers can specify the type of work they are willing to do and the communities they want to serve. Call (734) 422-1052.

The Observer Newspapers welcome Calendar items. Items should be from non-profit community groups or individuals announcing a community program or event. Please type or print the information below and mail your item to The Calendar, Westland Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI. 48150, or by fax to 734-591-7279. Deadline for Calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. Call 953-2104 if you have any questions.

Event:

Date and Time:

Location:

Telephone:

Additional info.:

Use additional sheet if necessary

What's your bid?

New Morning ready for auction

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

With the Plymouth-Canton area abuzz with news about kids attending NASA's Space Camp, New Morning School in Plymouth Township decided it would be nice if one more student could go.

"With all the excitement of Space Camp in the area, we have a week in Space Camp for a child," Jane Fry said of New Morning School's annual auction.

Fry and Mary Davinich are the co-chairwomen of "Western Extravaganza" auction 5-11 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The $55 ticket includes a dinner of filet mignon or Southwestern chicken, open bar and a late-night snack of pizza and buffalo wings. For more information, call the school at (734) 420-3331.

Besides the Southwestern chicken, there are several other Western-related items, including the "Bronco Buster," a recast bronze sculpture by Frederick Remington, and a western-themed toy chest.

"We just try to make the evening, the night just a fun evening," said Fry. "We try to set a different theme every year. We've had 'An Evening in Paris,' 'Mexican Fiesta.' We thought it would be fun to do a Western theme."

Other items up for bids include a pair of University of Michigan football season tickets, suite for 14 during the 1999-2000 Red Wings season, signed and framed jerseys from Steve Yzerman, Sergei Fedorov, Brendan Shanahan, Slava Kozlov, Ted Lindsay, Paul Coffey and Larry Murphy, a dolphin encounter in the Florida Keys and a personal chef for two weeks.

Returning this year, is the Deal for Wheels check.

"Each dealership has donated $1,000 and what we do is we auction off a $4,000 check that has to be used at one of the participating dealerships to buy a car. It's been very successful," Fry said.

This year, Dick Scott Dodge, Blackwell Ford, Hines Park Lincoln Mercury and Saturn of Plymouth and Farmington Hills are participating.

Student creations

New Morning School students have made three of the items up for bids.

"The elementary project is a wooden toy chest where kids drew a western-themed picture and it's going to be decoupaged onto this chest filled with toys," Fry said. "The middle school has done an apothecary cabinet. It has 24 drawers. Since we have 24 kids in the class each one painted the drawer front. We picked the color and let them design the front.

"Our primary (kindergarten and preschool) class did an alphabet poster with the kids forming their bodies into the letters. It's real cute."

For an additional $25, supporters can purchase raffle tickets that offer the chance to win a $5,000 first prize, $1,000 second prize, or $500 third prize. Entrants do not need to be present to win. If less than 300 tickets are sold, the prize will be 50 percent of the gross ticket revenue with a minimum prize of $1,625.

Last year, New Morning School auction raised $120,000 and Fry hopes to match that.

"Our goal is about $110,000 or $115,000, but you never know because the night is so unpredictable," she said.

Proud tradition

New Morning School, which is preschool through eighth grade, is a tax-exempt, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. It is licensed by Michigan Department of Social Services and is certified by Michigan Department of Education.

The curriculum stresses individualized learning, student decision-making, goal-setting and hands-on learning.

"The class sizes are small, it's real individualized programs for each child," Fry said. "The elementary is really first through fifth grade. It's more like the old one-room schoolhouse situation where the kids are all mixed. Our middle school goes through fifth through eighth grade."

Students may attend fifth grade with the elementary school or middle school pupils, depending on their skill level.

Fry's daughter, Amy, is in the eighth grade, her last at New Morning School.

"This is our 11th year here; we started in preschool. We're in it for the long haul," said Fry whose daughter will attend Plymouth Canton High School next year. "She says she's ready. I think I have more anxiety about it than she does."

As part of the co-op program, the parents aid in the classrooms, clean the school, and organize events like the auction. New Morning School's board of directors includes parents.

"The auction was set up years ago, this is our 23rd auction," Fry said. "This is our major fund-raiser. It makes tuition affordable to the community and neighboring communities."

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHMANN

Take a look: *New Morning School students Becky Purean, 11, Aleta Lockhart, 11, Sara Fry, 11, Samantha Schmitt, 8, Alex Schmitt, 6, and Mark Lockhart, 13, gladly display items that have been collected for the school's annual fund-raiser.*

Painting away: *Seventh-grader Brittany Charnock of Livonia paints a drawer for the apothecary chest that will be offered at New Morning School's annual auction Saturday, April 24, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.*

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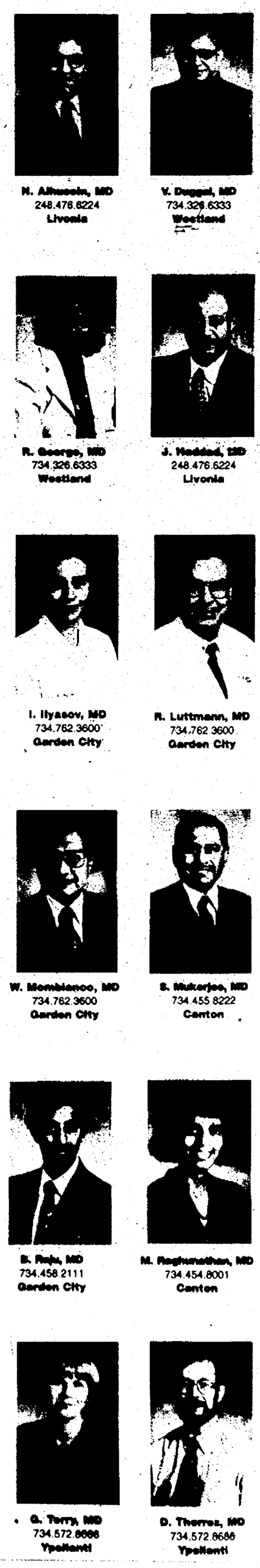

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Church & School office:
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425-7610

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MISSOURI SYNOD
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Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
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Saturday - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.
422-0149
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9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Sermon
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Rev. Thomas G. Badley preaching
Contemporary Worship Service
Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
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Scripture/Luke: 13-35
Focus/Road to Emmaus
Rev. Diane Goudie, preaching

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* * * * * *
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Saturday: 4:30 & 6:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m. 1:00 & 5:30 p.m.
* * * * * *

RELIGIOUS NEWS

Listings for the Religious News should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group of Church of Today West will meet 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at the Novi Public Library, 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. Church of Today West holds worship services at 10 a.m. Sundays at Meadowbrook Elementary School, Meadowbrook Road south of 13 Mile Road. Barbara Clevenger is the senior minister. For More information, call (248) 449-8900 or the Web site at www.cotwest.com.

RUMMAGE SALES

St. Timothy Presbyterian Church will have its annual rummage sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 15-16, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17, at the church, 16700 Newburgh Road, south of Six Mile Road, Livonia.

■ The Women's Guild of St. Maurice Church will have its spring rummage sale 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at the church. 32765 Lyndon, east of Farmington Road, Livonia.

■ The Ladies Guild of Grace Lutheran Church will sponsor the spring sale and bake sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, and 9-11 a.m. Thursday, April 22, at the church, 25630 Grand River, Redford. Thursday will be the bag sale with goods selling for $1.50 per bag.

■ The Women's Service Club of Meadowbrook Congregational Church will hold a rummage sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 23, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at the church, 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads.

■ Aldersgate United Methodist Women will have their annual spring rummage sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at the church, 10000 Beech Daly Road, Redford. White elephant, kitchen equipment, small appliances, toys and books will be sold in Wesley Hall. Clothing of all sizes will be in the Fellowship Hall with special women's garments in the Boutique. Proceeds will be used for church and district missionary projects.

■ The United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church of Garden City will have their annual rummage sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 24, in the Fellowship Hall of the church, 6443 Merriman Road. Lunch will be available, and $1 a bag sale 1-2 p.m.

■ Newburg United Methodist Church will have a spring rummage sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 30, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 1, at the church, 6500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Clothes, housewares, toys, furniture, craft items, Christmas store, jewelry and more will be featured.

'IN THE BEGINNING'

The First Congregational Church of Wayne will present a two-act play, "In the Beginning," at 8 p.m. Friday, April 16, at the church, 2 Town Square, Wayne. The dramatic presentation looks at the first two years of the church's existence – when the church was organized in 1848 and when the charter members and the first minister, the Rev. J.S. Kidder, were struggling with the problems of building a church with inadequate funds. There will be a dinner at 6:30 p.m. A donation will be requested for the dinner. People interested in attending the meal should call the church at (734) 729-7550.

CANCER BENEFIT

A craft and rummage sale will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at Kirk of Our Savior Church, 36660 Cherry Hill Road, Westland, to benefit the Allen Jensen Cancer Treatment Fund. There will be appliances, gardening tools, electronics and tools for sale. Donations of returnable bottles and cans also will be accepted.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance for divorced and separated Christians, will have line dance lessons at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, Haggerty south of Five Mile, Plymouth Township. There will be no charge. Call Val at (734) 729-1974.

GRIEFSHARE PROGRAM

St. Michael Lutheran Church will host a special weekly seminar and support group, GriefShare, for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them, 7-9:15 p.m. Sundays, beginning April 18. The seminars will run for 13 weeks at the church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton, and will provided information about recovering from grief and renewing hope for the future. The cost for materials will be $13, and baby-sitting will be provided. For more information, call the church at (734) 459-3333.

INSTRUCTIONAL WORKSHOP

The Christian Education Committee of Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church will offer an instructional workshop, "Exploring Personal Styles," 6:30-8 p.m. Sunday, April 18 and 25, at the church, 9601 Hubbard Road, Livonia. The workshop will be taught by William Dunphy and will cost $7 for materials. Registration is required and can be completed through April 11 by calling the church office at (734) 422-4094. Child care will be provided.

At Hosanna-Tabor: The Rev. Laurence Witto, pastor of Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church in Redford, joined the congregation in recently welcoming new members (front row, from left) Kimberly Smith, Kimberly Merrill, Mary Slater-Salinas, Cecil Howard, April Kulcsar, (back row, from left) Karl Smith, Gary Ellul, Cary Quatro and Brian Molnar.

MISSIONS RALLY

"How Shall I Hear Without a Preacher" will be the theme of the Faith promise Missions Rally Sunday, April 18 and 25, at Memorial Church of Christ, 34575 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The Faith Promise goal for 1999 is $67,000.

Don Tingle, executive director of Muslim Hope, who has been working in the Ukraine, Iran and Afghanistan, will speak at morning services on April 18. Barry Smyth will update members on the new church work at West Detroit Church of Christ at 6:30 p.m. that day.

Kevin Dooley, executive director of F.A.M.E. (Fellowship of Associates of Medical Evangelism) will speak at the morning worship services on April 25.

'WIND AND FIRE'

Life in the Holy Spirit Seminars will be presented at 7 p.m. Mondays through May 17, at St. Bernadine of Sienna Church, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. For more information, call the church at (734) 522-0138.

PRAYER LUNCHEON

A prayer luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 21, at Livonia Sveden House, 29477 Seven Mile Road. The guest speaker will be Sister Loretta Mellon. Doors will open at 11 a.m. For more information, call Kathleen at (734) 427-4371 or (734) 522-8905.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

The deadline for reserving a space in a women's retreat, sponsored by the Full Gospel Church of Plymouth, is Wednesday, April 21.

The retreat will be June 4-6 at Holiday Inn Livonia West and will focus on "Blended Families." The speakers will be Patty Lambert and Lorna Henze, who is the mother of a blended family and a pastor's wife. Lambert will be preaching about the church as a blended family. There also will be testimonials and small group discussions on dealing with the special problems that arise in the blended family.

The cost is $100, based on four women to a room, dinner Friday and breakfast Saturday and Sunday. Space is limited to 100 women. Checks should be made payable to the Full Gospel Church of Plymouth, designated Women's Retreat, and sent to Judy McDaniel, 34200 Richard, Livonia, 48150.

'Y2K CHALLENGE'

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church will present a panel discussion and information forum, "The Y2K Challenge," 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 22, in the sanctuary of the church, 40000 Six Mile Road, Northville. Concerns as to what individuals can do to prepare for Y2K and what problems to expect will be addressed by the panel that will include Y2K consultants and a representative from the Emergency Management Division of the State Police. The goal is to present a range of views on what to expect concerning the Y2K situation.

For more information, call the church's evangelism department at (248) 374-5937.

GARAGE SALE

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church will have a garage sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 23, and 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at the church, 16360 Hubbard, between Five and Six Mile roads, Livonia. There also will be a snack bar and bake sale.

'SPRING INTO AUCTION'

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School of Farmington Hills will present "Spring into Auction" Friday, April 23, at Livonia VFW Post 3941, 29155 Seven Mile Road. The auction will support the sports, music and technology programs as well as aid the church and school operations.

Tickets cost $25 each with tables of eight available for $175. For more information, call Glenn Schuldt at (734) 522-8117.

MOM'S SALES

St. Edith/St. Kenneth M.O.P.S. will have a Mom's Sale 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 24, in St. Edith Parish Hall, 15089 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Admission will be $1. Gently used children's clothing, toys, books and furnishings as well as maternity clothes will be sold. For more information or to rent table space, call Michele at (734) 432-6978.

■ Table space is available through Thursday, April 29, for St. Theodore Parish's annual Moms to Moms Market 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 1. The resale fair will be held in the church social hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland, and will feature gently used baby and children's clothing, toys and miscellaneous equipment plus maternity items. For more information, call (734) 425-4421 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Congregation agrees to new church name

Christ Lutheran Church has started 1999 with a new name. The Redford congregation is now Christ Church of Redford, "Bringing the Light of the World to All Peoples."

For several years, church leaders have felt they were being called to change the name. The idea was right, but the timing wasn't until at the end of the church's 40th anniversary year of relocating from a site on from Scotten Avenue near downtown Detroit to 14350 Wormer, Redford. That's when the membership agreed to the name change.

"Looking at the use of names in the Bible, we find that almost always the names of people or places represent what they are or what the Lord has called them to be like," a church spokesman said. "We really felt that His vision for us is to be identified with Christ only and to be a 'lighthouse' in the neighborhood.

"Also, our style of praise and worship is somewhat different from what might be found in most Lutheran churches."

During most of its 40 years of history, Christ Church was affiliated with one of the large Lutheran synods, but about 12 years ago chose to withdraw from the synod and operate independently.

The church has active outreach ministries to neighborhood youth and to the needy. It has Sunday school at 9 a.m., Sunday worship at 10:15 a.m. and Train to Reign (Youth Outreach) at 6 p.m. Tuesdays.

For more information about Christ Church of Redford, call (313) 534-3462

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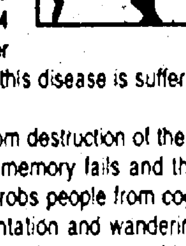
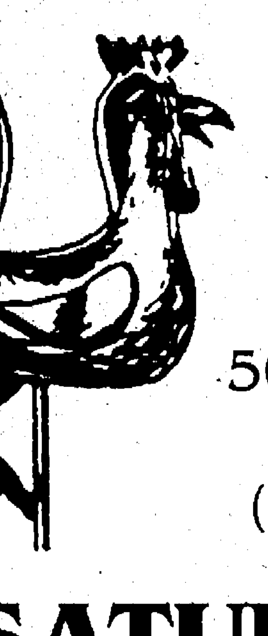


ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE UPDATE

Alzheimer's disease is the most common dementia (cognitive and memory decline) in people over the age of 65. It affects approximately 4 million Americans and ranks as the fourth leading cause of death after heart disease, cancer and stroke. The emotional and social impact of this disease is suffered not only by patients, but also the caregivers.

The functional and behavioral decline in Alzheimer's disease result from destruction of the nerve cells that control memory, thinking and behavior. Initially short-term memory fails and there is decreased ability to perform familiar tasks. As the disease gradually robs people from cognitive and social skills, behavioral symptoms such as aggression, disorientation and wandering are seen. Older individuals, especially those with family history of Alzheimer's disease are at high risk. Complaints of social withdrawal, depression and decreased awareness of time along with memory decline require prompt medical attention and early diagnosis.

The future holds promise for effectively treating this "silent epidemic", and current treatments significantly improve symptoms. When given in uncomplicated disease, a new therapy improved cognitive function in 12 weeks. Treatment of early symptoms can help prevent long-term facility placement, preserve dignity and reduce caregiver stress



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ANNIVERSARIES

Olson

Clifford "Ollie" and Shirley Olson of Garden City were the guests of honor at a dinner at Canterbury Village in Orion in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple exchanged vows on March 12, 1949, at Ward Memorial Presbyterian Church in Detroit. She is the former Shirley Orbert.

The Olsons have lived in Garden City for 45 years and have two children. Daughter Linda is a teacher at Garden City High School and daughter Ruth owns Ruth Olson Photography in Westland. They also have six grandchildren.

He is a six-year retiree of General Motors and a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles and Loyal Order of the Moose. Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of antique farm engines, he belongs to the Early Engine Club of Greenfield Village and Early Engine Clubs in Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

The Olsons also will celebrate on a family trip to Las Vegas, Nev., in April.

Historical museum sponsors day camp

Kids can explore Michigan and metropolitan Detroit's history through a wide variety of hands-on activities during the Detroit Historical Museum's first-ever "History Comes Alive" adventure day camp this summer.

The camp will be 9 a.m. to noon July 12-16 and is targeted for students ages 9-12. The camp includes visits to museums in the Cultural Center and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle.

Topics covered include archaeology, geography, oral history, social history, urban history, economics and civics. Campers will explore city architecture, the historical component in local cemeteries and learn about the African American, native America and other local cultures.

"We're excited to offer this unique and educational experience for children," said Amy DeWys-VanHecke, the museum's curator of education. "History can be fun, and we're going to explore the more than 300 years of Detroit's history from many angles."

The cost is $50 per child and advance registration is required by July 5. All materials, transportation for field trips and snacks will be provided. Enrollment is limited to the first 25 students.

For reservations or more information, call DeWys-VanHecke at (313) 833-9720.

Partial funding is provided by a grant from the Japan Business Society of Detroit Foundation. The Detroit Historical Museum is at Woodward and Kirby in Detroit.

Spurlin from page B1

Spurlin took to heart what the woman said and learned how to read cards. She also listened when told she should charge for her readings. "That way you'll do your best work," she was told.

She did become famous, making appearances on the J.P. McCarthy radio show and WXYZ-TV's "Kelly & Co."

She also charged for her readings, using the money to pay for her sons' college education.

And it was one of her sons who led her to give up reading cards.

"I'd have five cards in a row and have to be able to pick out the meaning; that's where the psychic comes in," she said. "One day, my son said those people would never get to heaven. 'You're taking their money and they're putting their faith in you, not the Lord.'

"I read cards for 15 years and paid the boys' way through college. I'm not sorry I read cards; I met a lot of wonderful people."

After a trip to Florida with her husband, Dan, Spurlin plans to weigh other options to fill her retirement years.

She has a real estate license and might specialize in listings. She also may dabble in volunteer work.

"I have to give something back for everything that has happened," she said. "I've been fortunate in so many ways.

"But if I do the book and it's appreciated, I'd be thrilled out of my tree."

Multiples club holds sale

The Northwest Suburban Mothers of Multiples will have their spring/summer sale 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 17.

The sale will be at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 17175 Olympia, off Six Mile and Beech Daly roads, Redford.

There will be 30 tables, featuring clothing, equipment and toys, during the cash-only sale. Admission will be $1.

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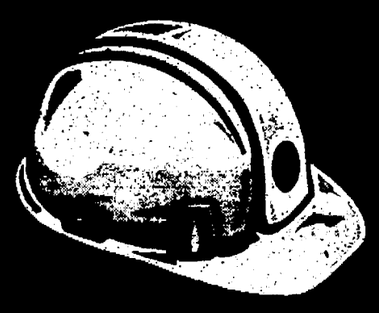

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The Observer

INSIDE:
Girls softball, C6
Outdoor news, C7

L/W Page 1, Section C

Thursday April 15, 1999

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Wayne Firebirds 1st

The Wayne Firebirds, a Squirt AA team, captured the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association state championship last month at Allen Park with a 5-4 overtime win over Mount Clemens.

In the championship game (March 14), Wayne was down 4-2 with just over two minutes left in the game before Michael Leone and Kyle Osborn scored goals to send the game into overtime.

Lance Wojewuczki then scored the game-winner one minute into OT.

The Firebirds, coached by Gary Wojewuczki and sponsored by Kenwal Steel, reached the final with wins over Marquette (4-2), Kalamazoo (4-3), Novi (3-1) and Mount Clemens (2-1).

The team's overall record for the season was 50-11-5, including a 5-0 mark with four shutouts and a 30-1 goal differential in the MAHA district tourney.

Rounding out the rest of the Firebirds roster: Justin Rayburn and Nathan Chmielewski, goalies; Jamie Bazzy, Robert McTavish, Chris Porter, Brian Riekoff and Andrew Stover, defensemen; Jacob Ball, Robby Feistel, Ryan Prough, Andrew Puzzoli, Hassan Salmassi, and Michael Shooshanian.

Assistant coaches include Dave Bazzy, Jerry Ball and Bob Feistel. The team manager is Marie Wojewuczki.

Livonian cards ace

Using a 7-iron, Jim Carney, 52, of Livonia, aced the 164-yard, No. 7 hole April 8 at San Marino Golf Course in Farmington.

Carney, who recorded his first hole-in-one, shot 40 for nine holes.

Collegiate note

Western Michigan University senior Colleen Lesondak (Livonia Stevenson) took third on the Broncos' all-time list with a leap of 5 feet, 7¾ inches en route to a third-place finish during a women's track meet April 3 in South Bend, Ind.

Titan baseball outing

The fourth annual University of Detroit-Mercy baseball alumni and friends golf outing beginning with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 15 at Bogie Lake Golf Club, 11231 Bogie Lake Road, White Lake.

All proceeds go to UDM baseball.

The cost is $100 per person (includes 18 holes, cart, beverages, lunch and dinner).

Hole sponsorships are available (signage provided by UDM). Progam ads are also available for $25.

Checks should be made payable to: UDM Baseball and mailed to: Bob Miller, Jr., Golf, 15050 Golfview, Livonia, Mi. 48154.

For more information, call (734) 464-0808 or (734) 941-7847.

AAU hoop tryouts

AAU basketball tryouts for boys 17-and-under and 19-and-under will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday, April 16 at Schoolcraft Community College.

For more information, call SC men's basketball coach Carlos Briggs at (734) 464-6200, Ext. 5254.

Pistons youth mini-camp

The Detroit Pistons will stage a youth basketball mini-camp, directed by Steve Moreland, Friday-Saturday, May 14-15, at Garden City High School.

Grades 1-12 will meet from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, May 14; grades 1-15, 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 15; and grades 6-12, 1-5 p.m. Saturday, May 15.

The cost is $49 (includes camp T-shirt, 7½ hours of instruction, certificate of participation, juice, written player evaluation and Pistons prizes). There will also be a guest appearance by Pistons mascot Hooper.

Registration must be received by Friday, May 6.

For more information, call (248) 377-0104.

Ballplayers wanted

The Detroit Braves, a Little Caesars travel baseball team, is seeking one or two 12-year-olds for the upcoming season.

For more information, call Cris Hansen at (313) 292-4798.

Chargers race to Livonia title

Franklin, Stevenson tie for 2nd

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemons@oe.homecomm.net

BOYS TRACK

The Livonia Churchill boys track team isn't quite a well-oiled machine just yet, but the Chargers definitely had enough horsepower Tuesday to win its second straight city meet championship.

Churchill, which brought two buses and an 82-member squad, won by a comfortable margin, outscoring host Livonia Stevenson and Franklin, which tied for second place, 81-47.

Highlighting the win was a school record long jump by sophomore Eric Scott, who soared 21 feet, 3 inches.

Scott eclipsed one of the school's oldest records — a jump of 21-2 in 1976 by Larry Janowski.

"Eric went over 20 feet as a freshman so we knew he had a shot at the record," Churchill coach Rick Austin said.

And as usual, the Chargers got another strong effort from senior Ryan Kearney.

The state placer from a year ago swept his specialty events, the 110-meter hurdles (14.62) and 300 hurdles (40.13). He also got a win in the high jump (6 feet).

And newcomer Devin White, a senior transfer from Westland John Glenn, figured in three firsts.

White captured both the 100 and 200 dashes in 11.61 and 23.49, respectively. He also teamed up with Jamie Shooks, Nathan Pickelhaupt and Paul Karolak for a win in the 400 relay (46.4), and added a second in the long jump behind Scott.

"I don't think we've ever won the 400 relay in this meet and not too many with this track team in that event since I've been here," said Austin, now in his fourth season. "Devin's pretty fast and he definitely give us points we didn't have last year."

