

Westland Observer

Thursday
August 19, 1999

Serving the Westland Community for 35 years

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 22

WESTLAND, MICHIGAN • 70 PAGES • <http://observer-eccentric.com>

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

TV Book: The Observer Newspapers have discontinued the TV cable guide. Reader surveys have shown that the guide hasn't been popular with the majority of our readers. We will continue to focus our attention on improving other aspects of your newspaper. We apologize for any inconvenience.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Cool for school: It's an end-of-summer tradition ... parents and children heading to stores to shop for school clothes. And for today's students, clothes sporting name brand logos are hot, hot, hot. /B1

AT HOME

Respected residences: The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's Historic Home Tour presents outstanding examples of various architectural styles. /D6

ENTERTAINMENT

Festival: Every weekend, more than 200 actors reach out and touch the hearts of many people during the Michigan Renaissance Festival. /E1

Theater: The Actors' Company presents "The Emperor's New Clothes" at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia. /E2

REAL ESTATE

Carriage trade: Million-dollar homes are more than just shelter. /F1

INDEX

■ Crime Watch	A3
■ Classified Index	F5
Real Estate	F5
Crossword	G2
Jobs	G5
Home & Service	J2
Automotive	J3
■ Opinion	A12-13
■ Calendar	B4
■ Sports	C1
■ Real Estate	F1

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Nature's glory



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Floral beauty: Flowers adorn the median of Central City Parkway in Westland. The flowers are a city responsibility and are planted and maintained by Davey Commercial Grounds Management, said Scott Veldhuis, director of economic development for the city. The company maintains flowers on the parkway and Nankin Boulevard, including weeding, "which is an ongoing job," he said. "We try to have color all times of the year." Both annuals and perennials are featured. The city hasn't looked into having a garden club maintain the flowers, he said, due to safety/insurance concerns. "It can be a pretty dangerous situation."

Fire station outlook improves as HUD officials review plan

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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A glitch that threatens a new south-end fire station may be resolved, allowing Westland officials to jump-start the troubled project.

"It looks better than it did a couple of weeks ago," James Gilbert, Westland housing/community development director, said Monday. "We hit bottom, and now it's looking better."

Using \$1 million in federal dollars, city officials this summer had hoped to start building a long-awaited fire station southeast of Annapolis and Irene.

An adjacent park and a part-time, in-house community police officer also would be included.

Residents praised plans for a south-end station that city officials said would slash response time to fires and medical emergencies.

Westland's far southeast side is geographically separate from the rest of the city. Fire trucks rushing south also can become blocked at railroad tracks near Michigan Avenue.



Fire station: This is what's being sought.

City officials became dismayed in June to learn that the new station could be scuttled because of a minor glitch in population figures.

A review found that the south end - with 3,353 people -

Please see FIRE STATION, A2

Boy, 8, arrested in sex case

BY DARRELL CLEM
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An 8-year-old boy visiting a Westland apartment was arrested Sunday after he was accused of sexually assaulting a 3-year-old girl, a police sergeant confirmed.

But a Wayne County prosecutor said the boy isn't likely to face criminal

charges because of his age.

The boy was arrested after the girl's mother notified police about an incident that allegedly occurred at 4 p.m. Sunday at Willow Creek Apartments, on Newburgh south of Ford.

Using words befitting her age, the girl told her mother that the boy had sexually penetrated her, Sgt. Michael Terry

Please see CHARGED, A2

Lowe's garners approval for Source Club site use

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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Westland City Council members - high on Lowe's - gave sweeping support Monday to company plans for a local store that will employ 150 to 200 workers.

City leaders heaped praise on Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse for its plans to build a 135,000-square-foot business on the southwest corner of

Warren and Newburgh.

"I think it's a great thing to see something happen with that site," Councilman Glenn Anderson said.

Lowe's intends to demolish the former Source Club store - closed since February 1994 - and build anew on prime commercial land.

The company is expected to start its project "very quickly" after receiving site plan approval Monday from the seven-member council, Lowe's site

development manager Joseph Hilton said.

Lowe's hopes to open for business next May - competing with companies like Home Depot in neighboring Canton Township.

"Home Depot is not going to be happy, but we are," Councilman Richard LeBlanc said Monday.

Council members and Mayor Robert Thomas conceded that they shop in Canton for their home-improvement

needs - but they said that'll change. "I'd like to do my business, when I buy those types of items, in my town," Anderson said.

The Lowe's plan comes as city leaders celebrate a spurt of redevelopment on several key commercial properties.

"I don't know how we did it, but I love it," Councilman Charles "Trav" Griffin said.

"It sure comes at the right time," he

Please see LOWE'S, A2

Opening of waiting list prompts a waiting line

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER
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The waiting list opening this week for the first time since 1990 brought a long line to Holliday Park Townhouse Cooperative in Westland.

"They're hearing that we're opening our waiting list," said property manager Richard Tebbe. There are about 100 left from the 1990 list.

Tebbe agreed the crowd was a pleas-

HOUSING

ant one, many chatting and playing cards. Philip DeBlock of Detroit was among those in line.

"I'm looking for a little larger place," said DeBlock, a bachelor recently retired from the city of Detroit. "This seems to be a good quality place to live

Please see WAITING, A11

Textron tax cut nixed

■ Textron Automotive came asking for a 12-year tax break and got the thumbs down from the Westland City Council. The business on Newburgh employs 337 people making automotive interior parts.

BY DARRELL CLEM
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Textron Automotive has been denied a 12-year tax break that would have siphoned hundreds of thousands of dollars from Westland tax revenues.

Refusing to budge, Westland council members Monday rejected a 50 percent tax break that Textron sought for a \$12 million project at its 1515 S. Newburgh plant.

Textron, which employs 337 people and makes automotive interior parts, plans to expand and add injection molding operations to its Westland facility.

Elected leaders cited a strong economy in refusing tax breaks that city officials readily handed out to spur growth during once-sluggish times.

"Most of our industrial parks are filled up now," Mayor Robert Thomas said.

City Assessor James Elrod estimated that Textron tax breaks would have resulted in lost tax revenues of \$127,000 a year.

That includes \$41,000 in city general operating dollars - money that Councilman David Cox said would pay for two police cars.

Textron will continue to benefit through 2003 from a tax break that started in 1987, Councilman Glenn Anderson said.

"I think the city has been very good ... to Textron," he said, adding later, "I really don't see anything to benefit the city in this (new) arrangement."

Textron officials didn't threaten to abandon the Westland plant without more tax breaks, known as abatements.

Company officials indicated that Textron will expand to occupy part of the Newburgh Road building long shared with Technicolor Video Services.

Technicolor Video is consolidating its operations and moving 178 workers to the company's Livonia plant - after receiving tax breaks there.

Textron attorney Christopher Wylie pointed out that Technicolor is leaving and receiving tax breaks elsewhere while Textron can't get help despite plans to stay in Westland and expand.

Wylie also said businesses didn't receive the same level of tax breaks as residential property owners from 1994's voter-approved Proposal A, which cut school taxes and raised the Michigan sales tax.

Please see TEXTRON, A6



Wait: Sam Poma and Mary Triliski (left), Robin Gadowski and Diana Martin (right) were waiting to get on the list since 8:15 a.m. Sunday.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Town Hall set for Sept. 9

Mayor Robert Thomas has scheduled his next Town Hall meeting for 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9, at the Willow Creek Apartments clubhouse, 1673 Fairwood, off of Newburgh

near Marquette.

Residents may take their concerns or comments to the mayor and his administration during the forum.

Fire station from page A1

had five residents too many above the low- to moderate-income threshold to qualify for federal help, Gilbert said.

The news rattled residents when word spread that the fire station may not be built. John Franklin, vice president of the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association, described himself as "shocked and shaken."

Now, however, officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are reviewing the plan and studying documents it received from the city.

City officials say they believe the south end meets federal guidelines for the fire station – and they hope HUD will agree after finishing its review.

The battle to save the fire station has been waged from Westland to Detroit to Washington, D.C., where U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Ann Arbor, has joined the fight.

City officials say the fire station is critical not only for residents' safety – but also for continuing a housing revitalization plan already taking shape in the south side's Carver subdivision.

"HUD is re-evaluating it and looking at options that will make it eligible without compromising the integrity of the program," Gilbert said. "They're looking at a number of options."

Gilbert wasn't sure exactly when HUD would issue a ruling on the fire station.

Fund-raiser is scheduled

The Committee To Elect Mike Kehrer for Westland City Council will hold a fund-raiser Wednesday, Aug. 25. Doors will open 7 p.m., with a chance to meet Kehrer and his supporters (open bar).

A comedy show will follow 8:15 p.m. featuring professional comedians who have performed at comedy clubs. The event will

be at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1661 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Price is \$35 per person.

The Observer will run submitted announcements of Westland City Council candidate fund-raisers on a space-available basis. Information should be in writing.

Lowe's from page A1

added, referring to a council election year.

Lowe's is expected to hire 150 to 200 Westland employees ranging from stock clerks to managers – employees who will be offered stock options, retirement benefits and other advantages, Hilton said.

Lowe's sells lumber and home-improvement items, and it also has a garden center. It is based in North Wilksboro, N.C., and

has annual sales topping \$10 billion.

"We're just super happy to see you come to town," council President Sandra Cicirelli told company representatives Monday.

Lowe's chose to tear down the old Source Club because the building didn't suit the company's needs.

The new Lowe's building will actually be about 10,000 square feet larger than the Source Club.

■ Lowe's sells lumber and home-improvement items, and it also has a garden center.

Charged from page A1

said. The mother was napping at the time.

"The boy denies this incident," Terry said. "He's saying it did not happen."

The boy was visiting from another Willow Creek apartment where his mother had left him with his baby sitter, a cousin, Terry said.

"He was arrested and booked, but the Wayne County youth home couldn't take him because of his age," Terry said. "He was released to his parents because of his youthful age, pending charges in juvenile court."

This case involves the youngest sex-offender suspect that Terry said he has ever encountered in his 26 years with the Westland Police Department. The boy is only 3-foot-6.

"I've never handled one this young," Terry said. "The youngest until now was 11."

Terry said the girl's mother is upset about the allegations.

Police have sent the case to Wayne County juvenile court, but prosecutor Charles Kellett – unfamiliar with the specific Westland incident – said generally the suspect isn't likely to

face charges.

"A 3-year-old complainant is not a competent witness," Kellett said Tuesday.

Typically, he said, the boy would face orders to receive help such as counseling.

"That's generally what we do with kids (this age)," Kellett said.

The only way the boy might be considered for other penalties would be if the girl suffered medically documented injuries or if an adult witnessed the sexual assault, he said.

Even then, the boy "just barely makes the cut to be charged with an offense," Kellett said.

Sgt. Terry said the girl didn't appear to have suffered any visible injuries.

"She didn't appear initially to be physically injured," he said, "but I wouldn't want to say she wasn't."

Generally in such cases, Kellett said he wouldn't recommend criminal charges against a suspect younger than 9 years old.

"That's about the lowest (age) I would ever even consider it," he said. "And it would depend on the facts."

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Owner reports theft of booze

A Nankin Mills Tavern owner told police that someone broke into his business between 3:30 a.m. and 8:40 a.m. Sunday and stole five cases of liquor worth \$500 and miscellaneous bottles valued at \$140.

The owner also said the intruder took a \$10 coin box and destroyed a \$1,000 video game.

The owner found that a window had been opened, a screen knocked out, two doors opened and a phone line cut inside the 33700 Ann Arbor Trail business.

There are no suspects.

Baby formula theft

A supermarket manager reported being attacked by a man who tried to steal 25 cans of baby formula from Farmer Jack, 34414 Ford Road, shortly after 1 p.m. Sunday.

The manager told police the man got a cardboard box from the produce section, placed baby formula in it and tried to leave without paying for it.

The manager told police he confronted the man outside the store but was attacked, kicked and punched. He said the man then fled on foot.

The baby formula bandit was described as white, 35 to 40 years old, stocky and tan. He

CRIME WATCH

had dark hair and was unshaven.

Car break-in

A 23-year-old Canton woman told police that her 1999 Ford F-150 truck was broken into while it was parked outside a Westland bar, The Pitstop, 35230 Central City Parkway, between 11 p.m. Saturday and 4 a.m. Sunday.

She reported missing \$600 in cash; a \$100 cell phone; \$300 in music CDs; a \$200 pair of sunglasses; a \$300 gold watch; a \$50 black leather purse; and a \$1,500 gold and silver tennis bracelet.

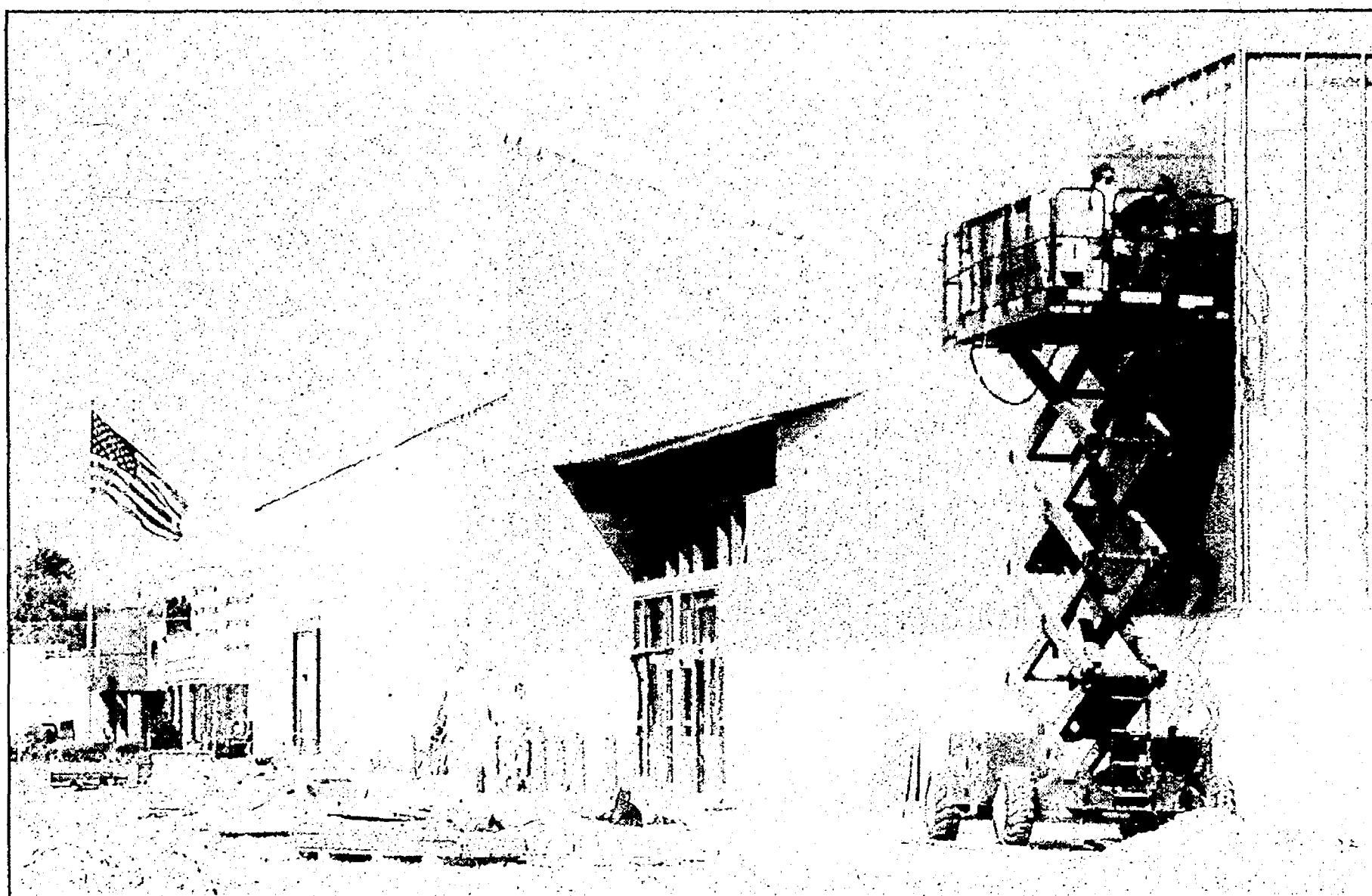
She knew of no suspects and told police she wanted to report the incident for insurance purposes.

Business break-in

A Westland woman reported that Appliance One - a business she owns with her husband at 1912 S. Venoy - was entered by an intruder between 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Reported missing was a \$30 metal box containing checks and miscellaneous papers.

Best-Buy



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Sign of change: The former Handy Andy is becoming a Best Buy. The future store site is on the northwest corner of Central City Parkway and Wayne Road. It will be some 45,000 square feet, said Best Buy spokeswoman Joy Harris. The current store on Central City Parkway, which opened in 1993, will likely close in early 2000, she said, and new stores generally open shortly after the former sites close.

One-time grants to libraries have directors feeling thankful

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Library directors in Westland and Garden City have a lot to smile about.

The two libraries, in addition to libraries in Wayne and Inkster, have received \$50,000 grants that can be used for non-operational expenses such as materials, minor renovations, equipment, books and other materials. The individual libraries received the news Friday.

State Rep. Thomas Kelly, D-Wayne,

helped secure the one-time grants for the four communities, which come from the arts, cultural and quality of life funding under the state Department of Management and Budget.

Kelly had originally asked for the four \$50,000 grants and for \$1 million grants for Garden City and Inkster. The \$1 million grants were rejected by the state House Appropriations Committee.

"So I'm very, very happy this went through. At least I got something out of this Republican Legislature," he said.

The funds go above and beyond the regular funding libraries receive, Kelly said, and will not cause the regular funding to decrease in any way.

"In the big picture, sometimes libraries get overlooked. I'm ecstatic that they got their just rewards this time," Kelly commented.

Library directors for Westland and Garden City both said they were happy about the news. Neither has decided how the funds, which will go directly to the library boards, will be used.

Westland Library Director Sandra Wilson said the grant was great news for the library. She said she was just beginning to find out how the funds can be used.

"I was pleasantly surprised when we got the news," Wilson said.

"I haven't gotten any details," said Garden City Library Director Joan Elmouchi. "But we're totally thrilled. We're surprised and we're appreciative. Very, very appreciative. It will be a huge benefit."

Westland Library Director Sandra Wilson said the grant was great news for the library. She said she was just beginning to find out how the funds can be used. 'I was pleasantly surprised when we got (the news).'

Westland ponders setting fees for business fire protection

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER
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Westland businesses could end up paying fees for fire prevention services.

"Several communities are already sponsoring fees for these types of activities," said Fire Chief Mark Neal during a Monday Westland City Council study session. "Some of these fees are pretty minimal."

Fees could range from \$30 for a mom and pop-type party store on up to \$150 or so for a large business, such as Textron, he said.

Council members had questions for Neal and Patrick Harder, assistant fire chief/fire marshal. Council President Sandra Cicirelli recommended a subcommittee to study the matter.

Neal suggested a fee for testing sprinkler systems. Use of the hydrant system in a fire can break the main, he said, requiring repairs. Insur-

ance will pay for hydrant use, said Neal.

"It would not be unreasonable to look at some way to recoup these costs."

Harder described the proposed fees as an "educated guess" on time spent and cost of inspection. "We're not really looking at a money producer." Most Westland businesses are visited once a year, Harder said.

The fire department has some 150 alarms per year requiring hydrant use. "Most fires can be extinguished with the water on board," Neal said.

Cicirelli asked which tricity communities currently charge businesses for fire prevention services, and asked about billing.

"We're going to run into people who have difficulty paying," Neal said. "We're very attuned to taking care of people when they're in trouble."

The city charges for building inspection and other services, Neal said. It will be up to the council to study and decide, he said.

Pastor's pulpit found in theater

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
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Chris Cramer, pastor of the new Orchard Grove Community Church, hopes people line up for worship services as readily as when the Old Orchard Theater showed movies and dished out the popcorn.

"We are open to everyone. You don't have to be dressed up. You don't have to have your act together," said the Westland resident, formerly the youth pastor at Detroit World Outreach in Redford.

"That keeps a lot of people from church - that they have to get it together before they come. God put on a human body so he could relate to us."

The new church opened in the vacant theater building on Orchard Lake Road, just north of 12 Mile, a couple of weeks ago. "We have a month-to-month agreement with the owner," Cramer said.

An application has been made to the city of Farmington Hills for a change in occupancy, as required, Cramer added.

Dale Countegian, Farmington Hills community development director, said that a church is allowed in the office district in which the theater sits. "The only issue will be whether the church uses or plans to use the land on



Chris Cramer

the other side for a playground for kids or something like that. They have to go to the planning commission to use that property."

Site controversy

The acreage on which the theater sits has been the center of some controversy as owner Ari Leibovitz of Ari-El Development has attempted to have property he owns in the adjoining subdivision rezoned from residential to parking. The city council and planning commission refused. And so has the Zoning Board of Appeals. Without the rezoning, Leibovitz, who specializes in revitalizing commercial property. The ZBA's denial allowed Lei-

bovitz to sue city in Oakland County Circuit Court.

The next step in the lawsuit is for the city to respond to Leibovitz's legal allegations.

Residents on Park Hills behind the theater have opposed Leibovitz's attempts to rezone the property for parking, which the developer claims is necessary to redevelop his 8.5 acres.

Leibovitz did not respond to the Observer's inquiries. He also owns bank property immediately north of the theater.

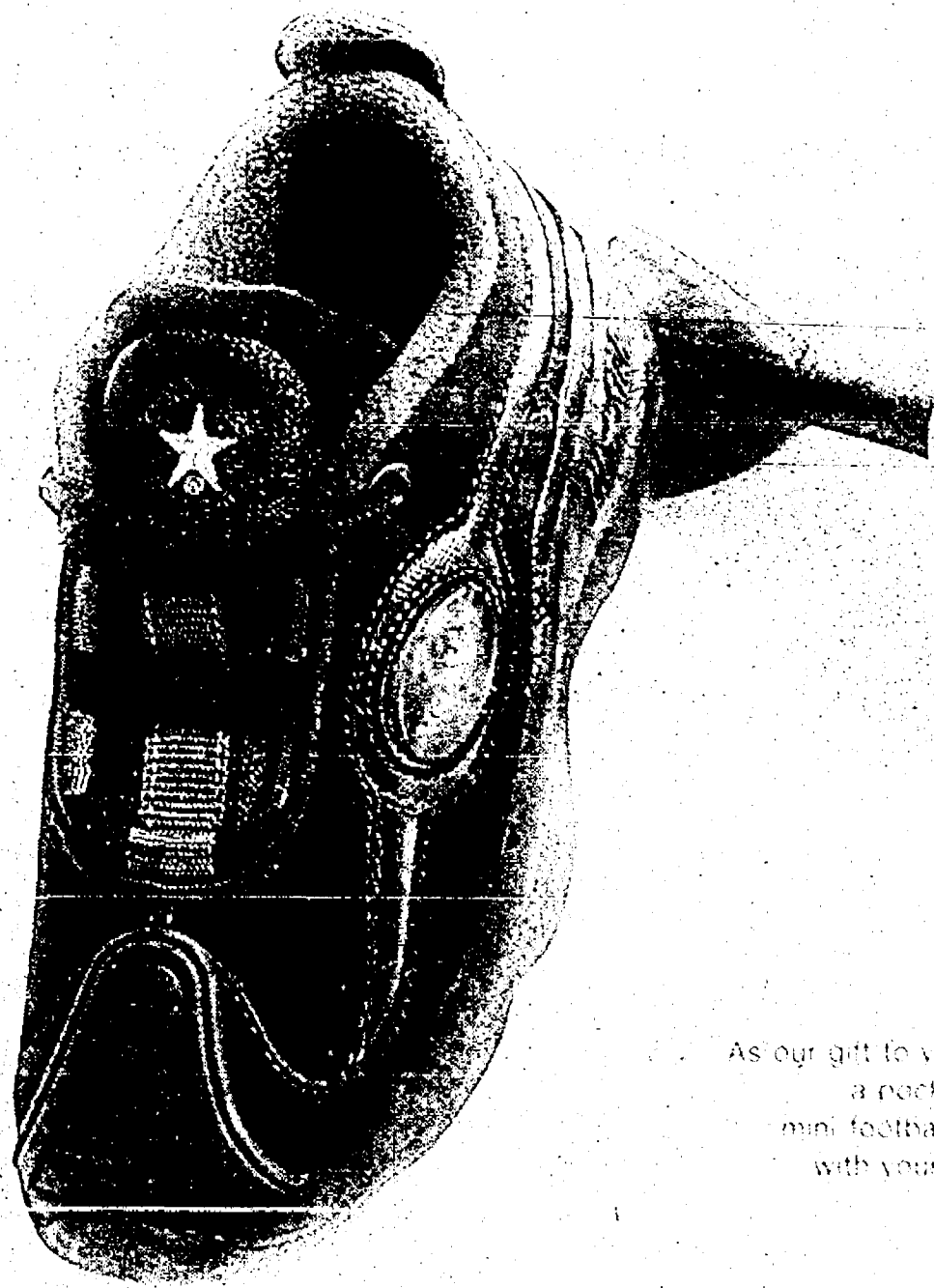
Meanwhile, Cramer and his colleagues are using two of the theaters for church activities. Painting is the first order of business. A church member who is a painter brought Cramer two colors from which to choose: pearly gates and divinity. Maybe it was coincidental.