Other Churchill individual winners included Mike Gaura in the shot put, 48-4¼; Guy Diakow, discus, 139-1; and Brandon LaPointe, 800 run, 2:08.19.

Churchill's opening-season outdoor performance was satisfactory, especially since many runners missed practice last week because of spring break. Top distance runner

Please see CITY TRACK, C2

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Ryan's express: *Churchill's Ryan Kearney (right) captured both hurdles events and the high jump in Tuesday's city meet.*

NFL draft call awaits Brzezinski

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemons@oe.homecomm.net

Doug Brzezinski
Top-notch guard

The suspense won't be much longer for Livonia's Doug Brzezinski.

The offensive guard from Boston College via Redford Catholic Central will soon learn where he'll end up playing in the National Football League.

The All-Star games, combines and personal interviews with nearly every NFL team are all out of the way. Brzezinski can now sit back with a small gathering of family and friends to watch the draft beginning at noon Saturday on ESPN.

He doesn't have a preference where he'd like to play — at least he hasn't made it public.

But it's a good bet he'll wind up somewhere before the end of the fourth round. Many draft experts rate the 6-foot-4, 308-pound Brzezinski as the top guard prospect.

Player personnel directors and draft experts will tell you that guards aren't normally taken in the first or second rounds.

But it was only last year that LSU's Alan Faneca was selected as the 26th pick of the opening round by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"I've tried to remain low key," Brzezinski said from his home Monday night in Livonia. "I feel I've done all I can do and now I'll just wait on it."

Brzezinski, who graduated from BC in the spring of 1998 and spent his senior year taking classes for a masters program, has hired New York agent Neil Schwartz to handle his contract negotiations once he is drafted by an NFL team.

"I talked with a couple of agents, but I felt most comfortable with him (Schwartz)," Brzezinski said. "He's represented a few B.C. players including Pete Kendall of the (Seattle) Seahawks.

"Probably his biggest client is Terrell Davis (of the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos)."

Brzezinski said he enjoyed playing in both the East-West Shrine game (in Palo Alto, Calif.) and the Senior Bowl (in Mobile, Ala.).

"I thought I played pretty well in both games," he said.

But the combines, where all the NFL teams evaluate and test collegiate players, was a different animal.

Brzezinski's agent sent him to Atlanta where he spent a month with a personal trainer getting tips and working out in preparation for the official NFL combine.

"You really don't get a break and you don't get any sleep," Brzezinski said of the combines. "You can't perform you're best when everything is crammed in.

"We were up until one o'clock in the morning

Please see BRZEZINSKI, C4

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHMANN

Field manuever: *Livonia Stevenson's Andrea Sied (left) tries to slide around Plymouth Canton's Allison Mills during Wednesday's Western Lakes tussle.*

Spartans pass test against Chiefs, 2-0

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS WRITER
cjrisak@oe.homecomm.net

GIRLS SOCCER

So it's early in the season. Teams are still trying to fuse, to blend.

And as good as these two teams are, year in and year out, this game really doesn't mean anything.

In the Western Lakes Activities Association, that is. It's unlikely the standings will be affected by it.

So this match is no big deal. None whatsoever. Right?

Right?

Nice try. But such an assumption is dead wrong. Doesn't really matter what's on the line when Plymouth Canton and Livonia Stevenson mix it up on the soccer pitch. A game like this always warrants something extra.

On this occasion, Wednesday night at Canton, a mental advantage was the biggest prize up for grabs. Stevenson was still hurting from a frustrating 2-0 loss to Troy Athens, a defeat that ended the Spartans' unbeaten streak at 43 games.

"We came in here with something to prove," said Stevenson coach Jim Kimble.

As for Canton — well, the Chiefs were expected to provide the Spartans, who lost 10 players from last season's state championship squad, with their greatest challenge in the WLAA. That's a lot of pressure.

In the final analysis, Stevenson handled its situation better — certainly more consistently — than Canton did. It showed on the scoreboard, too: Spartans 2, Chiefs 0.

Stevenson improved to 2-1. Canton slipped to 2-1.

"We're not ready to beat them yet," said Chiefs' coach Don Smith. "But we can be."

There's a chance they'll meet again — maybe in the WLAA championship game, perhaps in the state regional tournament. If they do, both sides will remember this game.

"I thought we played well against them defensively," said Smith. "But we tried to do too much with the two girls up top (forwards Anne Morrell and Amanda Lentz), and our midfield wasn't coming up to play."

It was all part of the plan, according to Kimble. The Stevenson coach knew what to expect from the always-pressuring Chiefs; but instead of trying to counterattack, he had his troops lay back.

"We knew what would happen," Kimble said. "We let them come at us for the first 5-10 minutes, then waited to see what would happen.

"We didn't want to take any chances in the first 10 minutes."

Stevenson began to go on the offensive with about 25 minutes left in the first half. Now it was Canton's turn to adjust.

But the Chiefs couldn't do it. The Spartan midfielders began to assert

Please see SOCCER TEST, C4

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Near miss: *Livonia Franklin's Dave Painter can't hide his disappointment as the bar falls during an attempt to clear 6 feet in the high jump during Tuesday's city meet. Painter, who cleared 5-10, finished second.*

City meet *from page C1*

Jason Richmond, sideline recently with a bad leg, also did not run in a varsity heat.

"I think we've got good balance in the sprints, distance and throws," Austin said. "And Kearney made a huge difference when he's able to high jump for us.

"We really didn't score in the distance, but that group will come around."

Franklin earned a tie with Stevenson by winning the meet's final event, the 1,600 relay as anchor man Kevin Schneider put on the burners to beat the Charger quartet. The foursome of Pat Hayes, John Turner, Ryan Kracht and Schneider clocked a 3:38.53.

Franklin also got a strong showing from senior distance runner Josh Burt, who took the individual 1,600 and 3,200 runs in 4:34.67 and 10:07.98, respectively. Pole vaulter Ryan Shiplett, who cleared 12 feet, garnered the Patriots' other first.

"That mile was a good time," Franklin coach Dale Lee said of Burt. "Today our seniors carried the load. I'd say it was our strongest effort in this meet in four years. We're more balanced than we've been even though we didn't score a point in the throws (shot put or discus). We have a better running attack.

"We're going to switch things on the relays and try eliminate some of the poor exchanges. But I think our guys are ready to compete."

Ironically, Stevenson captured two of the four relay races.

Matt Freeborn, the individual winner in the 400 with an impressive time of 51.91, joined forces with teammates James Bartshe, Mike Lenardon and freshman Dan Howery to win the 800 relay (1:35.95).

The Spartans' quartet of Steve Kecskemeti, Matt Nizol, Joe Verellen and Matt Isner also captured the 3,200 relay (8:32.1).

"It was a good meet for us," Stevenson coach John Gores said. "I thought we did a nice job. We had a lot of PRs (personal bests). Our relays looked good.

"And for a freshman, Howery did a good job even though he has a little bit more to learn."

But the day belonged to Churchilll.

"They just had too many guns," Lee said. "They can score everywhere and when they picked up White, that made a significant difference because he's a good athlete."

All three teams have dual meets today. Churchill travels to Westland John Glenn.

"I was very proud of the way our team performed today and I'm proud of the senior leadership," Austin said. "I thought Stevenson and Franklin both ran well especially in the distance. Stevenson had speed as well and that Hayes (Pat) for Franklin impressed me. I know he worked hard over the winter.

"All in all it was a nice day and the weather was great for early April."

See complete Livonia meet results above.

LIVONIA CITY BOYS TRACK RESULTS

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOYS TRACK MEET
April 13 at Stevenson

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Churchill, 81; 2. (tie) Franklin and Stevenson, 47 each.

FINAL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Shot put: 1. Mike Gaura (C), 48 feet, 4¾ inches; 2. Guy Diakow (C), 45-2½; 3. Brad Arsenault (S), 43-5½.

Discus: 1. Diakow (C), 139-1; 2. Dustin Willim (S), 137-6; 3. Kurt Pfankuch (S), 136-0.

Long jump: 1. Eric Scott (C), 21-3; 2. Devin White (C), 20-6¼; 3. Pat Broderick (F), 19-5¼.

High jump: 1. Ryan Kearney (C), 6-0; 2. Dave Painter (F), 5-10; 3. Brant Hauck (C), 5-8.

Pole vault: 1. Ryan Shiplett (F), 12-0; 2. Brandon LaPointe (C), 10-0; 3. Aaron Wolski (F), 9-6.

110-meter hurdles: 1. Kearney (C), 14.62; 2. Pat Hayes (C), 14.87; 3. Hauck (C), 15.8.

300 hurdles: 1. Kearney (C), 40.13; 2. Hauck (C), 41.27; 3. Hayes (F), 41.54.

100 dash: 1. White (C), 11.61; 2. Mike Lenardon (S), 11.7; 3. Broderick (F), 11.92.

200: 1. White (C), 23.49; 2. Cory Harris (F), 23.8; 3. Dan Howery (S), 23.89.

400: 1. Matt Freeborn (S), 51.91; 2. Kevin Schneider (F), 53.31; 3. Nick Houstalakis (F), 55.32.

800: 1. LaPointe (C), 2:08.19; 2. John McCallum (C), 2:11.61; 3. Eric Mink (S), 2:12.0.

1,600: 1. Josh Burt (F), 4:34.67; 2. Joe Verellen (S), 4:35.22; 3. Eric Bohn (S), 4:38.62.

3,200: 1. Burt (F), 10:07.98; 2. Verellen (S), 10:12.71; 3. Bohn (S), 10:25.22.

400 relay: 1. Churchill (Jamie Shooks, Nathan Pickelhaupt, Paul Karolak, White), 46.4; 2. Stevenson, 46.66.

800 relay: 1. Stevenson (Matt Freeborn, James Bartshe, Howery, Lenardon), 1:35.95; 2. Churchill, 1:38.95.

1,600 relay: 1. Franklin (Hayes, John Turner, Ryan Kracht, Schneider), 3:38.53; 2. Churchill, 3:39.76.

3,200 relay: 1. Stevenson (Steve Kecskemeti, Matt Nizol, Verellen, Matt Isner), 8:32.1; 2. Churchill, 8:39.7.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Launching pad: *Livonia Stevenson's Joe Ordus makes an attempt in the long jump.*

GIRLS TRACK DUAL MEET RESULTS

LIVONIA STEVENSON 124
LIVONIA FRANKLIN 21
April 13 at Franklin

Shot put: 1. Emily Yambasky (LS), 33 feet; 2. Gina Griggs (LS), 29-7; **discus:** 1. Yambasky (LS), 92-8; 2. Denise Balko (LF), 85-5; **high jump:** 1. Andrea Polasky (LS), 4-10; 2. Dawn Alfonsi (LS), 4-8; **long jump:** 1. Shiloh Wint (LF), 14-3; 2. Katie Pfankuch (LS), 13-10; **pole vault:** 1. Wint (LF), 8-3; 2. Andrea McMillian (LF), 8-0; **100-meter hurdles:** 1. Cassie Ehlendt (LS), 17.6; 2. Angela Alfonsi (LS), 17.8; **300 hurdles:** 1. Christy Tzilos (LS), 50.8; 2. Katie Sherron (LS), 52.1; **100 dash:** 1. Angela Mikkelsen (LS), 13.9; 2. Theresa Chernenkoff (LS), 14.1; **200:** 1. Kristen Kulczycki (LS), 30.2; 2. Mikkelsen (LS), 30.9; **400:** 1. Jennifer Hardacre (LS), 1:03.1; 2. Rita Malec (LF), 1:04.9; **800:** 1. Andrea Parker (LS), 2:34.8; 2. Sarah Kearfott (LS), 2:43.6; **1,600:** 1. Marissa Montgomery (LS), 5:53.7; 2. Kim McNeilance (LS), 5:56.0; **3,200:** 1. Montgomery (LS), 12:48.7; 2. McNeilance (LS), 12:50.0; **400 relay:** Stevenson (Dara Tompkins, Mikkelsen, Kuczycki, Erin Stawara), 55.7; **800 relay:** Stevenson (Ehlendt, A. Alfonsi, Sherron, Tzilos), 1:57.0; **1,600 relay:** Stevenson (Tzilos, Hardacre, Parker, Sherron), 4:26.7; **3,200 relay:** Stevenson (Kearfott, McNeilance, Parker, Heather Vandette), 10:45.9.

Dual meet records: Stevenson, 1-0; Franklin, 0-1.

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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS TENNIS PREVIEW

CC grad returns to coach alma mater

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
skowalski@oe.homecomm.net

Redford Catholic Central's boys tennis team plays home matches at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

"It's where God makes wind, then it distributes itself throughout the rest of the planet," first-year coach Paul Bozyk joked, noting wind is the courts' only drawback. "It's a nice site. They've done all they can to keep the courts up, patched some cracks where they had problems with in the past."

Well, look what the wind brought in: home matches against defending Class A champion Birmingham Brother Rice and perennial powers Ann Arbor Pioneer and Ann Arbor Huron, along with West Bloomfield, expected to be among the top teams in Oakland County.

CC's schedule also includes meets at Rochester Adams, Grosse Pointe South, Port Huron Northern and Bloomfield Hills Lahser, all strong programs. The Shamrocks, who placed fifth in Class A last year, will return to the Ann Arbor regional where they finished third behind the host schools.

"We had a wonderful showing at the state last year after playing in arguably the toughest region in the state," said Bozyk, a 1991 CC graduate who was an assistant last year. "It's a really challenging region and I certainly don't mind it."

The Westland native played on two NCAA Division III national champion teams at Kalamazoo College. He is currently working on the final phases of a graduate degree in medical science at Wayne State University. He also teaches tennis lessons at the Livonia YMCA.

"I've had a long relationship in team tennis, and I'm real comfortable in taking the position, excited to do it," Bozyk said. "My love for the game comes from competition, particularly in a team setting. It's just a tennis machine at Kalamazoo."

Among the losses to graduation were No. 1 singles player Tom Tarnacki, who reached the regional semifinals despite a sub .500 regular season, and No. 4 Marc Siciliano, whose 16-4 record included defeats in the regional semifinals and state quarterfinals.

The Shamrocks also had to replace one graduating player in each of the four doubles flights.

"We'll sorely miss all of them but for a team that has to replace six players, we'll be OK," Bozyk said.

One of the top sophomores in the state, Mike Findling, has been promoted from No. 3 to No. 1 singles. Junior J.D. Shade remains at No. 2 where he finished 12-8, losing in the semifinals of the regional and state quarterfinals.

Findling won the regional, lost in the finals at the state meet and finished 15-5 at No. 3 as a freshman.

"His game has really picked up," Bozyk said. "His footwork has improved a great deal, hits the ground strokes better, is penetrating the net and playing more consistently."

He warns, however, that Findling is still an underdog at the highest level.

"One singles I wouldn't wish upon my worst enemy," said Bozyk, who played No. 1 singles his junior and senior years at CC. "I could find 12 that have a shot at getting a seed state-wide. He'll win some, lose some, but won't go down without a fight."

Shade's been limited by a shoulder injury.

"He's playing but it's up to a therapist how many serves he can hit in a day," Bozyk said. "I can't say if he's 'match ready.'"

Filling No. 3 is freshman David Atallah, who has promise.

"He brings experience with him even though he's just a freshman," Bozyk said.

Junior Evan Currie, a junior varsity player last year, has earned the job at No. 4.

"He's made a significant jump," Bozyk said. "He's an excellent golfer and I can tell he's used to competition, pressure situations."

Junior Rob Sparks, who with the graduated Nick Rost lost in the state finals at No. 2 last year, has moved to No. 1 doubles. His partner is Jeff Fleszar, who remains at No. 1.

Fleszar and Brian Foley, who graduated, finished 17-4 and lost in the regional final and the state quarterfinals.

Both are co-captains with Shade.

"(Sparks and Fleszar) read off each other very well," Bozyk said.

Filling No. 2 is senior Nick Gray, promoted from No. 3, with freshman Mark Fleszar.

Gray and Adam Murray, who graduated, were 11-8 and lost in the semifinals of the regional and quarterfinals of the state meet.

"Nick is a good, aggressive player, brings leadership of a returning varsity player to the team," Bozyk said. "Mark is a very athletic freshman with a lot of good shots."

Junior Lodewijk VanHolsbeeck, who didn't play last year because of injury, and sophomore Eric Tomkiewicz, up from the JV, are the No. 3 tandem.

"They're going to complement each other very well," Bozyk said. "Eric is a big, intimidating force at the net with an excellent serve."

Senior Ryan Cibor returns to No. 4 doubles, where he and a senior from last year, John Edwards, finished 8-9.

Joining Cibor is sophomore Matt Roe, who also has potential, Bozyk said.

"Any of our flights is capable of doing very well at the state meet," Bozyk said.

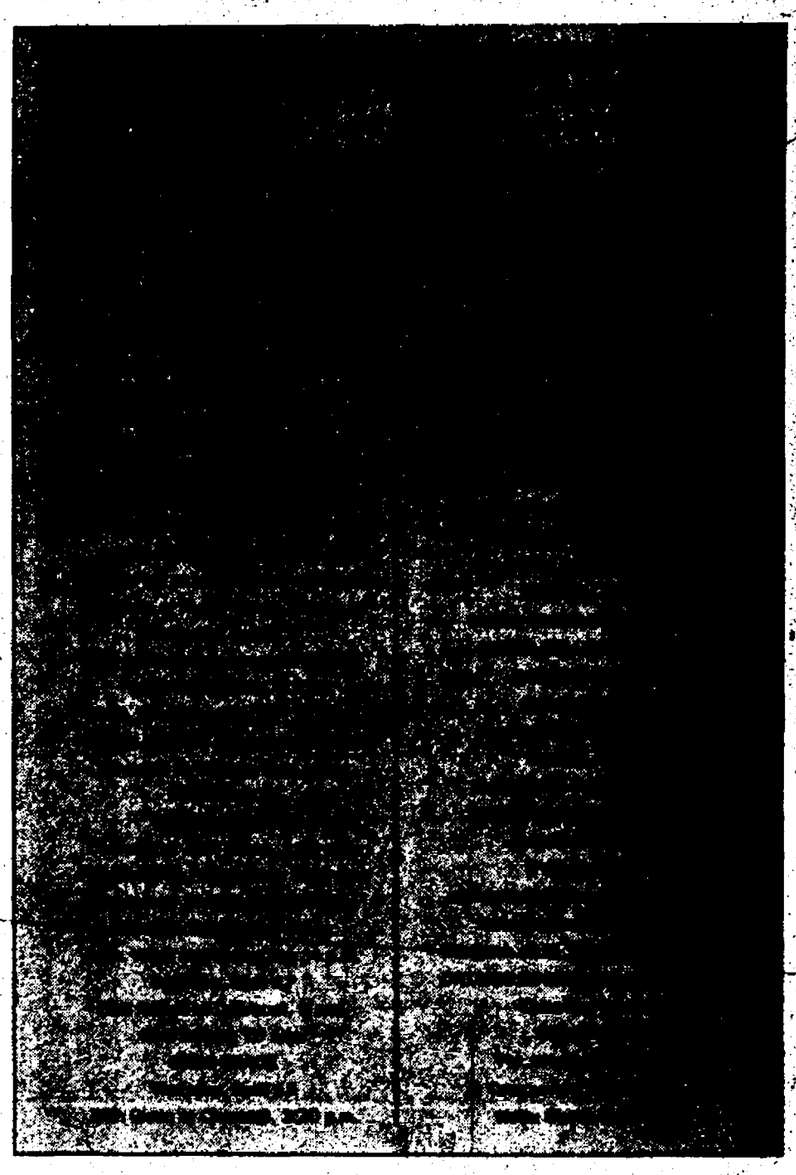
DUAL RESULTS

GARDEN CITY 8
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 0
April 13 at Garden City

No. 1 singles: Jason Dean (GC) defeated Danny Kovacs, 6-4, 6-4; **No. 2:** John Forma (GC) def. Dave Kovacs, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 3:** Chris Thackaberry (GC) def. Anthony Lambert, 6-3, 6-0; **No. 4:** Khaled Safah (GC) def. Evan Waddell, 6-1, 6-0.

No. 1 doubles: Rich Lehtimaki-Mike Schroka (GC) def. Charles Farley-Rob Dziuban, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 2:** Dan Cameron-Kyle Vasilneck (GC) def. Pat Sonak-Jeff Drotar, 6-0, 5-7, 6-2; **No. 3:** Chris Perdue-Josh Abels (GC) def. Glen Oliver-Ousman Afzal, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 4:** Matt Smith-Andy Brockie (GC) def. Hardik Dalal-Corey Collins, 6-0, 6-1.

Dual meet records: Garden City, 2-0; John Glenn, 0-1.



SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 1999-2000 BUDGET

In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Acts of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Acts of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act). Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 1999-00 college budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 1999, at the Grote Administration Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

JILL F. O'SULLIVAN
Executive Director of Financial Services

Publish: April 15, 1999

CAPSULE OUTLOOKS OF LIVONIA-WESTLAND BOYS TENNIS TEAMS

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Denise Berg, 12th season.

League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division).

Last year's dual meet record: 5-6-1.

Notable losses to graduation: Rob Aloe, Mark Waldren.

Leading returnees: Ian Quay, Sr., No. 1 doubles; Ben Luong, Soph., No. 2 or 3 singles; Kenny Tseng, Sr., No. 4 doubles; Bobby Koivunen, Jr., No. 1 doubles; Scott Risner, Sr., No. 2 doubles; Tom Fitzstephens, Sr., singles; Mike Horka, Sr., No. 2 doubles; Ross Puchalsky, Jr., doubles or singles; Chris Singleton, Soph., doubles; Eric Williams, Sr., doubles; Zac Tibbles, Jr., No. 3 doubles; Adam Rourke, Jr., No. 3 doubles.

Promising newcomers: Robert Simkow, Fr., No. 1 singles; Tom Wallis, Fr., No. 2 or 3 singles; Jason Boddu, Jr., singles or doubles.

Berg's '99 outlook: "Simkow has an all-court game. He's very smart. He has strong ground strokes, good serve, good court sense.

"Hoping we'll finish higher than we did last year. We lost some close matches last year that I think we can capitalize more on this year. We have more depth.

"The new players gives me a chance to try the other players at other positions. I really excited. I think we'll have a good season. The boys are really enthusiastic."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Kathy Ladd, first season.

League affiliation: WLAA (Western Division).

Last year's dual meet record: 0-13.

Leading returnees: Matt Clearman, Soph., No. 1 singles; Dave Moldovan, Sr. No. 1 doubles; Jason Berry, Sr., No. 1 doubles; Adam Koppin, Soph., No. 4 singles, Scott Gomez, Soph., No. 3 singles.

Promising newcomers: Jeffrey Beydoun, Fr., No. 2 singles; Chris Harris, Soph., No. 2 doubles; Chris Don, Soph., No. 2 doubles; Mike Dumouchelle, Soph., No. 3 doubles; Rob Shaffer, Soph., No. 3 doubles; Matt Nelson, Soph., No. 4 doubles; Jason Hudy, Soph., No. 4 doubles.

Ladd's '99 outlook: "Moldovan and Berry are a dynamic, fast athletic duo. They move so well and are so competitive. They're very effective and play with a lot of zeal. This is their third-year on the varsity.

"Clearmon provides quiet leadership, while Beydoun is hardworking and will only get better.

"The Koppin-Gomez team will get a lot of balls back and will give opponents a match as will the Harris-Don team at No. 2.

"We're young. We have nice enthusiasm and I think we'll improve as season goes along."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Frank Dotson, fourth season.

League affiliation: WLAA (Lakes Division).

Last year's finish: Sixth in the WLAA.

Notable losses to graduation: Matt Hartunian, Kiran Karwande, Amit Patel, Mike McGhie.

Leading returnees: Sean Mann, Sr., No. 1 singles; Maher Salah, Sr., No. 2 singles; Matt Demgen, Soph., singles or doubles; Todd Lavery, Sr., singles; Brian Adams, Sr., No. 3-4 singles.

Promising newcomers: Brendan Corneissen, Fr., singles or doubles; Brian Curd, Fr., doubles; Robert Ficara, Fr., doubles; Derek Kogut, Jr., doubles; Pat Peterson, Sr., doubles.

Dotson's '99 outlook: "A lot depends on health. It looks like a rebuilding year. We could be in the middle of the pack.

"Both Churchill and North Farmington look strong in our league. A lot depends how we come together, especially the doubles teams."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Co-head coaches: J.C. Irvine and Jennifer Riley, third season.

League affiliation: WLAA (Lakes Division).

Last year's dual meet record: 0-10-1.

Notable losses to graduation: Matt Vail.

Leading returnees: Danny Kovacs, Sr., No. 1 singles; Dave Kovacs, Sr., No. 2 singles; Anthony Lambert, Jr., No. 3 singles; Evan Waddell, Jr., No. 4 singles; Rajiv Dashairya, Sr., No. 1 doubles; Dave Stephens, Sr., No. 1 doubles; Charles Farley, Jr., No. 2 doubles; Pat Sonak, Jr., No. 3 doubles.