"We chose divinity. But not for any spiritual reason. We just like the color," Cramer said, adding the lighter-colored walls will brighten the interior. In another theater, the church's youth plan to renovate the area for their programs.

"We are looking for a more permanent location," Cramer said. Church members previously met at West Bloomfield High School. Besides the fact that the old theater was empty, Cramer

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Please see PASTOR, A1

MichCon stresses 'customer responsibility' on billing

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
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Claiming MichCon wants to "encourage greater personal accountability among consumers," the gas utility company is seeking permission from the Public Service Commission to cut the time customers have to pay their bills and increase the

fees required for reconnect after service has been shut off.

"The idea of fostering greater personal responsibility is not new to Michigan having gained widespread support over the last few years as a major theme of Michigan Gov. John Engler's welfare reform strategies," according to the paperwork filed with the PSC by MichCon Vice President Howard Dow.

Michigan's Attorney General Jennifer Granholm calls that an insult. She argues the company is just trying to increase fees to its consumers, and she has filed an objection to the proposed change in the Billing Practice Rules.

If the change were to be approved, it would apply to all utilities in Michigan that supply gas and electric service. Detroit

Edison and Consumers Energy have joined in to support the request, according to Chris DeWitt, a spokesman for Granholm's office.

Although the proposal is actually two years old, little publicity has been given to it. A public hearing earlier this year received no public comment and a call for written input brought no objections. The time period

for submitting written comments to the PSC actually closed on Aug. 10.

Amy Messano, a spokeswoman for MichCon, said the public notification process is strictly up to the PSC, but notification of this proposal followed standard procedures.

Despite the attorney general's objection, MichCon will proceed with the request, which the PSC can now consider. Messano said she expects the PSC to rule by the end of the year. The starting date for the change, if approved, would be set by the PSC.

The intent is to get a small group of customers "who have been gaming the system" to pay bills on time, Messano said. Some customers know that MichCon does not cut off service for two or three months, she said. In combination with a 21-day billing cycle and a current five-day grace period, they put off paying their gas bills for long periods of time. She estimates MichCon lost \$12 million last year as a result.

"Most other businesses have 17-day billing cycles. Some utilities in other states have 10-day billing cycles," Messano explained. "We just want to modernize our billing system and get on a level playing field with other businesses ... If you have

\$26 left when you are paying bills, and another business has a 17-day bill, who is going to get paid first. It's not us."

She said the change will have no impact on the utility's programs to help low income customers and those who have trouble paying their bills.

"This is for those who can afford to pay but don't," Messano said.

Granholm argues the change will create customer confusion and will hit low income customers hardest.

She argues the proposed increases in deposits for new customers could "double the size of required deposits" and "create a significant barrier to universal access to gas and electric services essential to quality living."

Specifically, the changes would cut the billing due dates for utility payments from 21 days to 17. The grace period for late payments would be cut from five days to one.

Deposits for new customers would increase from twice the monthly average bill to three times the peak monthly bill. If the customer has been disconnected once in the last three years, the deposit required for reconnection would also increase to three times the peak monthly bill.

Commission moves ahead on choice plan

Utility customers may be allowed to choose alternative electric power suppliers beginning Sept. 20.

The Michigan Public Services Commission has requested that Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy notify it by Sept. 1 if they choose to "voluntarily implement" the customer choice program previously ordered by the commission.

The state's two largest electric utilities have already indicated they will comply with the program which will allow electricity suppliers to compete for customers.

The commission set the deadline Tuesday and issued an order determining that it has the authority to proceed to implement its electric restructuring

orders issued in 1998, on a voluntary basis.

On June 29, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the commission "lacks the authority" to order the utilities to allow other power companies to compete and to mandate that the companies offer an experimental "retail wheeling" service.

The Michigan Supreme Court concluded that the decision to provide a new service lies within the province of the utility's management, not the commission's. After that ruling, Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy indicated they would proceed anyway with the state's plan to allow other companies to sell power in Michigan.

Tuesday's order provides Detroit Edison and Consumers

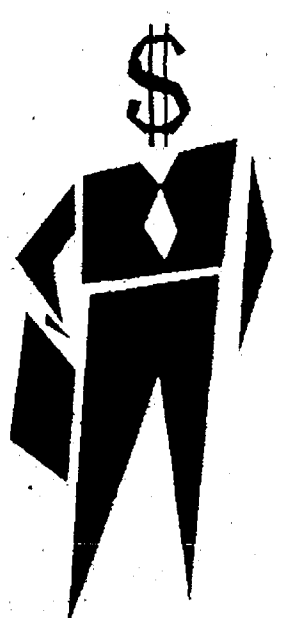
Energy with two options. If either company chooses to voluntarily implement the customer choice program, the utility's CEO must file a statement by Sept. 1 to that effect, including an affirmation that its board of directors has approved the implementation.

Once customers have begun taking open access service, this service is no longer a new service under the Michigan Supreme Court decision and the commission can regulate the rates, terms and conditions of service. If either company chooses not to implement the customer choice program, then the decision of whether to require the companies to do so will rest with the Michigan Legislature.

Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy provide electric

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Textron from page A1

City officials took no pity, denying Textron's 12-year plan and saying it's time Textron paid its fair share of taxes.

"I think in this competitive market Textron can compete without this abatement," Councilman Charles "Trav" Griffin said.

Council watcher Dorothy Smith agreed.

"I know every citizen in Westland would like to have a tax break for the next 12 years," she said, even before council members cast their votes Monday. "All I hear is that taxes are going up."

Just in case council members had been favoring Textron's plan, Smith reminded them of an anti-tax abatement resolution

they adopted in 1993.

City officials said privately that it would be costlier for Textron to relocate than to pay the \$127,000 in taxes it hoped to avoid with new abatements.

But Wylie did indicate that Textron will consider its options in coming years.

"Textron will make investments where those investments

give the greatest return," he said.

City officials remain fiercely dedicated to phasing out tax abatements that began in the late 1970s, when communities fought to attract new business.

Westland still has 24 such tax breaks in effect, amounting to \$241,000 in lost revenues each year.

Auto crash probe continuing

A 16-year-old Novi boy remained hospitalized in intensive care late Monday after being injured in a one-car crash on I-275 in Livonia last week.

The boy was not wearing a seat belt when he was ejected from a 1993 Honda Accord after losing control of it on the freeway's northbound lanes about 9:30 p.m. Aug. 12, said Livonia Police Department Lt. Kevin Dawley. A passenger, a 16-year-

old Northville boy, was belted and suffered minor injuries.

The driver was taken to Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, then to the University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor.

There were no signs that drugs or alcohol were involved in the crash, Dawley said.

The investigation is continuing.

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 8, 1999.

#107B, Sit Plan Approval for Proposed Addition to Four Chaplains Convalescent Center, 38249 Joy Road, Parcel #01-99-0058-000, South of Joy Road, West of Inkster Road, NE-1, Thomas G. Rau (James Pappas)

#1490C, Sit Plan Approval for Proposed Addition to Art Van Furniture, 8300 Wayne Road, Parcels #014-02-0025-000, 0026-000 and -014-99-0002-702, East Side of Wayne Road, South of Joy Road, NW-4, Michael Rupert.

#1901B, Revised Site Plan Approval for Proposal Assisted Living Facility (The Lodge), Parcel #029-99-0012-001, South of Warren, East of Central City Parkway, NE-8, Dean Solden.

#2003B, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Elder Source Senior Assisted Living Facility, Parcel #015-00-0007-707, South Side of Nankin Boulevard, West of Wayne Road, SW-4, D.A. Swantko (James Pappas)

#2012, Proposed Rezoning from R-1 to I-1, (Single Family Residential to Light Industrial), Parcels #026-99-0032-001 and -0032-002, South Side of Warren Road, West Hix Road, NW-7, Patrick J. Norton (Melvin Guthrie III). (Parking Hearing held on July 7, 1999)

#2016, Proposed Split of Lot No. 250 of Wayne Highland Subdivision No. 3, North Side of College Avenue, North of Cherry Hill, East of Wayne Road, SW-16, Janine Kateff.

#2017, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Auto Glass Specialist, Parcel #45-99-0018-002, West Side of Wayne Road, South of Ford Road, NE-17, Dale Lentz.

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: August 19, 1999

L917018

CARRIER OF THE MONTH: WESTLAND

Michelle MacPhail, 13, of Westland is the August Carrier of the Month for the Westland Observer.

MacPhail, daughter of Mary, has two brothers, Donald, 11, and Alex, 1, and a sister, Amanda, 5. She is a ninth-grader at Livonia Franklin High School, where she maintains an A-/B+ average. Her favorite subjects in school are social studies and science. Honors/achievements include being on the honor roll.

In her free time, she enjoys swimming, playing the violin and shopping. MacPhail plans to attend the University of Michigan and become a teacher.



Michelle MacPhail

If you want to be a Westland Observer carrier, please call 591-0500.

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Tuesday, August 24, 1999, the Westland Police Dept. will conduct Public Auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 A.M. 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:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
87	DODGE	RAIDER WGN	BLUE	JB7FJ43E0HJ001502
86	BUICK	SKYHAWK 2 DR.	WHITE	1G4JS27P7GK409507
85	FORD	RANGER PICKUP	BLUE	1FTBR10A7FUC12036

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00 A.M. 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:

83	CHRYSL	4 DR. NEWYORKER	BLUE	2C3BF66PXDR183695
88	ACURA	4 DR. INTEGRA	BLUE	JH4DA1748JS007330
80	GMC	PU	WHITE	TCT23A1550202
92	FORD	EXPLORER	BLUE	1FMCU24X9NUA07691
88	GMC	PU SIERRA	MAROON	1GTF2C24K7JE531953
84	PONTIAC	BONNEVILLE 4 DR.	BROWN	2G2AN69A1E2274466
85	BUICK	CENTURY 4 DR.	SILVER	1G4AL19R9FT409975
86	NISSAN	STANZA WGN	TAN	JN1HM05S9GX008376
94	FORD	PICKUP	BURG	1FTEF15NXXRLA46929
83	GMC	PICKUP	RED	1GTBS14B0D2521704
83	OLDS	CUTLASS 2 DR.	WHITE	1G3AR47A0DM558204

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.

Publish: August 19, 1999.

L916740

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

A new Volunteer Newsletter will be started at the Public Library of Westland. Its purpose is to inform volunteers and potential volunteers of the various volunteer needs of the library. It will briefly describe the requirements of the task along with the day and date the volunteer is needed. In addition, the number of volunteers required for the specific task will be listed. In an effort to expand its volunteer program, the library will designate each task with an age-appropriate tag. Anyone interested in receiving the Volunteer Newsletter can call Joe Burchill, volunteer coordinator, at (734) 326-6123.

WEB SITE OF THE WEEK

• **www.michworks.org**
This is the Michigan Talent Bank, the largest national Internet-based labor exchange available to job seekers and employers. Those seeking work can post resumes and search postings for a variety of occupations from construction worker to computer engineer. Employers who register on the Talent Bank (there is no charge for this) can review resumes and post their job openings. On-line instructions are available to the job seeker and employer. A toll-free telephone number connects those with questions to someone with answers.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

• **Internet 101: How To Search the Internet for Information**
This is the second in the series of Internet classes. Included are such topics as how to search the Internet using various search engines and how to select the best search engine for your search. It is recommended that you take Internet 101 before attending this class. Class capacity 25. No fee. No registration, so seating is on a first available basis. 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25.

• **Adult Book Discussion Group**
7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, Group

INFORMATION CENTRAL PUBLO LIBRARY OF WESTLAND

Meeting Room C. "Fifty-two Pickup" by Elmore Leonard. These are informal, open forum discussions on noteworthy books. Discussions are held in Group Meeting Room C. Call and reserve your copy today. No fee. No registration required.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

• **Bead Buddies Craft**
2-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21
A super summer craft activity for young people in grade five and up. Make your buddy with beads and string. Hang your buddy on your key ring or your bracelet. No fee. Registration required.

FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES

• **Big Book Sale**
The Friends of the Library will hold their semiannual sale Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 21-24.

• **Volunteer Opportunities**
Processing partner
Age appropriate for: teen, family, adult, senior. Two volunteers Saturday, Aug. 21, four hours. Two volunteers Monday, Aug. 30, four hours. Volunteers will prepare new videos, CD-ROMs, cassettes and music CDs for the library. Training provided. Call Jane Zemba at (734) 326-6123.

Clerical partner
Age appropriate for: adult, senior. One volunteer Wednesday, Aug. 25, two hours. Volunteer will remove expired files and count them. Call Joe Burchill at (734) 326-6123.

Reprocessing partner
Age appropriate for: teen, family, adult, senior. Two volunteers Monday, Aug. 30, two hours. Volunteers will pull new books from the shelves, remove new labels and change their code on the library computer. Training provided. Call Jane Zemba at (734) 326-6123.

Read Sports today

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, 48185-2298, on **September 1, 1999, at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions) for the following:

Removal and Installation of Flooring at Municipal Ice Arena

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office. A site visitation is suggested. For appointments, please contact Matthew Gorman at 732-729-4560. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

JILL B. THOMAS
Purchasing Agent
City of Westland

Bid Item: MSB-090199
Publish: August 19, 1999

L917020

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House leader says he learned basics in the Army

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

"Please ..." state Rep. Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills, retorted, his voice dripping with disdain.

He was talking about his status as a reservist in the U.S. Army. Having joined at age 17, with the approval of his parents, Raczowski went to basic training and advanced infantry training at Fort Benning, Ga., between his junior and senior years at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills.

Today, he's a company commander with the rank of captain. He is paratrooper and pathfinder qualified. He goes to training one weekend a month and for one 18-day exercise each year.

So, the question was whether that gave him a sense of kinship with Sen. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield, a fellow reservist as well as a fellow state lawmaker.

"... He's a Navy man," Raczowski said.

Apparently, some rivalries run deeper than party affiliation.

Raczowski, "Rocky" to friends and constituents because they have trouble pronouncing his last name, "Ratch-koff-sky," takes obvious pride in his military involvement. His office in Lansing sports a number of army-oriented toys, including a stuffed bear wearing camouflage and a mechanical infantry soldier, which crawls and shoots a machine gun. But he's serious about it.

"The military is boot camp for the body," he explains. "People ask me why I went to law school if I don't intend to be a lawyer. Law school is boot camp for the mind."

The army has also taught him leadership skills, skills he said



Military look: State Rep. Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills, decorates his office with army type toys, a reminder of his service in the Army Reserve.

he is now using in his role as a state legislator. In his second term, he has already risen to the post of House majority floor leader. That puts him second in command in the House Republican caucus, he said, and his job is to manage the schedule as proposals come to the floor for a vote. Essentially, he's in the center of all the activity, offering up each item up for action to the chair during sessions of the House of Representatives.

Raczowski says he doesn't like to talk much about his political ambitions, it puts people off, but he does admit he's interested in running for House speaker in the year 2000. He hasn't made a decision, he said. And he won't until January. Rep. Pan Godchaux, R-Birmingham, has

already announced her interest in that post.

"I enjoy politics," is his only response to questions about his plans.

Current House Speaker Chuck Perricone, R-Kalamazoo Township, is often criticized for his leadership style, as being too dictatorial. He's been accused of pushing the GOP agenda too quickly at the expense of hearing out the minority view.

Raczowski won't comment on Perricone's style, or on the criticisms, but he does say his leadership style would be different. He said he believes there is time to hear out all views.

"You don't think of the military teaching you compassion for those you lead, but it does. You have to have their respect," he

explained.

Raczowski is still quite young to be in such a leadership role in state government at 30. Born to immigrants, Raczowski speaks, reads and writes Polish, although he grew up in Farmington Hills.

"They (mom and dad) achieved the American dream ... They came here with nothing, just the shirts on their backs, and a willingness to work hard. They taught me that," he said.

And that is how he approached campaigning in his first attempt at state office at age 24. He lost to Jan Dolan, but came back as the underdog the next time around and won the seat at age 26.

"Nobody gave me a chance of winning, this young little snout from Farmington Hills. And when we won, it gave me the opportunity to prove to them that young people should not be underestimated. They are a great wealth, if we challenge them. If you don't challenge them, you lose a whole generation. If you challenge them and expect more out of them, you will get more out of them."

Still, his "first love," he said, is his business.

"I started that in 1993 with \$500 in my pocket and going to an auction in Ohio where I bought one printing press," he said. "An A.B. Dick press, we still have it. It sits off in the corner. It's going fairly well. We are growing it (the business) slowly."

Raczowski recently moved the business from Eastpointe to Madison Heights. Called Mainline Communications, it specializes in printing, marketing and advertising, producing everything from business cards to annual reports. The business now has about 3,000 square feet of space and three employees. He's still actively involved in the operation of the business.

Raczowski has other ambitions. He's quite open about his hopes of starting a family and

having kids. But he hasn't met the right woman yet. And how will he do that given all the time he spends working on his business, in the legislature and in the reserves?

"I don't know," is his only answer.

Of course, with term limits in effect, he has only a term and a half left to serve. That will force him up or out, he said.

Raczowski campaigned for term limits and he still strongly supports them. He believes they've changed the way the legislature operates. There is less pressure on members to vote with the party line. Vote trading, which Raczowski said is distinctly different than compromising, is something he considers unethical. The result is that there is less party discipline and

members have only a few years to push for their agendas. That means they act more often according to their conscience.

Even though he has limited time left in the House, Raczowski explained his desire to shy away from conversations about future political ambitions. "It makes you a target," and he said he already tries to be open to residents of his district. Since he is in a statewide leadership post, he also tries to be receptive to residents seeking to express a view from all across the state.

"I've made myself extremely accessible," he said. "My phone number is listed and I take calls at home. And for that there is a price. The price is that when I mow my lawn, people stop by to talk. And it takes me about four hours to cut my lawn."

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Metro opens 450-space parking lot

A new 450-space parking lot was opened last week at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

In keeping with the airport's color-coded theme, the lot is called the Red Lot. It is located on the East Service Drive across the street from the Northwest

cargo building with the 747 airplane painted on the side. The current Red-overflow lot at Lucas Drive and the East Service Drive will continue to serve as a backup parking lot when all other lots and the deck are full.

The new Red Lot is the third economy lot at Metro Airport

with a flat rate of \$6 per day or \$36 per week. If you park for six days, the seventh day is free. The new lot will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week with free shuttle service to all terminal buildings.

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Group issues 'wake up call' on local governments

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

Citizens Research Council of Michigan, the oldest independent public policy research group in the state, has issued a "wake up call" to local government.

There are too many local units of government, too many school districts, and too many special purpose units of government, like intermediate school districts and community colleges. That makes them inefficient. They overlap and are left to fight over limited resources. The taxation and financial structure for local government, as a result, is highly complex and confusing, even for those who are familiar with how it works.

"Local officials are going to have get past the fight to protect their turf," said Eric Lupher, senior research analyst for the CRC and author of the report. "This will probably require action from the state, if we really want it to happen. But left to their own devices, local governments probably will not move toward regionalization."

That's probably not what the Michigan Municipal League expected to hear when it called for the report during a Symposium on the Future of Local Government in Michigan back in June. It asked for five papers from a variety of researchers, including CRC, across the state on the challenges facing local government in the coming century.

What the CRC produced was a report called "A Bird's Eye View of Michigan Local Government at the end of Twentieth Century."

Local government was primarily designed in the last century and has been highly resistant to change, the report states.

"Despite the advances in communications and transportation, the geographic area of most local governments in Michigan continues to reflect the distances horses could travel in a day," the report concludes.

Michigan has a large number of local units and "the structures of many local units, particularly townships and counties, reflect the 19th century emphasis on a diffused executive function."

Michigan has 2,884 local units

of government, ranking it 14th among the 50 states. Michigan ranks seventh among the states in terms of general purpose local units, including 83 counties, 1,241 townships, 273 cities and 262 villages.

"Special-purpose local units include 564 school districts, 54 intermediate school districts, 28 community college districts, 14 planning and development regions, and 263 special districts and special authorities," the report concludes.

The report notes that a number of reforms have been proposed in recent years which would simplify local government, eliminating the village form of government, eliminating the distinction between cities and townships, providing more services on

a countywide basis, eliminating intermediate school districts and further consolidating school districts to reduce their numbers.

"The number of school districts has experienced a 92 percent decline since the turn of the century," the report stated. "It is argued that further reductions would lead to greater economies and efficiencies. Since Proposal A, school districts are much less dependent on property taxes. Consolidation would allow districts to reduce administrative costs to concentrate more dollars on classroom needs."

Additional improvements could be made if, "The number of local governments competing for limited resources could be reduced and small local governments could consolidate with

other units to expand the base of local resources," the report concludes.

It also suggests that adopting government structures "led by an executive" would be more efficient. Elimination of overlap in the power granted to various forms of local government is also recommended.

For its part, the Municipal League has yet to respond to the report. And phone calls to the organization this week were not returned.

Strong advocates of home rule, the Municipal League typically argues that the ability of local governments to set their own policy is often what gives communities their local flavor.

County sponsors one-day teachers institute on youth violence

A one-day institute will be conducted for teachers and administrators on youth violence and intervention methods from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 23, at the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency Annex, Room 3, 33500 Van Born Road, in Wayne.

Instructed by Eastern Michigan University's Comprehensive Education Assistance Center,

this class will explore the planning process and response guidelines for teachers and school administrators when confronted with violent acts by youths.

The class will explore bomb procedures, weapons discharge, acts of domestic terrorism including weapons of mass destruction, hostage situations and response capabilities should the affected school require law

enforcement tactical intervention.

The program will be built around an incident command structure that interfaces with law enforcement and fire response personnel.

The class will be taught by Skip Lawver, an assistant professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Technology, and William Dangler, a retired

Ypsilanti Township fire chief.

Lawver is the program coordinator for EMU's Public Safety Administration Program, directs tactical training program for law enforcement at EMU and teaches Special Weapons and Tactics classes and hostage rescue courses for law enforcement.

Lawver also teaches courses on foreign and domestic terrorism, arson investigation, haz-

ardous materials and incident command. He is also working with various law enforcement agencies as they prepare response plans for school systems across the state. Lawver is also the project administrator for Youth-At-Risk, a grant funded program.

Dangler teaches courses in the Public Safety Administration Program, including emergency

preparedness planning, incident command, foreign and domestic terrorism and issues in emergency preparedness. Dangler is also a response person for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and is currently training across the country on terrorism issues.

For more information or to register by phone, call (734) 487-0370.

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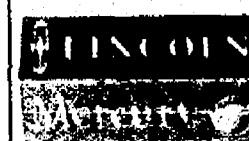
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JACK GLADDEN

How quickly adults forget

Why can't they be like we were ...
Perfect in every way?
What's the matter with kids today?

"Bye Bye Birdie" fans will recognize those more-than-slightly-tongue-in-cheek lyrics from that rock 'n' roll musical of the early '60s. The lament, of course, goes back to the beginning of mankind. Or, at least, to the second generation.

When Cain slew Abel, Adam probably shook his head and wondered, "What's the matter with kids today? So much violence."

Now anyone who has ever been the parent of a teenager knows that having such a creature around can sometimes be an unnerving experience. Often it can be quite maddening.

Yet, just how different are kids today? Were we, the adults, really "perfect in every way" when we were their age? Or, as we become more curmudgeonly in our middle years, are we losing both our patience and our memory?

Case in point: A colleague of mine noted that while residents and officials in Plymouth decry the practice of teenagers "cruising" in that western Wayne County community, another group of people is practically deifying the very same activity with the "Woodward Dream Cruise."

The Dream Cruisers, of course, date back to the '50s and '60s when drive-ins were the hangouts and drag racing down two-lane streets was a common (and illegal) practice. But that was *then* and this is *now*. That was *us* and this is *them*.

One of my favorite songs is "Okie from Muskogee." It's a favorite because of the lines that go:

We don't smoke marijuana in Muskogee

We don't take our trips on LSD

And white lightning's still the biggest thrill of all

Never mind that "white lightning" was just as illegal as marijuana. It was the drug of choice of the good ole boys. Marijuana was the drug of the long-haired hippies. Besides, white lightning was then and marijuana was now.

Then and now

Any time some "enterprising" writer comes up with a story about archaic laws that are still on the books somewhere, one of them is certain to be a law against "spitting on the sidewalk." That was then. Now Plymouth police apparently have decided that "sitting on the sidewalk" is equally abhorrent.

That was the case when a 15-year-old teenager was ticketed, fined \$210 and sentenced to 32 hours of community service for sitting on a downtown sidewalk. Technically, he was charged with "obstructing" the sidewalk. Some cynics tend to believe he was ticketed for being a teenager in Plymouth.

That colleague who brought up the Dream Cruise also made another point about modern society: "They've made it illegal to be a teenager."

Now and then

Before we get too despairing of "today's" teenagers, think back.

"West Side Story," that classic tale of rivalry and violence among teenage gangs, was brought to the screen in 1961, and before that it was a Broadway musical.

"Rebel Without a Cause," the James Dean classic promoted as "a challenging drama of today's teenage violence," was released in 1955.

"Reefer Madness," that hokey melodrama about teenage marijuana addiction, was first released in 1936 under the title "Tell Your Children." "Confessions of an English Opium Eater," telling the story of how opium could destroy your life, was published in 1821.

And, oh yes, "West Side Story" was loosely based on — you guessed it — "Romeo and Juliet," that ultimate Shakespearean romance that centered around the rivalry (and violence) of teenage gangs.

Yeah, teenagers can be pains in the behind. They can be obnoxious. Infuriating. Frustrating and maddening. But the truth is they always have been.

And we used to be them.

Jack Gladden, a copy editor for The Observer Newspapers, lives in Canton. Reach him by e-mail at jgladden@oe.homecomm.net.

COOL For SCHOOL

Kids favor brand names for back-to-school duds

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Carrying a stack of designer jeans and shirts at Mervyn's California, Scott Osinski, 11, believes that clothes definitely make a difference in social status at school.

The sixth grader from Belleville was shopping at the Westland store recently when he explained his logic.

"If kids wear geeky sweatshirts that their moms buy, they usually don't get any friends," Osinski said.

His mom said she allows Scott and his twin brother, Sean, to pick out most of their own clothes.

Another Mervyn's shopper, Brittany Ivan, 12, agreed with Osinski.

"Kids pay attention to clothes," said the Belleville resident. "People judge you by your clothes."

For the first time this year Brittany and her brother Josh won't be wearing school uniforms. Uniforms provided an easier routine every morning, because there wasn't any choice involved, but they were also more expensive.

And since there were dress down days at their previous school, their mother Brenda explained, her kids had to have the costly uniforms, as well as the other clothes.

Brittany said she was bored by the repetition of wearing the same thing everyday and was looking forward to what she could wear this school year.

"I got tired of the uniforms," she explained.

During an informal survey of area shoppers combing the racks of garments, mostly jeans, days before the school bells will ring in the new millennium school year, most mothers either guided their children away from designer clothes or begrudgingly paid the inflated prices.

Looking for logos

Standing outside the dressing room at Mervyn's, Sharon McGuire of Garden City was waiting for her daughter and son to emerge with their most recent picks. She was looking for anything with the Nike and Adidas logos.

"My 10-year-old (son), I can steer away from the name brands, but my 14-year-old (daughter) has gone to the dark side," McGuire said followed with a laugh. "I couldn't steer her away."

In Mervyn's children's department, Julie Dumtie, 5, was shopping with her mother, Sara, and brother, Michael, 7. Although she was wearing a hot green dress, Julie said she prefers pants for school.

Michael was a fashion statement in a B.U.M. T-shirt and Pipes shorts. In fact, the second grader prefers Pipes pants, too.

Lyn Taylor of Canton, who was shopping with her children, Jessica and Angela, at Meijer in Westland said tries to avoid designer clothes. But, every now and then something



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HIRSCHMAN

slips in.

Jessica, a sixth grader, was in the market for flared and carpenter jeans. Angela, a fourth grader, wanted Nike shoes. Their five-year-old brother, Joshua, will wear whatever mom buys.

Down the aisle from the Taylors, Eric Sopko, a second grader at Hulsing Elementary in Canton, was shopping with his mother, Karen and younger sister, Rachel. He wears only solid or stripes shirts, without designs. He also prefers long shorts and Nike shoes.

"It's inappropriate to have shirts with dinosaurs and stuff," he added.

His sister, Rachel, likes anything with Barbie on it.

Undaunted by the task ahead, Karen Sopko was ready to forge on.

"We've just begun," she said. "We're going to hit Kohl's and Target, too."

Robin Maslyk was disappointed with the styles offered in young girls' dresses for her daughter Lauren, 8. The styles were much too mature for a young girl, she added.

"She's not going to wear anything that's here," Robin Maslyk said. "My girl loves to wear dresses and I don't think these dresses are appropriate for this age bracket."

"We're not into the fads and for the most part, not the things that will come and go. We're into the traditional."

Her brother, Todd, is going into kindergarten and will wear what mom decides ... Case closed.

Maslyk wasn't ready to give up either.

"We stop and browse everywhere, because there's always that one piece that you find," she said.

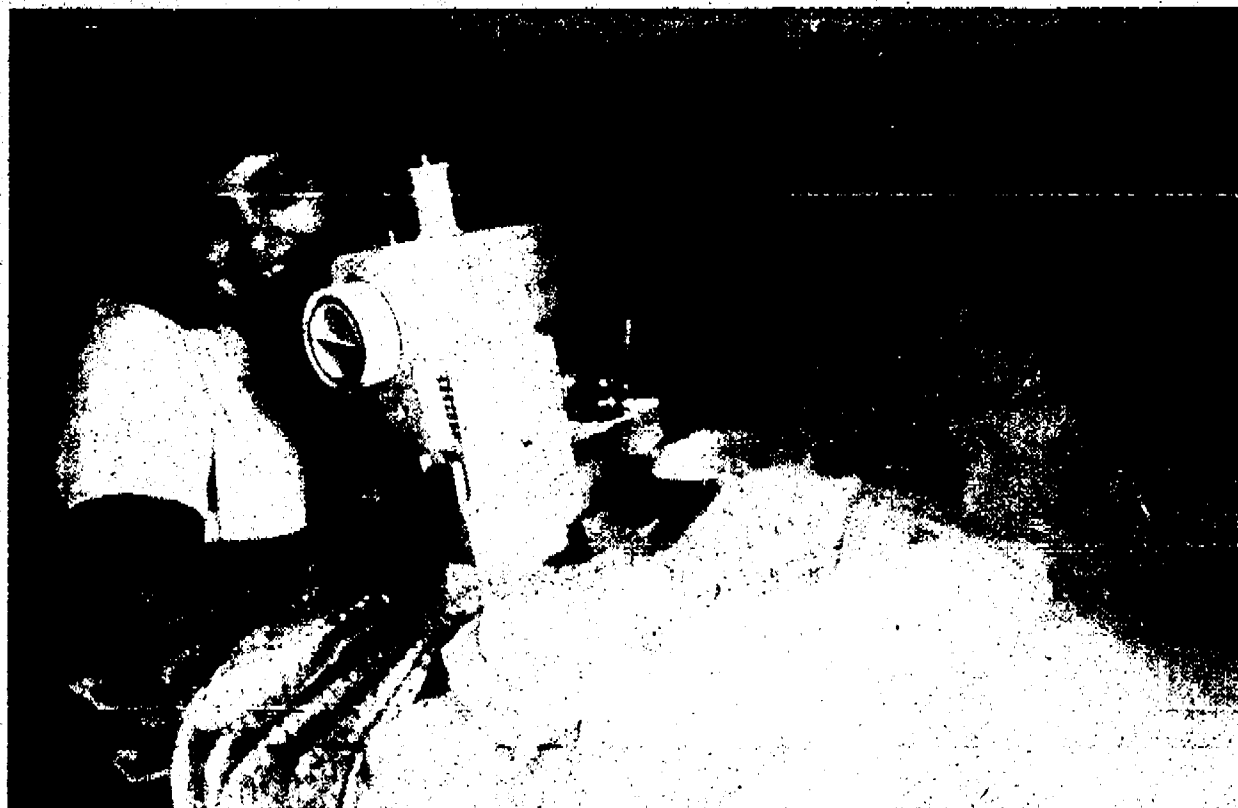
Kelli Clevenger, a 10-year-old from



Which ones?:
Checking for school clothes at the Meijer store in Canton, Heather Quinlan (photo above), 10, confers with her mother Nancy about a pair of jeans. Over in the shoes section, Angela Sunyog (photo at left), 9, tries on shoes under the watchful eyes of her mother Lynn, brother Joshua, 5, and sister Jessica, 11 1/2.

Angel Care cares for parents who grieve

Helping others: Mary Piontek has found a way to heal the wound of losing her premature son with Angel Care, a volunteer organization committed to comforting grieving families.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MICHELI

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

The needlework of strangers has touched Mary Piontek profoundly. Among her most precious possessions is a small handmade quilt and a blanket, the work of strangers made to comfort those who grieve.

The quilt, no bigger than a foot square, and blanket are for her son Andrew who was stillborn at 26 weeks on March 17.

"He was presented to me in his own special blanket," Piontek said. "It meant so much to me that someone would take the time to make a quilt for someone who died."

The blanket as well as making the cap and gown for her son's burial have inspired the Redford resident to form Angel Care, an organization committed to comforting grieving families.

Angel Care volunteers make, collect and distribute handmade blankets and burial gowns to St. Mary, Henry Ford, Providence and Huron Valley hospitals.

"They might not take the pain away, but a family can look at it and know someone else cares," she said.

Please see ANGEL CARE, B2

Please see CLOTHING, B2

Clothing from page B1

Several miles away at Parisian in Laurel Park Place, 15-year-old Dave MacFarland of Livonia said he likes American Eagle. The Stevenson High School student made a point of noting that he doesn't buy the ever popular and sometimes expensive, Tommy Hilfiger clothes, because the colors are too bright.

His friend, Rob Grisius, 15, said his school wardrobe will mostly consist of khakis and

jeans.

Lindsay Vierk, 13, came to Laurel Park Place from Grosse Ile with her mom. Her fall wardrobe will consist mostly of jeans, vests and T-shirts. She likes Hydraulic and Roxy, "because they fit me real well."

"And they're not as expensive," her mom whispered.

On the other hand, Cindy Nehme of Livonia, said her 13-year-old son, Adam, will only

look at Tommy Hilfiger clothes.

"That's the only thing he wants," she said. "That and Michael Jordan with the shoes."

Standing nearby, Adam was wearing a Tommy Hilfiger tank top and Tommy long shorts. The clothes in the bag he was holding all had Tommy Hilfiger logos.

A few feet away, Stefano Giamarco, a 13-year-old Northville middle school student, was shopping with his mom and twin

brother, Nicholas. The boys have an easy way of weeding out some of the people they know they don't want to be around.

If they're wearing the extremely baggy pants that drag below their shoes, it's a good indication the kids are into grunge, they agreed.

"Those people I don't go near," Stefano added.

Angel Care from page B1

Piontek, who started out by making several gowns for Huron Valley Hospital, has a half dozen volunteers who make everything from angel gowns for burial to caps, gowns, bonnets and booties in sizes for "teenie tiny micro-preemies to full-term babies."

The volunteers come from far and near. Her neighbor has been making full-sized clothing, while a woman in Pennsylvania who was touched by the idea has been crocheting gowns and blankets.

"Some volunteers have been touched by infant death, some are touched by the idea," Piontek said. "One woman who called said she didn't want to sound naive, but she didn't realize babies died."

The volunteers are making gowns that fit babies as small as 12 inches long and weighing only ounces to a full-term 8-pound infant. Caps fit infant heads as small as the size of a large walnut. Blankets in any form are as small as 12-15 inches square.

"I tell my volunteers that these are something money can't buy," Piontek said. "From my own personal experience, especially with a teenie tiny baby, you can't go to the store and buy clothes."

Some of the Angel Care patterns Piontek has found on the Internet, and some are actual doll patterns. While Piontek points out that doll clothes don't fit well, she admits using her daughter's dolls that are about preemie size to gauge if the gowns will fit.

Each gown and blanket comes with a tag, attached by a fancy diaper pin, that contains the angel story. The cards are meant

Helping Angel Care

In addition to volunteers, Angel Care is in need of angel gowns for burial, booties, caps and bonnets, blankets, fancy diaper pins and small handmade toys, teddy bears, bunnies and the like.

Clothing is needed in all sizes - micro preemie to full-term. Blankets can be in any form - knit, crochet, sewn - and be as small as 12-15 inches square. Baby patterns and colors are suggested.

The organization also is accepting donations of fancy

diaper pins to attach Angel Care cards to the gowns and blankets, fabric, yarn, trims and patterns to share with members of the group.

Patterns are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Angel Care, 15911 Kinloch, Redford 48239.

People interested in volunteering can call Angel Care at (313) 534-6496 or by e-mail at damary@voyager.net or www.mihometown.com/oc/angelcare.

to be a keepsake for the grieving family.

"I try to make everything keepable," said Piontek. "If the family chooses to bury their child in the gown or wrapped in the blanket, they can keep the card to create a memory."

Piontek got the angel story from her good friend and source of encouragement, Ruth Ann Thill, founder of Afghans for Angels. Like some of her patterns, Piontek found Thill on the Internet.

Started in 1996 following the death of Thill's nephew, Afghans for Angels has two chapters in north central Iowa which make and distribute baby blankets to local hospitals to give to parents who have suffered the loss of their infant through miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death.

"She's my good friend; I e-mail her every day," said Piontek.

"She's helped me with ideas and encouragement. She gave me the angel story that appears on the Angel Care tags. It says it all."

The hospitals have responded positively to Angel Care. Officials at Huron Valley thought her inquiry to do the gowns was "wonderful," while the chaplains at Providence have called asking for the patterns so they can help. Henry Ford requested more full-term gowns. To date, Angel Care has provided some 40 gowns to the hospitals.

St. Mary Hospital "luckily" hasn't had to use any of the Angel Care gowns and blankets to date, but Janet Sabo, nurse manager of the maternity center, is "sure they will be appreciated by the grieving families."

Different volunteers have provided the center with items, such as caps and knit hats at Christmas time, but nothing at the

level of Angel Care. Piontek not only delivered clothing and blankets, but literature on pregnancy loss to add to pamphlets the center already has, Sabo said.

"I'm very impressed with Mary; she more than anyone else understands the needs of grieving families," said Sabo. "I applaud her for taking her own grief and making it into something quite positive."

The answer was a "we need this woman" when Susan Klotz, nursing manager for labor and delivery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, received Piontek's letter about Angel Care. Because Henry Ford is a level one trauma center that accepts many high-risk cases, it has a high number of infant deaths.

The staff has always tried to have something, whether it was gowns provided by a few church groups or hospital T-shirts and blankets; for the families, but "certainly not as nice as what Mary brings in," Klotz said.

"It's nice to know we have a supply and it's helpful for the care provider," she added. "It's like a treat for the nurses when Mary brings in the gowns. They tend to get personal when things don't go well, and this way they can pick out a special outfit for the family."

Piontek hopes to get non-profit status for Angel Care and eventually have chapters in other states. An Angel Care brochure has generated an average of two calls a day about volunteering.

"I think people are finding out about Angel Care and think it's a neat idea. This is a lifelong thing with me, even if it ends up with me just crocheting stuff," said Piontek who learned to crochet from her grandmother.

CRAFTS CALENDAR

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

ST. ELIZABETH
St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church is looking for crafters for its autumn arts and crafts show 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 18 at the church, 26431 W. Chicago, between Inkster and Beech Daly roads. To register, call Kathy at (313) 937-2880.

SACRED HEART
Sacred Heart Church will have a craft show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 16 at the church, 29125 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia. There will be free admission and bake sale. For more information or table rental, call Jennifer at (248) 426-6227.

ST. DAMIAN
Crafters are needed for St. Damian Parish's fall arts and crafts show. The show will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 16 at the church, 30055 Joy Road Westland. For more information, call (734) 421-6130.

ST. THEODORE
St. Theodore Catholic Church is looking for crafters for its annual craft show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 16 in the Parish Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Table rental is \$20. For more information, call Mary at (734) 425-4421.

ST. AIDAN
Crafters are needed for St. Aidan Catholic Church's 16th annual craft show Oct. 16 in the Activity Center, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Applications are available by calling (248) 477-8942 or (734) 427-1427.

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE
Tables currently are available for St. Robert Bellarmine Church's 17th annual Christmas bazaar, slated for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 23, at the church, West Chicago at Inkster roads, Redford. Table rental is \$25. For more information, call Joanne at (313) 937-0226 or Josie at (734) 522-2963.

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA
Crafters are needed for the 13th annual Delta Kappa Gamma juried show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 23 at West Middle School, 44401 Sheldon Road, Plymouth. A single space is \$70 with table rental available and electricity free of

charge. Call (734) 453-5145 for more information.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
The Livonia Churchill High School PTSA is accepting applications for its eighth annual fall craft show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 23 at the school, 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Admission is \$1. For an application, call (734) 532-0022.

LIVONIA STEVENSON
The Livonia Stevenson High School Booster Club is accepting applications for its annual Holiday Happening Craft Show 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 6 at the high school, 33500 Six Mile Road, Livonia. A single space (booth) costs \$60. A limited number of spaces with electricity are available at no extra charge. For an application, call (248) 478-2395 or (734) 464-1041.

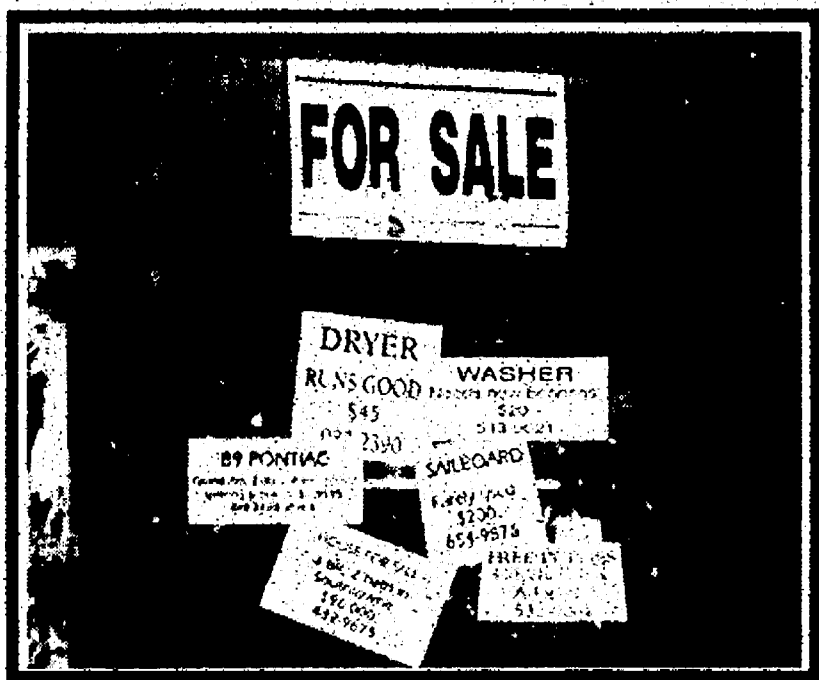
ST. SABINA
Applications are being accepted from crafters for the St. Sabina School craft show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 6, at the school, 8147 Arnold, Dearborn Heights. The fee is \$27 for an 8-foot table or space (a limited number are available) and \$25 for a 6-foot table or space. Applications and fees will be accepted through Oct. 6. For more information, call Jane Palmer at (734) 953-5914.

ST. EDITH
Crafters are needed for St. Edith School's fall craft show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 13 at the school, 15089 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Booth rental is \$40 for a 10-by-8-foot space. For more information, call Anna at (734) 464-9370 or Jo Ann at (734) 464-9370.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
Crafters are wanted for St. Paul Lutheran Church's 12th annual holiday craft show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 13 at the church, 20805 Middlebelt Road at Eight Mile Road. Table rental and/or space is \$25 (no charge for electricity, if available when application is received). For more information, call (248) 476-0841 or (734) 591-0224.

SS. SIMON AND JUDE
The Mother Cabrini Guild of Ss. Simon and Jude Church will have its arts and crafts boutique 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 13 at the church, 32500 Palmer Road, Westland. There also will be a free raffle every hour, snack food, bake sale and 50/50 raffle. For table rental, call (734) 421-0591 or (734) 722-1343.

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Myra F. of Farmington Hills advertised her duplex—
"I've had the best response from your newspaper. I'd rather place an ad with The Observer & Eccentric than with either of the major Detroit papers."

Janice P. of Plymouth advertised her estate sale—
"I had tremendous response. Calls from everywhere—they all read The Observer. I'm very pleased."

Gloria G. of Redford advertised her car—
"I sold it yesterday. Your Classifieds worked great; I'll definitely use your newspaper again!"

M. P. of Farmington Hills advertised two cars—
"I was amazed with the response from The Observer & Eccentric. My husband couldn't believe the calls we received—you don't need to put in a lot of detail, your items will sell!"

Marc C. of Northville advertised his open house—
"I had several people show up and received three offers. I closed the deal within three days."

Anna D. of Bloomfield Hills advertised her piano—
"I sold it right away!"

Karen A. of Franklin was looking for a live-in housekeeper—
"I was very pleased with the response. I was reluctant to place the ad, but I'm so glad I did. I received more than 30 calls and have several good candidates."

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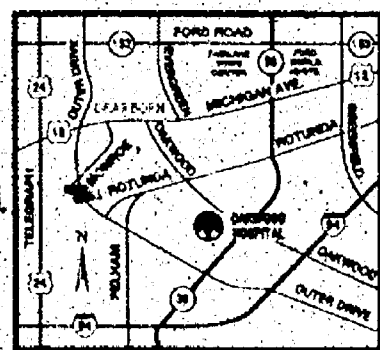
Oakwood's Center for
Reproductive Medicine

We understand a couple's desire to have a baby and, at Oakwood's Center for Reproductive Medicine, we see a bright future for infertile couples. Our staff of experienced professionals provide the latest technology available for women experiencing infertility problems. Additionally, our board-certified reproductive endocrinologists David Magyar, DO; Maria Hayes, MD; and Gary Jones, MD, pioneered in vitro fertilization in Michigan. Among the conditions our physicians treat are:

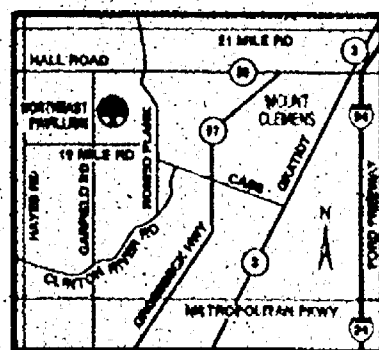


- infertility
- repeated miscarriages
- uterine fibroids
- endometriosis
- menstrual disorders
- hormonal abnormalities

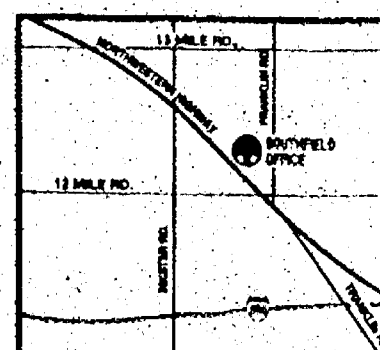
At Oakwood, we understand that planning to have a child can be an emotional journey for couples, and we'd like to be a part of that journey toward parenthood. Remember, we'll give you more than help. We'll give you hope.



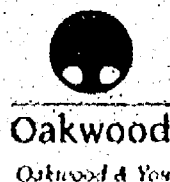
Oakwood Medical Offices
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Dearborn, Michigan
(313) 593-5880



Northeast Pavilion
43900 Garfield Road
Clinton Township, Michigan
(810) 263-8550



Southfield Office
29255 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan
(248) 263-0200



Oakwood
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ANNIVERSARIES

**Kalis**

Arnold and Rita Kalis of Westland are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at an anniversary Mass at St. Richard Catholic Church and reception brunch.

The couple exchanged vows on Aug. 27, 1949, at St. Casimir Church in Detroit. She is the former Rita Nowrocke.

The Kalises have six children



— Mary Ann, Dolores, Harry, Barbara, John and the late Lucille — and eight grandchildren.

A retired truck driver, he is interested in fishing. A retired custodian, she is interested in crochet. They also are active in the Westland Senior Citizens and their children and grandchildren.

Drury

Charles and Margaret Drury of Redford celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 9 at a barbecue with family and friends.

The couple, who moved to Redford 48 years ago, exchanged vows July 9, 1949 in Detroit. She is the former Margaret Sirolo and worked as a keypunch operator for IBM before raising her family.

Children include Robert of Hatteras, N.C.; Maureen, of Auburn, Calif.; Mary Beth of Howell, Pamela of Highland and the late Richard, who died in 1997. They also have six grandchildren.



He is retired from the wholesale floral business.

Boehnlein

Albert and Dolores Boehnlein of Garden City are celebrating their 50th anniversary on Aug. 21, at a reception at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City following a Mass at St. Dunstan Catholic Church.

The couple married on Aug. 20, 1949, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Detroit. She is the former Dolores Kruse.