Promising newcomers: Robert Dziuban, Jr., No. 2 doubles; Jeff Drotar, Soph., No. 3 doubles; Ousman Afzal, Jr., No. 4 doubles; Glen Oliver, Jr., No. 4 doubles; Hardik Dalal, Fr., doubles; Corey Collins, Jr., doubles.

Irvine's '99 outlook: "We're looking for three wins our first week. We have brand new courts, so we're looking to put them to good use.

"I think probably singles-wise similar strength to last year, but doubles will get us some points this year.

"Lambert and Waddell were very series about improving. They've moved up from No. 4 doubles last year. Along with those two and Jeff Drutar, those are the most improved players this year."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Wayne Woodard, fourth season.

League affiliation: Mega Conference (Blue Division).

Last year's dual meet record: 7-5.

Notable losses: Jimmy Lewis (transferred to Plymouth Canton).

Leading returnees: Austin Rowland, Sr., No. 1 singles (17-2); Adam Chaisson, Sr., No. 3; Sos Rowland, Soph., No. 2 singles; Phil Beckert, Sr., No. 4 singles; Allen Fry, Jr., No. 1-2 doubles.

Promising newcomers: John Lewis, Fr., No. 2 doubles; Tim Stark, Jr. No. 1 doubles (exchange student from Germany); Gary Johnson, Soph., No. 2 doubles.

Woodard's '99 outlook: "I think we can improve on our third place finish in the Mega-Blue. (Taylor) Truman is the favorite, but I think we can move up to second or contend for first place.

"Truman has eight of its top 12 coming back, but I think we can give them a run.

"Our season-opening loss (8-0) to Garden City was disappointing. We pretty much got whipped in every match."

GIRLS GOLF RESULTS

LIVONIA STEVENSON 208
DEARBORN HIGH 262
April 13 at Whispering Willows

Stevenson scorers: Mara Mazzoni, 45 (medalist); Carli Heppner, 48; Katie Carlson, 57, Jessica Makowski, 58; Laura Haddock, 59; Courtney Gilkey, 66.

Dearborn scorers: Sarah Kane, 63; Marty Beth Brazell and Brandy Smith, 66 each; Jessie Romeo, 67; Julie O'Shesky, 79; Val Steele, 89.

Dual meet records: Stevenson, 1-0; Dearborn, 0-1.

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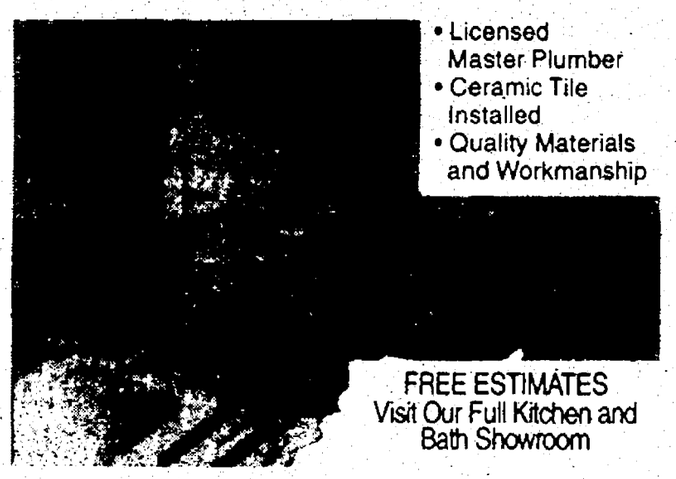

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[illegible] with a 18.1 points-per-game average, was chosen as the team's Most Valuable Player.

Mark Mitchell, a sophomore forward also from Western, was selected as the Secretary of Defense, or the defensive MVP.

Meanwhile, Jason Skoczylas, a junior forward from Dearborn St. Alphonsus, was presented the Inspirational Award.

The Most Loyal Award went to junior forward Chad Putnam of Redford Thurston HS; Trevor Hinshaw, a freshman guard from Muskegon Mona Shores, earned the Most Improved Player award; and senior center Mike Maryanski grabbed the Chairman of the Boards award for being the team's top rebounder (7.2 per game).

[illegible] .427 batting average, [illegible] and 28 RBI.

Madonna [illegible] through the [illegible]

[illegible] The [illegible] Hockey League's Robertson Cup Playoff [illegible] St. Louis [illegible] 2 Friday [illegible] and 3-1 [illegible]

The Ambassadors swept the best-of-three semifinal series.

Compuware's Josh Bowers [illegible]

The Ambassadors' Craig [illegible] was selected as NAHL goalie of the week. [illegible] stopped 54 of 57 [illegible]

[illegible] with a 2.40.

Both the Ambassadors and the Sting have already qualified for the National Gold Cup Championship Tournament April 30-May 5 in Lincoln, Neb.

Games one and two of their Robertson Cup final will be played at 7:30 p.m. Friday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday in St. Louis; the final three games (if necessary) will be at Compuware at 6:35 p.m. Friday, April 23, 7:05 p.m. Saturday, April 24 and 12:35 p.m. Sunday, April 25.

Churchill blanks Raiders, 3-0; Late goal gives Rockets 3-3 tie

GIRLS SOCCER WRAP

Stacey Supanich collected two goals and an assist Monday, lifting Livonia Churchill to a season-opening 3-0 girls soccer victory over host North Farmington.

Kersten Conklin added a goal and one assist for the victorious Chargers, who outshot the Raiders 38-2.

Deanna DeRoo also contributed an assist.

Goalkeeper Jennifer Gabon, a sophomore, posted the shutout.

"The shots were a little misleading," Churchill coach Chad Campau said. "Actually we had about 10 to 15 quality shots. They didn't pressure us too much defensively, but we did a good job passing the ball around."

•STEVENSON 10, W.L. WESTERN 0: The two-time defending state champions bounced back from their season-opening loss to Troy Athens behind Deanna McGrath's hat trick in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover match Monday against Walled Lake Western.

Brianna Roy added a pair of goals for the Spartans, who led 9-0 at intermission.

Sarah Wittrock contributed a goal and two assists, while Lindsay Gusick and Jamie Hartrick each collected a goal and one assist.

Megan Urbats and Michelle Vettraino also scored goals for Stevenson.

Goalkeeper Leslie Hooker posted the shutout.

•JOHN GLENN 3, GARDEN CITY 3: Sophomore Lacey Catarino's goal from junior captain Val Kurzynski 15 minutes into the second half gave Westland John Glenn (0-1-1 overall) a non-league tie Monday with the host Cougars.

GC led 3-2 at halftime on goals by Jennie Kisic, Dawn Sanders and Amy Magdowski.

Katie Krause, a senior, tallied Glenn's first two goals. Kurzynski and sophomore Sarah Pack drew the assists.

"We did a nice job of ball-handling," Glenn coach Jerry Poniatowski said. "Garden City likes to dump and run and we marked their big guns tight and we did a good job of with the exception of the times they scored."

•SOUTH LYON 9, WAYNE 0: Cassie Teeple's hat trick sparked the Lions (1-1 overall) to a non-league win Monday at Wayne Memorial (1-2).

Wayne, which trailed 4-0 at halftime, lost goalkeeper Toni Watson to a broken finger at the 15-minute mark of the match. Forward Jenny Sheppard stepped in as an emergency replacement.

"South Lyon is a strong team with a couple of Olympic Development Program players," Wayne coach Larry Brenner said. "Their midfield is also very strong."

•DIVINE CHILD 3, LADYWOOD 0: In a Catholic League Central Division game Tuesday, host Livonia Ladywood (2-1) suffered its first defeat of the season at the hands of Dearborn Divine Child.

Despite the loss, Ladywood first-year coach Jill Logsdon praised the efforts of goalkeeper Liz Obrecht, sweeper Jenny Drabek and forward Melissa Harakas.

•LUTHERAN NORTHWEST 4, LUTH. WESTLAND 2: In a Metro Conference encounter on Tuesday, host Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest spoiled the debut of Lutheran High Westland first-year coach Mark Brenner.

Junior midfielder Kellie Buczek and freshman forward Angie Matthews scored goals for the Lady Warriors.

Brzezinski *from page C1*

every night talking with the teams.

"It was like a job interview."

Besides a variety of physical tests, Brzezinski went through a battery of pyschological testing.

"They see how you react in certain situations," he said. "They'll even try to see if you have a sense of humor."

Brzezinski clocked a 5.1 in the 40-yard dash and did 26 reps bench-pressing 225 pounds.

"My time in the 40 puts me in pretty good position, but I've done more than that as far as reps," Brzezinski said.

During his career at B.C., Brzezinski was redshirted as a freshman in 1994 and then started every game — 46 in a row — during his four-year career.

He was an All-Big East selection in 1997 at tackle and went back to guard his senior year where he received some All-America notice despite a sub-.500 season by the Eagles.

According to Pro Football Weekly, Brzezinski brings many good intangibles to the game.

In addition to having good size and strength, he is tough and physical. He's durable, and with his blue collar attitude, he can be counted upon to play every week. He is also considered a good technician who has been well coached.

If there is a drawback, Pro Football Weekly says he may not be as fluid, mobile or athletic as some scouts like.

A pulled hamstring, which has recently healed, may have slightly set him back during the combine workouts in the eyes of some NFL evaluators.

But the positives far outweigh the negatives.

Meanwhile, Brzezinski doesn't worry about which slot he will fall into. He'll sit in front of the TV and just like the rest of the other NFL prospects.

He continues to do his daily workouts and has dabbled in a new sport to pass idle time.

"I've taken up bowling," Brzezinski said. "I've kind of stumbled upon it and it's fun thing to do. I go to a lot of different places. I was just bowling the other day at Cloverlanes.

"It's kind of like winter golf."

No word what Brzezinski's average is on the lanes or on the links, but his numbers will soon add up for some lucky National Football League team.

Soccer test *from page C1*

themselves, and Canton started to lose the battles for loose balls.

The game's first goal, however, was not the result of a pretty passing play or a great individual effort. Rather, it was just a matter of Stevenson's Julie Murray sending the ball into the box in front of the Chiefs' goal. Christina Lewis popped a shot toward the net that deflected off a Canton defender and squirted past keeper Amy Dorogi. With 20:34 left in the opening half, the Spartans had a 1-0 lead.

The strategy had worked. "People knew their roles and stuck to them," said Kimble.

From that point on, the Chiefs had trouble asserting themselves. Their inability to control the midfield forced Morrell to roam further and further back in an effort to get to the ball. But when she did get near it, she was immediately swarmed upon. Kimble had assigned two Spartans, usually Cheryl Fox and Katie Beaudoin, to shadow her constantly.

"That was the whole idea," he said. "(Morrell) can beat you single-handed. But our defense played very disciplined."

Morrell's frustration surfaced when, with 25:05 left in the second half, she was yellow-carded for a hard tackle, which put her on the sidelines for 10 minutes.

Five minutes after her return, a Stevenson clearing pass was fielded by an unmarked Lindsay Gusick, who dribbled through Canton's defense and unleashed a hard shot from 20 yards that went into the corner of the net, making it 2-0 with 9:51 left.

"This was a good barometer for us," concluded Smith. "It shows us where we're at. We've got a lot of young kids. And (Stevenson's) a good, solid team."

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Fritch's slam lifts Clarenceville

Josh Fritch's grand slam homer in the top of the seventh lifted Livonia Clarenceville to a season-opening 12-7 baseball victory Tuesday over host Plymouth Christian Academy.

Winning pitcher Rey Guttierrez also helped spark the 7-run seventh with an RBI double. He went 2-for-3 with three RBI.

Guttierrez relieved starter Tim Riedl, who worked the first 6⅓ innings. Riedl gave up five runs on eight hits with three walks and four strikeouts.

Clarenceville out-hit PCA, 15-12, with John Wallace, Brian Pankow, Scott Carr and Joe Lucas each collecting three hits.

Wallace scored three runs, stole two bases with an RBI. Pankow contributed a double, triple and two RBI.

Derric Isensee led PCA with four hits and two RBI.

PCA reliever Bill Kiesel, who came on for starter Andy Powers, took the loss.

•CHURCHILL 7, GARDEN CITY 1: Livonia Churchill senior left-hander Andy Shoemaker was sharp in his season debut, tossing a four-hit complete game in a non-league win Tuesday over the visiting Cougars. Both teams are 1-1 overall.

Shoemaker struck out six and walked three.

GC starter Brent Hackman, who worked five innings and gave up six runs, took the loss.

Senior first baseman Eric Lightle led a 10-hit Churchill attack going 4-for-4 with one RBI. Ryan Vickers added two hits and two RBI.

Jerry Minch doubled in a run for GC in the third inning.

•REDFORD UNION 14, FRANKLIN 4 (MERCY): Redford Union ran its overall record to 5-0 with a five-inning mercy-rule win Tuesday over Livonia Franklin (0-1).

The Panthers unloaded on two Franklin pitchers for 14 hits.

Clint Stroble had a double, triple and five RBI. Mike Hayes and Mike Macek each contributed two hits. Matt Rigley had a double.

David Word had a triple and single for the Patriots. John Nagle and Brad Tibas each contributed two hits. Joe Ruggiero triple and scored a run, while Tom Jones singled and scored a run.

PREP BASEBALL

Sean O'Connor, who pitched the first four innings for RU, got the victory. Brad Michael finished up.

Tony Sala, the Franklin starter, took the loss. He worked 3⅓ innings.

•REDFORD CC 13, COUNTRY DAY 4: Sophomore Charlie Haeger pitched three scoreless innings of relief to pick up the victory and Bob Malek clubbed a 3-run homer in and 8-run second inning to give Redford Catholic Central (2-0 overall) the non-league win Tuesday over Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day (1-3).

Malek went 3-for-4 with three RBI, while Casey Rogowski added pair of doubles. Catcher Chris Woodruff went 2-for-3 with two RBI.

CC starting pitcher Nick DiBella worked the first two innings, striking out the side. Dave Lusky also worked two innings.

•W. BLOOMFIELD 11, CHURCHILL 4: Wellington Andrees and Josh Gad-Harf each collected three hits, propelling West Bloomfield to the non-league win Monday at Livonia Churchill.

David O'Dea added two hits for West Bloomfield, which broke a 3-3 tie with six runs in the fourth inning.

Aaron Johnston, who pitched the first five innings for the Lakers, got the victory.

Churchill reliever John Ross took the loss. Justin Draughn started and worked the first three innings.

•REDFORD CC 16, FOLEY 4 (MERCY): Redford Catholic Central, last year's state Class A semi-finalists, opened its season Monday at Madison Heights Bishop Foley by unleashing a 16-hit attack led by designated hitter Anthony Tomey, who sent 3-for-3 with a double, three RBI and three runs scored.

Bob Malek, who went 2-for-4, added a grand slam in the third inning.

Other CC hitting standouts included Dave Lusky, 2-for-3 with three runs scored and RBI; Mario D'Herin, 2-for-2 with two RBI and two runs; Chris Woodruff, two RBI.

Middle reliever Matt Niemiec got the victory.

Andy Smith started and worked 2⅓ innings. Niemiec got five outs and Brent Schoenbach struck out the side in the fifth.

•BELLEVILLE 2-12, WAYNE 0-0: Wayne Memorial (0-5) continued its Detroit Tiger-like start by losing a twinbill Saturday against the host Belleville Tigers.

Freshman right-hander Ryan Ybarra, making his first varsity start, gave up one hit (to B.J. Flaig), seven walks and hit one batter in five innings in the opener, but took the loss. He struck out five before giving way to freshman George Rodriguez in the 2-0 defeat.

Wayne collected just two hits off Belleville lefty Ryan Emery, one in the third by Ybarra and a single by Ryan Czyzak in the fourth. Emery struck out 11 and walked two in picking up the win.

In the nightcap, Belleville invoked the mercy rule, stopping Wayne in five innings, 12-0.

Wayne used four pitchers — Rodriguez, the starter and loser; Matt Mackiewicz, Nick Cicotte and Justin Smoes. The quartet combined for 12 walks and gave up five hits in four innings.

Wayne's only hits came off the bats of Scott Teasdale, Ybarra and Gary Stevens.

Belleville's Aaron LaPrairie, who struck out six and walked two, got the victory.

•ROMULUS 4-2, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 1-7: Lutheran High Westland opened its season Saturday by splitting a double-header with the host Eagles.

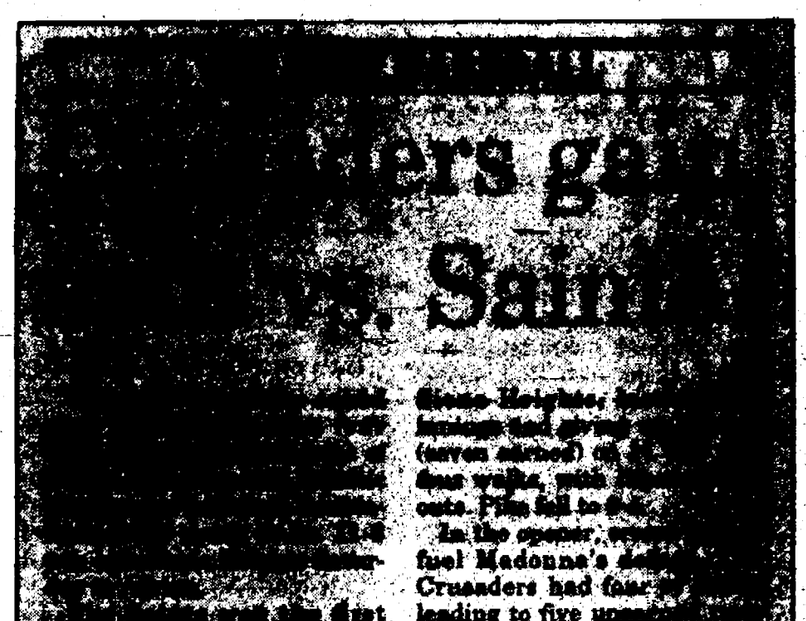
Rookie coach Ted Younglas earned his first victory for the Warriors as junior Charlie Hoeft pitched five strong innings in a 7-2 triumph.

Hoeft gave up just three hits and struck out seven.

Offense was provided by Tom Habitz, who went 2-for-4 with a double, RBI and two runs scored. Brother Brent Habitz also knocked in two runs, while senior Scott Archer had two hits and scored twice.

Romulus took the opener, 4-1, as Tom Habitz, the losing pitcher, gave up four hits and four runs over six innings. He struck out seven and did not walk a batter.

Archer had two hits and scored Lutheran Westland's lone run.



Farmington (4-0) smashes Lakeland

Farmington continued its impressive start in the 1999 baseball season Monday, extending its record to 4-0 with a 15-7 shellacking of host Lakeland.

The Falcons had plenty of big hitters, including senior Charlie Avery, who belted a two-run homer. He had two hits and scored three runs.

Jim Kay went 3-for-5 and James Clarahan, Kyle Burcar and Nick Hippler contributed two hits apiece to Farmington's 15-hit attack.

Brad Barenie had three RBI with a pair of sacrifice bunts; Hippler, who hit twice in two-out situations, also had three RBI.

Clarahan knocked in two runs and Burcar one. Hippler, Clarahan, May and Burcar also scored two runs each.

Sophomore Ian Pardonnet pitched 1⅔ innings to earn the victory. He allowed two hits, had two strikeouts and walked one.

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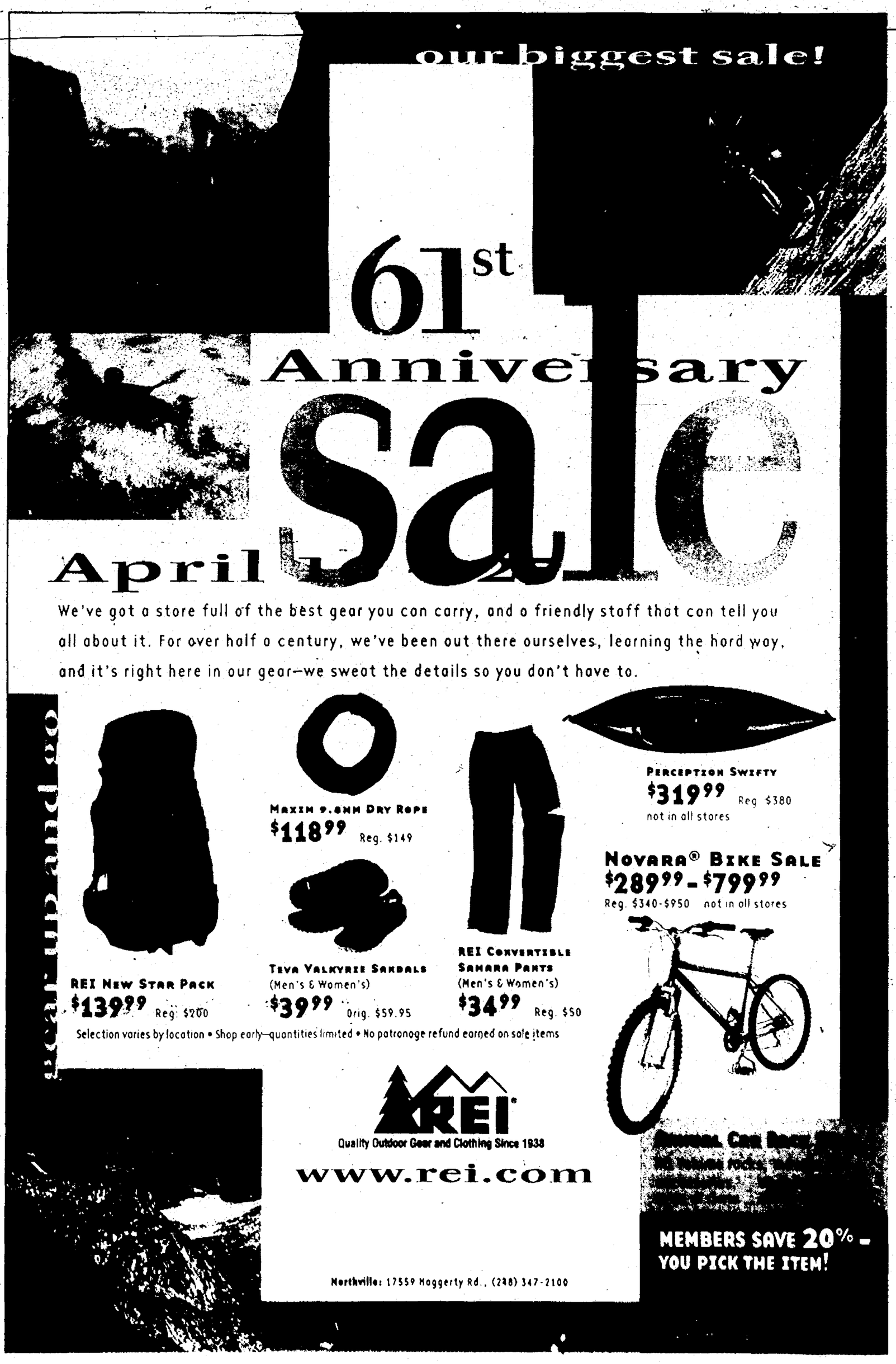

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Whalers face pivotal Game 7

■ OHL PLAYOFFS

So much for tight, defensive struggles.

The Plymouth Whalers, who rallied from two games down to the London Knights in their best-of-seven Ontario Hockey League series by winning three straight, discovered this series was anything but over when they visited the Ice House in London Tuesday.

In front of a near-capacity crowd of 4,837, the Knights taught the OHL's regular-season champions a lesson by drilling them 8-2 to even the series at three games apiece.

The seventh and deciding game will be at 7:30 tonight at Compuware Arena.

The winner advances to meet the Owen Sound Platers in the OHL semifinals at a site to be determined (if the Whalers win tonight, they will host the series opener at 7:30 p.m. Saturday). Owen Sound advanced by eliminating the Midwest Division champ Guelph Storm in six games.

The first two games in the Plymouth-London series went into overtime, with London winning by a 3-2 margin.

Game three, played at Compuware, was also a one-goal affair until the Whalers pulled away with three goals in the last 3:42 to win 7-3.

The next two games featured a return to early-series form, with the Whalers winning both by 5-4 margins (the first going overtime, once again).

But Tuesday was totally different. The game was close for only a period, with the Knights getting a goal from Chris Kelly to take a 1-0 lead into the second.

Three second-period markers, two on the power play, gave London all the momentum it would need.

Paul Mara scored for Plymouth at the 8:37 mark of the period (assisted by Harold Druken and David Legwand) to narrow the Knights' lead to 3-1.

But John Erskine pushed the deficit back to three with another score for London with 4:10 left in the period.

Plymouth coach Pete DeBoer pulled goalie Robert Holsinger in favor of Rob Zepp in the third, but it made no difference.

The Knights scored four more times against Zepp to complete the runaway.

The game's final goal was netted by the Whalers' Tomek Valtonen, assisted by Justin Williams, with 2:20 left to play.