They have 11 children — Juliana (Seth Olinka), William, Thomas, the late Joseph Boehnlein, Mary, Margaret (Paul Slicker), Robert (Debbie), Dorothy, Therese, Frances and David — and four grandchildren — Paul II (Slicker), Jacob (Olinka), Charlotte and Sarah.



Active in the community, they are planning a cruise to Alaska as their 50-year "honeymoon."

4-H holds special equestrian event

Twenty-five children and adult riders along with 40 volunteers turned out during the recent Oakland County Fair for the annual 4-H Horseback Riding for Handicappers Program.

The event was held at Spring Oaks in Davisburg. The volunteers helped lead horses and spot riders who riders competed for ribbons in such events as trail, horse shoe relay, western horsemanship and hunt seat equitation.

Harmony Acres of Northville, owned by George and Nancy Harm, provided three Arabian horses — Tarifa, Diamond and Love Idol — and volunteers for the event.

The Harmony Acres horses are well-known to the handicap riders and have made numerous appearance in local and state parades, including the recent Westland Summer Festival parade. Nancy, a psychology at Schoolcraft College, also teaches training the parade horse in the college's equine program.

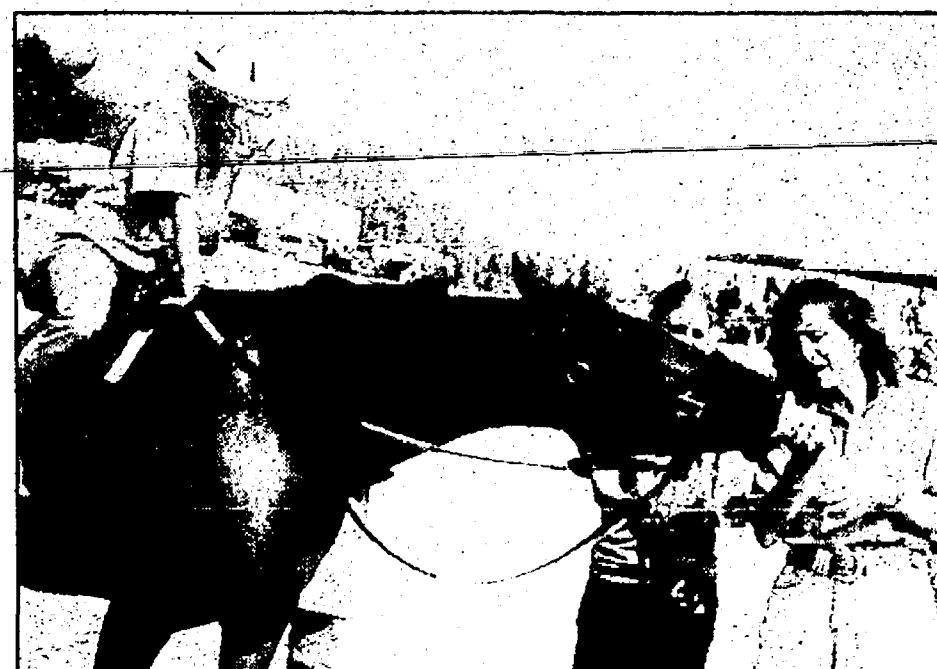
The riders included Jared Hymen, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hymen of West Bloomfield, on Tarifa, Elana Kaminen, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Kaminen of Oak Park, on Diamond, and Joe Lutksy of Ferndale on Idol.

Jared, with the help of Dee Hodges of Northville and Melissa James of Novi, collected a trophy in intermediate hunt seat. Laura Roberts of Northville led Diamond and Maureen Richardson, also of Northville, led Idol. Assisting them was Cheryl McGee of Livonia.

People interested in riding or volunteering in the 4-H Horseback Riding for Handicappers Program, can call the Oakland County 4-H Office at (248) 858-0892.



My ribbon: Joe Lutksy (top photo) shows off the ribbon he won with the help of his horse Idol and volunteers Maureen Richardson (center) and Cheryl McGee. The warm weather was reason enough for a refreshing drink of lemonade for rider Elana Kaminen and her mount, Diamond, which got help with the cup from volunteer Laura Roberts (center) and program organizer Judy Bolis of Holly.



Read Taste on Sunday

Bridal Directory

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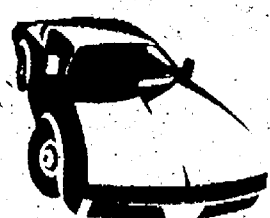
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CALENDAR

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND WESTLAND

UPCOMING EVENTS

FINGERPRINTING, SCREENING

AAA Michigan and Henry Ford OptiEyes will present free child I.D. fingerprinting and vision screening 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at locations including 35184 Central City Parkway in Westland. A packet of safety information will also be provided. For information, call (734) 427-5200.

PET ADOPTION

The Dearborn Animal Shelter will have an Adoption Showcase 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Pet Smart, Ford Road and Mercury Drive in Dearborn. For information, call Jill Smith at (313) 441-3244 or the shelter at (313) 943-2697.

CONCERT SERIES

The final date for the Westland Cultural Society summer concert series is Sunday, Aug. 22. The concert will be 6 p.m. at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland Performance Pavilion, 6123 Central City Parkway, between Warren and Ford. The concert is free, and the Bailey Center is the rain location. The concert sponsored by the Westland City Council. For information, call (734) 722-7620.

AT THE LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library group meets 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. Friends also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

RECREATION

RECREATION AND FUN

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

FIGURE SKATING

Figure skaters interested in USFSA Synchronized (Precis) Skating to build Novi FSC and Westland FSC joint venture teams. Prior team experience not necessary. This is an opportunity to build skating and team skills while having fun. For information, call Cheryll Gutowski at (734) 427-0305.

BAILEY CENTER POOL

The pool at Westland's Bailey Center is on Ford at Carlson. Regular hours are noon to 3:30 p.m. and 4:30-7:30 p.m. daily. The outdoor pool is heated. There is a water slide and a baby pool for kids age 3 and younger. There are birthday packages at \$7 per person, including pizza, pop, pool admission, games, and a T-shirt for the birthday person. Teen/Middle School Night is 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, with a disc jockey, pizza and pop. Admission is \$1. For information, call (734) 722-7620. Pool prices are \$2 for a resident child, \$3 for a nonresident child, \$4 for a nonresident adult. Season passes are \$50.

BELLY DANCE

Learn basic technique and cultural aspects of Middle Eastern dance in Introduction to Belly Dance. Both traditional and modern technique will be covered.

All ages and skill levels welcome. Classes begin Monday, Aug. 30, in Westland and last one hour. Contact Cedena at The Navel Academy, (734) 422-1246.

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.

ANGEL CARE

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

VETERAN'S HAVEN

Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527.

SCHOOLS

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Scholarship program are available at the administrative offices of John Glenn and Wayne Memorial high schools. The program is open to high school seniors who live in Wayne or Westland or attend Wayne-Westland schools. The Junior Miss program awards the scholarships, which are raised by donations from local businesses. Criteria are scholastic record, presence and composure, judge's interview, physical fitness and talent. Finalists advance to the Michigan Junior Miss program for additional scholarships. Stephanie Mead, a 1998 finalist, and Courtney Cagnon, a 1999 finalist, both successfully competed at the state level and participated at the America's Junior Miss program in Mobile, Ala. For information, contact Pat Hermatz at the Wayne Lawn and Garden Center on Wayne Road, or call (734) 721-5220.

SUBURBAN CHILDREN'S

Suburban Children's Co-op Nursery has openings in its 2-year-old toddler-parent class on Friday mornings; 3-year-old class Monday and Wednesday mornings; and the 4-year-old 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 Newburgh United Methodist Church on Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne and Newburgh. For more information, call April at (734) 522-8469.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

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

LIVONIA COOPERATIVE

The Livonia Cooperative Nursery, a preschool for ages 3-4, is at 9601 Hubbard. Parents learn with their children. Enrollment

Fun for all



It's not a fire: Sean Kelly was among the many enjoying his time at the sixth annual Lonnie Drive block party in Westland. The event was held Saturday, Aug. 7, with a theme of "Christmas in August." A fire department visit was included.

is limited. For information, call Karen at (734) 522-3714.

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. Tot class meets on Wednesday mornings, and 3- and 4-year-olds meet 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 lan-

guage 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 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.

GARFIELD CO-OP

Garfield Cooperative Preschool offers programs for children 18 months to 5 years. It is at Cass Elementary, 34633 Munger, south of Six Mile and west of Farmington Road in Livonia. Call (734) 462-0135.

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. It will resume Sept. 22. For information on participating or volunteering, call Leau'Rette Douglas, (734) 722-3660.

ADULT LITERACY

An Adult Literacy program is being offered free at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center starting Sept. 22. Volunteers are being sought who are interested in tutoring children and adults 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. For Adult Literacy enrollment or additional information, 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 Newburgh 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.

HISTORIC

PERRINSVILLE

The historic Perrinsville one-room school opens to the public 1-4 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month through September. People are welcome to come and visit the renovated 1856 schoolhouse at Warren and Cowan roads, west of Meriman 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 meets 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 check and clean hearing aids free from 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

NURSING HOME CARE

A seminar on "Nursing Home Care and Your Rights" will begin 1:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at the Westland Friendship Center, on Newburgh in Westland. The Friendship Center is presenting the seminar, which will feature Nida Donar of Citizens for Better Care as guest speaker. To sign up, stop at the front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

722-7632. Refreshments will be served.

BOWLING FUN

The Friendship Center Bowling League is starting again. Orientation will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1, in the conference room at the center, on Newburgh in Westland. Beginners are welcome, and substitutes are needed. Bowling will begin 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

DEHART VISIT

State Rep. Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, will visit Marquette House 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7, to help kick off festivities for National Assisted Living Week, Sept. 12-18. She will discuss current legislation affecting seniors, state preparation for Y2K and will answer questions. The facility is at 36000 Campus Drive, Westland. The public may attend. For information, call Sally Levay, (734) 326-6685.

DINNER AND SHOW

A trip to dinner and the play "Titanic" is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 23. Cost is \$85. Arrive at the Friendship Center at 4 p.m., eat at Three Brothers Restaurant at 5 p.m., arrive at Detroit Opera House at 7:30 p.m. Play starts at 8 p.m. Return to center at 11:30 p.m. Call (734) 722-7632.

SENIOR CHOIR

A Friendship senior choir, under the direction of Robert Cassidy, 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 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 at 2 p.m. People play euchre, pinocle, 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 elderly people 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 work in. Call (734) 422-1052.

DYER CENTER

The Wayne-Westland School District's Dyer Senior Adult Center has activities Monday through Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, Kitchen Band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.; a Hawaiian dance exercise class will be 1 p.m. every Wednesday in Hall A of the Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 Newburgh. Instructor is Kammo Oris. Sign up at the front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

CLUBS IN ACTION

WESTLAND ROTARY

The Westland Rotary Club meets 12:15 p.m. Thursdays at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt in Westland.

SWEET ADLINES

The County Connection Chorus of Sweet Adelines International is looking for women who love to sing. The group sings a cappella music in barbershop style. Rehearsals are 7 p.m. Tuesdays at UAW Local 898 at 8975 Textile, Ypsilanti. For more information, call Paula at (734) 995-4110.

CHADD

CHADD of Northwest Wayne County meets the first Thursday of the month throughout the school year at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile. CHADD is a nonprofit, parent-based, volunteer organization whose aim is to better the lives of individuals with attention difficulties. Call (313) 438-3099.

T.O.P.S.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M128, a support group for sensible weight loss, meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland. Call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

T.O.P.S.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M153 meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at OptiEyes, Westland Super Vision Center, 35184 Central City Parkway, Westland. (734) 427-5200. Leader, Michele, (734) 422-1726; secretary, Karen, (734) 729-6368.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club No. 6694 (formerly Holy Smokemasters) teaches public speaking at the club's weekly meetings 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 N. Wayne Road next to Westland Shopping Center. Call John Elbe at (734) 326-5419.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

ALZHEIMER'S

The Marquette House Alzheimer's Support Group will hold its initial meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, at 36000 Campus Drive, Westland. The group is open to families and friends of those with Alzheimer's disease. For information, call Sally Levay at (734) 326-6685.

CALENDAR FORM

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

ENGAGEMENTS

Morano-Pianga

Dale and Robert Yessian of Canton and John and Joan Morano of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda Leanne Morano, to Jason Anthony Pianga, the son of Diane and Tony Pianga of Westland.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and is currently studying veterinary technology.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Westland John Glenn High School and is employed by Draw-Tite as a robot technician.

A September wedding is planned at Christus Victor



Lutheran Church.

Christy-Jacunski

Donna and Bob Clark of Wyandotte announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda Beth, to Jonathan Jacunski, the son of Steve and Charlotte Jacunski of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Westland John Glenn High School. She is employed by Guardian Life Insurance Co.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Lawrence Technological University with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. He is employed by Ingersoll-Rand.

A May wedding is planned at Victorian Wedding Chapel in



Waterford.

Roberts-Dahlberg

Sherry Roberts of Centralia, Ill., and Doug Roberts, also of Centralia, announce the engagement of their daughter, Lesli Nicole, to David Michael Dahlberg, the son of David and Judy Dahlberg of Plymouth.

The bride-to-be is a 1991 graduate of Centralia High School and a 1996 graduate of Illinois State University. Licensed as a cosmetologist in California, she is employed as a stylist at Festoon Salon in Berkeley, Calif.

Her fiancé is a 1987 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School, a 1991 graduate of Northwestern University and a 1995 graduate of the University of Michigan School of Business. He is employed as director of marketing at Siebel Systems in San



Mateo, Calif.

A October wedding in Ann Arbor is planned.

Bencik-Boudreau

William and Diane Bencik of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristin, to Jason Boudreau, the son of Judith Boudreau and James Boudreau.

The bride-to-be is a 1989 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, a 1993 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and a 1997 graduate of the Michigan State University School of Osteopathic Medicine. She has completed a one-year internship at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills and is in her second year of a pediatric residency at the University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital.

Her fiancé is a 1989 graduate of Lincoln High School in Stockton, Calif., a 1993 graduate of the University of California-Davis and a 1997 graduate of



Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery. He is completing a three-year surgical residency in podiatry at Botsford Hospital.

A September wedding is planned at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington.

Micallef-Sata

Mario and Lily Micallef of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Rose, to Scott Thomas Sata, the son of Carol Jean and Thomas James Sata, also of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Michigan. She is employed by Compuware Corp.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Michigan Technological University. He is employed by General Products Corp.

An October wedding is planned at St. Colette's Catholic Church in Livonia.



Hubner-Waters

Sarah M. Hubner of Westland announces the engagement of her mother, Catherine Ann, to George Robert Waters.

The bride-to-be is employed at DTI-ATT in Livonia.

Her fiancé is employed at the Michigan Employment Security Commission in Livonia.

A September wedding is planned at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Westland.



Mushna-Myers

Cliff and Connie Mushna of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Colleen, to John Myers, the son of Linda Myers of Woodhaven and Ron Myers of Northville.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Redford Union High School and Michigan State University. She is employed at Masco Corp. in Taylor.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Birmingham Groves High School and Western Michigan University. He is employed at EDS in Troy.

A September wedding is planned at Our Lady of Loretto



Church in Redford.

Moore-Raymor

Larry and Nancy Moore of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Nikki, to Bud Raymor, the son of Jerry and Mary Raymor of Ann Arbor.

The bride-to-be is a 1990 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School. She is a Realtor with Weir, Manuel, Snyder and Ranke in Plymouth.

Her fiancé is a 1991 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies. He is employed as a paralegal with A.L. Bemish P.C. in Plymouth.

A September 2000 wedding is planned at the Dearborn Inn in Dearborn.



Chupac-Nader

Nicholas and Barbara Chupac of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Barbara, to John Paul Nader, the son of Johnny and Louise Nader of St. Clair Shores.

The bride-to-be is a 1986 graduate of John Glenn High School and a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in telecommunications. She is employed at Qwest Communications in Illinois.

Her fiancé is a 1984 graduate of South Lake High School and a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in computer engineering. He works at Sun Microsystems in



Illinois.

An October wedding is planned at St. Mary's Catholic Church

Forms for announcement available

Have an announcement to make? Forms are available to announce an engagement,

wedding, anniversary and birth at our offices at 26251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, or 794 S. Main St., Plymouth.

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



Oakwood Welcomes

Yasser M. Awaad, MD, MSc
Director, Pediatric Neurology and Movement Disorders Program

Oakwood is pleased to welcome Yasser M. Awaad, MD, MSc, and the new Pediatric Neurology and Movement Disorders Program. Dr. Awaad brings his medical expertise and more than 21 years of experience to Oakwood where he will care for infants, children and adolescents with a variety of neurological problems including: headaches, seizures, head trauma, learning disorders, cerebral palsy and many other diseases. Dr. Awaad also specializes in the evaluation and management of children and adults who experience tics, Tourette syndrome, dystonia, spasticity and other movement disorders.

Education and Professional

Dr. Awaad is a member of the American Academy of Neurology, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Movement Disorders Society and the National and International Child Neurology Associations. He completed his Pediatric residency and Child Neurology fellowship at New York University Medical Center and comes to Oakwood from Children's Hospital of Michigan. He utilizes state-of-the-art therapy to treat children with spastic muscle disorders, including oral medications, Botulinum toxin injections and intrathecal Baclofen pumps.

Practice Information

In addition to his pediatric neurology practice and role with the Movement Disorders program, Dr. Awaad is also joining Oakwood's new Program for Exceptional Families - a multidisciplinary program that provides comprehensive, coordinated care for children with chronic, complex disorders and disabilities. He is currently seeing patients at his office in the Oakwood Waterworks Building on Michigan Avenue in Dearborn. To schedule an appointment today, please call 313-791-4323.

To schedule an appointment please call

(313)
791-4323



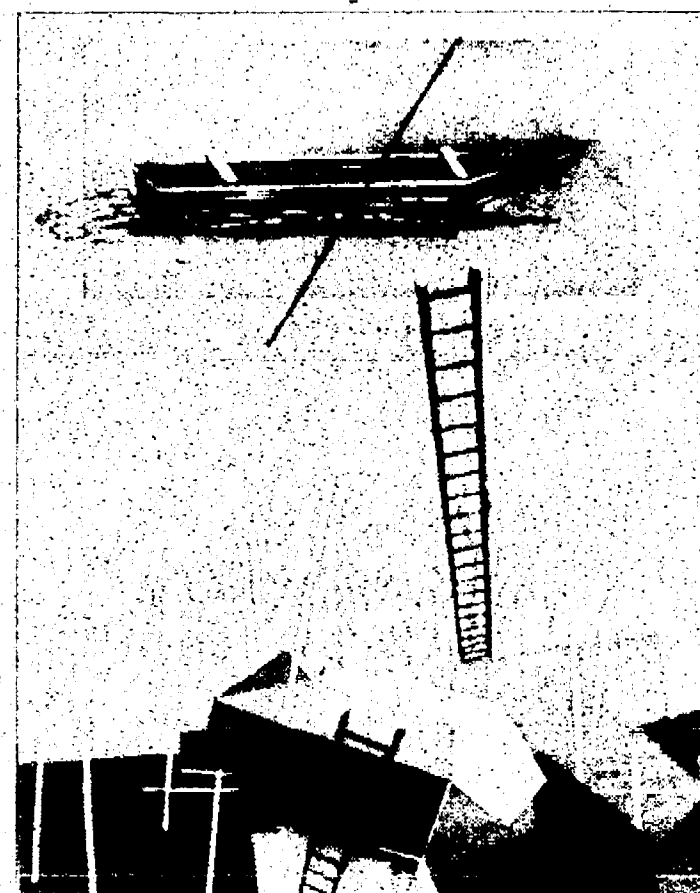
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Observer Sports

Brad Emons, Editor: 734-953-2123. bemons@oe.homecomm.net

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The Observer

INSIDE:
Nature notes, C4
Outdoor calendar, C5-6

L/W Page 1, Section C

Thursday, August 19, 1999

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Livonia angler 1st

Jerry Dietrich of Livonia took first place, \$2,484, plus 50 CITGO Challenge points for winning the Red Man Michigan Division qualifier Sunday on Lake St. Clair.

Dietrich brought in five bass weighing 18 pounds, 8 ounces to top a field of 144 anglers competing for \$8,560.

Dietrich fished in the Main Lake channels using a Berkley smoke Power Tube.

Mark Modrak of Chesterfield finished second with five bass weighing 18 pounds, 2 ounces.

Dietrich and Modrak are tied as winner for Abu Garcia Big Bass award of \$1,000 with a 5 pound, 9 ounce bass.

The Ranger boat owner who catches the largest bass in each Red Man division over the course of the season will qualify to enter the Ranger M1 Millennium tournament.

Dietrich also captured the Berkley Powerbait award — a package of baits valued at \$325 — for the highest weight caught on Powerbait or Frenzy lures with 18 pounds, 8 ounces.

At the completion of the six Red Man events, the top 30 anglers, determined on a basis of pounds and points, will move into regional championship competition.

There they will compete against the top 30 fishermen from three other divisions for a Dream Rig consisting of a Chevy truck and full-rigged Ranger bass boat powered by Evinrude or Johnson outboard (only two divisions compete in the Western Regional for a full-rigged Ranger bass boat) and a spot in the Red Man All-American, May 8-13, 200 in Hot Springs, Ark. where the winner will receive \$100,000.

Area golf divots

•Using a 7-iron, Geny Guzman of Livonia carded an ace on the 99-yard, No. 17 signature hole at the Pohlsat in Mount Pleasant.

•Karen Huebner of Grosse Ile shot an 80 to win first flight low gross honors Aug. 13 at the Women's Suburban Golf Association stop at Stonebridge.

Nancy Wilkie of Redford was runner-up with a 92.

Low net honors went to June Wright of Livonia with a 77. Mary Allen (Wayne) and Carolyn Benninger (Northville) were one stroke off with 78 each.

Pat Henke (Wayne) captured second flight low gross honors with an 89. Mary Stefanec (Dearborn) was second with a 102.

Mary Ann Kraft (Dearborn Heights) took low net with a 76, while Lori Wilson (Livonia) and Dorothy Cortes (Livonia) tied for second with 78 each.

United rules tourney

Livonia Youth Soccer Club United, an under-13 girls team, captured the Silver Division last weekend at the Northwest Ohio Soccer Festival in Maumee.

Scoring three goals in the final 15 minutes, United defeated the Greater Toledo Futbol Club in the championship final, 3-1.

United, coached by Frank Guerin, also defeated the Swanton Storm (5-0), Greater Toledo F.C. (5-0) and Pacesetter '86 (6-0).

Members of United include: Anna Albulov, Dina Allie, Catherine Bou Maroun, Catilin Boyak, Diana Fedrigo, Jacqui Gatt, Tracey Guerin, Katilin Howe, Laura Jetke, Bethany Lane, Andrea Muscat, Anna MacLeod, Whitney Oliver, Beth Prost, Rachel Rony and Carly Tobin, all of Livonia; Devon Rupley, Northville; Danica Rodriguez, Redford.

Carnacchi victorious

Westland's Jeff Carnacchi was a surprise winner as he captured the 25-lap ARCA Street Stock feature race Saturday at Flat Rock Speedway.

Carnacchi was eighth in the July 24 make-up A Main race.

In the 150-lap ARCA Late Model feature, sponsored by Royal Truck-Trailer/G Tee Truck Gold Cup, Rick Knowles of Willis won the title with Westland's Steve Cronenwett finishing fourth.

To submit items to the Livonia Sports Scene, write to: Brad Emons, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150; or send via fax to (734) 691-7279.

Ocelots eye opener

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS WRITER
cjrisk@oe.homecomm.net

If a coach brings back six players from his previous soccer season — and that team was 18-4 — it would seem there would be good reason for optimism.

But if those six guys are all on one team, scrimmaging a team of all newcomers, and the veterans are losing 1-0 at halftime, the optimism would diminish substantially. Right?

Of course — unless you're Schoolcraft College men's coach Van Dimitriou.

That's because it isn't a matter of the veterans slipping. It's that the recruits are darn good.

The Ocelots coming back from last season's squad, which lost in the NJCAA Inter-Regional Tournament, are not guaranteed of anything. "Not one of them has a starting position made," said Dimitriou.

Returning for SC are keeper Eric Anderson (from Brighton), midfielders Dave Lotarski (Dearborn) and Naum Popovski (Livonia Stevenson), stoppers Mike Slack (Livonia Churchill) and Joel Wizinsky (Dearborn Heights Crestwood), and utility player Matt Shaw.

All, according to Dimitriou, are capable of helping guide the Ocelots back to the NJCAA Tournament,

MEN'S SOCCER

which they qualified for in 1997. SC has recorded back-to-back 18-win seasons.

Making a run at a national title will require something more, however, and Dimitriou believes he might have the proper mix — if he can sort through the 20-plus players he has trying out.

Starting in the back, Anderson is being challenged by Plymouth Canton graduate Doug Koontz, whom Dimitriou thought "has the edge" in early workouts.