London had struggled for much of the series on the power play, but not in this game. The Knights converted 4-of-6 chances with the extra attacker. Plymouth was 0-for-4.

Mike Mazzuca led London with two goals. Rico Fata contributed a goal and two assists, while Tom Kostopoulos, Kelly and Erskine each added a goal and an assist.

Other goals were netted by Peter Reynolds and Jason Metcalfe; Joel Scherban and Krys Barch chipped in with two assists apiece.

Gene Chiarello made 22 stops in goal for London; Holsinger had 18 saves in the first two periods for the Whalers, and Zepp had eight in the third. London had a 34-24 shot advantage.

•**PLYMOUTH 5, LONDON 4:** Last Saturday at Compuware Arena in Plymouth, Jason Ward lifted the Whalers to a win over the Knights by scoring two goals and assisting on a third in an OHL playoff game.

Plymouth used three power-play goals to open up a 5-3 lead after two periods, then held on in the third after London's Rico Fata scored on the power play to narrow the gap to one with 9:13 left.

The Whalers led 2-1 after one period, getting goals from Paul Mara and Ward in a 24-second span.

The Knights' Krys Barch pulled his team to within 2-1 in the period, but Mara — who had two goals and an assist in the game for Plymouth — along with David Legwand and Ward scored in the second to keep the Whalers on top. Legwand also had an assist, while Julian Smith and Randy Fitzgerald each chipped in with two assists.

Barch had two goals and an assist for London, with Jay Doyle adding a goal and an assist.

Gene Chiarello made 36 saves for the Knights, while Robert Holsinger had 24 for Plymouth.

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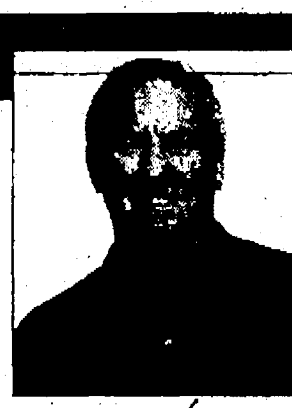

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GIRLS SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Slap bunt: *Churchill's Sallie Kuratko tries to lay one down against Garden City as teammate Kristin Derwich (back) takes a practice cut.*

Hutchins' double propels Spartans

Garden City nips Churchill

First-year varsity coach Jen Knoph could overlook her team's seven errors because Livonia Stevenson opened its season on a winning note with a thrilling 6-5 non-league girls softball victory Monday over visiting Dearborn.

Sophomore right fielder Kelley Hutchins' two-out, 2-run double to provided the final margin of victory.

Stevenson led 3-0 through five complete innings before Dearborn scored three in the sixth and two more in the seventh for a 5-3 lead.

The Spartans' Irene Grias then pulled her team to within one, 5-4, on an RBI single, setting the stage for Hutchins, who drilled a shot over the Pioneer left fielder's head.

"This is the first day we've really had the whole team together and it was great we were able to show that we did not give up and hang tough as a team," Knoph said.

Pitcher LeAnne Schraufnagle went all seven innings to pick up the win. She gave up six hits, fanned six and did not walk a batter.

Katie King, Kristi Copi and Charlene Kijorski each had two hits for the winners.

Erin Walsh led Dearborn with three hits, while pitcher E. Malone suffered the loss.

•**GARDEN CITY 2, CHURCHILL 1:** Garden City's Carrie Dayton outdueled Livonia Churchill's Adrienne Doyle in the season opener for both teams.

Dayton gave up just two hits in seven innings. She struck out five and walked two.

Doyle worked six innings, allowing three hits, a walk with one strikeout.

GC collected all three hits in the second inning, keyed by Mary Kovacs' 2-run double.

Churchill got a run back in the fifth on a double and stolen base by Doyle followed by a Kelly Stahley RBI groundout.

Each team had one error.

"It was a well-played defensive game for the first game of the season," Churchill coach Dana Hardwidge said.

•**FRANKLIN 5, REDFORD UNION 2:** Freshman second baseman Amy Sandrick made her varsity debut going 2-for-2 with a walk and RBI as Livonia Franklin won its season opener Tuesday against visiting Redford Union.

Winning pitcher Tara Muchow tossed a three-hitter with 11 strikeouts and seven walks.

Losing pitcher Debbie Christensen allowed seven hits over six innings. She struck out three.

RBI doubles by Sara Knopsnider and Jeanette Bertrand helped stake Franklin to a 3-0 lead after three innings.

Muchow, Kelly Young and Tera Morrill also collected hits for the Patriots.

•**LUTHERAN WESTLAND 19, HARPER WOODS 7:** Lutheran High Westland (2-0 overall) played error-free softball Tuesday in scoring a win against the host Pioneers (0-2).

The game was stopped after six innings because of the 10-run mercy rule.

Lutheran Westland out-hit Harper Woods, 19-7, with Sharon Greer leading the way.

Greer went 4-for-4, including two walks and three RBI.

Other hitting stars for the Warriors included Katie heiden, 3-for-5 with a double and three RBI; Stephanie Lynch, 3-for-5 with a double, 2-run homer and four RBI; Sara Marody, 3-for-4; and winning pitcher Heather Rose, 2-for-5 with three RBI.

Rose went the distance, allowing seven runs on seven hits and 10 walks.

Harper Woods' Theresa Gooch suffered the loss.

•**BELLEVILLE 8, JOHN GLENN 5:** On Monday, the host Tigers exploded for five runs in the third inning, taking advantage of four Westland John Glenn errors to post the non-league win.

Despite the loss, Glenn's Abby Massey clubbed two homers, a two-run shot in the second inning and a solo homer in the seventh.

Micky Vangoff and Amanda Ross each added two hits.

Sophomore hurler Stephanie Fedulchak, who gave up six hits and five walks, took the loss.

Randi Ladoucer, who scattered seven hits with no walks and 10 strikeouts, was the winning pitcher.

•**LUTHERAN WESTLAND 13, CRESTWOOD 8:** Lutheran Westland started its 1999 season with a bang, collecting 10 hits in a non-league victory Monday over visiting Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

Winning pitcher Katie Helden, who worked six innings, helped her own cause by knocking in three runs. She had two hits, including a 2-run homer.

On the mound, Helden struck out two, walked three and allowed seven hits. Heather Rose pitched a scoreless seventh.

Rose, a freshman who started in center field, also hits two hits, including a double and two RBI. Sarah Marody added a 2-run triple, while Kari Charles chipped in with a single and triple.

The Warriors committed five errors.

"Defensively we weren't as sharp as I like to see us, but it's always nice to win that first one," Lutheran Westland coach Ron Gentz said.

New archery range to open Saturday in Livonia

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS

BILL PARKER

The newly renovated outdoor archery range in Livonia officially opens at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Located on Glendale Avenue (between Schoolcraft and Plymouth roads) east of Farmington Road, the Livonia Archery Range features eight target lanes with shots ranging in distances from 10 yards and 40 yards. Seven of the lanes are for field tips only while one lane is open for broadhead use.

The renovation project was a joint effort of the City of Livonia and Ted Nugent United Sportsmen of America.

"The range really started a few years ago when some DPW workers put out some targets," explained Mike DiFazio, who works for the City of Livonia and is also a member of TNUSA. "It was open to the public, but not that many people knew about it. Last year, we (TNUSA) approached parks and rec. and asked if we could renovate it. We got their full support and even had probation workers from the 16th District Court come over and help out."

Shooting at Saturday's grand opening is free of charge. After Saturday the range will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Cost for non-Livonia residents will be $4 for adults and $2 for kids under 18 when accompanied by an adult. Livonia residents shoot free.

"We're pretty excited about it," DiFazio said. "Where ever we put out flyers they have all disappeared. We hope to get a good turnout on Saturday."

A limited number of recurve bows are available for use. Future plans call for the range to host educational classes and seminars.

On May 1, the range will host a class for beginner archers entitled: Introduction to Archery.

For more information on the grand opening or upcoming classes, call (734) 466-2410.

Early fishing returns

The shallow water in the southern end of Lake Huron provides anglers with terrific spring salmon fishing opportunities. When the shallow water in southern Lake Huron begins to warm the temperature change triggers the annual smelt spawning runs up the dozens of rivers, streams and cuts that slice into Michigan's thumb. Smelt begin moving toward shore when the water temperature reaches the mid-40s. Once the smelt arrive salmon move in toward shore to gorge themselves with the bait-fish.

Anglers have great success at this time of year by trolling body plugs, which imitatesthe action of a smelt, just off shore in 10- to 20-feet of water.

Later in the year when the salmon move back into deeper water anglers switch to spoons that imitate the action of an alewife, which make up the brunt of the salmon's summer diet.

Chinook salmon (Kings) are the bread-and-butter of the catch at this time of year, but brown trout, steelhead and an occasional coho salmon add variety to the catch.

The Salmon Stakes tournament raises money through the sale of raffle/entry tickets. Tickets cost $10 each and enters the holder into a raffle and the fishing tournament.

You don't have to fish in the tournament to participate in the raffle and ticket stubs are redeemable for $10 off dinner for two or Sunday brunch at any Chuck Muer restaurant.

Raffle prizes include a trip for two adults and two children to Mackinac Island; use of a private suite for a Detroit Tigers baseball game; a weekend for two in Chicago; $500 in gift certificates to Chuck Muer restaurants; and a limousine ride and dinner for two at a Chuck Muer restaurant.

Anglers can also win. There is a cash prize of $250 for the heaviest total catch in one boat; as well as $250 for the largest fish in each of four categories - chinook salmon, steelhead, brown trout and coho salmon.

Tickets are available at Charley's Crab in Troy, Meriwether's in Southfield, Muer's Sea Food Tavern in West Bloomfield, Big Fish in Dearborn, Big Fish Too in Madison Heights, Gandy Dancer in Ann Arbor, or by calling the River Crab at (800) 468-3727.

Salmon Stakes on tap

Catch her on a good spring day and southern Lake Huron can serve up tranquil waters and outstanding salmon fishing. Hit her on a bad day, however, and those same tranquil waters can turn treacherous with rolling waves and white caps.

Fishing under such adverse conditions falls somewhere between fruitless and dangerous.

Anglers will be hoping the first description holds true next Saturday, April 24, when the 21st annual River Crab Salmon Stakes benefit fishing tournament takes place out of St. Clair.

Unlike most fishing tournaments in which the focus of the event is to catch fish the Salmon Stakes tournament goes much deeper.

The late Chuck Muer and his friend Al Tyrell came up with the idea of turning a fun day of fishing into a fund-raising activity.

The Salmon Stakes tournament started out as a simple fishing contest between friends but has evolved into a big-time fund-raiser to aid troubled children, adults and their families statewide.

Money is raised through the sale of raffle/entry tickets. Last year the tournament netted in excess of $100,000, which put the 20-year total over the $1 million mark.

(Anglers and hunters are urged to report your success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (248) 644-1314, send e-mail to bparker@oe.homecomm.net or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 901-2573.)

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, (800) 477-7756; Indian Springs, (800) 477-3192; Kensington, (800) 477-3178.

SPRING CLEANUP
Spring cleanup days are scheduled at several Metroparks in the upcoming weeks. Most programs last one-half day and lunch is provided for all volunteers who register in advance. Cleanup days will be held Saturday, April 17, at Stony Creek, (800) 781-4242), and Metro Beach, (800) 477-3172); and Saturday, April 24, at Lake Erie, (800) 477-3189, and Kensington, (800) 477-3178.

WOODCOCK WALK
Take a hike to observe the aerial display of woodcock during the mating season during this program, which begins at 8 p.m. Friday, April 16, at Indian Springs.

SPACE TRY-IT
Brownie scouts can complete the requirements for their Space Try-It badge during this program, which runs throughout the day on Saturday, April 17, at Kensington. Participants should bring a white or light-colored t-shirt. Call ahead for times.

SKY SEARCH
Brownie scouts can complete the requirements for their Sky Search badge during this program, which runs throughout the day on Saturday, April 17, at Kensington. Participants should call ahead for times.

BASIC ORIENTEERING
Learn the basics of map and compass orienteering during this class, which begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 18, at Indian Springs.

HERONS ARE US
Learn all about herons then observe some nesting herons during this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 18, at Kensington.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS
Home-schooled children ages eight and older are invited to study native cold-blooded creatures during this program, which begins at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, at Stony Creek.

1999 PERMITS
The 1999 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are $15 ($8 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits are $18 ($9 for senior citizens). Call (800) 47-PARKS for more information.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

EARTH HIKE
Discover endangered species and learn what you can do to help, then lace up your boots and hike the trails of Independence Oaks during this program, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at Independence Oaks.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury, call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain, call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland, call (810) 685-2187. For programs at Island Lake, call (810) 229-7067.

SPRING BIRD HIKE
Observe birds species in the park during this naturalist-led hike, which begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 17, at Maybury. Participants should dress for the weather and bring a binocular.. Meet at the riding stable parking area on Beck Road.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
Celebrate Earth Day through earth-related programs and displays during this program, which begins at 11 a. m. Saturday, April 24, at Maybury.

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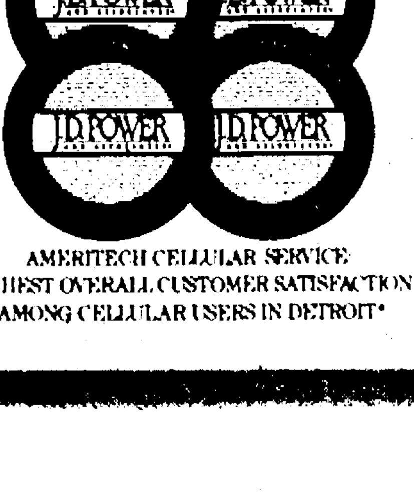

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OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ARCHERY

3D SHOOT
Royal Oak Archers will hold a 3D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 18, on its walk-through range in Lake Orion. Call (248) 693-9799 or (248) 628-8364 for more information.

YOUTH SHOOT
Detroit Archers will host a youth shoot on Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2, at its clubhouse and grounds in West Bloomfield. Every participant age 17 and under will receive a trophy. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS
A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

FUND-RAISERS

TROUT UNLIMITE BANQUET
The Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited is holding its 35th annual fund-raising banquet on Thursday, April 22, at the Royalty House in Warren. Tickets are $40 per person and $75 for couples. The event includes a prime rib or broiled whitefish dinner, raffles, auctions, door prizes and more. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and more information, call (248) 594-8283.

CLASSES

SPRING BREAK FOR BICYCLING
Learn the basics of body mechanics, bicycle mechanics and bicycle touring during this class, which is sponsored by Working Wheelers Cycling Club and begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, at Eastern Mountain Sports in Farmington Hills. Space is limited and the registration deadline is Saturday, April 24. Call (248) 553-7764 for more information.

BOATING SAFETY
Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be on hand to explain boating safety and what they look for during a boat inspection, during the regular meeting of the Metro West Steelheaders, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

WOMEN'S FLY FISHING
River Bend Sports Shop in Southfield is sponsoring a Women's Fly Fishing School on Sunday, May, 23. Participants will spend a fun-filled day learning the basics of fly fishing including lessons in casting, knot tying, reading the water, playing, landing and releasing fish, entomology and fly selection and more. Cost is $125 per person and class size is limited. Call Pat Rofe at (248) 350-8484 for more information and to register.

FLY FISHING SCHOOL
The Riverbend Sports Shop in Southfield is sponsoring several fly fishing schools in the upcoming months. Held at the Huntsman Hunt Club in Dryden and Hunters Creek Hunt Club in Metamora, the schools include lessons in basic fly fishing techniques including casting, knot tying, reading the water, playing, landing and releasing fish, entomology and fly selection and more. Classes are scheduled for April 25, May 8 and 16, June 6 and 19, July 11 and 25, August 15 and 29, and Sept. 12. Class size is limited. Call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474 to register and for more information.

MOUNTAIN BIKING
Join author Mike Terrell and learn where to go mountain biking in the northern Lower Peninsula during this class, which begins 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, at REI in Northville. Call (248) 347-2100 for more information.

ACTIVITIES

PROUD LAKE HIKE
Take a 5-mile hike over varied terrain with members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 18. Participants are asked to meet behind the Marathon Station at 12 Mile Road and Telegraph. Call Bev or Marshall Fogelson at (313) 581-7579 for more information.

SEVEN LAKES HIKE
Enjoy a scenic 5-mile hike through the Holly Recreation Area with members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on Saturday, April 24. Participants should meet at 11:30 a.m. behind the Marathon Station at 12 Mile Road and Telegraph. Call Liz Allingham at (313) 581-7579 for more info.

PAINT CREEK HIKE
Take a fast-paced hike over level terrain along the Paint Creek Trail with members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on Sunday, April 25. Participants should meet at noon behind the Michigan National Bank on 14 Mile Road, east of I-75 (south edge of the Oakland Mall). Call June Cox at (248) 435-9522 for more information.

SEASON/DATES

FISHING LICENSES
As of April 1, anglers must possess a 1999 Michigan Fishing license.

COYOTE
Coyote season runs through April 15 statewide.

FREE FISHING
Michigan's annual Free Fishing Weekend will be held June 12-13.

TROUT
Trout season opens April 24 on designated streams, rivers and lakes.

FLIES-ONLY TROUT
A special catch-and-release, flies-only trout season runs through Friday, April 23, on a special section of the Huron River at the Proud Lake Recreation Center. Call (810) 685-2187 for details.

WALLEYE
Walleye season opens April 24 on inland waters of the Lower Peninsula.

SAUGER
Sauger season opens Saturday, April 24, on inland waters of the Lower Peninsula.

MUSKIE
Muskie season opens Saturday, April 24, on inland waters of the Lower peninsula.

PIKE
Northern pike season opens Saturday, April 24, on inland waters of the Lower Peninsula.

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN
Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Hours for archery and clay target shooting are noon to sunset Mondays and Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Rifle range hours are 3 p.m. to sunset Mondays and Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenshield Road, which is three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills off M-24. Call (248) 814-9193 for more information.

PONTIAC LAKE
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford has rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges. Range hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is located at 7800 Gale Rd. Call (248) 666-1020 for more information.

ORTONVILLE RECREATION
Ortonville Recreation Area in Ortonville has rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting facilities. Range hours are 12 -5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Road. Call (248) 693-6767 for more information.

CLUBS

FLY TYING
The River Bend Sports Shop Fly Tying Club meets every other week in Southfield. Call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474 for more information.

CLINTON VALLEY BASS
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and nonboaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843.

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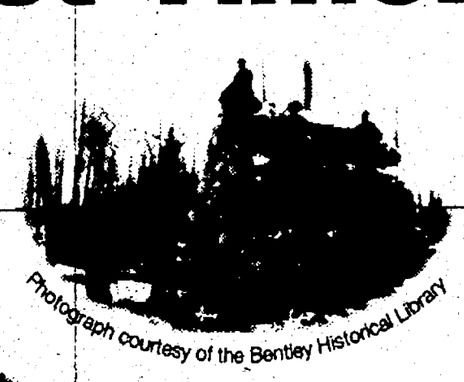

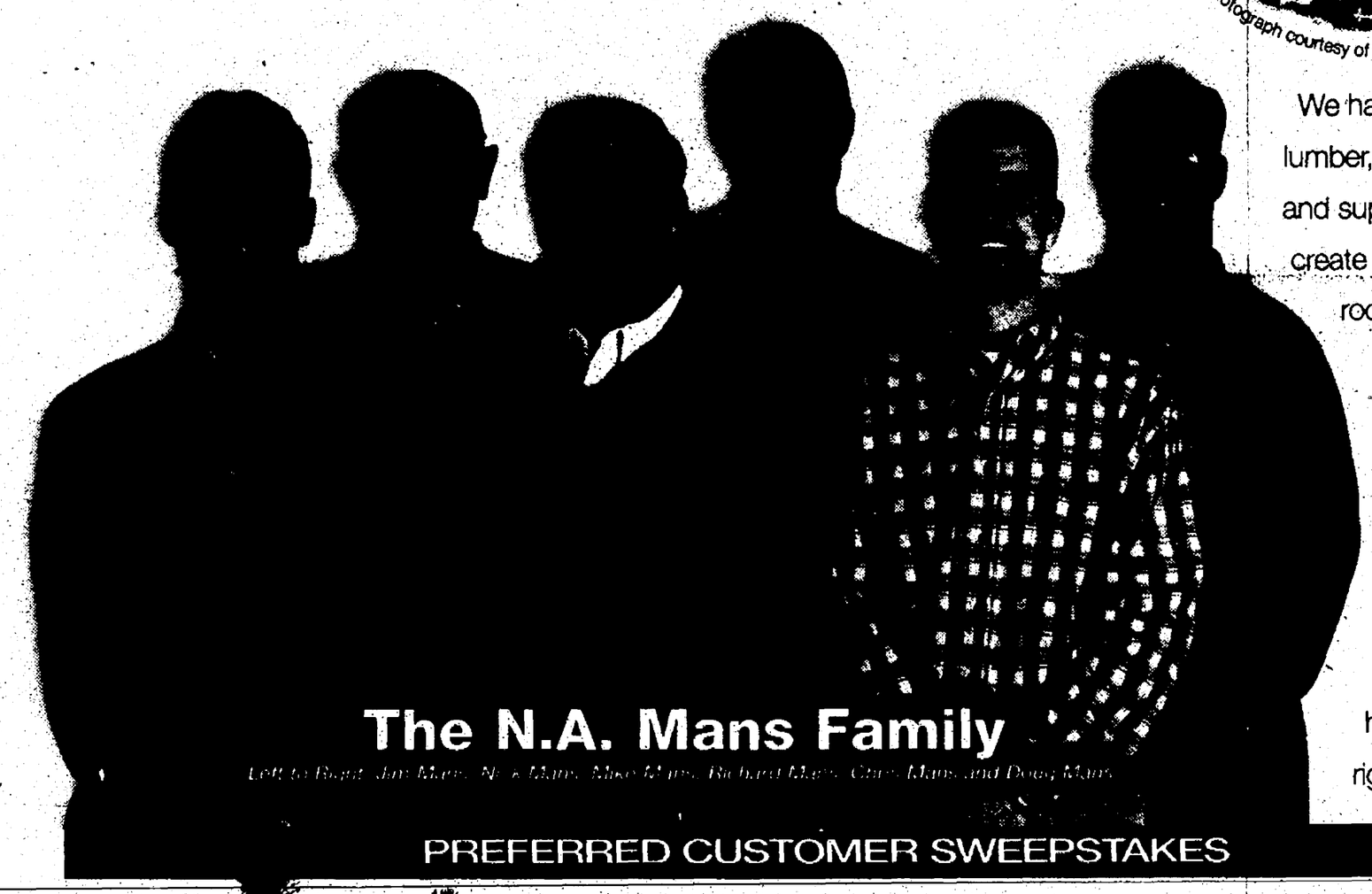

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Entertainment

The Observer

★ Page 1, Section E

Keith Wagonik, Editor 734-953-2105 on the web: http://observer-eccentric.com Thursday, April 15, 1999

FRIDAY

Doc Severinsen and His All-Star Big Band perform as part of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Ameritech Jazz Series 8 p.m. at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets $15-$46, call (313) 576-5111.

SATURDAY

Kathleen Madigan brings laughter to Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Performances 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Tickets $15, call (248) 542-9900.

SUNDAY

Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main St., Northville, presents the musical version of "Velveteen Rabbit" at 2:30 p.m. Tickets $7, call (248) 349-8110.

Clay artist Robin Sterling is one of 325 professional artisans displaying and selling their work at the fifth annual Sugarloaf Art Fair, Friday-Sunday, April 16-18 at the Novi Expo Center in Novi. Admission is $6. For more information, call (800) 210-9900.

Turn-of-the-century tragedy: *Madame Butterfly commits suicide after being deceived by an American Navy lieutenant.*

Michigan Opera Theatre honors tradition in tragic love story

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

When Giacomo Puccini wrote "Madame Butterfly" he could not have foreseen the anxiety he would cause for Teri Hoffman and her daughter Jillian some 95 years later. The 5-1/2-year-old Rochester girl plays the daughter of Butterfly and U.S. Navy lieutenant B.F. Pinkerton in the Michigan Opera Theatre production opening April 17 at the Detroit Opera House.

Of course, Puccini had his own set of troubles when "Madame Butterfly" opened at La Scala in 1904. A jeering and hissing crowd forced the Italian composer to cancel the opera and synthesize two lengthy acts into three shorter ones. The show went on with Toscanini conducting the new effort, as he had the first, and it's been a hit with audiences ever since.

Explaining the plot to Jillian, however, has proved a challenge to Teri Hoffman. Language differences also caused difficulties. Madame Butterfly will be sung in Italian with English subtitles.

"It's difficult to explain when she asks why daddy married another woman and then explaining the suicide scene, that it's pretend, and this was long ago and this was how they kept their honor," said Hoffman. "Also, there's a lot of Italian words she has to know to be on cue, so it's educating me first."