Ben Davis, who started in goal at Canton the season before Koontz came in, may also be part of the equation.

On defense, Dimitriou likes Paul Ansara (Novi) and Aaron MacDonald (Plymouth Salem) at marking back, with Sergio Mainella (Stevenson) or Tom Stark at sweeper. Mainella could also play at midfield or forward.

Flack and Wizinsky are both good choices at stopper.

At outside midfield, there's Johnny Demergis (Canton) and Dan Wielechowski (Salem); Nick Skotanis (Northville) is a possible attacking midfielder, with Casey Bantle (Ann Arbor Pioneer) at defensive midfield.

Then there's Gary Bell (Derry, Ireland), Tony Maldonado (Stevenson) and Joey Brincat, who are all strong possibilities at any of the midfield spots.

Mike Jones scored 24 goals as a senior at Fenton; he's one potential forward. Andrew Meyers was a versatile player at Dearborn; others to watch are Rob Barnes and Kevin Brown (Brighton).

Dimitriou won't deny this is a rebuilding year. "Of the six guys back, none of them was a real force last year," he admitted. "So it is a rebuilding year."

But that doesn't mean this season's team won't match last year's. "We were 18-4 last year," the SC coach said. "I think we're capable of that. Obviously, our goal is to make it to nationals."

It won't be an easy objective to realize. "It's going to take consistent goal-keeping," Dimitriou said. "The other thing is whether we can score timely goals. Who can put in goals at the right times for us?"

Those are questions that may take time to answer. The Ocelots will begin their quest next weekend (Aug. 28-29) at the College of DuPage (Ill.) Tournament.



Family affair: Canton Township residents Ron (from left), Paul and Chris gained valuable experience during their stay in Seoul, South Korea training under some of the top Tae Kwon Do instructors in the world. They also experienced the culture first-hand.

Korean experience

Pilgrimage to home of Tae Kwon Do

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemons@oe.homecomm.net

Over the years Tae Kwon Do Grand Master Ron Rose has hosted several Korean instructors, but the Canton Township resident decided it was time to return the favor and make his first trip ever to Seoul, South Korea.

Rose has been involved with the martial arts discipline for nearly 30 years and has been an instructor for 21 years.

Pardon the pun, but Rose certainly blossomed and gained a new insight during his 10-day stay.

He recently headed a contingent of 63 Michiganders, including 33 from his Kick's Tae Kwon Do studio, located at the corner of Sims and Wayne roads in Wayne, to Korea.

Also making the trip was his wife Chris, and two of his four sons, Paul, 24, and Eric, 14. (The couple's two other sons, Marc, 12, a second degree black belt, and Michael, 8, a first degree, did not make the trip.)

And judging from their week-long stay, the Rose family enhanced their knowledge in a sport which has over 1 million practitioners from over 150 different countries.

"We were able to experience of beauty, heritage and culture of Korea, but the same time receive intense training from some of the top instructors," Ronald Rose said. "We learned the roots of Tae Kwon Do. There were over 50 high-ranking Black Belts. It was five days of intense physical training, classroom lectures on theories and techniques, along with Grand Masters covering competition rules."

Tae Kwon Do has received more and more international exposure during the past 10 years.

It has been an Olympic exhibition



Well-trained: Ron Rose, owner of Kick's Tae Kwon Do, spent five days of intense training with black belt instructors in Korea.

BOYS GOLF PREVIEW



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Patriot returnee: Tim Kufel is one of three seniors who hope to move Livonia Franklin out of the cellar in the Western Lakes.

Patriots look to move up

Senior trio key to better season

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemons@oe.homecomm.net

When the Livonia Franklin boys golf team tees it up today in its season opener in the Plymouth Best Ball Invitational at Hilltop, the Patriots will have some added incentive.

"We have something to prove," said second-year coach Steve Mato, whose team is coming of an 0-11 season and last-place finish in the Western Lakes Activities Association. "Our top three players return and we have quite a bit of senior leadership. We'll see how far they can take us."

"But things are definitely looking up."

Franklin is expected to be more competitive in 1999 due to the return of seniors Tony Fotiu, Tim Kufel and Scott Waara.

The trio all worked during the summer for Mato, who is the manager at Fellows Creek.

Fotiu, an All-Division selection and All-Observer third-team pick a year ago, just missed qualifying individually for the state tourney by one stroke in the Division I regional at Pontiac Country Club.

"He (Fotiu) hits it long, but on some courses you just need to keep it in play," Mato said. "He played a lot on the Power-Bilt Junior Tour and has quite a bit of experience."

"And both Kufel and Waara have played since their freshman year."

The key to Franklin's season? "In most days meets the biggest thing is course management — staying out of trouble and hitting the greens in regulation," Mato said. "We know in our league there are not too many weak teams, so that's why it's important."

Franklin will play its home matches at Fox Creek.

Westland John Glenn
The roof may be gone, but the foundation of the Westland John Glenn golf team is still pretty solid.

The Rockets graduated three country fair golfers from last fall's team — Chris Tompkins, Justin Fendeleit and Brian Reed — but have a good enough blend of experience and youth to make Coach Dan Burtka believe his team will be respectable.

"We have to replace a fairly good team," Burtka said. "Chris Tompkins (first-team All-Observer)

Please see GOLF PREVIEW, C4

Pro triathlete Taormina places 2nd in Cleveland

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemons@oe.homedomain.net

Things are looking up for Livonia triathlete Sheila Taormina.

The 1996 Olympic gold medalist in swimming (women's 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay) pocketed \$2,000 with a second-place finish in Sunday's 13th National City Triathlon of Champions event in downtown Cleveland, Ohio.

Barb Lindquist, 30, of Victor, Wyo., also a former swimmer (from Stanford) and friend of Taormina, covered the Olympic distance course in 1 hour, 58 minutes and 3.9 seconds.

Lindquist, the top-rated U.S. triathlete, won \$10,000 to bring her season earnings to \$23,850.

Taormina's time was 2:00:05.8, while Becky Gibbs of Minnetonka, Minn. finished third in 2:00:24.2.

Lindquist and Taormina, roommates over the weekend, came out of the mile swim in Lake Erie neck-and-neck tied for first place, but Lindquist, 30, was stronger in the 23.7-mile non-drafting bike ride despite stopping momentarily a lap short.

Taormina's 10-kilometer run, however, was

an impressive 38 minutes.

"That 10K was the best run of my life," said the former University of Georgia Bulldog and Stevenson High Spartan. "I felt strong on the run, but my endurance on the bike right now is weak."

Taormina missed nearly two months of training during the spring with a virus.

Taormina, 30, raced in Austin, Tex. and finished second in early May, but did not compete again until Aug. 8 when she placed eighth in the North American Triathlon Championships in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

"I'm in pretty good aerobic shape right now, but I'm not really in racing shape just yet," Taormina said.

Ranked 131 in the world in points, Taormina will head next week to Lausanne, Switzerland to compete in an International Triathlon Union (ITU) race.

The 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials will be held in two stages next spring with eight triathletes competing in Sydney, Australia, and another 15 qualifiers vying in Dallas, Tex.

Twisters capture 4th straight

Fair warning: If you're weak of heart, be wary of any Wayne County Twisters football games.

The Twisters, a semi-pro team associated with the Lakeshore Football League (which is part of the American Football Association), ran their record to 4-0 — but not without some last-second heroics.

Their third-straight win came against the Black Swamp Patriots Aug. 7 in McComb, Ohio. Trailing by a touchdown with only seconds remaining, Twister quarterback Rob Elswick tossed a 26-yard touchdown pass to Reggie Brandon (from Wayne HS) to pull out a 20-19 triumph.

Certainly that invigorated the

FOOTBALL

Twisters, but last Saturday's game against the Zanesville (Ohio) Fury at the Academy of Detroit in Inkster proved to be even more dramatic, with the Twisters prevailing in overtime, 20-14.

Another Elswick-to-Brandon TD pass, this one covering 45 yards late in the second quarter, and the subsequent extra-point conversion by Chuck Petitpas (Livonia) put the Twisters up 7-6.

It remained that way until, with less than three minutes left in the game, the Fury scored and

added a two-point conversion to go up 14-7.

But the Twisters answered, with Elswick finding Leonard Morawa with a 22-yard TD pass with 55 seconds to go. Petitpas added the game-tying conversion.

A 54-yard field-goal attempt by Petitpas as regulation expired, set up by a Fury fumble, fell short, resulting in OT.

Unfortunately for the Fury, the extra session began as regulation ended — with a fumble, this one recovered by Aaron Brothers.

The Twisters answered with a seven-play touchdown drive, with Lamar Spaulding (Westland) powering his way into the end zone for the game-winning score.

The Twisters travel to Lorain, Ohio Saturday for a 7:30 p.m. game against the Lorain County Steelman.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

BULLDOG SWIMMERS 1ST

The Bulldog Aquatic Club, based out of Schoolcraft Community College, came away with three titles at the Michigan State Swim Meet held recently at the University of Michigan.

Angela Simetkosky (Livonia) captured the 1,500-meter freestyle for Girls 15-18, while Alandra Greenlee (Northville) won the 200 freestyle for 10-and-under.

The foursome of Amy Black (Northville), Andrea Hurn (Livonia), Jenny Carr (Novi) and Erin Schubert took first in the 400 medley relay for Girls 13-14.

Among the other state qualifiers included Elizabeth Hurn, Livonia; Jenny Crabill, Canton; Ariel Greenlee, Ava Ohlgren, Scott Whitbeck and David Whitbeck, all of Northville.

The BAC also sent 11 swimmers to the six-state Zone meet in Indianapolis, Ind., lifting Team Michigan to eight medals.

The Bulldog Aquatic Club will stage an open house for interested competitive swimmers (ages 7-18) from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, Sept. 7-10, at the Schoolcraft College pool.

LIVONIA METEORS RUNNER-UP

The Livonia Meteors, an under-12 girls soccer team, finished runner-up to the Bay Village Storm in the Northwest Ohio Soccer Festival last weekend in Maumee, Ohio.

The Meteors, coached by Doug Calvin and assisted by Brent Taylor, defeated the Michigan Rowdies of Trenton (13-0) and the NOSO Hurricanes of North Olmsted, Ohio (3-0), and tied the Storm (1-1) in a crossover match.

The Storm then defeated the Meteors in the title matchup, 2-1, in double overtime.

Members of the Meteors include: Christen Biskelonis, Angie Bond, Ashely Calvin, Kate Kelly, Allyson King, Mary Mattarella, Mary Peszek, Jamie Radley, Michele Roffey, Anna Ross, Aleah Ryder, Paige Taylor, Lauren Trosell, Casey VanSwearingen and Sara Jo Wilson.

Jeff Bobo is the team trainer, while Mike Trosell is the team manager.

YOUTH BASEBALL TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the 15-16 year-old Michigan Lake Area Rams, will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29 and

Sept. 12 at the Madonna University baseball field.

For more information, call Rick Arbogast at (313) 291-8969.

Tryouts for the WaCo Wolves Federation Baseball Club 12-and-under teams will be Sunday, Aug. 22 and 29 at Municipal Park in Dearborn Heights.

For more information, call Bill Hardin at (313) 562-4667 or Jeff Dolkowski at (313) 274-6951.

Tryouts for the Westland Federation Wildcats, a 12-and-under Little Caesars travel baseball team, will be at 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 28-29 at Rotary Park in Westland.

For more information, call Shawn Dunford at (734) 595-3496 or Don McCloud at (734) 261-1619.

Experienced players are urged to tryout for a Livonia Travel youth competitive baseball team in the Little Caesars League from 1-3 p.m. (10-and-under) and 3-5 p.m. (12-year-olds) Sunday, Aug. 22 and 29 at Livonia's Bicentennial Park (field No. 8).

For more information, call Bill Leins at (734) 261-4712 (10-and-under), Bob Olson at (734) 464-7930 (12-year-olds) or Bill Rabe at (248) 474-2739.

Tryouts for the North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras travel baseball teams will be Saturday, Aug. 28, and Sunday, Aug. 29.

Players should plan to attend both days.

Tryouts for the 13-, 12 and 10-year-old teams will take place at Pioneer Park (Farmington Road between 13 and 14 Mile roads).

The 13-year-olds will have tryouts 9:30-11:30 a.m. (Mel Borock, manager), 12-year-olds from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Alan Borsen, manager) and 10-year-olds 2:30-4:30 p.m. (Marc Berlin, manager).

Tryouts for the 15-, 14 and 16-year-old teams will take place at Founders Park, fields Nos. 7 and 8 (Eight Mile Road, two miles east of I-275).

The 15-year-olds will have tryouts 9-11 a.m. (Dan Petry, manager), 14-year-olds from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Chuck Pinkston, manager) and 16-year-olds 2-4 p.m. (Tony Agosta, manager).

Ages are determined as of Aug. 31, 2000.

Players are asked to arrive a half hour early to sign in. All players need to bring bats, mitts, helmets and cleats.

For more information call NFWB Travel Commissioner Mel Borock after 5 p.m. at (248) 788-0691.

RUN LIKE THE WIND 10K

The first-ever Run Like the Wind 10-kilometer race will start at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 4 at Nankin Mills Picnic Area in Hines Park (located on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail).

The pre-registration fee (received by Aug. 25) is \$15 (includes T-shirt). Late registration is \$18. Fees (without T-shirt) are \$6 (pre-registration) and \$8 (late).

Trophies will be awarded to age-group winners, along with the top male and female (open and masters).

Medals will go to all second- and third-place finishers.

Proceeds will go to the Michigan Running Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting youth running in Michigan.

For more information, call Chuck Block at (248) 478-3596.

FRIENDSHIP RUN/WALK

The 50th Anniversary Friendship Festival Run/Walk is slated for Saturday, Sept. 11 at Central City Park in Westland.

There will be a 5-kilometer run/walk starting at 3:30 p.m. The one-mile run/walk is set for 3 p.m.

The events are sponsored by St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

Cost to participate in either is \$10, which includes a T-shirt and a drink cup.

Pre-registration deadline is Sept. 4; race day registration will be 2-2:45 p.m. on race day.

Medals will be given to the top three male and female overall finishers in the 5-K race.

Concessions will be available on race day. Checks should be made payable to St. Matthew Lutheran and mailed to Jess Shough, 35680 Fernwood, Westland, MI, 48186.

For more information, call Jess or Carolyn Shough at (734) 729-4720, or St. Matthew Lutheran Church and school at (734) 425-0261 or (734) 425-0260.

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A black and white photograph of a traditional Chinese pavilion with a tiled roof, nestled among dense trees and foliage. The pavilion has a multi-tiered roof and is surrounded by a low fence in the foreground.

from page C1

Although the Kick's group stayed at a nice resort, getting adjusted to sleeping on the floor with roll-up mats was another challenge.

The Tae Kwon Do Association of America national championships will be Saturday-Oct. 9 at Stevenson Middle School in Westland.

"They were cognizant of what they could do. They could

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Boys golf preview from page C1

er) is playing at Eastern Michigan right now. "We're young. We'll probably have four 10th-graders play a lot for us. And we have a tough schedule. But I'm optimistic. "We had tryouts all week. And our first meet is Thursday (today) at the Plymouth Best Ball, which we won last year. "So we'll see how we are at that time. It's going to be a very interesting year, because we are very young."

The Rockets made their first trip in school history last fall to the state finals last fall. It will be difficult to repeat that feat but not impossible as the WLAA is rapidly turning into one of the better golf grooming grounds in the state.

Glenn has seniors to key on, Matt Darnell and Jason Broderick, if it hopes to get back to the state finals, along with returning letterman Ryan Shamrock.

"I think they'll play quite a bit," Burtka said. "They've looked good in practice so far." Then there's a quartet of sophomores who will push the upperclassmen for playing time — Jeremy Fendeleit, Rich Sudak, Keith Fukuda and Jason Lang.

If Fendeleit's name sounds familiar, it should.

He's the younger brother of Justin Fendeleit. As for Sudak, he got a decent amount of playing time last fall, averaging in the 39-40 range.

Juniors Derek Borowiak and Randy Villeneuve have also shown well in practice.

"From that combination, we'll get our starting six," Burtka said. "But all those kids will play some golf at some point throughout the year. As I said, I'm optimistic."

Livonia Churchill

Tenth-year coach Kirk Osler's team is coming off a 7-4 dual meet season and a third-place finish in the WLAA.

Churchill also won the Western Division with a 4-1 mark.

Mike Lightbody and Tom Fitzstephens were lost to graduation, but junior Evan Chall, a second-team All-Observer pick, returns, along with team MVP Randall Boboige, a third-team All-Area choice.

Chall had an outstanding freshman year, averaging 37.85 strokes per nine. As a sophomore, the All-Division pick averaged 39.4.

"Evan had a bit of a sophomore slump, but he certainly has the ability," Osler said.

"Hopefully he's improved with his consistency."

"When he's on his game it's because of his consistency, his short game and his confidence is high."

Osler also returns seniors Brad Bescoe, Lance Antroibius, Jeff Hunter and Will Bashara.

Both Hunter and Bashara spent the summer working at Oasis Golf Center.

"They really hit a lot of balls," the Churchill coach said.

Osler was also encouraged by sophomore Kevin Kasten's 72 posted at Whispering Willows (the Chargers' home course) on the opening day of tryouts.

"We had 42 signed up and I'll probably keep around 15 players," Osler said. "We also have a good crop of ninth graders."

Can Churchill challenge for the WLAA title?

"It all starts with Walled Lake Central," Osler said. "They're the favorite because they had mostly sophomores and juniors last year."

Livonia Stevenson

Ninth-year coach John Wagner has one gaping hole to fill.

Michigan's Mr. Golf, Steve Polanski, left this week for Texas Christian University as the school's most heralded golfer.

Polanski, the individual state medalist and regional champion, was the premier junior in the state. As a 17-year-old he finished runner-up in the Michigan Amateur.

Third-team All-Observer selection Roy Rabe also graduated, along with Matt DiPonio and Kevin Yuhasz as Stevenson finished 8-4 overall and earned a berth in the state tournament (finishing 20th after a third-place in the regional).

So this should be a down season for the Spartans?

"In my opinion, we may have more depth but we'll battle inconsistency because of our inexperience," Wagner said.

Senior Mike Byberg, who averaged 41.9 per nine, is the top returnee.

But, two promising sophomores, Scott Wolfe and Matt Bartnick, who hit the summer junior tour hard, bring impressive stroke averages of 42.0 and 41.1 with them this year.

"They both played strong golf this summer and they've really lopped off strokes," Wagner said.

er said.

Seniors Brian Dery (42.4) and 103-pound state wrestling champion Josh Gunterman (44.0) will provide depth, along with junior Chris Thomas, senior Travis Belcher and junior Brandon Obenour.

"We had 50 boys come out with about eight to 10 from last year, that's a tough cut," said Wagner, whose team will play its home matches on Idyl Wyld. "We have to make good choices."

"With a guy like Gunterman we look for his leadership."

Wayne Memorial

Dennis Chall is in his 20th season as varsity coach of the Zebras, who look to improve on their 2-9 dual meet season and sixth-place finish in the Mega Conference's Red Division.

Adam Chiasson and captain Chad Campbell were lost to graduation, but Chall is optimistic Wayne can improve on its 2-8 divisional mark.

"We have a lot of young players to fill in the gaps," Chall said. "I place a lot of value on summer tourney experience and by what I've seen, I think we could do damage in our league."

Junior Greg Baracy, who averaged in the low 40s, played on the Power-Bilt Junior Tour. He is the team's captain.

"Greg's playing better and learning the ropes of competitive golf," Chall said. "He's a very hard worker and hits a ton of balls."

"He's had a huge amount of summer experience."

Baracy had an impressive 78 last month at Taylor Meadows.

He will be joined by sophomore Greg Laws, who made All-Division and ranked 10th after firing an 81 at the Mega-Red Tournament.

"Greg (Laws) is a good player, hits it straight as a string," Chall said. "He's a good putter and is good around the greens. He's also played in a lot of junior tourneys."

Wayne's success could hinge upon the development of four other players — senior Brad Laws, junior Ryan Green and sophomores Matt Nowak and Ryan Green.

The Zebras will play their home matches this season at Fellows Creek (West Course).

Rich Shook also contributed to this preview.

Woodpeckers nest around

This has been a great woodpecker summer at our feeders — to my wife's delight.

We have always had downy woodpeckers at our feeder and occasionally a hairy woodpecker, but this summer both the common flicker and the red-bellied woodpecker have visited much more frequently.

Not only have we seen adults, we have seen young of all but the flicker.

This is one of the benefits of feeding during the summer. Adults will guide their young to a feeding station and teach them what and how to eat. They enjoy the suet we provide.

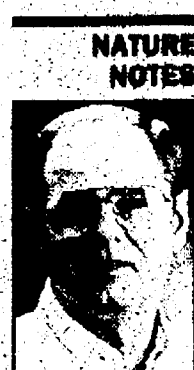
In order to keep the starlings away from the suet, my son made a feeder that is accessible from the bottom when it is hung in a tree.

Woodpeckers can hang on upside down, while starlings cannot feed in this position. This system has worked very well for us.

There are nine different woodpeckers that can be seen in Michigan.

Two are primarily northern Michigan or Upper Peninsula bound. Black-backed and three-toed woodpeckers rarely come this far south.

Pileated woodpeckers are seen more frequently in southeastern Michigan these days, but they typically need a large expanse of old growth forest. Most suburban areas do not offer the right kind of habitat.



TIM NOWICKI

Yellow-bellied sapsucker and red-headed woodpecker are the only other two species remaining.

Though sapsuckers can be seen in suburban areas, we have never seen one at our house in Livonia.

We have been fortunate to see a red-headed woodpecker.

Red-headed woodpeckers have an entire hood of red that covers the head and neck. Red-bellied woodpeckers only have a cap of red on the top of their head. Red-bellies are frequently misnamed as red-headed woodpeckers.

We are fortunate to have large trees in our neighborhood which provided both food and nesting sites for woodpeckers.

Old trees are constantly losing branches due to age. Where the branch once connected to the trunk is a soft spot that woodpeckers can excavate into a nest site. Before a branch physically falls off, insects will invade the wood and provide food for these birds.

Starlings will use abandoned woodpecker nests, or fight a woodpecker for the site it has excavated.

Holes not occupied by a starling are nest sites that other local birds will use. Chickadees, titmice and nuthatches will use abandoned woodpecker holes if they are the appropriate size.

Woodpeckers do not have the melodious song of a cardinal, or the bright colors of a goldfinch, but they are big enough to be seen easily, they are attracted to a feeding station easily and they help other species obtain food and nesting sites.

We look forward to seeing these birds all year long.

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CERAMIC TILE

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Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce www.fhchamber.com

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Livonia Chamber of Commerce www.livonia.org

Redford Chamber of Commerce redfordchamber.org

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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COMMUNITIES

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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The Mirror Newspapers www.mirrornews.com

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Reuther Middle School http://oeonline.com/rms

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INDUSTRIAL

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ARCHERY

BROADHEAD SHOOT

Royal Oak Archers will host a broadhead shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, August 28, on its walk-through course in Lake Orion. Similar shoots will be held Sept. 5 and Sept. 12. Call (248) 628-8354 or (248) 589-2480 for more information.

HOLIDAY 3D SHOOT

Detroit Archers will hold a 3D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Sept. 4-6, on its walk-through course in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

DA BOWHUNTER JAMBOREE

Detroit Archers will hold its annual bowhunter jamboree beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11-12, on its walk-through course in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

BROADHEAD PRACTICE

Detroit Archers will hold broadhead practice beginning at 5 p.m. every Thursday night through the month of October. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

LIVONIA RANGE

The newly renovated Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range features seven field lanes and one broadhead lane and is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Livonia residents shoot free of charge. The range is located on Glendale Ave., east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 466-2410 for more information.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS

A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

SHOOTING SPORTS

SPORTING CLAYS

Wings & Clays will host a sporting clays shoot on Sunday, Aug. 29, at the Bald Mountain range in Lake Orion. Call (248) 814-9193 for more information.

SEASON/DATES

BEAR

Bear season opens Sept. 10.

GOOSE

A special early Canada goose season runs Sept. 1-10 in the Upper Peninsula and Sept. 1-15 in the Lower Peninsula. Check the DNR's Early September Canada Goose Season Hunting Guide for special restrictions.

GROUSE

Grouse season opens Sept. 15.

RABBIT

Rabbit season opens Sept. 15.

SQUIRREL

Squirrel season opens Sept. 15.

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

B.A.S.S. TOP 150

The first stop on the 1999-2000 B.A.S.S. Top 150 circuit will be Wednesday-Saturday, Aug. 25-28 on Lake St. Clair. Daily weigh-ins will take place at Metro Beach Metropark in Mt. Clemens.

OAKLAND BASS MASTERS

Oakland Bass Masters will hold a two-man team tournament on Sunday, on Aug. 29 on Lodbell Lake. To register and for more information call Roy Randolph at (248) 542-5254. Oakland Bass Masters will hold its final tournament of the season on Sunday, Sept. 26, on Lakeville Lake.

CLASSES/CLINICS

WAYNE WATERFOWL CLINIC

The Wayne Waterfowl Chapter of the Michigan Duck Hunter's Association is holding a waterfowl hunting clinic beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area in Rockwood. Call (734) 422-0583 for more information.

ULTRA LIGHT BACKPACKING

Recreational Equipment Inc. staffer Matt Duluk will discuss his hike across Isle Royale National Park during an ultralight backpacking exhibit beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25 at REI. Call (248) 347-2100

for more information.

MORE HUNTER EDUCATION

Wayne County Sportsmen's Club will be offering three hunter education classes at its clubhouse and grounds in Romulus. Classes will be offered Oct. 9-10, Oct. 23-24, and Nov. 6-7. Call (313) 532-0285 to register and for more information.

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 August 15 and 29, and Sept. 12. Class size is limited. To register and for more information call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

FLY TYING

Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tyers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

MORE FLY TYING

River Bend Sport Shop in Southfield offers fly tying classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced tyers. Classes will be held at various times. For more

information and to register call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

CLIMBING CLASS

An introductory climbing course for the novice and first-time climber is offered at various times at REI in Northville. The class covers basic indoor climbing safety, technique, equipment and terminology. The course is free and available to adults and children. Call (248) 347-2100 for current schedules and additional information.

ACTIVITIES

HERITAGE DAYS

Huron Pointe Sportsmen's Association and Gander Mountain will host the fourth annual Heritage Days, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, at the Huron Pointe clubhouse and grounds in New Haven. Activities include trap & skeet shooting, 3D archery, novelty shoots and guest speakers covering topics such as hunting the Metroparks, and gun rights. Call (810) 598-8018 or (810) 948-0259 for more information.

FALL HUNTING CLASSIC

Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World at Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills is holding a Fall Hunting Classic Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 26-29. The event includes seminars, a 3D pop-up tournament, vendor booths, prizes, whitetail rack

scoring, a live deer display, special sales and more. Call (248) 209-4200 or visit the web site at www.outdoor-world.com.

WEST BLOOMFIELD WOODS

Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a two-hour stroll through the West Bloomfield Woods Nature Preserve during this program, which begins at 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 29. Participants are asked to meet at the west end of the K-Mart parking lot at Orchard Lake Road and 13 Mile Road in Orchard Lake. Call Lee Becker at (810) 294-7789 for more information.

CLUBS

CLINTON VALLEY BASS

Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494

for more information.

FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Visitors are invited and refreshments will be served. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843 for more information.

FISHING BUDDIES

Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester Hills. Meetings are open to all anglers (boaters and non-boaters). Call (248) 656-0556 for more information.

HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS

The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Rd., Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION

The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for more information.

SOLAR

The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organization interested in promoting the

Please see CALENDAR, C6

IT'S OBVIOUS FROM THE START... TEAMWORK WINS.

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SATURDAY NIGHT STEAK-OUT

9 Holes with Cart (carts are mandatory)

Steak Dinner (w/baked potato & Salad)
Cash Bar

\$23.00 Per Person

Aug. 21, 28
Sept. 11, 18

Teeling off from 5-7 pm

Fox Creek
Golf Course

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Livonia

(248) 471-3400

Outdoor calendar *from page C5*

appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658 for more information.

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.

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.

NATURE CLUB

Ages 8-12 will learn about the outdoors during this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, 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 pro-

grams 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.

SUMMER EVENING STROLL

Explore the park's natural and cultural history through a variety of weekly hikes and interpretive presentations during this class, which will be held at 7 p.m. each Thursday through the end of August at Maybury.

BATS OF MICHIGAN

Learn all about bats during this slide presentation, which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, at Maybury.

KIDS GARDEN DAY

Learn about gardening, weather, helpful insects and animals during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Maybury.

MICHIGAN BIRDS OF PREY

Learn about the habits and habits of birds of prey during this program, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Maybury.

SCARECROW WORKSHOP

A short presentation on scare-

crow lore followed by a chance to construct some scarecrows for display at the farm, begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at Maybury.

BIRD HIKE

Observe and identify bird species seen throughout the park during this naturalist-led hike, which begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at Maybury.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS

Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

GEOLOGY

Jr. Girl Scouts can complete all the requirements for their geolo-

gy badge during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at Indian Springs.

STORIES IN THE SAND

Children ages four to seven can enjoy a story and a fun beach activity during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at Stony Creek.

HURON RIVER CLEAN UP

Volunteers are needed to help clean up the Huron River from Proud Lake through the Kensington Metropark during the 12th annual Huron River Clean Up, which begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Kensington. The rain date is Saturday, Aug. 28. Call (248) 685-7129 for more information.

ASTRONOMY

See the moon and stars like never before during this program, which begins at 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 20-21 and is hosted by the Great Lakes Association of Astronomy Clubs.

INSECT WEEKEND

Explore a pond on Saturday and a field on Sunday during this two-day program, which will be held Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 21-22, at Hudson Mills.

BATS

Explore the life of a bat and get tips on building a bat house during this program, which begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Indian Springs.

TOT FUN

Children ages four through seven and their parents will learn about birds during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, at Indian Springs.

TOT TALK

Children ages three to six accompanied by an adult will learn about nature through different activities during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 23, at Hudson Mills.

CHEMISTRY IS ME

Home schooled children ages

eight and older will learn all about chemicals from Dominic Crea, a teacher at Macomb Community College during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, 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 1-800-47-PARKS for more information.

(To submit items for consideration in the Observer & Eccentric's Outdoor Calendar send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; fax information to (248) 644-1314 or send E-mail to bparker@oe.homecomm.net)

MHNI



TENSION HEADACHE?

The Michigan Head-Pain & Neurological Institute is conducting a research study evaluating a potential treatment for tension type headache. Participants must be at least 18 years old and suffer 4-10 headaches per month. Study-related medical care and compensation for time and travel are provided. Please call our Research Staff for more information.

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



"Illuminata" a comedy/love story about a New York City repertory company and its ambitious, restless playwright, opens today, exclusively at the Maple Art Theatre, 4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 855-9090.

SATURDAY



The Actors' Company presents "The Emperor's New Clothes" 2 p.m. at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia. Tickets \$10 adults, \$7 children, call (248) 988-7032.

SUNDAY



The Allman Brothers perform with special guest Lucinda Williams and others during a Southern rock festival, 7 p.m. at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. Tickets \$34.50 pavilion, \$17.75 lawn. Call (248) 377-0100 or www.palacenet.com

TICKET



Hot Tix: Take a trip down memory lane during the Woodward Dream Cruise Saturday, Aug. 21. Festivities take place in downtown Birmingham and other communities along Woodward Avenue. For up-to-date event information, call 1-888-4WDC-1963 or visit the Web site www.dreamcruise.org. Events include the Motor City CruiseFest, Michigan State Fair Grounds, 5-11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20 and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21 offers entertainment and classic car displays. Admission is \$3 adults, children 12 and under admitted free, parking \$5. Call (248) 204-6060 for more information.

THE

Renaissance Festival

WHERE ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

What: 20th Annual Michigan Renaissance Festival
When: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends & Labor Day, through Sunday, Sept. 26
Where: 12600 Dixie Highway, Holly Township.
Directions: I-75, Northbound Traffic - Take Exit 106, stay in left lane of exit, travel two blocks, then turn left onto Dixie Highway southbound. Travel two miles south. Festival is on the right.

Schedule of themes

Tickets: \$13.95 adults, \$11.75 seniors age 60 and older, \$5.95 children (5-12), children age 4 and younger, free. Advance tickets: \$12.50 adult, \$5 children (5-12). For information, call (800) 601-4848, or (248) 634-5552.

Theme Schedule

- August 21 & 22: "Renaissance Romance," passionate pastimes
- August 28 & 29: "High Seas Adventure," swashbucklers invade Hollygrove
- Sept. 4, 5 & 6: "Wonders of the World," an exploration of the mysteries of the East
- Sept. 11 & 12: "Highland Fling," Celtic games, bag pipes and dance
- Sept. 18 & 19: "The Emerald Isle," celebration of Irish culture
- Sept. 25 & 26: "Sweet Endings," a presentation of chocolate delights

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER
fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net

About a half-an-hour before the King and Queen of Scotland are expected to arrive at the gates of Hollygrove, nearly 200 actors gather around one of the main stages on the site of the 15-acre Renaissance-age village. "Your job is to reach out and touch the hearts of as many people as you can," said Lu Harding-Capots, creative director of the festival, now in its 20th year. "This is your playtime," said Harding-Capots, as she twisted her shoulders, stretched her legs and encouraged the interactive theater company to breathe deeply and envision a world far from the grounds of Holly Township and present-day, high-tech reality. "Welcome our guests into your play space."

This gregarious group of thespians hardly needs encouragement. Their reality is obviously descended from the historic land of pleasure and merrymaking of four centuries ago. Just try to pry any of the actors from their roles as peasants, nobility and jesters. Nothing doing.

For the nearly 30,000 people expected each weekend of the festival, the con-jured world of Hollygrove is the closest thing to living history.

The festival enters its second of a seven-weekend schedule of thematic events, including this weekend's celebration of the romantic pursuits of the Renaissance era, long before there was discount dining, video stores and Hallmark cards.

At Hollygrove, it's common to see visitors walking the grounds tearing away at a drumstick the size of a Brontosaurus bone, sipping a glass of mead, or giving a thumbs up or thumbs down to jousting competitors.

"There are no wallflowers here," said Patricia Taylor, festival marketing director. For that matter, there are no walls.

"At some museums, it's 'look, but don't touch,' she said. "Here, you're an essential part of what's going on."

Since its inception in 1979 as one of the first Renaissance Festivals in the country, the celebration at Hollygrove has been among the top in the nation, according to Taylor, who claimed the Michigan festival is rated alongside those in Shakopee, Minn., and outside of Dallas-Fort

Into role: Valerie Schendel of Clarkston (left) assists Tammie Graves as she prepares to assume the persona of the Baroness Lady Anne of Hartland. Below, a peasant boy, Brandon Vilarolo of Commerce, (left), presents a bouquet of flowers to Lady Anne.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLYNSKY

Merrymaker puts on a noble act

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER
fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net

Wearing a crown of baby's breath and a slightly nervous expression, Tammie Graves came to the Renaissance Festival as both a guest and participant.

Graves is a graphic artist for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, whose bouts of "hamming it up" are well known to her colleagues, but perhaps less recognized by the public.

To those from the historic land of merrymaking, she is kin.

What Graves lacks in acting experience, she makes up for in sheer desire to one day stand upon the stage and recite William Shakespeare's words.

Shortly after stepping through the Hollygrove gates, Graves expected that her wish to be among the cast who brings the Renaissance to life would land her a role among the peasants.

"I had pictured myself as a wench," said Graves, who prepared for her part in Holly-

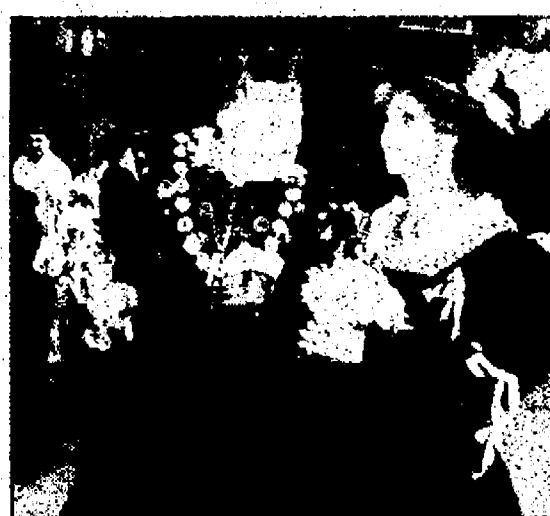
grove by watching "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Robin Hood" and memorizing a list of Elizabethan phrases.

Little did Graves know that she had the look of nobility.

Whisked away to a second-story wardrobe room at the edge of the Renaissance village, Graves slipped into a whoop skirt and a royal blue, velvet dress embroidered in gold and sequins.

In moments, Graves' dream of

Royal attention: During his visit of Hollygrove, the King of Scotland was enamored with Lady Anne.



Please see MERRYMAKER, E2

Please see FESTIVAL, E2

SUMMER TRADITION

Michigan State Fair offers 'something for everyone'



Featured performers: The Temptations are just one of the many popular groups performing at this year's fair.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

Brad Coombs can barely spare a second to talk about his involvement as entertainment director of the Michigan State Fair.

But when he does, his voice rings with pride. He compares choosing the line-up to putting the pieces of a puzzle together. Taking into consideration which days need to be scheduled, which performers are touring during that time and available to play, and what will ultimately fit into the budget, he's managed to organize a diverse musical line-up for the third year in a row.

"The State Fair is the second largest (in attendance) paid event in the state of Michigan behind the North American International Auto Show," said Coombs. That means he's serving an audience that includes every "age, race and economic sphere in the region." Metro Detroiters are joined by crowds of people from across the state — reaching as far south as

Michigan State Fair

When: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24 through Monday, Sept. 6. The midway is open until midnight on weekends, and 11 p.m. weeknights.

Where: The Michigan State Fairgrounds, are on the southeast corner of Eight Mile Road and Woodward Avenue.

Admission: \$9 adults, \$2 Children under age 11; Children under 2 free. Parking \$5.

More family entertainment: Visitors to the fair can show their ticket stubs at Henry Ford Museum or Greenfield Village for \$2 off adult and \$1 off children's admission. Visitors to Henry Ford Museum or Greenfield Village can use either of those ticket stubs to receive a discount of \$2 off an adult ticket to the Michigan State Fair.

For more information: Call the Michigan State Fairgrounds (313) 369-8250 or visit the Web site www.mda.state.mi.us/statelair

See entertainment line up inside

Please see FAIR, E2

Fair

from page E1

Toledo and as far east as Canada.

"We try to provide something for everyone," said Coombs.

In an area where musical acts are drawn to so many venues, like The Palace, Pine Knob Music Theatre and the Fox Theatre, it's not an easy job. Coombs said music venues around the rest of the country "pale in comparison" to those in the metro area.

"It's frustrating and fun," he said. "I think we've got a good line-up."

John Hertel, general manager of the Michigan State Fair, which opens Tuesday, agreed.

"We are in a unique place in the United States," said Hertel. "Most State Fairs do not compete with Pine Knob, Joe Louis Arena, The Palace, Meadow Brook. We're particularly proud

of this year's line-up."

The line-up includes an eclectic collection of music, from rock to Motown to country. The Temptations, Billy Ray Cyrus, Def Leppard and 98 Degrees are just a few of the highlights for this year's live entertainment.

Hertel said an effort was made to keep the cost of these shows to a minimum. Like last year, Gold Circle seating is available. For \$10 added to the cost of admission, fair-goers can sit in the first 1,500 seats at The Band Shell during the concerts.

The only exception is the Labor Day concert. Tickets will be required to see Journey perform on Monday, Sept. 6. General admission tickets are \$10 plus the price of admission and Gold Circle seats are \$16 plus the cost of admission. While Hertel said fair organizers intend to keep

providing free concerts, they must cover the ever-increasing costs associated with those shows.

"I'm not sure where you'll be able to see Journey anywhere else for \$10," he said. "It's still an excellent value."

But music isn't the only draw for visitors to this summer's State Fair.

"The 1999 Michigan State Fair has matured in a new and different way," said Hertel. "We are as clean as Disney here. Secondly, we are the safest fair in America. No fair in America can compare in terms of safety."

Hertel spoke with confidence and pride about this year's event as he addressed members of the press during a conference Tuesday, Aug. 3 at the fairgrounds. Quiet and vacant, the grounds showed only a hint of the energy brewing in preparation for the State Fair.

"Everything here must be quality, from the livestock to the exhibits to all of the sponsors," said Hertel. "It's like going to

your grandfather's farm, Cedar Point and Pine Knob all in one day."

Each day, certain attractions are sure to capture the attention of visitors to the fairgrounds. The Stove, built in 1893 for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, will surely be noticed. Reaching 25-feet high, 20-feet wide and 30-feet long, the stove serves as a reminder that Michigan was once the stove capital of the world.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan and Michigan State University are bringing back the Miracle of Life Birthing Exhibit, giving visitors an up-close look as cows, ewes and sows give birth. This year's exhibit includes a demonstration of ultrasounds on sheep and sheep shearing.


DaimlerChrysler will offer free rides on the Drunk Driving simulator 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. More than 65 other rides can be found on the Wade Shows Midway, including Giant White

Entertainers will perform at The Band Shell, located at the southwest entrance to the Michigan State Fairgrounds.

Tickets: 1,500 Gold Circle seats will be available for each show through Ticketmaster for \$10 each plus admission to the fair. Contact Ticketmaster at (248) 645-6666 or purchase tickets online at www.ticketmaster.com. General admission to the fair does not guarantee free entry into The Band Shell.

The line-up:
7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24 Mark Farner of Grand Funk Railroad
7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25 Def Leppard
7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26 Billy


Ray Cyrus
8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27 Tyrese
7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 38 Special
7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29 Temptations
7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 30 Kenny Chesney
7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 31 Detroit Area Choirs
7p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1 The Isley Brothers
7p.m. Thursday, Sept. 2 Alabama
8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3 Ginuwine
7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4 98 Degrees
7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 5 Hank Williams Jr.
8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 6 Journey



An Evening with Olivia Newton-John

September 1

7:30 PM



An Evening with John Tesh

September 2

7:30 PM

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pine knob music theatre

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Merrymaker

from page E1

of portraying the life of a peasant were dashed. The hat atop her head, and the attendant who laced up her bodice from behind were clear signs that she was no ordinary woman.

In Renaissance times, Graves would have been the embodiment of a married woman who commanded respect from passersby.

Of course, a title was in order. Faster than an approaching

deadline, she was recognized as the Baroness Lady Anne from Hartland.

With her attendant, Lady Valkyre (Valerie Schendel of Clarkston) at her side, Graves walked the grounds of Hollygrove.

Her presence was duly noted. A young peasant boy (Brandon Viliarolo of Commerce) greeted her with a bouquet of flowers. Noblemen bowed in respect. And

even the portly, lecherous King of Scotland noted her presence — several times.

"I was impressed at the authenticity and sense of history that everyone knew," said Graves.

Eleven years after Graves attended her first Renaissance

Festival, she finally got an insider's look at the community of actors that breathes life into Hollygrove. "Even though I was scared, I took a risk," she said. "And that's a lesson in itself. After an hour, I knew that I wanted to do this today, next year and long after that."

Festival

from page E1

Worth. Last year, a strong man's competition was added to appeal to sports fans. This year a murder mystery and celebration of Irish culture were added. In the future, Taylor expects that the festival will be open during the week to draw students and kids at summer camps.


With the resurgence of interest in the works of William Shakespeare, Taylor believes more people are interested in the life and times of the Renaissance. They don't have to look far.

Beneath the costume and Eliz-


abethan language, Shakespeare can be found at Hollygrove. "Our goal is to be truly authentic," said Shakespeare, through his living facsimile, Tom Aston. "Everything we do is intended to make the guests to Hollygrove feel like winners."

Aston, who coordinates the performing arts programs at Oakland University, began as a consultant to the festival in the late 1970s. He joined the cast in the early 1980s, long before the bard from Stratford enjoyed a resurgence on the silver screen.

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- Edgar Winter Live in Concert
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Event Hotline: 248-204-6060

THEATER

Actors' Company presents 'The Emperor's New Clothes'

The Actors' Company presents "The Emperor's New Clothes," 2 p.m. Saturdays, Aug. 21 and Aug. 28 at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile Road (west of I-275, east of Haggerty Road), Livonia. Tickets \$10 adults, \$7 children and seniors. Call (248) 988-7032 for reservations, seating is limited.

BY KEELY WYONIK
STAFF WRITER

kwyonik@oe.homedm.net

Mike Gravame grew up seeing live theater. Knowing that a lot of kids don't have the same opportunity makes him sad, sad enough to do something about it. On Saturday, Gravame will

have kids in stitches when his character, Mr. Stitch, helps the Emperor get new clothes in a delightful musical production presented by The Actors' Company at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

"It's fast-paced, upbeat," said Gravame about The Prince Street Players LTD Production of "The Emperor's New Clothes," based on the classic tale by Hans Christian Andersen. The production, adapted by Jim Eiler, features lyrics by Eiler, with music by Eiler and Jeanne Bargy.

"The music is repeated a lot. Kids will walk out humming the tunes."

As a child, Gravame saw the show performed by The Prince Street Players at the Detroit Institute of Arts. In 1985 he formed The Actors' Company, which is presenting this show.

"I've always wanted to produce and direct," he said explaining how the company got started. "It's just something you're born with, I think. I like acting, but directing is what I really want to do."

In 1989 he started taking his shows on the road, touring northern Michigan opera houses.

His company is special, because they do both adult and children's shows.

"Discover the magic of live theater," is his wish for both adult and children's audiences.

"Kids today are bombarded by the media," he said. "Many have never seen a live theater production. They don't get to meet the actors after seeing a Disney cartoon. With live theater they do. We meet and greet kids after the show."

Gravame especially enjoys children's theater because he believes it gives kids a chance to be kids and escape into a fairy tale.

The costumes and set are bright yellow, pink, and teal. "All the characters are outrageous,"

said Gravame. "They're bigger than life. It's the kind of show I grew up seeing."

Stephanie Nichols portrays the Empress, and was Lady Winefred in the Prince Street Players production of the show.

"To me it's a story that works," she said. "It teaches a lesson to adults and children. There are a lot of adults who go along with the crowd and don't say anything that hurts their status."

In the show she tap dances, and blasts away on the trumpet, "dreadfully."

"It's so much fun to see faces and have the kids want to meet you afterward," said Nichols

explaining why she enjoys children's theater so much. "Theater is in our hearts and we want to cultivate a new audience."

Presenting a show is work, but Gravame says he's having a blast doing it.

"If you're not having fun, you're not doing your job right," he said. "Kid's are honest. They'll know."

The Actors' Company will take their show on the road after appearing at Trinity House Theatre. If you're interested in having them perform for your group or event, call the number listed above.

Positive signs point to cultural awakening in Detroit

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN
DELISI

Attention-grabbing Detroit events such as The Three Tenors concert and the opening of the MGM Grand Detroit Casino undoubtedly lured many new or estranged visitors to the city this summer. But will they be back?

After all, the concert was a once-in-a-lifetime event in a lame duck stadium.

The windfall for the Michigan Opera Theatre and the boost in Detroit's reputation as a cultural center gave us something major to celebrate. Great for a Chamber of Commerce highlight reel, but the long-term benefits for area cultural institutions are difficult to assess.

Casinos generate such strong opinions that you can burn up a day just by raising the issue. Even time may not bring a consensus of whether gaming is an enduring source of revenue and excitement or a contributor to economic and moral blight.

I like to believe that Detroit is in the midst of a cultural awakening, but as a shameless booster and host of a weekly TV series about the local arts scene, the positive signs I see nearly every day may not accurately reflect what's going on.

So, on a beautiful mid-August afternoon, I let my mind drift as I drove down Woodward Avenue from Detroit Public TV's BACKSTAGE PASS studios. As I passed the New Center train station, I imagined I was a first-time visitor to Detroit.

That's right. I'm Norm from Chicago. Yep, just here to check out the casino and maybe get a peek at the new ballpark. Then, I'll grab a brat and a beer and be on my way.

What else do you have to show me in the ten minute drive to Comerica Park, Detroit?

Well, just past the Center for Creative Studies on your left, there's the cultural center. That's the Detroit Institute of Arts, and behind it is the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. The Detroit Historical Museum and the Detroit Science Center are right here, too. Hmmm. Not much traffic today. Orchestra Hall? Oh, it's the home of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Pick a lane, buddy. I didn't know there was a Second City here, too. The Fox Theatre? Looks like quite a place. Hey, there's the ballpark. Right next to the Detroit Opera House. Maybe I'll circle around. I see on the Music Hall marquee that the Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival is coming up. What's this? The Gem Theatre.

All right, there is a lot of action outside

the casino. But I also saw a lot of vacant, neglected lots. And you tell me this huge hole used to be a department store? And you broke the train in the air when you blew it up? It does give me a nice view of that big mural of Barry Sanders. Maybe if his team opened holes this big to run through he wouldn't have retired from football.

Norm's rating? Detroit, you're not perfect, but you're trying. Keep it up, and I'll be back.

The drive is over, and it's good to be myself again. But I wonder how many people in the Detroit area would have their eyes opened by traveling the same course as Norm, the imaginary out-of-towner. Admittedly, there's plenty of "holes," but you can see an exciting plan taking shape. Most major metropolitan areas offer cultural attractions like the ones Norm discovered. But Detroit can stand out by being more affordable, convenient, and friendly.