True to Pucinni's tragic story of unrequited love, Michigan Opera Theatre staging director Mario Corradi sets Madame Butterfly's marriage to the callous American in Nagasaki. This is the first time, Corradi's staged "Madame Butterfly" although he's been directing operas since 1982. Corradi's displeasure with a 1983 Charleston production on which he was assistant director, set the tone for Michigan Opera Theatre's traditional rereading of Pucinni's work. Corradi wanted to avoid altering the opera by setting it in a Nagasaki brothel on the eve of the World War II bombing of the city as the 1983 production had done.

"A director is not a composer," said Corradi. "With the fad in Europe there's haughtiness on the part of the director who thinks it needs updating."

A stickler for tradition, Corradi stayed away from "the stereotype of cute Japanese gestures." Instead, he's incorporated several elements of Kabuki theater. Corradi has worked in Japan as an opera director since 1990, so he's well-acquainted with the culture.

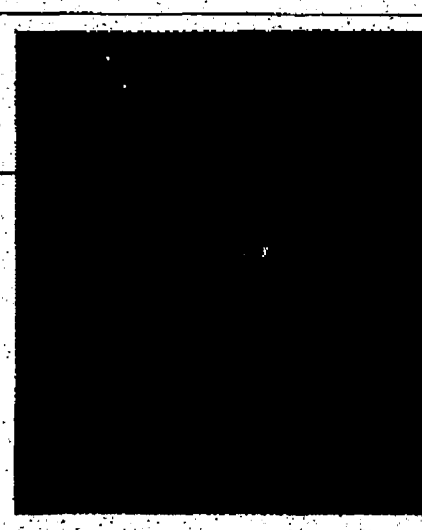
"Ten years ago women still walked two steps behind the man," said Corradi. "While that's changed I tried to retain the story. But in a sense this 'Butterfly' could take place in any culture that takes advantage of another culture, where a man thinks he can buy a woman for 100 yen. Thank God for the subtitles that people can see the contempt Pinkerton has for the culture. Pinkerton is the ugly American."

"Madame Butterfly" is not a weak woman according to Corradi. She is simply a woman who loves a man who scorns her. Three years later when Pinkerton returns with an American wife to retrieve the child he had with her, Butterfly, to keep her honor, commits suicides. That's a tragic scenario for any age to handle, but Jillian seems to be taking it all in stride. Hiding her head in Teri's arms helps when the subject arises offstage.

"I like the Butterfly," said Jillian, a kindergarten student at Baldwin Elementary in Rochester.

It's not surprising that one of Jillian's favorite parts is the bath scene where she gets to blow bubbles. Jillian is a typical little girl who when not on the stage loves to draw, paint and play with her Barbies. When asked if she'll be nervous on opening night, she replies "no, because it will be just like rehearsal."

Please see **BUTTERFLY,** E2



Trouble: *Jillian Hoffman plays Madame Butterfly's young son in the Michigan Opera Theatre's production at the Detroit Opera House.*

"MADAME BUTTERFLY"

WHAT: The Michigan Opera Theatre stages Giacomo Pucinni's tragic love story with a double cast which includes Chinese and Russian sopranos in the title role.

WHEN:
- 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, April 24 and May 1
- 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 21 and Friday, April 23
- 2 p.m. Sunday, April 18, April 25 and May 2

WHERE: Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway.

TICKETS: $18-$95, call (313) 237-SING or (248) 645-6666.

Nancy Wilson enjoys telling stories with song

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER
hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

Nancy Wilson is proud to call herself a "saloon singer."

"There aren't any supper clubs anymore, and I prefer supper clubs," she said. "I'm a saloon singer and I love it, but you do what you do."

On April 24, Wilson will perform with her trio in the comfortable surroundings of the Southfield Centre for the Arts, once a synagogue.

"I feel for the audiences in big auditoriums because they miss the nuances," she said.

And the nuances mean a lot when listening to Nancy Wilson, often regarded as one of the last great female singers from the "golden age of song," a direct link to Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn and Dinah Washington.

Nancy Wilson

Wilson was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1937 and in her 62 years, she's recorded 60 albums. Her first recording for Capitol was "Like in Love" and she had her first hit in 1962 with the great jazz sax player Cannonball Adderly, "Save Your Love For Me." In 1964 she won a Grammy and a large following with "How Glad I Am."

Her albums have explored numerous styles of music that have won her an audience in this country and abroad, especially in Japan where she recorded a series of successful albums in the early '80s.

Her most recent album, "If I Had My Way" (Columbia) moves into more contemporary territory, the world of smooth jazz.

"That one is AC, adult contemporary with electric instruments, a more R&B sound than traditional," Wilson said.

When asked why she would abandon her traditional sound, she responded bluntly.

"I did it because I'm tired of marketing people not knowing where to put me," she said.

The album's best feature is Wilson's expressive, dramatic voice, but it is often buried in overproduced, soggy arrangements, synthetic electric saxes, repetitious hooks and inane backing vocals. It isn't Wilson at her best, but it is what radio stations are playing these days.

Two of the numbers, Bill Wither's "Hello Like Before" and "A Fool in Love" were recorded at a studio in Oak Park with producer Michael Powell.

Wilson is at her best telling a story and that is the kind of material she is most comfortable performing. Except for an annoying electric saxophone intro, that is best exemplified on her new album by the Wither's song.

"I look for a story," she said. "I would rather tell a story than have a hook. I like to have a beginning, a middle and an end and have a bridge."

Please see **WILSON,** E2

WHO: Singer Nanc, Wilson

WHERE: Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road, Southfield.

WHEN: 8 p.m. Saturday, April 24

TICKETS: $30 and $35 may be purchased at any Ticketmaster outlet. To charge call (248) 645-6666. Tickets also available at Southfield City Hall, 26000 Evergreen Road.

DANCE

An ancient tale with contemporary sensuality

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER
fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net

A story about the dominance of a patriarchal culture whereby women submit to the whims and desires of men commits just about every sin against political correctness, not to mention being simply anachronistic.

But "A Tale of One Thousand and One Nights" has survived since the 14th century because of the simple story of love, trust and the pain of betrayal. (The few hundred beheadings are only thrown in to make a point.)

Of course, in the age of theatrical spectacle, "A Tale of One Thousand and One Nights" has transcended the literal to become big-budget fodder for Hollywood, Disney, and Broadway. (Can you say countless productions featuring Aladdin, Sinbad and Ali Baba?)

Add ballet to the list of notable inspirations, thanks to dynamic choreographer Eldar Aliev.

The former star of the world renowned Kirov Ballet, Aliev brings his Indianapolis-based dance company, Ballet Internationale, to the Music Hall for performances of "A Tale of One Thousand and One Nights" this weekend.

The ballet, created by Aliev three years ago, has played to sold-out audiences throughout the United States. In 1997, the ballet was named the major dance of the year by "Arts & Entertainment" magazine.

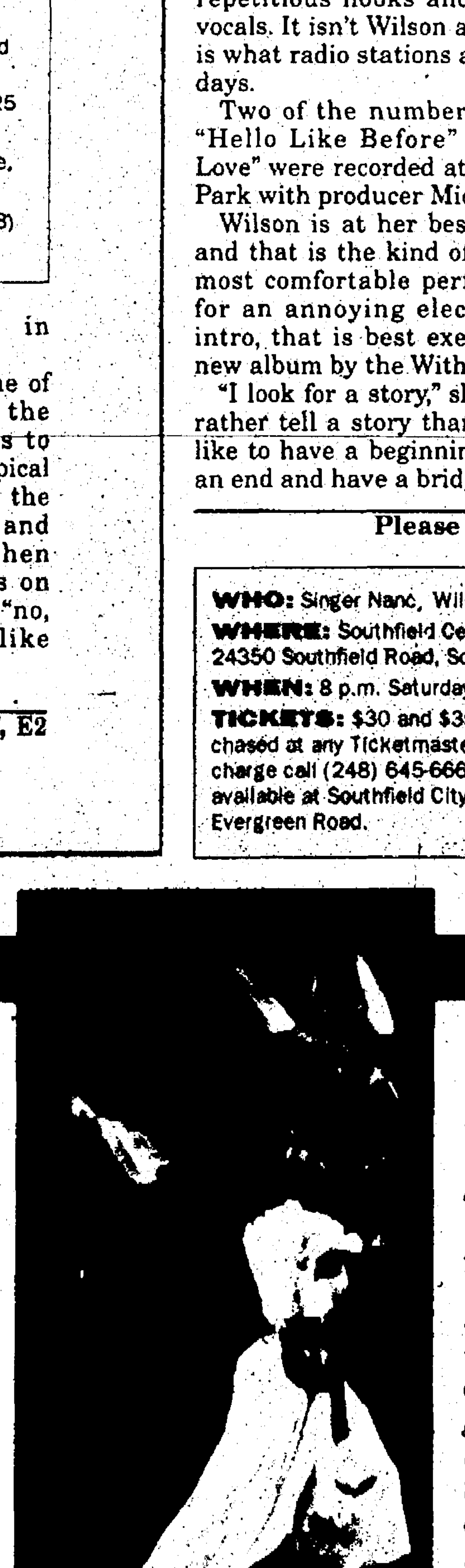
Please see **DANCE,** E2

WHAT: "A Thousand and One Nights," performed by the Ballet Internationale

WHEN: Friday-Sunday, April 16-18. Performances 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday.

WHERE: Music Hall for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit

TICKETS: $31.50-$41.50; (313) 963-2366 or (248) 645-6666



Exotic spectacle: *Ballet Internationale company members in a scene from "A Thousands and One Nights," an extravaganza of lavish costumes, sets and choreography.*

Latin Playboys are all-star line-up

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

Renowned producer Mitchell Froom hasn't been on the road much. He admits that the lyrics on "Dose," the latest CD from his band Latin Playboys, are indecipherable. But those two things have revved up Froom for his tour.

"The shows have been really great. There's a lot of diehard fans. I was real surprised to see some people singing along with all the songs. We've never performed before and you can't understand the words," Froom said with a laugh.

"It must be people with the lyric sheets memorizing the words. It's been great. The thing that surprised me is I thought a lot of people would be staring and trying to figure out what's going on. But most people react as if it's a party. It's funny and it's fun and I like that."

Latin Playboys is a supergroup of sorts pairing Froom, who last toured with his wife Suzanne Vega, with fellow producer/engineer Tchad Blake, and Los Lobos' David Hidalgo and Louie Perez.

The quartet started the Latin Playboys in 1993 after working together on Los Lobos' "Kiko" album.

"That was a real artistic breakthrough. The result of it was that David kind of kept going. I think he felt really inspired. He was working on some music at home. He then gave the tape to Louie Perez who then gave it to me. It was the best tape I've ever heard. I couldn't stop listening to it," Froom explained.

Blake in turn listened to the tape and they decided to leave the music in its most primal form.

"We didn't want to re-record the music. It was so beautifully done that we couldn't imagine starting over," Froom said.

The group asked Warner Bros. for a small budget to record. In 12 days in the studio, the Latin Playboys wrapped up their self-titled debut.

"We did it and we didn't think that anything would happen beyond that. But it built a kind of mystique around it. It got used in a lot of films, critics were liking it," Froom said of the 1994 album.

Excited, the quartet returned to the studio last year to record a follow-up disc, this time on Atlantic Records. The production of "Dose" may be lo-fi, but the music is complex, an amalgamation of Latino, R&B, rock 'n' roll, jazz and world beat music.

Guest appearances include Tracy Bonham on violin on "Fiesta Erotica" and former Prince cohorts Wendy and Lisa sing back-up on "Lemon 'N Ice" and "Latin Trip." Perez and Blake did a lot of the artwork for the album.

In order to tour, Froom and Blake cleared their schedule for the rest of the year. The two needed a break, he said.

"I have a lot of records coming out this year. There's Randy Newman's album, Tracy Bonham, Ron Sexsmith. I worked on a Vonda Shepard record. Chad worked on a record with Doyle Bramhall. For once, when we did this tour, neither of us booked anything afterward. Both of us worked right through the holidays."

Touring, Froom explained, is important this time around. Live, Hidalgo is on guitar and vocals, Froom plays keyboards, Blake is on bass and saxophone, and Perez sings, plays guitar and percussion. The group will be joined by drummer Cougar Estrada and violinist Lisa Germano.

"(Touring), it's like standing up for it. Up until that point, a lot of people thought it was a one-off project or just an experiment. It really is a band and it sounds like a band when we play live. It's really been fun to do. It's not a financial thing for us. It's like standing up for the music."

Latin Playboys and special guest Lisa Germano perform Thursday, April 22, at The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are $15 in advance. For more information, call (313) 833-9700 or visit www.99music.com.

The group will also perform Thursday, April 15, on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." A Latin Playboys' concert will be Web cast in the DigitalArena section of Atlantic Records' Web site at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 20.

Visit www.atlantic-records.com/ Latin_Playboys for more information.

Butterfly *from page E1*

rehearsal."

Jillian is having fun regardless of the long hours of working and waiting. The first week of rehearsals, she worked blocking scenes from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with an hour for lunch. Teri takes notes and works with Jillian at home from the scripts.

"I was a little surprised, she was called back," said Teri. "Trouble is a fair-haired boy. But it's fun; it's very exciting to work with people of that caliber."

Jillian finds it easy to play a boy because she has her 11-year-old brother James for inspiration. But even if Jillian didn't have a brother, the experience she already has on stage would suffice. Jillian began dancing at age 2-1/2, by age 4-1/2 she was singing and dancing in the chorus of "Once Upon a Mattress," a production by the Rochester Summer Music Theater. In January, she played Dorothy's dog Toto in the Avon Players' production of "Wizard of Oz."

"Butterfly" is the best of all," said Teri Hoffman. "If she never has the opportunity to work with these incredible people again, it will be worth it."

Corradi hopes people will see both versions of "Madame Butterfly," one with Natalia Dercho in the title role of Cio-Cio San, and the other with Sun Xiu Wei. Both make their North American debut with this production. Dercho, a 1998 graduate of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, won first prize in the Belvedere Competition in Vienna and has sung major roles with companies in Zurich, Tel Aviv and Torino. Sun Xiu Wei, a native of China, won the International Verdi Competition in Italy before making her debut in Milan. Tenor Francesco Grollo and Carlo Ventre play Pinkerton. Kathleen Segar sings the role of Suzuki. Steven Mercurio directs the music.

"They should come see both casts," said Corradi. "They are really different– one Chinese girl who looks naturally oriental, the image Pucinni wanted, and a Russian soprano who comes out passionate, more Italian in a way."

Dance *from page E1*

Last holiday season, Ballet Internationale came to Detroit for their performances of "The Nutcracker" at Music Hall.

Unlike the saccharin Disney versions of the Arab folk tale classic, Aliev wrings an enchanting sensuality from the tale about a sultan, who discovers his wife in a tawdry frolic with a slave. She along with every female in the kingdom is targeted for an above-the-head weight loss.

As a result of the betrayal, the sultan is reluctant to trust the new "love of his life," a beauty named Scheherazde, a wise and gifted storyteller, who tells captivating tales of the Arabian nights, starring — who else? — Aladdin, Sinbad and Ali Baba.

"I was told that audiences in America don't understand ballet," said Aliev, who immigrated from the former Soviet republic Azerbaijan to the U.S. in the early 1990s.

"I just think that audiences were hungry for a 'story ballet,'" he said. "Something different from 'Swan Lake,' 'Don Quixote,' and 'Giselle.'"

"To me, ballet should be like an opera — bright, high-energy, an extravaganza," said Aliev.

Although he's reluctant to talk about it, the "A Thousand and One Nights" reaches the pinnacle of spectacle with a special effects that lifts two of the dancers on a magic carpet ride.

Ballete Internationale is a much-welcomed addition to the local dance scene along with the regular presence of the American Ballet Theatre, and Harlem Dance Theatre.

In the next several months, Aliev will make Detroit his second home. He will be in town to choreograph the Michigan Opera Theatre's "Eugene Onegin," and "Samson and Deliliah."

Wilson *from page E1*

And she likes drama, which is why she often cites Little Jimmy Scott as a major influence. Scott's career has recently been revived and his dramatic falsetto has been recognized as a major influence on rhythm and blues.

"I love the way he made words mean something. He bent words and he bent notes. It was dramatic and that's what I was, a torch singer," she said.

"Torch singer," "saloon singer" are the words Nancy Wilson uses to describe herself. She does not call herself a "jazz singer."

"I wasn't called a jazz singer when I started, but if you live long enough and you're black you're a jazz singer," she said with a loud, rueful laugh. "I'm a song stylist and that covers jazz and other kinds of music as well."

Wilson's speaking voice is as warm, intimate and articulate as her singing voice, which is why she has been a successful voiceover for such commercials as the Infinity car series and why she was chosen to host National Public Radio's "Jazz Profiles."

"I enjoy doing it so much," she said. "NPR asked me to do a two-hour special on Ella Fitzgerald and it was a success. My voice seemed suited to it. Tim Owens, who's the producer, wanted me to do it."

Each week Wilson narrates a profile of a jazz performer. The profile includes a biography of the performer, interviews with other musicians and producers and examples of the performer's best music. Often, when the performer is someone Wilson has worked with, she'll add a personal aside. Other times she discovers things she never knew.

"I'm surprised by the fact they dig up what they do," she said. "As entertainers we don't know each other's lives. People think we know each other, but we don't. I'm learning as everyone else is. I'm finding it so interesting."

Beginning this month, Jazz Profiles is devoting 10 programs to the life and music of Duke Ellington on his centennial year. You can hear Nancy Wilson on Jazz Profiles locally at 8 p.m. Mondays on WEMU, 89.1FM.

Southfield's own Randy Scott, a noted jazz saxophonist who regularly performs at the Detroit Montreaux Festival, will open for Wilson.

And Wilson promises what her fans have come to expect from the "Lady of Song."

"Nancy, classic Nancy. I'm not going to drop anything new on them," she said. "I'm not going to come in there and play hip-hop."

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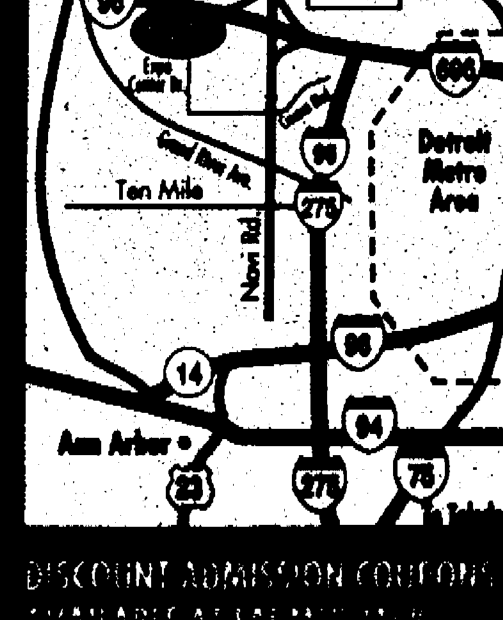

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Troy Players show strength with 'Steel Magnolias'

Troy Players presents "Steel Magnolias" 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17; 2 p.m. Sunday, April 18 at Hamilton Elementary School, 5625 Northfield Parkway, Troy. Tickets $10 available at the box office prior to each performance, or call (248) 879-1285.

BY MARY JANE DOERR
SPECIAL WRITER

Showing a bit of mettle themselves because they're operating without a permanent performance space, the "portable" Troy Players is presenting a two hankie version of "Steel Magnolias" by Robert Harling at Hamilton Elementary School in Troy.

"Laughter through tears is my favorite emotion" says the wisecracking owner of Truvy's Hair Salon, which pretty much sums up this female "True Grit" kind of show.

In the three beauty shop town of Chinquapin Parish, La., Truvy and her new partner, Annelle, style more than hair at Truvy's salon. In four "snapshot" scenes covering three years of life in the small southern town, they help fashion the lives of the town beauty, the town social leader, the town millionaire and the town curmudgeon. One might get the idea that all the socially prominent do in this socially insignificant haven is get their hair and nails done. But these women, with all of their love of gossip, frivolity and pink fingernail polish, are hard as nails.

Jacquelyn Arno plays the Southern magnolia Shelby, who is not very bashful. Arno has feeling and enough light heartedness to tickle an audience pink, bringing more tears for the finale.

Sandy LaDuke, a newcomer to the stage, plays the difficult role of M'Lynn, Shelby's mother. She plays the final scene with understanding — a credit to her.

As Shelby says, "it is better to have 30 minutes of something wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special." Mary Ligotti-Hitch has something special to offer as the awkward, nervous, but very appealing Annelle. The holy roller Annelle could have been an offensive part, but Ligotti-Hitch's interpretation is sincere not judgmental.

As the eccentric millionaire Clairee, Andrea Willis is priceless especially opposite the obstinate Ousier, perfectly played by Gloria Buoncompagni.

Buoncompagni delivered some very funny lines inoffensively, a real trick.

Pulling this all together with her magic wand and a lot of fairy dust and pastel paint, was set designer/ publicist/ director/ producer/ Sandra Guest.

Guest also directed these eccentric characters. Then in an emergency, as the understudy for all the parts, she donned a blond wig for the Dolly Parton role of Truvy.

It may seem like a one woman show but with this fine cast, Sandy Guest as Truvy has some real soul food to serve up.

'Studio cast earns high marks with 'Roses'

Wayne State University's Studio Theatre presents the Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning drama "The Subject Was Roses"m Thursday-Sunday, April 15-18. Show times are 8 PM Thursday through Saturday, with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee. The Studio Theatre is in the basement of the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave. at Hancock on the Wayne State University campus, Detroit. Tickets are $8 (general admission), $6 (students and seniors). To charge tickets call (313) 577-2972.

BY SUE SUCHYTA
SPECIAL WRITER

Frank Gilroy's drama "The Subject Was Roses" chronicles a returning World War II veteran's struggle to re-establish his identity in the post-war period and to make peace with his parents, whose previously poor relationship has deteriorated in his absence.

Set in the West Bronx in May 1946, the returning infantry corporal must redefine his relationship with his parents, and deal with the explosive anger in their marriage. His parents must learn to accept their son as a man and not as the boy who left for war three years earlier.

As the Cleary family struggles to reconnect as a family, they don't reach perfection, but take steps toward achieving stronger emotional bonds. Each must mend damaged relationships They are trapped in a self-defeating cycle of hurting, appeasing and grudging compromise. By the end of the play the son and parents have learned to accept each other the way they are, instead of trying to impose their personal vision of how the person should be.

The scenes are well written and move quickly, which keep the play from being dragged down by the heavy duty emotions inundating the stage. The actors rise to the emotional and psychological challenges of the script as well, an element crucial to the production's success.

Jason Smith of Garden City is superb as Timmy Cleary, the returning Army corporal. He personifies both the eager but uncertain son and a self-confident man. His face mirrors his emotions well, especially when he's hit by his parents' bitter crossfire. And whether sober or inebriated, he projects the son's longing, anguish and desire for peace with his parents.

The parents, John and Nettie Cleary, are played by Dejan Radovanovich of Livonia and Christy Bonstell of Zeeland. Radovanovich is captivating in his ability to swing from nice guy to angry, unreasonable despot. He displays a skillful grasp of the wide range of emotions the father uses to psychologically manipulate both the mother and son.

Bonstell is able to accomplish the tricky task of displaying emotion on her face while maintaining the self-restraint expected from women of her era. While she captured the mother's anxiety and anger well, the makeup team needs to age her facially — she looked more like her son's sister than mother.

Technically, the show established a wonderful mood with the tunes of Glenn Miller reverberating from an old-fashioned radio, and the set — an apartment interior — reflected careful attention to detail, right down to a worn sofa and a period phone.

Christy Bonstell's costumes were flattering and well coordinated with matching purses and shoes appropriate to the immediate postwar period. Smith's Army uniform also fit him well, and was neat and pressed.

The props were a mixed bag — hit or miss. While great care was taken to maintain period accuracy in many respects — including brown beer bottles with tops requiring a bottle opener — an unstable rose vase, a crucial prop, toppled to the floor prematurely, making Bonstell's subsequent hurling of the vase across the room anti-climactic. And the prop crew used tall tumblers instead of small juice glasses for a conspicuous inch of orange juice.