Keep your promise to come back, Norm, and I just may buy you that brat and beer.

After a couple weeks off due to Detroit Public TV's summer pledge drive, BACKSTAGE PASS returns to the air 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22, with legendary Detroit soul artists The Dramatics and new acoustic rock from The Luddites.

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Ten winners will win a pair of lower level tickets to see Huey Lewis and The News at Pine Knob Music Theatre. All entries must be received by Wednesday, September 8, 1999. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years or older. Employees of Observer and Eccentric and Palace Sports & Entertainment and their immediate family members are not eligible.

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Every year thousands of people travel to visit the Vietnam War Memorial Wall to remember, to reflect and to heal. The Wall is a powerful emotional experience. The Vietnam Wall Experience—a 240-foot near-size replica of the famous Vietnam Memorial Wall will be on display in Southeast Michigan for three days only.

- All are welcome—admission is free
- The Wall is open 24 hours beginning Friday, August 27 at 8 a.m. to Sunday, August 29 at 6 p.m.
- Located at Christian Memorial Cemetery, 521 East Hamlin Road, Rochester Hills (approximately two miles north of M-59 and just east of Rochester Road)

Schedule of Events

Friday, August 27	Saturday, August 28
Flag Raising Ceremony-----8:00 a.m.	Flag Raising Ceremony-----8:00 a.m.
Opening Ceremony-----7:00 p.m.	Wreath Laying Ceremony-----6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 29

Sunrise Interdenominational Worship Service and Flag Raising Ceremony -----8:00 a.m.
Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Motorcade-----1:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Closing Ceremony-----3:00 p.m.

Information Line: 810-997-7797

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A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

THEATER

CAPITOL THEATRE

"A Chorus Line," presented by the Capitol Repertory Players, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Aug. 20-21 and 27-28, and 2 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 22 and 29, at the theater, 121 University Ave. W., Windsor. \$18, \$16 seniors/students (AA section), \$15, \$13 seniors/students (A section). (519) 253-7729

GEM AND CENTURY THEATRES

"Forbidden Hollywood," the smash hit musical spoof of the movies continues through Dec. 31, 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Fridays, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 5:30 p.m. Sundays, at the Century Theatre, 333 Madison Avenue, Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800

PERFORMANCE NETWORK

"Office Hours" by Mercury Theatre Co. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 19-29, at the Performance Network, 408 W. Washington, west of Main St., Ann Arbor. \$12, \$9 students/seniors. (734) 663-0681

OPERA

FRIENDS OF THE OPERA OF MICHIGAN

Puccini's "La Boheme," Fridays, Aug. 27 and Sept. 10, at the Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16501 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. \$15, includes afterglow reception. (313) 582-0997

COLLEGE

HENRY FORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"When You Coming Back, Red Ryder?," 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 19-21, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, in Ards Auditorium, MacKenzie Fine Arts Center, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. \$8, \$6. (313) 317-6594

COMMUNITY THEATER

THE ACTORS' COMPANY

Presents the Prince Street Players LTD Production of "The Emperor's New Clothes," 2 p.m. Saturdays, Aug. 21 and Aug. 28 at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile Road (west of I-275, east of Haggerty Road), Livonia. \$10, \$7 children/seniors. (248) 988-7032 for reservations, seating is limited.

ELLIPSIS THEATRE ENSEMBLE

"The Caucasian Chalk Circle" by Bertolt through Aug. 29, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, at the Trueblood Theatre, Ann Arbor. \$12, \$9. (734) 975-0417

JACK-IN-THE-BOX PRODUCTIONS

Neil Simon's "Jake's Women," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 20-21, at the University of Michigan-Dearborn's School of Management Building, off Evergreen, between Ford Road and Michigan Ave., and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 27-28, at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington. \$10, \$7 seniors/students. (734) 797-JACK

OPUS MIMÉ

"Shadow Play," through Aug. 29, 11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 7 p.m. Sundays, at the Trueblood Theatre, Ann Arbor. \$9. (734) 975-0417

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

MARQUIS THEATRE

"Rumplestiltskin," 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, Aug. 17-20, 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, Aug. 14, 21, 28 and Sept. 11, 18 and 25, and 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 29 and Sept. 12, 19 and 26, at the theater, 135 E. Main, Northville. \$6. (248) 349-8110

SPECIAL EVENTS

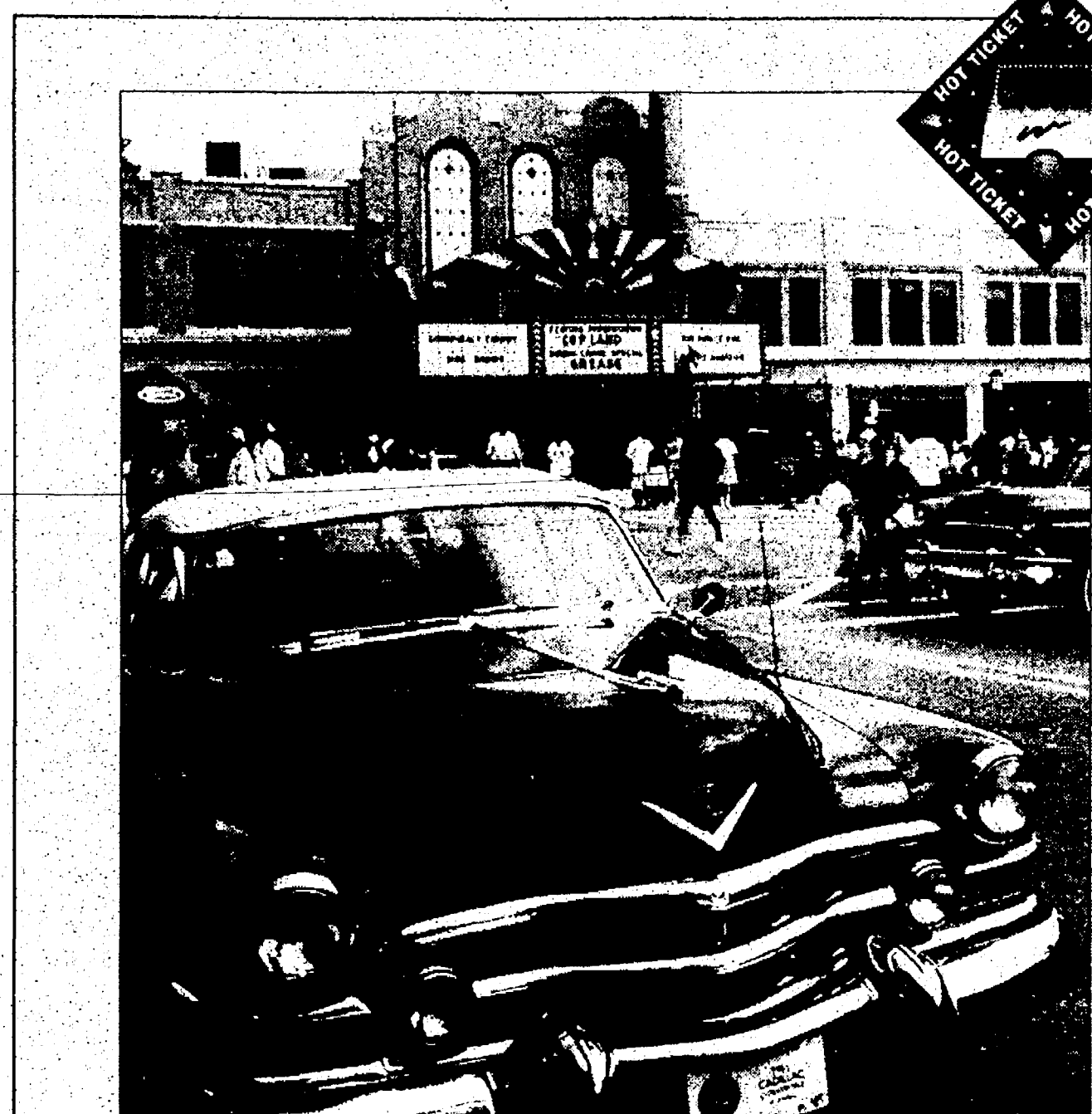
VIETNAM

Gala evening of food, culture and entertainment, featuring a preview of "Today's Vietnam" hosted by Keith Famle, 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, Fox Theatre, Detroit. Opening VIP reception, food tasting and display of Vietnamese cultural exhibits, 6-7:45 p.m. Tickets \$75 VIP reception on mezzanine level, call (248) 681-0243; \$25 general admission, call Ticketmaster (248) 645-6666. Event also features special performances by Stewart Francke, the Detroit Concert Choir, The Burton International School, and Flemming Elementary School. Event proceeds to benefit the Stewart Francke Leukemia Foundation, the Vietnam Veteran's Association, Chapter 9 of Detroit, and the International Children's Alliance Network.

CANINE PSYCHIC

Madame Vivian, noted psychic specializing the cosmic connection between dogs and human friends is a guest during the Yappy Hour 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, complimentary cosmic consultations, personal paw and palm readings; grand reopening noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21 for a \$5 donation to the Michigan Animal Adoption Network have a family Polaroid taken, at Three Dog Bakery, 223 East Maple, Birmingham. (248) 723-1582.

DEPOT TOWN CRUISE NIGHTS



Take a cruise: The Woodward Dream Cruise 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21 offers fun for everyone. Festivities take place in downtown Birmingham and other communities along Woodward Avenue. For up-to-date event information, call 1-888-4WDC-1963 or visit the Web site www.dreamcruise.org. The Motor City CruiseFest on the Michigan State Fair Grounds, corner of Eight Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, 5-11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20 and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21 offers entertainment and classic car displays. Motor City CruiseFest admission is \$3 adults, children 12 and under admitted free, parking \$5. Call (248) 204-6060 for more information.

Hundreds of street rods rumble into Depot Town 6-9 p.m. Thursdays through Sept. 9, Cross Street in Ypsilanti. (734) 483-4444 or www.ypsilanti.org

E'S RECORD AND CD MUSIC COLLECTIBLES EXPO

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, Royal Oak Elks Hall, I-75 and 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Free. (248) 546-4527

OL' TIME CAMP MEETING

6 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday, Aug. 22-24, dinner begins each evening followed by a time of teaching by pastors, gospel and contemporary music, and hymn singing, reservations required for Sunday's chicken barbecue, bring a dish for Monday-Tuesday potlucks, and table settings for all dinners, at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth. (734) 453-5280

REDFORD THEATRE

Film "Funny Lady," with guest organist Jennifer M. Candea, 7:30 p.m. organ overture followed by 8 p.m. film Friday, Aug. 20, and 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. overtures with 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. films, Saturday, Aug. 21, Historic Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit. \$2.50, "A Maxx Brothers Festival" with "At the Circus" and "Go West" starring Groucho, Chico and Harpo, with guest organists Scott Fopplano and Gil Francis, 7:30 p.m. organ overture followed by 8 p.m. film Friday, Aug. 27, and 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. overtures with 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. films, Saturday, Aug. 27, at the theater. \$3.50, (313) 537-2560 or <http://theatreorgans.com/mi/redford>

SUMMER EVENING SERIES

7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, at Maybury Farm Demonstration Building, in Maybury State Park, on Eight Mile, west of Beck Road, Northville Twp. Free with state park motor vehicle permit. (248) 349-8390

SWEET ADELINES REUNION

The Great Lakes Chorus of Sweet Adelines International invites past members to a 40th anniversary and reunion party, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at Gino's Surf Banquet Center, 37400 East Jefferson Avenue, Harrison Twp. \$25. Great Lakes Chorus was formerly called the Macomb County Chapter, Utica-Rochester Chapter and The Charmonizers. (810) 790-0008/(810) 566-5965

WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL

BUSKERS FESTIVAL Features comedian Nick Nickalous, tap dancing by Movin' Melvin Brown, magic of Gazzo, glass harmonica playing, magical flying rodents, and chain saw juggler, 6-11 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, Aug. 18-20, and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 21-22, at the Civic Terrace on the Riverfront across the street from Casino Windsor. (519) 971-5009

WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE

Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, music by the Sun Messengers (8-piece rhythm and blues review), at Morton's Birmingham Sunoco, 35001 Woodward, corner of Maple. (248) 642-3740; drive-up worship service 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, at Cana

Lutheran Church, 2119 Catalpa, Berkley, music by the Dixie Ramblers.

BENEFITS

FANCLUB FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

Presents Caliente Uno: A Big Night in Little Havana Latin Dance Party, 8 p.m. (7 p.m. Latin dance lessons) Friday, Aug. 27, music by La Sensacional, at 30 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$35. (248) 584-4150

"REVVIN"

Ford Motor Co. hosts a nostalgic celebration of hot rods, rock-n-roll, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, and the rooftop of the Ghester St. parking garage, Chester St. and Maple, Birmingham. \$150 for charity preview to benefit the Children's Charities Coalition. (248) 433-8600

FAMILY EVENTS

AFRICAN WORLD FESTIVAL

5-11:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20 and noon to 11:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 21-22, 150 African and African-American vendors in Marketplace display their crafts and wares, 18 kitchens serving ethnic cuisine, reggae artists from the Spirit of Unity Tour featuring Steel Pulse, Donald Byrd, also mask making, drumming workshops, African counting games, at Hart Plaza, Detroit. Free. See the exhibitions "The Third Root: Africans in Mexico" and "The Pastboard Bandit" (9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, then take a shuttle bus for 50 cents (noon to 6 p.m.) to the festival. (313) 494-5800

MICHIGAN RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 21-22, Renaissance Romance, off I-75, Grand Blanc exit 106, on Dixie Hwy., between Pontiac and Flint. \$13.95 (\$12.50 advance), \$11.75 seniors age 60 and up with ID, \$5.95 ages 5-12 (\$5 advance). (800) 601-4848/(248) 634-5552

YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Living history encampment, arts and crafts, Budweiser Clydesdales, jazz and blues stage, games, street rods, Riverboat Millionaires' Party, Friday-Sunday, Aug. 20-22, Ypsilanti. (734) 327-2051 or <http://community.mlive.com/cc/heritagefestival>

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

CLOCK CONCERTS

Ick & Erk, 7:30 Friday, Aug. 20, at the bandshell, Northville. (248) 349-7640

MUSIC ON THE LAKE

Music series featuring Tony Russo and his orchestra, 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 24 and 31, at the Wynwood and Hamilton House, Troy. Proceeds from refreshments will go to the Alzheimer's

Association.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The Blackman/Arnold Quartet, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, at the Detroit Zoo, northwest corner of Woodward and 10 Mile, Royal Oak. Free with zoo admission. (248) 398-0903 (jazz)

DEARBORN RECREATION

Bobby Lewis and the Crackerjack Band, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, Dearborn. (313) 943-2360

GAZEBO CONCERTS

Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, at Burgh Historical Park, Civic Center Drive and Berg Road, east of Telegraph, Southfield. (248) 424-9022 (big band) (248) 952-5533

"IN THE PARK"

Steve King & The Ditties, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, Shain Park, Birmingham.

"MUSIC IN THE PARK"

Noon Wednesday, Aug. 25, Marc Thomas & Max the Moose, in Kellogg Park, Main Street, between Penniman and Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. In case of rain, concert will be held in The Gathering next to the Penn Theater. (734) 416-4ART

"MUSIC UNDER THE STARS"

Eric Johnson and One Flight 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, Livonia Symphony Orchestra 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, at Civic Center Park, Farmington Road and Five Mile, Livonia. (734) 466-2540

REDFORD CIVIC SYMPHONY

Performs with the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, selections from the "Barber of Seville," "La Boheme" and "The Marriage of Figaro" as well as all time favorites "I Could've Danced All Night" and "If I Loved You," 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25 at Belle Creek Park, Five Mile and Inkster, Livonia.

"SUMMER IN THE CITY"

Janet Marie & M'Archibald with the Aroogah Brother Band, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, Birmingham City Hall, Pierce and Martin, west of S. Old Woodward.

WESTLAND CULTURAL SOCIETY

Detroit Breakdown with Todd Marken, 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, at the Westland Library Performance Pavilion, behind Westland Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road, between Wayne Road and Newburgh. Free. In case of rain, concerts will be held inside Bailey Recreation Center. (734) 722-7620/(734) 522-3918 (variety)

WEST VILLAGE

MERCHANTS/DEARBORN RECREATION Detroit Blues Band, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, in Muirhead Plaza at Bryant Library, Dearborn. (313) 943-3095

CLASSICAL

SUMMER SONG RECIPE

Featuring soprano Carolyn Bertrand, tenor Rupert de Salis, pianist Donald Bryant and Keith Dwyer, clarinet per-

forming art songs by Handel, Mozart, Schubert, Britten and others, and piano pieces by Chopin, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, at the Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. \$10, proceeds to the Ysleta Mission of San Pablo in El Paso, Texas. (734) 769-2999 or kch@ic.net

POPS/SWING

TONY BENNETT

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. \$35 and \$28.50 pavilion, \$15 lawn. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or <http://www.palacenet.com>

JIM PARAVANTES & MERIDIAN

"Frank Sinatra Tribute," 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Fridays-Saturdays through August, at Andiamo Italia West, 6676 Telegraph Road at Maple, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300

AUDITIONS

BIRMINGHAM CONCERT BAND

Looking for adult musicians (woodwind, brass, and especially percussion players) of all ages for rehearsals 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Groves High School, Birmingham. (248) 474-4997

DETROIT SYMPHONY CIVIC ORCHESTRA

Auditions for the youth orchestra's new season will be held Sept. 11. (313) 576-5164/(313) 576-5100

LIVONIA YOUTH PHILHARMONIC

Auditions for the 1999-2000 season will be held in the coming weeks. (734) 591-7649

MARQUIS THEATRE

Auditions for boys and girls ages 8-16 for the musical comedy "Halloween Soup," 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at the theater, 135 E. Main, Northville. For performances on weekends beginning Oct. 8 through Oct. 31. (248) 349-8110

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

And the producers of Runaway Bride and Only in America: The Don King Story are looking for a handsome 17-22 year old African-American male who can hip-hop or street dance to star in a new teenage, romantic love story, bring current photo, noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Talent Shop, 30100 Telegraph Road, Suite 116, north of 12 Mile, enter through east lobby, Bingham Farms. (313) 366-4942

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BALLET COMPANY

Holds open auditions Sunday, Aug. 29, 1-2 p.m. for ages 9-12, and 2:30-4 p.m. for ages 13 and older (bring pointe shoes), bring photo and resume, male dancers are needed with scholarships available, at Joanne's Dance Extension, 9282 General Drive, Suite 180-190, Plymouth. \$5. (734) 397-8828. For performances of "The Nutcracker" with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra Dec. 11-12.

PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Holds open auditions for musicians Monday, Sept. 7, positions available in all string sections, substitute musicians are needed for all instruments. (313) 640-1773/(734) 451-2112

P.R.C.U.A. SYRENA DANCE ENSEMBLE

Holding registration for the upcoming dance year 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25 at St. Michael's, Redford. (313) 563-1761

ROSDALE COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Auditions for five men and four women of various ages for "Three Murders and it's Only Monday," a mystery comedy by Pat Cook, 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Aug. 23-24, at the Upstage Theater, 21278 Grand River, east of Lahser, Detroit. (313) 255-3809

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Open auditions for 30 roles for males and females for Shakespeare's comedy "The Merchant of Venice," 7 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, no children's roles available, in the Liberal Arts Theatre at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile, Livonia. (734) 462-4400, ext. 5270

SPIRIT OF DETROIT CHORUS

Looking for new members of all ages to rehearse and become new members of the ladies group that sings four-part harmony in the barbershop tradition, 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile west of Inkster Road, Livonia. (313) 937-2429

STAGECRAFTERS 2ND STAGE

Auditions for three men and three women for "As Bees in Honey Drown," a comedic confection by Douglas Carter Beane, 7 p.m. (6:30 p.m. registration) Monday, Aug. 30 and Wednesday, Sept. 1, at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. (248) 541-4832. For performances Oct. 22-24 and 28-31.

TRILLIUM PLAYERS

Looking for a director for "The Fantastics," must submit resume and fee information no later than Sept. 12, c/o 1165 Ford Ave., Wyandotte, MI 48192. For performances the weekend of Jan. 28 at the Trillium Theater, formerly the Wyandotte Theater.

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

Auditions for male and female dancers ages 4-14 (under five-feet) for "The Harlem Nutcracker" by Donald Byrd, 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 21 (registration at 10 a.m.), at 1526 Broadway, corner of Madison and John R, Detroit.

For performances Wednesday, Nov. 24, Friday, Nov. 26 to Sunday, Dec. 5 at the Detroit Opera House. (734) 615-0122

YOUTH COMPETITION

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra is looking for contestants for its Youth Competition to be held in December at Evola Music of Canton, in addition to orchestral instruments, piano contestants are also being sought, winners will perform on the youth concerts in February of 2000. (734) 451-2112

JAZZ

PAUL ABLER

8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, at Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

MARCUS BELGRAVE

6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at the Gem & Century Theatres, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

TASILIMAH BEY

8:30 p.m. to midnight, Saturdays, at Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe, 29244 Northwestern Hwy., north of 12 Mile, Southfield. (248) 351-2925 (ragtime piano)

BESS BONNIER

8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, "Suite William" CD release celebration concert at the Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. \$25, \$15, \$10. (734) 769-2999 or kch@ic.net

GEM JAZZ TRIO

6 p.m. Thursdays, Aug. 19 and 26 and Friday, Aug. 27, and 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Gem & Century Theatres, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

BILL HEID TRIO

9:30 p.m., 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 20-21, at the Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. \$5. (734) 662-8310

HEIDI HEPLER AND MICHELE RAMO

With Todd Curtis, 7-11 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, Too Chez, 27155 Sheraton Dr., Novi. Free. All ages. (248) 348-5555 (Brazilian jazz/American standards)

MARLA JACKSON

8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

AL JARREAU

With Dave Koz and Chris Botti, 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$37.50 and \$30. All ages. (248) 433-1515

MISTY LOVE

7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Gem & Century Theatres, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

SHAHIDA NURULLAH

9 p.m. Saturdays, Aug. 21 and 28, at Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150 (vocal/piano/bass/drums)

JANET TENA TRIO

Featuring Sven Anderson, piano and Kurt Krahnke, bass, 11:30

8 days a week

Making contact: Please submit popular music items for publication to Stephanie Casola; all others to Linda Chomin, two weeks in advance to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150 or by fax (734) 591-7279

Continued from previous page

SEAN MCCOURT

8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, at The Ark, 316 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor. Free. (734) 761-1800

POETRY/ SPOKEN WORD

CROSSING BORDERS

A YMCA Celebration of Urban Spoken Word & Music featuring Ron Allen & Vision Ear, Spoke with Kim Webb, Renee Tambeau, John Demko and others, the Faruq Z. Bey Poetry Trio, M.L. Liebler & the Magic Poetry Band, and the 1999 National Detroit Slam Team. 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Roadrunner's Raft, 2363 Yeman at Brombeck, Hamtramck. Free. (313) 873-RAFT

DANCE

ADVANCED CONTRA DANCE

8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, minimal walk-throughs, at the Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Ann Arbor. \$8. (734) 665-8863

COBBLESTONE FARM DANCERS

8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21 (open jam for string band musicians of all levels 4-6 p.m., free), all dances taught, at the Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Ann Arbor. \$7. (734) 665-8863/(734) 426-0241

MOON DUSTERS SINGLES DANCE

8:30 p.m. Saturdays, at the Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. \$4 member, \$5 guest. (734) 422-3298

WOLVERINE SILVERSPUR DANCERS

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Italian American Cultural Center, 12 Mile east of Hoover, Warren. \$7. (810) 573-4993

COMEDY

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

Andre Fernandez and Greg Phelps, Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 19-21 (\$10) Mike Bonner and Larry Weaver, Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 26-28 (\$10), at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Third Level Improv and new talent nights, 8 p.m. Sundays (\$5). (734) 261-0555

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Joel Zimmer Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 18-22, Derek Richards (also Mark Sweetman) Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 25-29, at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays (\$5), 9:30 p.m. Fridays-Thursdays (\$6), 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 9 p.m. Saturdays (\$12), and 7:30 p.m. Sundays (\$6). Prices subject to change. (248) 542-9900 or <http://www.comedycastle.com>

SECOND CITY

"Phantom Menace to Society," 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, and 10:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at the club, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Mainstage comedy acts: \$10. Detroit. Mainstage Thursdays, Sundays, \$17.50 on Fridays, and \$19.50 on Saturdays. (313) 965-2222

DAMON WAYANS

8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Theatre, Detroit. \$35, \$27.50. (248) 433-1515/(248) 645-6666

MUSEUMS AND TOURS

BELLE ISLE ZOO

Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Oct. 31, at the zoo on Central Avenue on Belle Isle, two miles east of downtown Detroit, entrance is on East Jefferson at East Grand Boulevard. \$3. \$2 seniors ages 62 and older and students, \$1 ages 2-12. (248) 398-0900/(248) 399-7001