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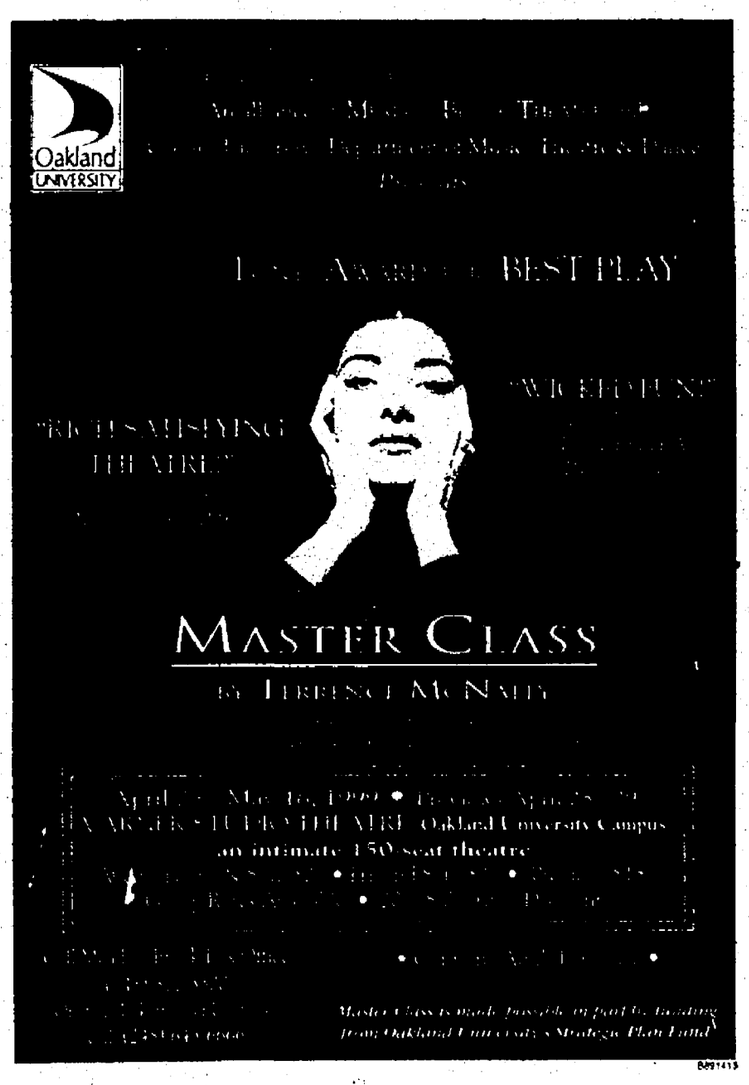
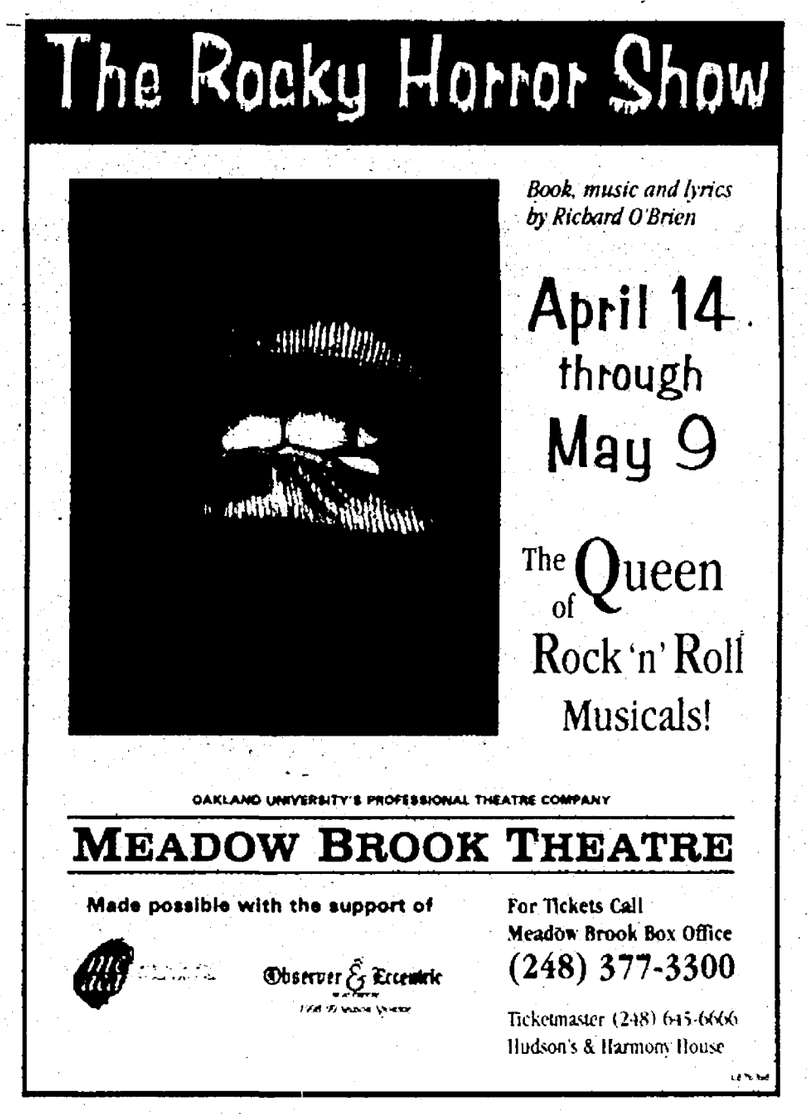
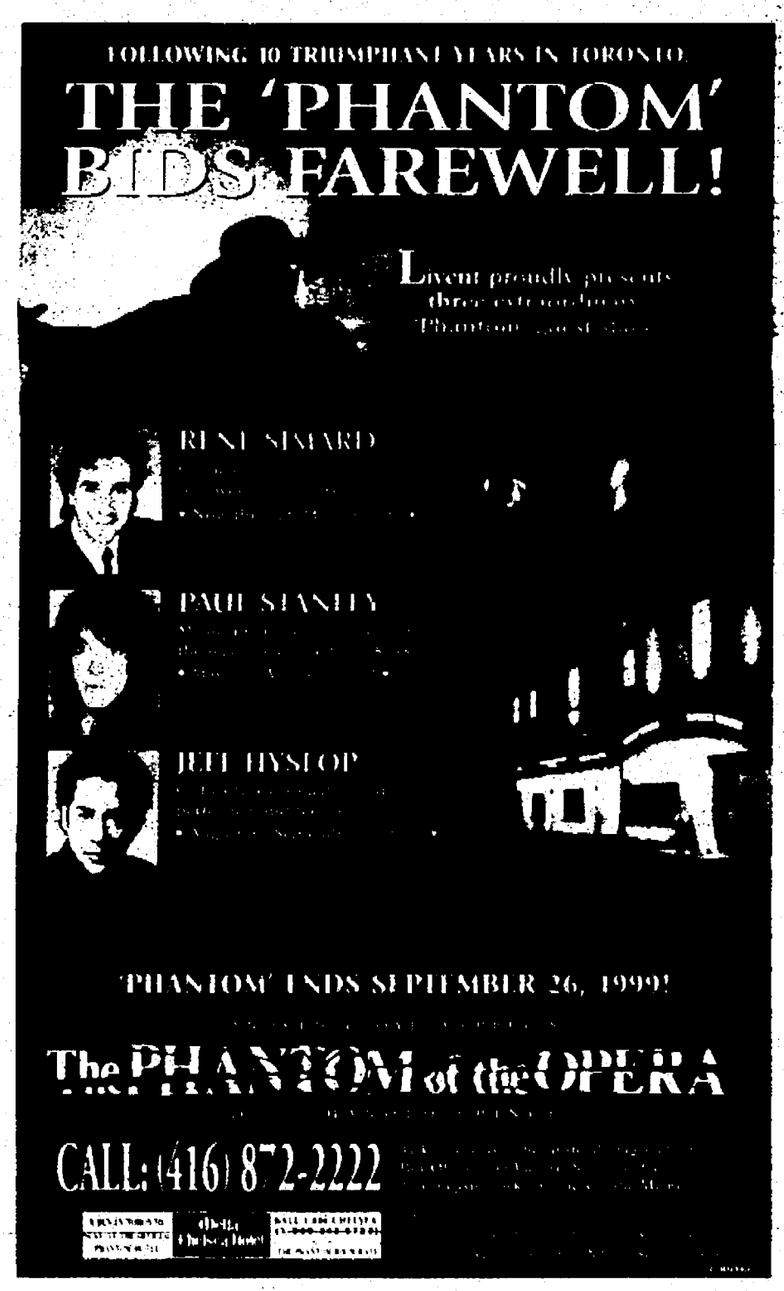
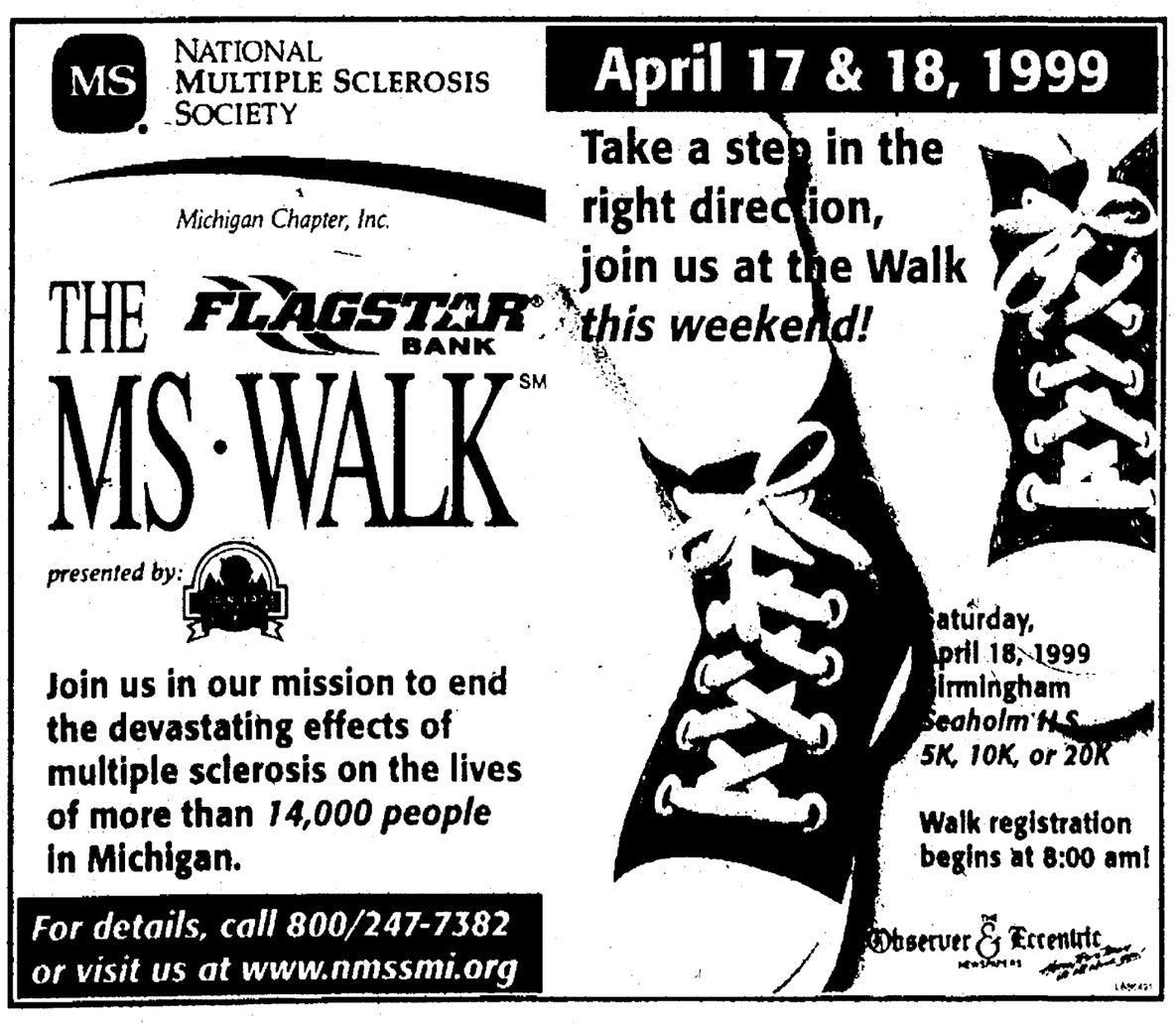








8 days a week

A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

THEATER

THE CENTURY THEATRE
"Forbidden Hollywood," a musical spoof about modern-day blockbusters and silver screen stars, runs through Sunday, June 27, at the theater in the Gem/Century building, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 962-2913
DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE
"Magda's Story," through May 23, 8:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, at the theater, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. $15. (313) 868-1347
FINE ARTS THEATER
"The Silent Cry– God is Watching You,"the number one gospel musical drama that tackles the issues of domestic violence in families, 7:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday, April 23-25 through May 2, at the theater, 2952 Woodward, Detroit. $20. (248) 645-6666/(313) 831-7835
GEM THEATRE
"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," runs through June 27 at the theater, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800 or (248) 645-6666
MACOMB CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
"Meet Me in St. Louis," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at the center, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. $30, $27 students/seniors, $80 family of four. (810) 286-2222/(800) 585-3737
MEADOW BROOK THEATRE
"The Rocky Horror Show," through Sunday, May 9, at the theater in Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester. $24-$35, previews April 15-16 $19.50-$35. (248) 377-3300
PLOWSHARES THEATRE COMPANY
"Jitney," opens 6 p.m. Saturday, April 17, previews 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 15-16, runs through May 9 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 6 p.m. Sundays, at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American Hisotry, 315 E. Warren at Brush, Detroit. $15-$18, $10 previews. (313) 872-0279

OPERA

EWA PODLES
Contralto performs with pianist Garrick Ohlsson, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. $20 and $35. (734) 764-2538 or http://www.ums.org
VERDI OPERA THEATRE OF MICHIGAN
Canton Project Arts presents an afternoon to "Discover Opera" with an informative presentation "Opera: What it's all about" followed by a concert by the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, 3:30 p.m. (concert at 4 p.m.) Sunday, April 18, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. $10. (734) 397-5417

COLLEGE

EMU THEATRE
"The House of Blue Leaves," 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 15-17, at Quirk Theatre on Eastern Michigan University's campus, Ypsilanti. $7, Thursday, $12 Fridays-Saturdays, $10 Sunday. (734) 487-1221
HENRY FORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
"Pippin," 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, April 22-24 and April 29-May 1, and 2 p.m. Sundays, April 25 and May 2, in Adray Auditorium on campus, 5101 Evergreen, south of Ford Road, Dearborn. $10, $8 students/seniors. (313) 845-9900 or http://theatre.henryford.cc.mi.us/
U-M THEATER DEPARTMENT
"Candide," 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 15-17, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 18, The Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. $18 and $15 reserved seating, $7 student seating. (734) 764-0450
WSU BONSTELLE THEATRE
"Once Upon a Mattress," 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, April 16-17 and 23-24, and 2 p.m. Sundays, April 18 and 25, at the theater, 3424 Woodward. $8-$13. (313) 577-2960
WSU HILBERRY THEATRE
"American Enterprise," opens April 16 and runs in rotating repertory to May 15; "The Playboy of the Western World," runs through May 8 in rotating repertory, at the theater, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. $10-$17. (313) 577-2972
WSU STUDIO THEATRE
"The Subject Was Roses," through April 18, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays, in the theater downstairs at the Hilberry, 4743 Cass Ave., at Hancock, Detroit. $8, $6 students/seniors. (313) 577-2972

COMMUNITY THEATER

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE
"The Sound of Music," 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, through April 25, at the Civic Playhouse, 2275 Platt Road, Ann Arbor. $18, $16 students/seniors. (734) 971-AACT or www.a2ct.org
HEARTLAND& THEATRE COMPANY
"Play by Play" features 21 new plays written by local and regional authors, noon to midnight Saturday, April 17, at the Millenium Center, 15600 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield. $20 all-day admission, $5 hour-by-hour ticket. (248) 988-1094, ext. 1
ROSEDALE COMMUNITY PLAYERS
"The Dining Room," April 23-24, April 30-May 1, and 7-8, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at the Upstage Theater, 21728 Grand River east of Lahser, Detroit. $10. (313) 537-7716/(313) 532-4010

Art Fair: *Kathy Phillips of West Bloomfield is one of the 325 nationally renowned artists exhibiting and selling works at the fifth annual Sugarloaf Art Fair 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday-Sunday, April 16-18 at the Novi Expo Center. Three craftspeople will give demonstrations in iron forging, paper making and jewelry making. Admission is $6, children under 12 are admitted free. For more information, call (800) 210-9900 or (248) 348-5600. To get to the Novi Expo Center, take I-96 to Exit 162, travel south on Novi Road and turn right at Expo Center Drive. The Novi Expo Center is one block farther on the right. Visit the Web site www.sugarloafcrafts.com*

SHAKESPEARIENCE
A workshop production of "The Tempest," through May 2, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays, special celebration April 23-24 in honor of Shakespeare's birthday, at Planet Ant, 2357 Caniff, east of I-75, Hamtramck. $10, suggested donation. (313) 365-4948
TROY PLAYERS
"Steel Magnolias" by Robert Harling, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17 and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at Hamilton Elementary School, 5625 Northfield Parkway, Troy. $10. (248) 879-1285
VILLAGE PLAYERS OF BIRMINGHAM
Lecture discussion of "Long Day's Journey into Night" by Oakland University professor Bruce Mann 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, at Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham. (248) 647-1700; "Long Day's Journey as Living Art," excerpts from O'Neill's play and discussion 2 p.m. Sunday, April 25, at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 642-5800. Events precede Players production of play to run May 14-29. (248) 644-2075

YOUTH

ANN ARBOR YOUNG ACTORS GUILD
"The Odyssey," 1 p.m. Saturday, April 17, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org
MARQUIS THEATRE
"Velveteen Rabbit," 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through April 25, and 2:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 8-9, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., Northville. $7. (248) 349-8110
MASONIC TEMPLE
Scholastic's Magic School Bus Live, "A Bright Idea," an all new original musical production based on the award-winning Fox-TV series and the best-selling book, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at the theater, Detroit. $21.50, $17.50, $13.50, benefits Crohn's and Colitis research. (248) 645-6666/(313) 871-1132 group sales
NOVI THEATRES
"The Adventures of Peter Rabbit and His Friends," 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17, and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. 10 Mile. $8, $7 advance. (248) 347-0400
PAPER BAG PRODUCTIONS
"Jack and the Beanstalk," runs Saturdays-Sundays to May 23, 1 p.m. Saturdays (lunch at noon) and 2 p.m. Sundays (lunch at 1 p.m.), at the Historic Players Club, 3321 E. Jefferson, between Mount Elliott and McDougall across from Harbortown, Detroit. $7.50, includes lunch and show. (810) 662-8118
WHISTLE STOP PLAYERS
"The Fabulous Fable Factory," a musical play featuring six of Aesop's best fables woven together , 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 23-24, and 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 24-25, at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction, Plymouth. $5. (734) 416-4278

SPECIAL EVENTS

DETROIT MUSIC AWARDS
With performances by Demolition Doll Rods, Telegraph, Willie Max, Miracles, Enemy Squad, Jeff Hass w/Marcus Belgrave, Today's Generation, an all-star blues jam led by Mark Pasman of Mudpuppy, plus a sneak preview of "The MC5: A True Testimonial," 7 p.m. Friday, April 23, State Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $10, $15 and $25. All ages. (313) 961-5451 or http://www.statetheatre.com
E'S RECORD AND CD MUSIC COLLECTIBLES EXPO
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 18, Elks Lodge, 520 W. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. $3. All ages. (248) 546-4527
"MADE IN HOCKEYTOWN RALLY"
With a screening of the Detroit Red Wings game on Joevision, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. $7.50. All ages. (248) 645-6666 or http://www.ticketmaster.com
YPSILANTI CIVIL WAR MUSTER
Featuring more than 200 military re-enactors participating in military encampment demonstrations, musket firing competitions and drils, a performance by Dodworth Saxhorn Band in Farmer's Market Place, Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858, and a bake sale, 10 a.m. Saturday, April 17, Historic Depot Town and the campus of Eastern Michigan University. (734) 483-4444 or http://www.ypsilanti.org

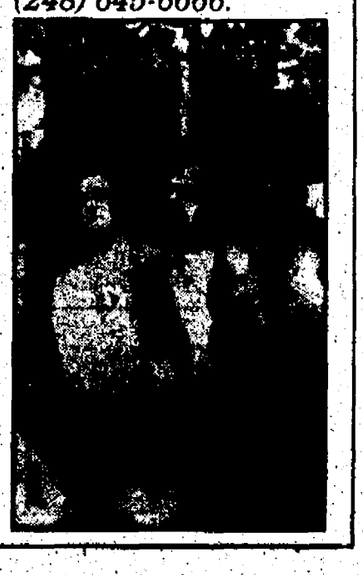
BENEFITS

"AROUND THE WORLD"
Madonna University's silent and live auctions and dinner to benefit the school's scholarship fund and other projects, 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, at the Laurel Manor Banquet and Video Conference Center, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. $75. (734) 432-5421
BOW WOW CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH
Noon to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at The Ritz-Carlton Dearborn, Fairlane Plaza, 300 Town Center Dr. $150, to benefit the Michigan Humane Society. (248) 852-7420
CELTIC RHYTHMS
An evening of traditional Irish music with singers, dancers and instrumentalists, features Mary Callaghan Lynch, Caitlin Lynch and Pat Lynch, 8 p.m. Friday, April 23, at St. Hugo of the Hills Church, Opdyke Road, south of Hickory Grove Road, Bloomfield Hills. Free but donations go to the Metro Detroit Ulster Project. (248) 644-5460
"COLLISION OF COOL"
A celebration of the next century of cutting-edge artists with food, music and art, 5 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, April 17, at Cranbrook Academy of Art, 1221 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. To benefit the graduate art programs. (248) 645-3333
NEW MORNING SCHOOL AUCTION
The "Western Extravaganza" includes live and silent auctions of jerseys autographed by Fedorov, Yzerman and Shanahan, trips to Vegas, Vail, Disney and Tahoe, whitewater rafting, NASCAR driving, diamonds, digital camera, Red Wings tickets and more, 5 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 24, at Laurel Manor Banquet and Video Conference Center, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. $55, includes dinner; proceeds go to the k-8th grade parent cooperative school in Plymouth. (734) 420-3331
PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY LEAGUE
Game and Card Party, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, at the Golden Fox at Fox Hills Country Club, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. $25, includes luncheon and fashion show at noon. Proceeds to benefit Plymouth Symphony. (734) 451-5598
RIDGEDALE PLAYERS
Holds its annual auction 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake, between Livernois and Crooks road, Troy. $15, includes dinner. Proceeds benefit a theater scholarship and building fund. (248) 988-7049

FAMILY EVENTS

THE AMAZING CLARK
Noon and 2 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Clark presents his own version of "Punch & Judy," at the Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River between Woodward and Farmer. $8, $6 children, $8 workshop following performance. (313) 961-7777
JULIE AUSTIN
Celebrates release of CD with party and performance, with special guest David Mosher, 1 p.m. Sunday, April 18, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
An educational event featuring a variety of on-site activities for school-age children and their families to teach the importance of community recycling and create an awareness of conservation and environmental programs throughout the world; also a display of an electrically powered vehicle, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at the Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile, Royal Oak. Free with admission of $7.50, $5.50 seniors/students, $4.50 ages 2-12. (248) 398-0903
KIDS CONCERT
Mark Dvorak entertains with action songs and sing-alongs for children ages 4-10, 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at the Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road. $3.25. (248) 424-9022
STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
Presented by Detroit Public Library and Wild Swan Theatre, 10 a.m. Saturday, April 17, at the Main branch, 5201 Woodward Avenue. $15 for 10 a.m. workshop, 2:30 p.m. "Tales of Tricks and Trouble" storytelling concert by Wild Swan Theatre is free. (313) 833-4042
U-M PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
8 p.m. Friday, April 16, at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 N. Territorial Road, south of M-14, west of Sheldon. $8, $7 students/seniors, $20 families. (248) 380-5940

In concert: *Michele Ramo and Heidi Hepler perform with Todd Curtis (trumpet) and Harold McKinney (piano) 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the Serengeti Ballroom, 2957 Woodward, Detroit, Tickets are $15 at the door. Call (313) 832-3010 or (248) 645-6666.*



CLASSICAL

BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Orchestra and pops conductor Charles Greenwell performs a concert of "Cowboy" music, also guest violinist Adrienne Jacobs, the BBSO's Young Artist Competition winner, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18, in the Sanctuary at Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills. $20, $15 students. (248) 645-2276
CONCERTO CONCERT
8 p.m. Friday, April 16, competition winners perform with Eastern Michigan University Symphony Orchestra, at Pease Auditorium, College Place at West Cross, Ypsilanti. Free. (734) 487-2255/(734) 487-4380
DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
With conductor Jerzy Semkow, juxtaposes the musical ideas of Schubert and his popular Symphony No. 8, the "Unfinished," with Bruckner's majestic Symphony No. 7, 10:45 a.m. Friday, April 16, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 18; With violinist Kurt Nikkanen and conductor Semkow perform Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2, 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 22-23, and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 24, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $13-$48 (box seats $40-$63). (313) 576-5111 or http://www.detroitsymphony.com
FAIR LANE MUSIC GUILD
Presents concert with Jerusalem Trio, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18, Henry Ford Estate - Fair Lane, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. (313) 493-5330
MOZARTEUM ORCHESTRA OF SALZBURG
Featuring Hubert Soudant, conductor, Till Fellner, piano, Katharine Goeldner, mezzo-soprano, 8 p.m. Thursday, April 15, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. $16, $26, $35 and $45. (734) 764-2538 or http://www.ums.org; Camerata Dinner in the alumni center precedes performance. $25. (734) 647-8009
PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
"Reed Finale: A Family Affair" features retiring conductor Russell Reed's sons David (violin) and Robert (cello) on a program of Shostakovich, Brahms and Respighi, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17 (7 p.m. On Stage chat with Reed), at Plymouth Salem High School auditorium, 46181 Joy Road at Canton Center Road, Canton. $12, $10-seniors/college students, free for students k-12, afterglow at Ginopolis Parthenon complimentary to ticket holders. (734) 451-2112

ORGAN

MOTOR CITY THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
"A Night to Remember," a film re-enactment of the sinking of Titanic, stars David MacCallum, Kenneth More and Honor Blackman, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17, and 2 p.m. Saturday, April 17, organ overture begins 30 minutes earlier with John Lauter, at the Historic Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser Road at Grand River, Detroit. $2.50. (313) 531-4407

POPS/SWING

BIRMINGHAM TEMPLE CABARET
Ann Arbor's Kerrytown Mesdames Deanna Reylea and Julia Buxholm sing songs from and about Paris, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the temple, 28611 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. $18, $15 seniors, $12 students. (248) 788-9338/(248) 288-2953
JIM PARAVANTES
With Meridian, 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Fridays-Saturdays through April, at Andiamo Italia West, 6676 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300
IMPERIAL SWING ORCHESTRA
9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $6. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555
DOC SEVERINSEN AND HIS BIG BAND
8 p.m. Friday, April 16, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $15-$46 ($60 box seats). (313) 576-5111 or http://www.detroitsymphony.com
THE SWING SYNDICATE
9 p.m. Saturday, April 17, 24 Karat Club, 28949 Joy Road (two blocks east of Middlebelt Road), Westland. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 513-5030 (swing)
PAUL VORNHAGEN QUARTET
Celebrates release of CD "Swing As You Are," with party and performance, 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 23-24, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. $5. 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

AUDITIONS

BIRMINGHAM CONCERT BAND
Looking for adult musicians (woodwind, brass, andespecially percussion players) of all ages, rehearsals are 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Groves High School Birmingham. (248) 474-4997
BW PRODUCTIONS
Auditions for performers, dancers and singers ages 8 and up (males and females) for the semi-musical/comedy gospel drama theatrical stage play "When God Comes Down from Heaven," experience necessary. (313) 865-2375
"EXTREME GONG"
The Game Show Network show auditions for acts, 4-6 p.m. Thursday, May 6, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Variety acts must be three minutes or less and anyone younger than age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Accompaniment for any musical act must be acoustic, on cassette tape or compact disc. One act from each city will be flown to Los Angeles to appear live on "Extreme Gong" and get a chance to win a $10,000 prize package. (312) 214-4520, ext. 26
KIWANIS KAVALIERS
Canada's premier competing drum and bugle corps is looking for young performers (ages 14-21) for the upcoming summer tour July-August. (416) 241-2968 or http://www.kavaliers.com
STAGECRAFTERS 2ND STAGE
Auditions for Anne Meara's "After-Play" 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, April 19-20 (6:30 p.m. registration), at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. For performances June 18-20, 24-27. (248) 541-4832

CHORAL

ANONYMOUS 4 AND LIONHEART
Two a cappella ensembles perform 8 p.m. Sunday, April 18, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. $25. (734) 764-2538 or http://www.ums.org
THE ARBOR CONSORT
Presents a concert of 19th and 20th century choral music including spirituals, hymns and folk songs from around the world, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at University Lutheran Chapel. 1511 Washtenaw Ave., near South University, Ann Arbor. $10, $7 seniors and students. (734) 665-7823
COMMUNITY CONCERT ASSOCIATION OF TROY
Presents "White Cliffs of Dover," songs of World War II and starring Lainie Nelson 8 p.m. Friday, April 16, at Troy High School, 4777 Northfield Parkway, Troy. (810) 979-8406/(248) 435-5307
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY CHOIRS
8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at Pease Auditorium, College Place at West Cross, Ypsilanti. Free. (734) 487-2255/(734) 487-4380
PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS
The 125-voice chorus celebrates its 25th anniversary with a concert of patriotic, sacred and rock songs, love ballads, and Broadway and movies tunes, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 24 and 4 p.m. Sunday, April 25 at Plymouth Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton. $8. (734) 455-4080
U-M MEN'S GLEE CLUB
139th annual spring concert, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Hill Auditorium, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. $12 main floor, $10 first balcony, $7 second balcony, $5 for students in second balcony. (734) 764-1448
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Community Chorus performs "A German Requiem" by Johannes Brams 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Varner Recital Hall on campus. Tickets $10, $8 seniors, $5 students, call (248) 370-3013 or (248) 645-6666.

JAZZ

B'JAZZ VESPERS
Featuring Kimmie Horne Quartet, 6 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at First Baptist Church, 300 Willits St., Birmingham. Free. (248) 644-0550
GIACOMO GATES
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. $10. 21 and older. (734) 662-8310
GERRY HEMINGWAY QUARTET
8 p.m. Friday, April 16, free 3:30 p.m. workshop by U-M jazz professor Ed Srath precedes concert, at the Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. $25, $15, $10. (734) 769-2999 or kch@ic.net
HEIDI HEPLER/MICHELE RAMO/TODD CURTIS
With Harold McKinney (piano) 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the SereNgeti Ballroom, 2957 Woodward Ave., Detroit, $15 at the door, (313) 832-3010; 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays in April, at La Bistecca Italian Grille, 39405 Plymouth Road, between Newburgh and Haggerty; 8-11 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, at the No.VI Chophouse and Lobster Bar in the Hotel Baronette, 27790 Novi Road, Novi, (248) 305-5210; 8-11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at Northern Lakes Seafood Company inside the Kingsley Inn, 1475 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 464-7900; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, at Vic's Market, 42875 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. All ages. (248) 305-7333
KIMMIE HORNE
Friday-Saturday, April 16-17, at D.L. Harrington's Roadhouse, 2086 Crooks Road, Rochester Hills. (248) 852-0550
JAZZHEAD
With Jazodity, 9 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. $5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355; Jazzhead Friday, April 23 at Copper Canyon Brewery, 275 22 Northwestern, Southfield. (248) 223-1700
SHEILA LANDIS
As part of "Music and Metaphor" with music students in grades 9-12 from Pontiac Central High School, 12:15-1:15 p.m. Friday, April 16, Creative Arts Center, 47 Williams, Pontiac. (248) 333-7849; With her trio, 7-10 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Tres Vite in the Fox Theatre building, 2203 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (313) 471-3500
MATT MICHAELS TRIO
With vocalist Barbara Ware, 8-11:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at the Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills, $5 cover waived with dinner order. (248) 474-4800
SHAHIDA NURULLAH
8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, April 23, at Edison's, 220 Merrill St.,

Please see next page

8 days a week

Making contact: Please submit popular music items for publication to Christina Fuoco; all others to Linda Chomin, two weeks in advance to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150 or by fax (734) 591-7279

Continued from previous page

Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150 (vocal/piano/bass/drums)
JIM PARAVANTES
With Meridian, 8:30 p.m. to midnight Fridays-Saturdays in April, Andiamo Italia West, 6676 Telegraph Road, at Maple Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300
GARY SCHUNK
8 p.m. to midnight, Thursday, April 22, at Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150 (piano/bass/drums)
CHUCK SHERMATERO
8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, April 16, at Edison's 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. (248) 645-2150 (trumpet/piano/bass/drums)
LOUIS SMITH
8 p.m. to midnight Thursday, April 15, at Edison's 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. (248) 645-2150 (piano/bass/drums)
SMITHSONIAN JAZZ MASTERWORKS ORCHESTRA
"Duke Ellington: A Centennial Tribute," 7 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. $32, $29, $27 students/seniors. (810) 286-2222/(800) 585-3737
MIKE STERN
With Dennis Chambers, 8 p.m. Thursday, April 15, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. $12 in advance. 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com
GORDON STONE TRIO
8 p.m. Thursday, April 15, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org
URSULA WALKER AND BUDDY BUDSON
With Dan Kolton, 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursdays at Forte, 201 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 594-7300

NEW AGE

"MONSTERS OF GRACE"
A new opera in 3-D with music by Philip Glass, design and visual concept by Robert Wilson, and performed by the Philip Glass Ensemble, 8 p.m. Thursday, April 22, Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. $20, $24, $30 and $32. (734) 764-2538 or http://www.ums.org

WORLD MUSIC

THE ARTICLES
7 p.m. Thursday, April 15, Gameworks inside Great Lakes Crossing, 4316 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. Free. 21 and older. (248) 543-6911 (Jamaican jazz)
DISTACTIONS
9 p.m. Thursday, April 22, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 642-1135 (Irish)
IMMUNITY
10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17, Union Lake Grill and Bar, 2280 Union Lake Road, Commerce Township. Free. 21 and older. (248) 360-7450 (reggae)
LATIN BALL WITH CUBANISMO!
Featuring Jesus Alemany, 8 p.m. Friday, April 16, Eastern Michigan Convocation Center, 799 Hewitt, Ypsilanti. $30 dance pass, $20 general admission seating. (734) 764-2538 or http://www.ums.org
LATIN PLAYBOYS
Featuring David Hidalgo and Louis Perez of Los Lobos, and producers Mitchell Froom and Tchad Blake, with Lisa Germano, 8 p.m. Thursday, April 22, The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $15 in advance. 18 and older. (313) 833-9700 or http://www.99music.com (eclectic)
DOUGIE MACLEAN
8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org (Scottish)
WAKA JAWAKA
With The Luddites, 10 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 334-9292 (world beat/folk)

FOLK/BLUEGRASS

JAN KRIST
With Brooks Williams and Ric Hordinski, 7 p.m. Friday, April 16, Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia. $15, $13 for theater members. (734) 464-6302; 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 23-24, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Free. All ages. (313) 886-8101
CHRISTINE LAVIN
8 p.m. Friday, April 23, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org
GORDON LIGHTFOOT
8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $34.50 and $28.50. (248) 433-1515
JOHN MCCUTCHEON
8 p.m. Friday, April 16, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org
KATE AND ANNA MCGARRIGLE
8 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org
BILL MILLER
8 p.m. Thursday, April 22, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org
JIM PERKINS
9 p.m. Friday, April 16, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Free. 21 and older. (313) 886-8101
IIIRD TYME OUT
8 p.m. Friday, April 23, Oakland Community College, 739 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. Tickets at the box office. (248) 544-4900
JAY UNGAR AND MOLLY MASON
7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org

POETRY

OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT
8 p.m. Thursdays in April, at Borders Books, Music, Video and Cafe, 1122 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. All poets must sign up in advance. (248) 652-0558
LATINO POETS COFFEEHOUSE SERIES
Features poets Ann Holdrieth and Michael Barney, 7-10 p.m. Friday, April 16, at the Bowen branch of the Detroit Public Library, 3648 W. Vernor at W. Grand Boulevard. (313) 297-9381
PLYMOUTH POETS
"Student Writers Night" featuring Peter Marcus and an open mic for high school and college poets, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, Coffee Bean Company, 844 Penniman St., Plymouth. (734) 459-7319
"POETRY IN MOTION"
Poetry contest 6 p.m. Sunday, April 18, first 15 poets only, entry fee $5, at the Grand Cafe, 33316 Grand River Ave., near Farmington Road, Farmington. Free. (248) 615-9181
THE SPOKEN WORD
Featuring Farmington Hills poet Lynn Meredith Cohn reads from her book which carries the reader from Virginia to Ireland and back to Gettysburg via Tel Aviv, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, at the Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, behind the Detroit Institute of Arts. $2. (313) 831-1250
RICHARD TILLINGHAST/POIGNANT PLECOSTOMUS
Performs 8 p.m. Thursday, April 15, University of Michigan's Michigan League, Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (734) 763-4652; 7-9 p.m. Friday, April 16, Borders Books and Music, 43075 Crescent Boulevard, Novi. Free. All ages. (248) 347-0780; 4-6 p.m. Sunday, April 18, Borders Books and Music, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 737-0110; 8-10 p.m. Friday, April 23, Borders Books and Music, 45290 Utica Park Boulevard, Utica. Free. All ages. (810) 726-8555
THE WRITER'S VOICE
With New York City performance poet Jayne Cortez, Los Angeles poet Mifanwy Kaiser amd Detroit's Semaj, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, at the Main Branch of the Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., across from the Detroit Institute of Arts. Free. (313) 833-1470/(313) 267-5300, ext. 338

DANCE

"AFTERNOON IN BAVARIA"
Bavarian dances and music performed in authentic dress, 2 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at Carpathia Hall, 38000 Utica Road, Sterling Hgts. $8. (810) 786-9058
DANCE ENSEMBLE WEST
"Dance Collection 1999" concert, an annual presentation of ballet and modern dance works, 3 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at the Plymouth Canton High School Little Theater, 8415 N. Canton Center Road, south of Joy Road, Canton. $9. (734) 420-4430
EISENHOWER DANCE ENSEMBLE
World premiere of choreography by Colin Conner and Laurie Eisenhower, 8 p.m. Friday, April 23, at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Clinton Twp. $22, $18. (810) 286-2222
TANGO CLASSES
8 p.m. Fridays (beginning), at the Troy Dance Studio, 4963 Rochester Road, at Long Lake Road ($5-$10). (248) 689-3393; 8 p.m. Saturdays at Dance Avenue, 1860 N. Telegraph, southeast of Ford Road, Dearborn ($5-$7). (313) 565-3329; also advanced Tango Sundays in Troy.

COMEDY

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB
Basile and J.R. Remick, 8 p.m. Thursday, April 15 ($8), 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17 ($15), special Greek show, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17; Kirk "Fabioman" Noland and David Scott, 8 p.m. Thursday, April 22 ($5), and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 23-24 ($12), at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Third Level Improv and new talent nights, 8 p.m. Sundays ($5). (734) 261-0555
JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S
Chris Titus, 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17 ($12, $24.95 dinner show package), and 7 p.m. Sunday, April 18 ($10, $22.95 dinner show package); 5070 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885
MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE
Kathleen Madigan and Chris Zito, Thursday, April 15 ($10), Friday-Saturday, April 16-17 ($15), and Sunday, April 18 ($10); Otto and George with Tim Clue, Wednesday, April 21 ($15); and Mark Cordes and Michael Jr. Thursday-Sunday, April 22-25, at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays ($5), 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays ($6), 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays ($12), and 7:30 p.m. Sundays ($6). Prices subject to change and may be higher for special engagements. (248) 542-9900 or http://www.comedycastle.com
SECOND CITY
"Impeachment and Cream," through May, at the club, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays. $10 Wednesdays, Thursdays, Sundays, $17.50 on Fridays, and $19.50 on Saturdays. (313) 965-2222
SINBAD
8 p.m. Friday, April 16, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $27.50 and $35. All ages. (248) 433-1515

MUSEUMS AND TOURS

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Wiggle Giggle Studio of activity for ages 5-10, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17 ($5, advance registration required); (313) 833-1262; 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Free admission Wednesdays; $3 for adults, $1.50 seniors and children aged 12-18, free for children ages 11 and younger Thursdays-Sundays. (313) 833-1805 or http://www.detroithistorical.org
PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Antique Appraisal Clinic with Ernest DuMouchelle, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, limit of up to five hand-held items, or a photo with measurements and details for larger items, at the museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth. $6 per item for oral appraisal, $10 for written appraisal, proceeds benefit the museum and its programs. (734) 455-8940 to reserve an appointment time.

POPULAR MUSIC

THE ALLIGATORS
9 p.m. Friday, April 16, Ford Road Bar and Grill, 35505 Ford Road, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 721-8609; 9 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty St., Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 451-1213 (blues)
JOHNNIE BASSETT AND THE BLUES INSURGENTS
9 p.m. Thursdays in April at Music Menu, 511 Monroe St., Detroit's Greektown. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 964-6368 (blues)
BUGS BEDDOW BAND
9 p.m. Friday, April 23, Boulders, 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (734) 459-4190 (blues)
BENT
With Y.O.U., 9 p.m. Friday, April 16, Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 334-9292 (rock)
"BLIND PIG SHOWCASE"
With Mirror Image, Son of Adam, Voda and Age Old Profession, 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Free. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (variety)
BLUE ROSE
9 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Ford Road Bar and Grill, 35505 Ford Road, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 467-5056 (blues)
BLUE SUIT WITH ALBERTA ADAMS
9 p.m. Friday, April 16, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty St., Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 451-1213; 9 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)
BONNE TEMPS ROULLE
5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17, 5 Hole in The Second City, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Free before 10 p.m. 21 and older. (313) 471-3300 (R&B)
THE BOUNCING SOULS
With Antiflag and Les Stitches, 6 p.m. Friday, April 16, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. $8. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com (punk)
BROKEN HALO
With Out of Reach, 9 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Boulders, 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (734) 459-4190 (rock)
THE BURROS
9 p.m. Friday, April 23, CK Diggs, 2010 Auburn Road, Rochester Hills. Free. 21 and older. (248) 853-6600 (roots rock)
GRETCHEN BUSAM ENSEMBLE
With Jarimelo, 9 p.m. Thursday, April 22, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. $5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 (indie rock)
BUSTER BLUES BAND
9 p.m. Friday, March 16, Music Menu, 511 Monroe St., Detroit's Greektown. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 964-6368 (blues)
BUSTER WYLIE
9 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Free. All ages. (313) 886-8101 (R&B)
SCOTT CAMPBELL GROUP
9 p.m. Sunday, April 18, Cadieux Cafe, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit. Free. 21 and older. (313) 882-8560 (rock)
BLAKE CHEN
With Tim Prosser, 8-9:30 p.m. Friday, April 23, Angel Caravan Coffeehouse, 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor. Suggested donation, $7, $5 students ages 13 and older, $3 for kids. All ages. (734) 327-2041 (singer/songwriter)
THE CIVILIANS
10 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. $5. 21 and older. (313) 875-6555 or http://www.lilis21.com (rock)
THE CREATURES
7 p.m. Saturday, April 17, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. $17 in advance. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com (alternative rock)
EASY ACTION
With The Slumber Party and Wolf Eyes, 9 p.m. Friday, April 16, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. $5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 (rock)
EDITH FROST
With Danielson Family, 9 p.m. Monday, April 19, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or http://golddollar.com (punk)
ELECTRIC BOOGALOO
9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, Karl's Cabin, 9779 Old N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (734) 455-8450 (funk)
ELIZA
8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 22, Oxford Inn Tavern, 43317 E. Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 305-5856 (pop)
EMMET SWIMMING
9 p.m. Friday, April 16, The Alley behind Main Street Billiards, 215 S. Main St., Rochester. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 652-8441 (alternative rock)
THE EX-HUSBANDS
6:30 p.m. Friday, April 23, Van Gogh's Starry Night Lounge, 27909 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 324-0400 (rock)
FACE
With Kingsnakes, 9 p.m. Friday, April 23, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. $5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 (rock/blues)
500 FEET OF PIPE
With Atomic Numbers and Fl. Oz., 9 p.m. Friday, April 23, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or http://golddollar.com (pop/rock)
FLETCHER PRATT
With The Neptunes and Dean Fertita, 8 p.m. Friday, April 16, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. $5. 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (pop/rock)
GAM
With Clone Defects, 9 p.m. Thursday, April 15, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or http://golddollar.com (punk)
GOMEZ
With Mojave 3, 8 p.m. Sunday, April 18, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. $8.50 in advance. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com (blues/rock)
GORDON BENNETT
10 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (248) 543-4300 (rock)
GRR
10 p.m. Friday, April 16, Hamlin Pub, 1988 S. Rochester Road, Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 656-7700; 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, Oxford Inn, 43317 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 305-5856; 6 p.m. Friday, April 23, Gameworks inside Great Lakes Crossing, 4316 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. Free. 21 and older. (248) 745-9675; 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 23-24, Mr. B's Roadhouse, 6761 Dixie Highway, Clarkston. Free. 21 and older. 9248) 625-4600 (rock)
HARRINGTON BROTHERS
8 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)
AL HILL AND THE LOVE BUTLERS
9 p.m. Thursday, April 15, Arbor Brewing Co., 116 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. Free. 21 and older. (734) 213-1393; 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, Copper Canyon Brewery, 27522 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Free. 21 and older. (248) 223-1700 (blues)
THE HOPE ORCHESTRA
8 p.m. Friday, April 16, Borders Books and Music, 17141 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe. Free. All ages. (313) 885-1188 (alternative rock)
HOWLING DIABLOS
8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. $7. 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (funk/rock)
LISA HUNTER
8 p.m. Friday, April 23, Coffee Beanery, 307 S. Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 650-3344 or http://www.lb.com/onemanclapping/lisa.htm (acoustic rock)
J-TRAIN
10 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Mount Chalet, 4715 N. Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (248) 549-2929 (R&B)
JILL JACK
10:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5060 (rock)
J.D. AND THE BBS
9 p.m. Friday, April 23, Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 334-9292 (rock)
BILL KAHLER
8 p.m. to midnight Thursdays in April, Fire Academy Brewery and Grill, 6677 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 595-1988 (singer/comedian)
MIKE KEHOE
5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, April 23, 5 Hole in The Second City, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Free before 10 p.m. 21 and older. (313) 471-3300 (rock)
MIKE KING BAND
9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 22, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5060 (rock)
LADY SUNSHINE AND THE X BAND
9 p.m. Friday, April 16, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)
ADRIAN LEGG
8 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. $15. 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (rock)
STONEY MAZAAR AND THE WESTSIDERS
8 p.m. Friday, April 23, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)
MARILYN MANSON
With Nashville Pussy, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 15, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Hole, Imperial Teen and Monster Magnet are off the bill. $35 reserved and general admission floor. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com (rock)
MASCHINA
With Tubring, 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (experimental rock)
STONEY MAZAAR AND THE WESTSIDERS
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 23-24, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)
LARRY MCCRAY
With Carl Weathersby, 8 p.m. Friday, April 23, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. $10 in advance. 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (blues)
MOUNT MCKINLEYS
With Revelators, 9 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or http://golddollar.com (punk)
MERCURY REV
With Jason Falkner, 8 p.m. Friday, April 16, Mill Street Entry below Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. $8.50 in advance. All ages. (248) 333-2362 or http://www.961melt.com (ethereal pop)
MOON DOG MANE
Featuring former Tesla guitarist Frank Hannon, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 15, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. $8 in advance. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com (rock)
MUDPUPPY
9 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Boathouse Billiards, 770 N. Lapeer Road, Orion Township. (248) 693-4100; 9 p.m. Thursday, April 22, The Velvet Lounge, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 334-7411 (blues)
MYSTERY TRAIN WITH JIM MCCARTY
9 p.m. Friday, April 23, Ford Road Bar and Grill, 35505 Ford Road, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 721-8609 (blues)
JULIE NAGER
With Sara Bursac, 8-9:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, Angel Caravan Coffeehouse in Friends Meeting House, 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor. Suggested donation, $7, $5 students ages 13 and older, $3 kids. (734) 327-2041 (pop)
NAILING BETTY
10 p.m. Friday, April 16, Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. $5. 21 and older. (313) 875-6555 or http://www.lilis21.com (rock)
NIGHT BEAT
9 p.m. Friday, April 16, Boulders, 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (734) 459-4190 (dance rock)
98 DEGREES
With B*Witched and Jessica Simpson, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sold out. All ages. (313) 961-5451 (boy band/pop)

MIKE NOLAN
With Cloud Car and Platypus, 9 p.m. Thursday, April 15, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. $5. 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 (pop)
PAM AND SCOTT
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17, Fire Academy Brewery and Grill, 6677 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 595-1988 (easy listening)
PANGEA
9 p.m. Sunday, April 18, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 642-1135 (rock/groove)
PINE CONE JELLY
9 p.m. Thursdays, April 15, and April 22, Boulders, 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (734) 459-4190 (top 40)
REAL MCKENZIES
With Silencers, 9 p.m. Thursday, April 22, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or http://golddollar.com (rock/surf)

REEFERMEN
10:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5060 (rock)
ROOSTER
9 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, The Alley behind Main Street Billiards, 215 S. Main St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 652-8441 (rock)
ROXANNE
6:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17, Van Gogh's Starry Night Lounge, 27909 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 324-0400 (alternative rock)
MERLE SAUNDERS
With One Step Beyond, 8 p.m. Sunday, April 18, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. $15 in advance. 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (rock)
SAX APPEAL
8 p.m. Thursday, April 22, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (pop)
KRISTIN SAYER
10 p.m. Friday, April 16, The Cavern Club, 210 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 332-900; 10 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Woody's, 208 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (248) 543-6911 (R&B/rock)
THE BLAZE SHERMAN FURY
With Uvula and Cleveland Spiders, 9 p.m. Friday, April 16, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or http://golddollar.com (rock)
SIXTY SECOND CRUSH
With Niacin Jay and Buddha Fulla Rhymez, 9 p.m. Friday, April 16, The Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $6. 18 and older. (313) 833-9700 (rock)
SOLID FROG
With 19 Wheels and South Normal, 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 23, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)
STEVE SOMERS AND VALERIE BARRYMORE
8 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)
SPONGE
6 p.m. (all ages) and midnight (21 and older) Saturday, April 17, Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. Cover charge. (313) 875-6555 or http://www.lilis21.com or http://www.sponge-online.com (rock)
SPOONFUL
9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5060; 7 p.m. Thursday, April 22, Gameworks inside Great Lakes Crossing, 4316 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. Free. 21 and older. (rock)
ROD STEWART
8 p.m. Saturday, April 17, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. $65.25 and $45.25. 25 cents from each ticket goes to LifeBeat. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com (rock)
STEWIN BONE
10 p.m. Sunday, April 18, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (248) 543-4300 (R&B)
SUN 209
9 p.m. Friday, April 16, CK Diggs, 2010 Auburn Road, Rochester Hills. Free. 21 and older. (248) 853-6600 (roots rock)
TAMPA TED AND THE BLUE KNIGHTS
9 p.m. Friday, April 23, Music Menu, 511 Monroe St., Detroit's Greektown. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 964-6368 (blues)
TANGERINE TROUSERS
9 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 642-1135 (pop)
TWISTIN' TARANTULAS
10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 16-17, Oxford Inn Tavern, 43317 E. Grand River Ave., Novi. $5. 21 and older. (248) 305-5856; 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 22, Karl's Cabin, 9779 Old N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (734) 455-8450; 9 p.m. Friday, April 23, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 642-1135 (rockabilly)
UNWRITTEN LAW
With Spring Heeled Jack, Blue Meanies and the Outsiders, 7 p.m. Saturday, April 17, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. $12 in advance. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com (ska/punk)

MARTY VIERS, THE MUSIC DOCTOR
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday-Saturday, April 23-24, Fire Academy Brewery and Grill, 6677 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 595-1988 (easy listening)

VIOLENT FEMMES
With Immigrant Suns, 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, Hill Auditorium, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. $20 and $25. All ages. (734) 99-MUSIC (alternative rock)

RANDY VOLIN AND SONIC BLUES
9 p.m. Friday, April 16, Woody's, 208 Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (248) 543-6911; 9 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 349-9110 or http://www.rockindaddys.com (blues)

JOHNNY WINTER
With Five Horse Johnson, 8 p.m. Friday, April 16, Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. $22 in advance. 18 and older. (313) 833-9700 or http://www.99music.com (rock)

THE WITCH DOCTORS
9 p.m. Friday, April 23, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty St., Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 451-1213 (blues)

STEPHEN GRANT WOOD
8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Smitty's, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 652-1600 (acoustic rock)

SHANNON WRIGHT
With Eric Bachmann of Archers of Loaf, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 22, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $6 in advance, $8 at the door. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)

'Never Been Kissed' is All-American high school fun

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

You wouldn't recognize Josie Geller in a crowd. She doesn't stand out. But in high school, well that's another story.

She's "Never Been Kissed," and the cool kids don't like her.

Geller's got a problem, she's 25, not 17, and an undercover reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times. If she doesn't "transition" into the cool clique, she'll lose her job, so will her boss, Gus.

That's the story behind "Never Been Kissed" starring Drew Barrymore as the caterpillar like Josie who blossoms into a beauty, and John C. Reilly as her cantankerous boss with a heart of gold.

"This is so not a dream," says Geller as the film begins. "I was just trying to do my job when this happened."

A copy editor who dreams of being a reporter, Geller gets her chance when Gus' boss Rigfort decides he wants to do a story on high schools. He spots Geller, who looks younger than she is, at a staff meeting and gives her the job.

Geller's euphoria over getting a break fades when she tells her younger brother Rob (David Arquette). "Remember what they called you in high school," he says — "Josie Grossie."

A wave of nausea sweeps over her, but it's too late to turn back.

If you've ever wondered about what it would be like to return to high school after you're all grown up, you'll get a kick out of "Never Been Kissed."

Who did you hang out with? The brainy nerds or the cool kids? Fashions and music change, but group dynamics don't.

There are still the beautiful cool girls, Kirsten (Jessica Alba), Kristin (Marley Shelton) and Gibby (Jordan Laddy) who have the perfect clothes, hair and makeup. Guy Perkins (Jeremy Jordan) is the handsome one, every girl's dream, who makes going to school worthwhile.

Brainy kids like Aldys (Leelee Sobieski) hang out with the other nerds, except now they hang together for protection. You know, safety in numbers.

Geller falls for her English teacher, the very hip Sam Coulson (Michael Vartan).

"Disguise changes all the rules," he says while talking about Shakespeare. "Disguises can be liberating. They can get you to do things you normally would not do."

Geller's doing a lot of things she would normally not do and changes in the process.

As she stumbles through high school her co-workers watch and cheer her on in the newsroom. Everything's being taped, and watching Josie in high school is better than a soap opera.

Anita (Molly Shannon), the office floozy, visits Josie at school and is mistaken for the sex education teacher. Her lecture is one you'll laugh about for a long time.

"Never Been Kissed" is all American fun with a little romance, betrayal and baseball thrown in.

You'll find yourself cheering for Josie as her confidence grows. There is the "kiss," but this is mostly a movie about friendship, and learning to be yourself.

Flashbacks of a younger Josie with braces being tormented by the cool kids at school are painful to watch, but oh so real.

Josie's not "Carrie," she is not looking for revenge, only to fit in.

"Never Been Kissed" will definitely appeal to teens, and surprise adults who might have been dragged to the show by their kids.

The cast and staff are identified by name and yearbook picture in the credits. A nice touch.

Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein make their screenwriting debut with "Never Been Kissed." Raja Gosnell "Home Alone 3" directs. Barrymore makes her film debut as producer.

"Never Been Kissed" marks Barrymore's debut as a film producer. In 1995, Barrymore and Nancy Juvonen founded Flower Films Inc. In the summer of 1997 they began a two-year, first-look deal with Fox 2000 Pictures, a division of Twentieth Century Fox. "Never Been Kissed" is the first film to go into production.

SUZANNE HANOVER/FOX 2000 PICTURES

Back in school: *Drew Barrymore as Josie reads her paper to her English class, while her friend Aldys (Leelee Sobieski, seated, right) listens in "Never Been Kissed."*

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
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ED TV (PG13)
DOUG'S 1ST MOVIE (G)
THE MOD SQUAD (R)
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SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)
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THE FORCES OF NATURE (PG13)
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GO (R) NV
THE OUT OF TOWNERS (PG13) NV
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THE MOD SQUAD (R) NV
BABY GENIUSES (PG)

United Artists West River
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THE MOD SQUAD (R)
ED TV (PG13)
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CALL THEATER FOR FEATURES AND TIMES

'The Matrix' is entertaining summer movie appetizer

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER
hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

The ads ask "What is the Matrix?"

The answer is the first hit movie of 1999, a springtime appetizer before George Lucas' new "Star Wars" arrives.

Written and directed by Andy and Larry Wachowski, "The Matrix" is a visually interesting movie comic book with mythic pretenses that don't seriously intrude on the action. It's reasonably entertaining if you don't take it too seriously or become bogged down by logic, even its own squirrely internal logic.

Like any good comic book, "The Matrix" has a super hero masquerading as a ordinary mortal. Keanu Reeves, a sometimes serious actor, plays mild mannered and slightly disheveled computer software engineer Thomas Anderson, who is also known as computer hacker Neo.

It seems that Neo is vaguely aware that something is wrong with his life, other than his ratty apartment and weird underworld associates. Turns out that he's right. The world he thinks is real is just a computer illusion, a device created by a vast system of artificial intelligence to keep humans in line while they suck human energy (or something like that).

And our hero Neo is the One, the Messiah, the whatever who can save mankind and free their minds.

Laurence Fishburne, usually a serious actor, is Morpheus, the leader of an underground movement. He and his small cadre have broken free and inhabit the real world (a pretty dreary place). Also in the cadre is Trinity (Carrie Ann Moss), a woman who has also discovered the truth and is waiting to have her prophesy fulfilled.

As you can see, with names like Neo, Morpheus and Trinity, we are getting pretty deep into symbolism.

Not to worry. This movie is really about stunning stop motion photography, state-of-the-art computer graphics, karate, explosions and well choreographed gunplay. It's violent, but it's the kind of fast, mindless, non specific violence that we associate with comic books and Saturday matinees.

The Wachowskis visual imagination is richer than their story telling skills. They've created a mock world within a mock world and both are convincing in their way. The story has been called confusing by some reviewers, but if you pay attention you'll be able to follow it without too much trouble. That's not the same thing as saying it makes any rational sense, of course.

Reeves and Fishburne bring some serious acting chops to their roles and probably had a good time. Reeves is quite good at swaggering in a long black coat.

The real acting honors go to Australian actor Hugo Weaving as the top bad guy. The conceit here is that the bad guys all look like Secret Service agents, which is also a nod to "Men in Black." They wear dark glasses and radios in their ears. Weaving is a slick, no nonsense government agent.

The visuals include some high flying, kick boxing fights between Reeves and Weaving, bullets that are visible in flight and some dramatic morphing.

The Wachowskis also have a sense of humor and there are verbal and visual references to the Bible, Greek mythology, "Alice in Wonderland," "The Wizard of Oz," "Twenty-thousand Leagues Under the Sea" and other inspirations.

So what is the Matrix? An entertaining and mindless escape, perfect for a rainy day. As an appetizer it's pretty tasty.

Surf's up for guitarist Dick Dale

BACKSTAGE PASS

ANN DELISI

Surf City, here we come. The spring arts scene is rolling in like a tasty wave, so let's ride it with the king of the surf guitar, Dick Dale. Then, we'll discover the virtual galleries of local artists available when you surf the web.

Dick's in town this week to perform at the Magic Stick in Detroit and on Detroit Public TV's BACKSTAGE PASS. Dale's story is one of a kind. He's credited with creating the surf sound in the 1950s, and was featured in the beach movies with Frankie and Annette. When Leo Fender handed him his new Stratocaster, Dick played it upside down and backward, as an astonished Leo saw his right-handed baby played left handed. The sound was outrageous and demonstrated the potential of the electric instrument and the guitarist.

Forty years later, how relevant is Dick Dale to today's music? "Backstage Pass" checked in with Darrin O'Donnell, who, after a decade of playing lead guitar for Bad Dog and other less-than-legendary southeast Michigan bands, packed up his stratocaster in the early '90s and headed for Southern California. Ahhhh. . .a life complete with a low-paying job at a fabled music school and the roaring surf. Who better to comment on the Dick Dale phenomenon?

"Dick Dale has been my mentor ever since Keith Richards died," he joked, noting that the Rolling Stone has never been more alive.

How is he regarded in the cradle of the surf civilization?

"Dick is undoubtedly a Southern California icon. You see him in television commercials and many musicians know him from his signature guitars. When his music was featured in that unforgettable scene in 'Pulp Fiction,' his popularity surged."

We asked O'Donnell to define surf music.

"If I had to label it, I'd describe it as pre-fuzz punk – a raw sound that was modified by the distortion of Jimi Hendrix. When I hear an alternative band like Green Day, I usually detect some aspect of surf music with a bit of technical tweaking."

Any message for Dick Dale when he visits our studio?

"When you see that guy, tell him he owes me money."

Thanks for the laughs and the mock struggling-musician-speak, surf dude. Rock on.

Next, moondoggies, let's surf the web for innovative approaches a local artist is using to exhibit his work in this new medium. Lowell Boileau started as a painter but now uses the computer as his canvas. His Web site, www.bhere.com, receives 2 million hits annually and was honored as Yahoo Pick of the Year.

"When I was introduced to the internet, I knew immediately that things would never be the same. I began using it to exhibit my work because it appealed to me as an eternal art opening. It's no longer a case of some rich guy buying your work, and you never see it again. Now, I consider it a new art medium."

With such intriguing galleries as "The Fabulous Ruins of Detroit" on the site, it is no wonder web surfers are drawn to it. Boileau appreciates the feedback he receives through e-mail messages, and considers the ability to interact with the viewer a major advantage to the medium.

We'll introduce you to the exciting work of the new BACKSTAGE PASS artist-in-residence, Lowell Boileau, and reverberate with Dick Dale on Detroit Public TV,

Sunday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. Surf's up.

If it's vintage anything, singer Jason Falkner wants it

CHRISTINA FUOCO

Pop singer Jason Falkner is into anything vintage. His Los Angeles home is packed with vintage guitars, amps, drums, microphones and clothing. He even drives a red 1962 Ford Galaxy just like Andy Griffith.

"It's basically the Andy Griffith car. It's the same car, the same year but without the lights. I'm trying to get the lights," he said with a laugh.

"I just always liked old stuff. I have old clothes. I think I'm just like a freak," Falkner explained. "I think I have an issue, especially where clothing and gear is concerned, with trying to keep up with the Joneses. It seems like such a task. I'd rather just create my own niche using old stuff and new stuff. That goes with my recordings as well."

Falkner's recordings – his 1996 solo debut "Jason Falkner Presents Author Unknown" and his sophomore effort "Can You Still Feel?" – are far from "retro," a term that he despises.

"I understand that there's certain things about my music and the sound of my music that's retro. But I don't think that the writing is retro at all. You hear some bands and they sound like they want to sound like the Beatles. I don't think you could really say that about me if you really listened to my music."

Returning: *Jason Falkner is returning to the Detroit area Friday, April 16, to perform songs off his new album, "Can You Still Feel?"*

"Can You Still Feel?" which opens with Falkner whispering "Take a chance on me," is rich and warm. Falkner's inviting, dramatic vocals are wrapped around strings, vintage keyboards, police sirens, and simple-yet-textured pop melodies. "My Lucky Day" couples hand-claps with space-age keyboards, while "Revelation" is soft and dreamy.

The first single is "Eloquence," a soaring pop song that has hit potential. In lieu of a video, Falkner has filmed a 30-second commercial for the song and the album.

Falkner sang and played all the instruments on "Can You Still Feel?" but he recruited Nigel Godrich, who was at the helm of Radiohead's "OK, Computer," to produce and engineer.

"I wanted to bring in a co-producer really to have a springboard. I knew that he was a great engineer that was kind of the main reason I wanted him to work on this record. Then I wanted him to co-produce so he would have more invested in the project, mentally and emotionally, than just being an engineer."

The duo worked on the album in New Orleans, which was more inspirational than it was influential to Falkner.

"There's not a lot of blues on my record," he said with a laugh. "I'd say there's a lot of soul, but not so much cajun music. I just like the vibe down there. It's such a beautiful city. The colors, the city lets things deteriorate and bleach and let things look old and good and almost like Mediterranean or something."

"Where I live in L.A., everything gets a paint job every year. There's nothing historical standing out really. That's the nature of the city."

Jason Falkner opens for Mercury Rev on Friday, April 16, at the Mill Street Entry below Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets are $8.50 in advance. Call (248) 333-2362 or visit www.961melt.com for more information.

American influences

Neil Halstead was at the core of the guitar-heavy, English shoegazer band Slowdive. But although the group was successful, Halstead had a secret passion for acoustic guitar-based music with strong songs.

"We just got bored really. Slowdive, well we did three records and we were in the band for six years. We just reached a point where we didn't think we'd be able to do anything that we hadn't already done within the confines of the band. It just kind of fell apart," Halstead explained.

As a result, he as well as ex-Slowdivers bassist/ vocalist Rachel Goswell and drummer Ian McCutcheon and new recruit guitarist Simon Rowe formed Mojave 3 in 1995.

While Mojave 3's first album, "As Me Tomorrow," was basically demos, the band's latest release "Out of Time" was recorded on and off in Cornwall, England.

"We tended to have lots of breaks. We'd do a week of recording and then we wouldn't do anything for awhile. We never really planned to do it that way, it's just the way it worked out. It ended up being quite relaxing, which is kind of nice."

Mojave 3 reflects Halstead's taste in American music. "We like Wilco and Palace. I really like it out here."

Mojave 3 performs with Gomez on Sunday, April 18, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets are $8.50 in advance. Call (313) 961-MELT or visit www.961melt.com for more information.

Foreign territory

Teen singer Jessica Simpson is making her Detroit debut this weekend. Although her album "Sweet Kisses" isn't due out on Columbia until June, one of her songs "Did You Ever Love Somebody" is featured on "Songs From Dawson's Creek," which hits stores April 20.

"It's so exciting. That's my favorite show. When I found out that I made it on the soundtrack, I started crying," Simpson said via her dad's cell phone.

She describes her music as a blend of pop and R&B or "like an earlier Mariah (Carey) thing. I really love to do big, big ballads like Whitney and Celine."

Simpson said it has been a challenge to perform in front of audiences who have never heard her music, but she's been successful thus far. She opens for B*Witched and 98 Degrees at the State Theatre on April 17. The show is sold out.

"It's kind of hard to get out there when they don't know who I am but once I get out there, I totally try to pump them up for 98 Degrees. I try to make myself look like I'm one of them. We have fun together."

Christina Fuoco is the pop music reporter for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. If you have a question or comment for her, you can leave her a message at (734) 953-2047, mailbox No. 2130.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, April 16

"GOD SAID 'HA!'"
Warm and funny comedy about a string of days that were so bad that they were funny, and so numerous that they became a year. Welcome to the world of Julia Sweeney.

"GOODBYE, LOVER"
Scheming brothers battle each other as each connives to inherit a $4 million insurance policy. Stars Patricia Arquette, Don Johnson.

"HIDEOUS KINKY"
Drama set in the 1960s about a woman who takes off for Morocco with her two young daughters in an attempt to find the peace and happiness that have eluded her. Stars Kate Winslet, Said Taghmaou.

"LIFE"
Prison comedy about two friends serving life sentences and their attempts to break out over the course of 60 years. Stars Eddie Murphy.

Scheduled to open Friday, April 23

"LOST AND FOUND"
Comedy about finding your true love at any price, even if it involves a little dognapping along the way. Stars David Spade.

"PUSHING TIN"
Story of two air traffic controllers whose intense rivalry and penchant for one-upmanship threatens to unravel their careers, marriages and the planes in their airspace. Stars John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton.

"AMONG GIANTS"
A moving and whimsical romance that takes place one hundred feet in the air, as a group of electrical tower painters cope with a fearless woman in their midst.

"EXISTENZ"
A computer game programmer develops the ultimate escape: a parallel universe called existenz. It taps into your deepest emotions and unleashes your wildest urges. It's the first genuine threat to reality and someone wants it stopped at all costs. Stars Jennifer Jason Leigh.

"METROLAND"
Exclusively at the Main Art. Story about two friends and the compromises each one makes for love and marriage. Stars Christian Bale, Lee Ross, Emily Watson.

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Museum cafe showcases Michigan's culinary traditions

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

Food service at Henry Ford Museum for a long time was like the museum itself — lost in time.

Visitors had two choices, the Weinermobile Cafe tucked into a corner of the museum or the cafeteria style American Cafe. Neither one was very exciting.

You can still grab a hot dog at the cafe, but if you're looking for a place to rest and enjoy a pleasant meal, check out the Michigan Cafe, which opened March 26.

The renovated former cafeteria is a tribute to Michigan foods.

"Michigan has always been known for its culinary contributions," said Steve Hamp president of Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village. "We wanted to provide our visitors with a unique, fun-filled dining experience that represents the best of what Michigan has to offer."

Executive Chef Jim Maier, a graduate of the Oakland Community College culinary arts program, spent over a year collecting Michigan-based recipes, and creating some of his own.

"We obtained the Hudson's Maurice Salad Dressing recipe," he said. "A lot of people remember going downtown to Hudson's at Christmastime."

Helping visitors recall their fondest Michigan food memories is part of the Michigan Cafe's mission. The other is to serve as a gateway to Michigan for guests who are visiting the state for the first time, and may not be familiar with our culinary traditions such as Sander's, Vernor's, cherries and Pinconning cheese.

"We want to give people a taste of what our state is all about," said Maier. "We also want them to know about festivals and other things that are happening around the state."

Michigan Cafe is decorated with enlarged postcards of state attractions including the Mackinac Bridge and Irish Hills from the museum's collection. AAA-inspired travel posters also help create the "I'm on vacation," feel of the restaurant. Carpeting is edged with canoe paddles, and sprinkled with pine cones. See if you can spot the bears, pheasants and other animals that are woven into the carpet design. There are eight in all.

Maier wants to offer menu specials during popular events such as the Tulip Festival in Holland to heighten awareness and showcase Michigan products.

"We're planning to offer some signature Dutch dishes," he said. "I've been in touch with some restaurants in Holland, Mich. to talk about the Tulip Festival."

The restaurant, which has a separate entrance from the museum near the entrance to Greenfield Village, is still cafeteria style, but the stations are well-defined. Instead of going through one line for everything, you can visit the deli, oven or salad station.

Starting with entrees guests can choose from Great Lakes Whitefish Boat — whitefish filet in dilled sour cream baked with a puff pastry top or Cafe Chicken — whole breast of chicken with cherry barbecue or wild mushroom sauce.

Some items are "imported" such as Albie's Beef Pasty, Lashish restaurant hommous & pita on the salad menu, and Dearborn Sausage Footlong on the deli menu.

"La-Shish is such a great name in Dearborn," said Maier, "they're known for quality. We're the only facility outside their restaurant that offers their products."

Sandwiches are made with Breadsmith bread made in Dearborn. Choose from the U of M Wolverine Combo Sandwich — turkey, ham, Swiss and Cheddar cheese with mustard served on a honey-white roll or the MSU Spartan Sandwich — turkey, ham or tuna served on a honey-white roll.

Mama Mucci in Canton makes the specially designed pasta shaped like a mitten to resemble the lower peninsula. The pasta is used to create Mighty Mac & Cheese.

"We want to offer lots of variety," said Renee Righetti, food service manager for the museum.

The desserts will bring back lots of sweet memories. A favorite is Sander's famous cream puff — homemade cream puff with Stroh's ice cream, topped with Sander's Hot Fudge Sauce. Muskegon County Blueberry Pie was inspired by the Blueberry Festival. This recipe is low in fat with no added sugar.

"The Traverse City Cake is served with a chocolate cut-out of the lower peninsula," said Righetti. Northern Cinnamon Roll features a northern Michigan Maple Glaze.

"Our cookies are shaped like Model T's," said Righetti.

Stroh's is the only ice cream on this menu, and the baklava is styled after the Greek style phyllo pastry you'll find on Monroe St. in Detroit.

Michigan brewed beers and a variety of soft drinks are also on the menu.

Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum are popular destinations for tourists and Michiganders alike.

Upcoming events include Spring Farm Days April 22-25; Civil War Remembrance, May 30-31; Colonial Life, June 26-27 and Celebration of Emancipation Aug. 7-8.

Michigan Cafe

Where: Inside the Henry Ford Museum, Oakwood Boulevard and Village Road, (west of the Southfield Freeway and south of Michigan Ave.) Dearborn, call (313) 271-1620 for information.
Open: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
Menu: Entrees, soups, salads, sandwiches desserts that showcase Michigan specialty food items.
Cost: Entrees $5.50 to $6.25; soups $2.95; salads $3 to $5.75; sandwiches $2.95 to $4.95; desserts $1.40 to $3.50
Children's menu: Available
Coming events:
Greenfield Village celebrates Spring Farm Days, Friday-Sunday, April 22-25 see what life was like and farms during the 18th and 19th centuries, activities range from sheep shearing, plowing, costumed presenters. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission $12.50, $11.50 seniors, $7.50 kids 5-12, members and children under 5 free.

HENRY FORD MUSEUM

Taste of Michigan: *Chef Jim Maier of the all-new Michigan Cafe at Henry Ford Museum serves up such specialty items as Great Lakes Whitefish Boat topped with dill sauce and puffed pastry and a Michigan Spinach Salad topped with Village Spiced Walnuts.*

WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, fax (248) 591-7279, or e-mail kwygonik@ oe.homecomm.net

Buddy's Pizza

Hosts the 23rd annual "A Slice of Life" a benefit for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday, April 19. All Buddy's locations including Livonia, 33605 Plymouth Road; and Dearborn, 22148 Michigan Ave. All you can eat pizza and salad tickets are $10 adults, $5 children (under age 10) and $8 for seniors (age 62 and up). Tickets available at the door, or call (313) 579-2100 for information.

Fusion

Celebration of French wine with "A Tour of France," 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 20 at Fusion, 34555 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. French wine importer Peter Weygand of Weygand-Metzler importing will share his passion for the complex flavors that characterize French wines, pairing them with Corporate Chef Jim Barnett's dishes. The cost is $75 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Call (248) 489-8854.

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