CRANBROOK HOUSE AND GARDENS

Tours 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sundays through Sept. 27 (\$10); and 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Thursdays a noon lunch is offered only with a house tour and only by reservation for an additional \$10; gardens open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday (\$5), guided garden tour at extra cost by reservation, at Cranbrook, 380 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 645-3147

CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM

"Contemporary Art from Cuba: Irony and Survival on the Utopian Island," at the art museum. (248) 645-3611; "Screen Machines: The Science of Roller Coasters," "Our Dynamic Earth," and "Planetary and Laseria programs at the science center, 1221 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. Extended Friday hours, 5-10 p.m., through Aug. 13. 1-877-462-7262

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

"Frontiers to Factories: Detroiters at Work 1701-1901," formerly known as "Furs to Factories," with a new Land Office, a "Wheel of Fortune" style land acquisition interactive, three new video screen interactive, a documentary video, a new Heavy Industry section and a display explaining Detroit's move from "Stove Capital of the

World" to the Motor City, automobile capital of the world, at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Free admission Wednesdays; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 seniors and children aged 12-18, free for children ages 11 and younger Thursdays-Sundays. (313) 833-1805 or <http://www.detroithistorical.org>

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER

"More than Meets the Eye," an interactive exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution takes visitors through some of the daily experiences of blind and visually impaired people, continues through Aug. 29. (313) 577-8400, ext. 417; IMAX movies include "Tropical Rainforest" at 10 a.m. Mondays-Fridays, "Thrill Ride" at 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and "Everest" and "Whales" multiple showings seven days a week, at the center, noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sundays, at 5020 John R (at Warren), Detroit. Admission to Exhibit Hall is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 3-15 and adults ages 60 and older, free for children ages 2 and younger. IMAX films are additional \$4. (313) 577-8400

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM

Visit the newest exhibition "Folk Art of the Great Lakes" or "Racing on the Wind: Sailing on the Great Lakes," also a temporary exhibit on the construction and launch of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, at 100 Strand Drive on Belle Isle, Detroit. Regular admission \$2. \$1 seniors/children ages 12-18 during the hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. (313) 852-4051

HENRY FORD ESTATE-FAIR LANE

Tours include the restored river-side powerhouse, Henry Ford's personal garage and cars, giant generators placed by Ford and Thomas Edison that still operate, and the tunnel to the 56-room mansion with elaborate carved woodwork and personal artifacts, at 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. (313) 593-5590

HENRY FORD

MUSEUM/GREENFIELD VILLAGE "Summer Evenings" continue Saturdays through Aug. (at reduced prices), features cake walk, town ball, herb/food presentation, ice cream social (additional fee), the village is celebrating its 70th season with a host of activities, and exhibits such as Abraham Lincoln's assassination chair and a life mask made 60 days before his assassination, at the museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. \$12.50, \$11.50 seniors, \$7.50 kids 5-12, members and children under 5 free. (313) 271-1620

MEADOW BROOK HALL

Tours 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. daily through August, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester. \$8, \$6 seniors ages 62 and over, \$4 children ages 5-12. Luncheon in the Dining Room 11:15 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Monday-Friday. (248) 370-3140

ROCHESTER HILLS MUSEUM

"Something Old, Something New: Wedding Gowns of the 19th and 20th Centuries," on display 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays through Sept. 25, at the museum on Van Hoosen Farm, 1005 Van Hoosen Road, one mile east of Rochester Road off of Tienken Road, Rochester Hills. \$3, \$2 seniors and students. (248) 656-4663

POPULAR MUSIC

THE ALLIGATORS

10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty, Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and over. (734) 451-1213 (blues)

JOHNNY AWESOME BAND

9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 21-22, at Zim's Irish Tavern, 1350 Lapeer Road, Oxford. (248) 969-9467 (acoustic rock)

BARENAKED LADIES

7:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Sept. 3-5, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road in Independence Township. Len is no longer performing as an opening act.

BACKSTREET BOYS

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday Nov. 6-7, The Palace, Auburn Hills. Sold out. Call Ticketmaster at (248) 645-6666 or online at www.ticketmaster.com

BB KING BLUESFEST

The show scheduled for Joe Louis Arena has been cancelled. Refunds are available at the point of purchase.

JEFF BECK

With Johnny Lang, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. Tickets now on sale \$35 pavilion/ \$15 lawn at The Palace and Pine Knob Box Offices and Ticketmaster locations. Charge by phone (248) 645-6666 or online <http://www.ticketmaster.com> (rock)

BIG SUGAR

With Daddy Longlegs, 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$8 in advance (248) 544-3030. (rock/ reggae)

BIF NAKED

6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$6. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or

<http://www.961melt.com> (grunge)

THE BLUE MOLT BOYS

10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi. No cover. 21 and over. (247) 735-4011 (swing)

BLUE ROSE

11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, The Plaza, one block west of the Southfield Civic Center, Southfield. Free. All ages. (248) 354-9540

5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River, Novi (248) 349-9110 (blues)

BLUE SUITE FEAT

With Alberta Adams, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at The Ark, 316 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor. \$20. (734) 761-1800 (country)

BROOKS AND DUNN

With Trace Adkins, The Warren Brothers, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. Deryl Dodd is no longer on the bill. \$29.50 pavilion, \$15.50 lawn. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or <http://www.palacenet.com> (country)

JAMES BROWN

8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, Fox Theatre, Detroit. Tickets \$35 and \$27.50 on sale now at Ticketmaster outlets or charge by phone at (248) 433-1515 (soul)

BUGS BEDDOO BAND

9:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20 and Saturday, Aug. 21, Beale Street Blues, 8 N. Saginaw Street, Pontiac. (248) 334-7900 (blues)

TONY BENNETT

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road in Independence Township. Tickets on sale \$35, \$28.50 and lawn. \$15 (248) 377-0100 (adult contemporary)

CHER

With Cyndi Lauper and Julio Iglesias, Jr. Concert rescheduled for 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, The Palace, Auburn Hills. Tickets from the July 23 show will be honored on Sept. 12. Tickets for an additional show on Sept. 11 are on sale for \$75.25 and \$45.25. Call (248) 645-6666

CHISEL BROS. FEAT

With Chef Chris, 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty, Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and over. (734) 451-1213 (blues)

NATALIE COLE

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. \$27.50 pavilion, \$15 lawn. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or <http://www.palacenet.com> (R&B)

CRUISIN' SONGS FROM THE MOTOR CITY

Official CD release party will kick off 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 19 at the Hunter House in Downtown Detroit's Harmonie Park Entertainment District, 1427 Randolph. The official CD of the Woodward Dream Cruise features local artists like the Sun Messengers and Curtis Mann. Call (313) 965-4343 for information

ELECTRIC BOOGALOO

9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, Karl's Cabin, 9779 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 455-8450

EVERLAST

With The Roots, 10 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, State Theatre, Detroit. (313) 961-5451

FACTOR 9

8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 19-20, Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Road, Westland. \$3 cover after 10 p.m. 21 and over (734) 513-5030 (rock)

FIGHTING PINHEADS

10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, 313.jac, upstairs from Jacobys at 624 Brush St., Detroit. \$5 cover. 18 and over. (313) 962-7067 (garage rock)

MICHAEL FRANKS

With Norman Brown, 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$37.50 and \$30 on sale Saturday, Aug. 7. (248) 433-1515

FRENZAL RHOMB

With Chixdiggit!, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$7. All ages welcome. (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com> (punk)

RANDY FOSTER

8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac. 18 and older. \$9 (248) 645-6666 (country)

GOVERNMENT HONEY

8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 26-28, Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Road, Westland. \$3 cover after 10 p.m. 21 and over (734) 513-5030 (rock)

GRAYLING

With Twitch, 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, 313.jac, upstairs from Jacobys at 624 Brush St., Detroit. \$5 cover. 18 and over (313) 962-7067 (eclectic)

GREYHOUNDS

8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13, Borders Books, 1122 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 652-0558 (blues)

GROOVE COLLECTIVE

With Jazzydity, 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. \$12 (248) 544-

3030

THE GRUESOMES

With Soot and Sugar Pill, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5 cover. 21 and over. (734) 996-8555

HARRINGTON BROTHERS

7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, 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, Aug. 19, Arbor Brewing Company, 116 E. Washington, Ann Arbor (724) 213-1393 (blues)

AL JARREAU

With Dave Koz and Chris Botti, 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, Fox Theatre, Detroit. \$50, \$37.50, \$30. (313) 983-6611

JEFFERSON STARSHIP TEN YEARS AFTER TOUR

With Dave Mason, 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 27, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road in Independence Township. Tickets on sale \$24.50 pavilion/ \$12.50 lawn

KANOBLISS

With Spat, 10 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21, 313.jac, upstairs from Jacobys at 624 Brush St., Detroit. \$5 cover. 18 and over (313) 962-7067 (glam-pop)

SHEILA LANDIS

7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Ypsilanti. (248) 651-9477 (jazz)

LIL' ED AND THE BLUES IMPERIALS

10 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 19, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. 21 and over. (248) 542-9922 (blues)

LIQUID #9

With Mind Circus and Friction, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$4 cover. 21 and over. (734) 996-8555

MANIC STREET PREACHERS

July 24 show has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17 at Saint Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets for the original date will be honored at the door.

KATHY MATTEA

With The Wilkinsons, 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, Clio Area Amphitheater, 301 Rogers Lodge Dr., Clio. \$26 reserved, \$21 bleachers. (810) 687-7611 or <http://www.clioamp.org> (country)

MAXWELL

8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26 and Friday, Aug. 27, Fox Theatre, Detroit. \$75, \$50, \$40. (313) 983-6611

JIM MCCARTY & MYSTERY TRAIN

9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, Ford Road Bar and Grill, 35505 Ford Road, Westland. Free. 21 and over. (734) 721-8609 (blues)

SEAN MCCOURT

With Dan McCourt, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, The Ark, 26 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. No cover, bring a can for food drive. (734) 761-1451

DON MCLEAN/JIM MESSINA

8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival, Rochester. \$24.50, \$12.50. (248) 645-6666

JOEY MCINTYRE

6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13, postponed until Sept. 15, Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. \$25. All ages. (248) 546-7610 (pop)

MIGHTY BLUE KINGS

8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$10 in advance. (734) 996-8555 (jazz/swing)

MUDPUDDY FEATURING PAUL RANDOLPH

9:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi. No cover. 21 and over. (248) 735-4011

"NASCAR ON THE ROAD"

With The Allman Brothers and more, 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. \$34.50 pavilion, \$17.75 lawn, 25 cents from each ticket goes to charity. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or <http://www.palacenet.com> (rock)

NAUGHTY BY NATURE

9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, LaBoom Teen Night Club, 1172 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. Tickets on sale \$19.99 at Ticketmaster (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com (rap)

NO KNIFE

With Piebald, 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, at the Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$7 in advance. All ages. (248) 645-6666 (rock/blues)

ROBERT NOCK PLUNK MISSION

9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, Ford Road Bar and Grill, 35505 S. Ford Road, Westland. Free. 21 and over (734) 721-8609 (blues)

BARBARA PAYTON

8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. (248) 544-3030

MOVIES

'Dick' has explaining to do, but doesn't strike out

By JON KATZ
SPECIAL WRITER

An informal poll of contemporary teenagers produced this finding: the Watergate affair was "something about Nixon and a bunch of other guys." So didn't someone, sometime during the making of "Dick," the Watergate "what if" satire, wonder "what if" no one gets it?

Satire fails when the satire object is too obscure. That's Comedy Rule Number Two. Comedy Rule Number One is, of course, "If you have to explain the joke, forget it." "Dick" does a lot of satirizing but also a lot of explaining to its young demographics, and thus has two quick strikes against it. And yet, it doesn't

quite strike out.

For those of us who followed the saga from the June 1972 "third-rate burglary" until "Tricky Dick" boarded that helicopter one last time in August 1974, "Dick" offers some fun, if not funny, theories. Who was "Deep Throat?" How did the 18 1/2-minute tape gap happen? Where did Nixon get that oft-imitated two-handed peace gesture?

The film's protagonists are two stupid teenagers. Don't blame us for the label; they admit it themselves. Arlene (Michelle Williams of TV's "Dawson's Creek") lives in the Watergate Apartments with her mother (Teri Garr, who looks around 150). Arlene is dorky and stupid. Her best

friend Betsy (Kirsten Dunst of the current "Drop Dead Gorgeous") is cute and stupid.

While downstairs mailing a letter (to Arlene's heartthrob Bobby Sherman), the girls run into a seedy man with a walkie-talkie. He is G. Gordon Liddy (Harry Shearer), and the break-in is about to come apart. Soon after, on a school tour of the White House, they take a wrong turn and run into Liddy and Halderman and Erlichman and Dean and Kissinger and a roomful of shredding machines.

Enter the president, and that's where the movie really does perk up. Dan Hedaya takes off and puts on every Nixon quirk. The jowls, the sweat, the paranoia are all there once more. He handles

the girls himself ("I've got a way with young people; they trust me") by making them his official dog walkers and then "secret youth advisors."

Arlene and Betsy's misadventures soon descend from satire to cloak and dagger, which is where "Dick" descends as well. They get involved with *Washington Post* reporters Woodward and Bernstein, played by "Saturday Night Live's" Will Ferrell and comedian Bruce McCulloch. The filmmakers' choice to make the team a journalistic Laurel and Hardy is way out of sync with the otherwise-clever premise of adding a new element (the girls) to fill in the blanks of an historically accurate story that's ridiculous enough on its own.

Williams and Dunst are talented teens who have already shown other colors on their acting palettes; being typecast as dumb blondes shouldn't be a problem.

Hedaya steals the film, growling "All I asked for was a simple burglary." He looks like he's having the time of his life, and we'd have given a lot to have been on the set when the director yelled "cut."



KERRY HAYES AND MARNI GROSSMAN

Peace: Betsy Jobs (Kirsten Dunst, left) and Arlene Lorenzo (Michelle Williams) team up to take Washington by storm and take down the president in "Dick."

MUSIC

Blue Rose extends boundaries

By STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

A lot of things can change in seven years.

Just ask members of the Detroit-based band Blue Rose. Formed in 1992, the band has down-sized considerably. Coming into form as a foursome, the group dropped three female vocalists and a keyboard and saxophone player from its lineup. With their debut album "Rock Me Low" coming up on one year since its release, the band is ready to get back in the studio and record a follow-up.

The members of Blue Rose — vocalist Kim Lange, guitarist Corey Storm, bassist Jon Martin, and drummer Jay Crosby — came together with a desire to write and perform original material.

"It's a unique combination of blues and rock that there is not really a whole lot of out there," said Crosby, a Farmington Hills resident.

Over the years, Lange said, their sound has acquired a "harder edge" than some straight blues bands tend to have. That may have been a result of the decision to "down-size."

The Blue Rose that exists today is made up of a group of highly dedicated, reliable musicians willing to work toward their goal.

"There are fewer people to work with, fewer personalities," said Storm, an Oak Park resident. "It's easier to work things out and come to an agreeable

solution."

Lange put it simply when she laughed and said there are "less people to slap around."

Crosby, the newest addition to the band having joined four years ago, said he was interested in joining Blue Rose because the other musicians were "very professional."

Blue Rose plays two to three nights a week, which is "just about right" if you ask Storm. He said their live schedule depends upon what else is going on with the band.

"We plan to do some more recording," he said. "We probably would scale back our live performances."

Lange said they have written enough new material for another compact disc. It's just a matter of getting back into the studio. "Our sound has changed a little bit," she said explaining that the new material is similar to the songs on the first album. "It's hard to compare our sound."

Storm agreed and attributed that difficulty to the variety of styles of music they play. "We can go from traditional blues, straight ahead blues, to rock...to funk, to pop alternative," he said. "We don't want to try to target a specific style of music. We're not really into following trends. We just try to write good songs."

Writing songs is a collaborative effort for the band. But what sets the musicians apart from other blues-based local bands? The band members, of course. "Corey has a very distinctive guitar style and my voice isn't

really like any other blues vocalists," said Lange.

Storm described her voice as "smooth and silky."

"She's more of a soprano, whereas most blues singers are altos and have a raspy voice," he added. "It makes us more unique, more identifiable."

Keeping an eye on the future, Blue Rose is focusing more on distribution and the mass marketing of their music. They're also working on a Web site.

In the meantime, the band is searching for a keyboard player who will help "round out" their sound, said Storm.

"We'd like to have more diversify," he added.

Keyboardist or no keyboardist anyone interested in checking out a Blue Rose show is guaranteed a "high energy performance," according to Storm.

"We're not the type of band that's just going to stand there and play," he said. "We all feel performance should be something a little more special. We want to offer something to look at as well as listen to."

Crosby said the band hopes to tour out-of-state in the future. He's not too picky about where Blue Rose plays, he said, "on a national level, any big venue will do."

Blue Rose will perform a free, all ages show from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19 at The Plaza, one block west of the Southfield Civic Center, Southfield. Call (248) 354-9540 for more information.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

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'Every Note A Pearl' on Starlight Drifters release



STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

By far the best part of being a dancer — and I suppose I speak on behalf of women when I say this — is being spun around in dizzy circles and lifted high into the air.

The music of Ann Arbor-based quartet, The Starlight Drifters, has much the same appeal. In a whirlwind conversation outside the Magic Bag Friday, I spoke to the local rock-a-billy boys — Bill Alton, Chris Casello, Rudy Varner and Marc Gray — as they celebrated the release of their new album, "Every Note a Pearl."

Between their fast-talking, light-hearted comments, amazing ability to finish each other's sentences, and friendly interruptions from fans on their way into the club, the band shared some insight into another world, one of cowboy boots and Western crooning, steel guitars and heart-felt lyrics.

Together since 1997, the band has added drums to its line-up, which rounds out its signature sound, and allows them to play more styles of music, said singer Bill Alton, a Livonia resident. Hesitant to categorize the band's sound, Alton said he doesn't "want anybody to know what we are."

So I won't tell you that "what they are" is a talented group of guys who refuse to tie themselves — and their music — into

one style or popular trend.

In just the few years that The Starlight Drifters have been together, guitarist and song-writer Chris Casello noted that the music scene has changed considerably.

"When we started there was a really strong rock-a-billy scene," he said. "The rock-a-billy scene and the swing scene have kind of meshed."

Witnessing that change, "Every Note a Pearl" shows off more of the Western swing side of a band that started out sounding much more rock-a-billy on its first album "Introducing... The Starlight Drifters."

Whatever you call it, the band members are proud of the new album, christening it "a labor of love."

"It was very tedious at times, but the work we put into it was well worth it," said Alton. "Chris did the engineering and producing. (We) wrote all the songs together. I'm extremely proud of it."

Casello admitted "Every Note" is "his baby." Working several nights a week, the album took about five months to complete.

"We were very meticulous about what we wanted on it and what we didn't," said Casello.

Revealing influences as diverse as the Brian Setzer Orchestra and Elvis Presley, the songs appeal to a wide variety of listeners. Dale Alton, the group's manager, politely interrupted to pass a photograph around to be autographed. A 5-year-old fan couldn't wait a second longer. It was just another example of the



Check them out: *The Starlight Drifters swing into action 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 at the Cavern Club, 210 S. First Street, Ann Arbor, \$5 cover, 21 and over. Call (734) 332-9900 for information.*

universal dimension inherent in The Starlight Drifters music.

"I think we do reach a wider spectrum," said Alton.

Casello completes his thought by adding that the audience includes anyone "from little kids to senior citizens."

Dale Alton, who also happens to be Bill's father, shared his own opinion on the subject.

"Older people can remember this music and younger kids can relate to it," he said.

Above all The Starlight Drifters offer a sound that's unmistakably American.

"If you don't like it, you're a communist," said Casello, laughing.

Politics aside, The Starlight

Drifters established a strong following, most of which came dressed in hoop skirts, slick suits, and fedora hats. While fancy attire is not required, it suits the mood and era the band evokes in their style and sound.

"They're very professional people," said Dale Alton. "I call them entertainers, not a band."

Where will The Starlight Drifters go from here?

Alton said he hopes the band stays true to the roots of their music.

I'm sure they will.

Check out *The Starlight Drifters* when they swing into action 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28 at the Cavern Club in Ann Arbor.

Sophie B. Hawkins' 'timbre' falls flat

Sophie B. Hawkins — "timbre"

Columbia Records
With a title like "timbre," Sophie B. Hawkins' third and latest release seems to scream "look out below, listeners."



Sophie B. Hawkins

Heavily weighted down in emotional texture, the album offers 12 tracks that are not suited to the average listener. The parental advisory — likely added due to the strong sexual references in songs like "32 Lines" and "The Darkest Child" — isn't the only deterrent: Some songs are highly insightful and reflective. But others border on the deeply depressing, like "No Connection," in which Hawkins sings "I'm feeling the strings of your rejection/Kneeling in the wrong direction/Sealing my heart to your neglect/Revealing no connection."

While listeners might easily relate to the weighty subject matter, little reprieve is derived from a brighter song, such as "Mmm My Best Friend." The first single off of the album, "Lose Your Way" is featured on the Dawson's Creek soundtrack.

Though "timbre" might be best reserved for a rainy afternoon of introspection, it does offer a couple musical gems.

"Strange Thing" showcases Hawkins' melodic voice in her own gentle songbird manner. In "Bare the Weight of Me" Hawkins sounds as if she's stretched across a piano in a smoky lounge pleading for attention, for love. Spiced with soft hints of percussion and a violin for added romance, this track is a worthy example of Hawkins' work and diversified abilities. It's unfortunate there isn't another like it in the dozen.

All songs were written, produced and performed by Hawkins, and the album is now available in record stores.

CD REVIEW

— Stephanie Casola
Staff writer

"BIG LAUGHS, GREAT STARS."

GOOD MORNING AMERICA, JOEL SEGEL

"BRING A DATE, OR BRING THE FAMILY."

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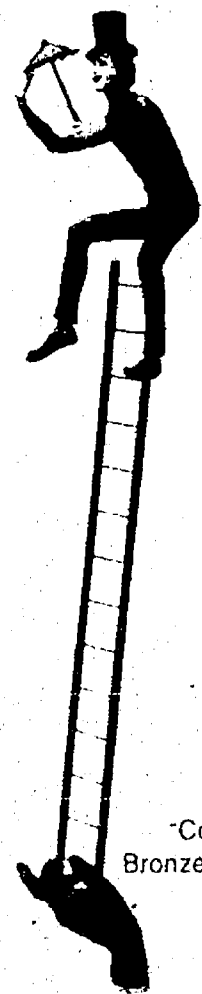
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DINING

Matt Prentice has hand in 'Unique' deli at casino

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

For the past three months Matt Prentice has been totally focused on Deli Unique, a New York style deli inside the new MotorCity Casino in Detroit.

He's not running the restaurant, but it's his baby. Prentice, president of the Unique Restaurant Corporation, licensed the name "Deli Unique" to the casino, and will serve as its consultant on design, menu selection, restaurant operation, hiring and training staff.

"I'm excited to be part of this," said Prentice during a press conference on Aug. 10 at casino headquarters in downtown Detroit. "They asked us to create something different, fun, entertaining, bigger than life. It will be a cafeteria-style deli, and barkers will entertain guests waiting in line. It will be very New Yorkish."

Theatrical types, comedians, and even housewives who enjoy the thought of getting paid to pick on people are auditioning today and tomorrow for one of

seven full-time barker positions at the restaurant. Each barker will earn \$10 an hour to start with a built-in salary increase after six months. If you're interested in auditioning, call Dave Mitchell (248) 646-0370, Ext. 213.

Chuck Ajlouny, managing partner of URC's Plaza Deli in Southfield, is Deli Unique's barker prototype, and will be training the barkers. Born and raised in Detroit, he developed his "bark" while living in Brooklyn, New York.

"I take orders, talk to you. I insult you, call your sandwiches. It spices things up," said Ajlouny. "We have fun at lunch time, it keeps it lively. You have to be quick-witted, smart, and have a strong voice. We tried to get Pavoratti, but he wasn't available."

During the press conference he gave reporters a taste of his bark. "Are you guys ready or what," he asked. "Everyone gather round, I got a restaurant to run."

The 20 different sandwiches with names like "It's No Gam-

ble," "Jackpot," and "Lox of Luck," range from 5 ounces to 20 ounces. Pay a \$1 more to double the meat for deli size sandwich.

Big Eight "a deli fresser," is an "obnoxiously large sandwich" — 20 ounces of meat, including corned beef, pastrami, brisket, turkey and salami, served on an onion roll with 3 ounces Swiss cheese, 4 ounces coleslaw and Russian dressing. Hearty soups and main dish salads will also be served. Desserts, created especially are "larger than life." Imagine a five layer chocolate mousse cake.

"The deli will have over 200 seats, and be designed to feed a lot of people fast. It will offer the best quality sandwiches served on hot, out of the oven bread," said Prentice.

MotorCity Casino approached Prentice with the restaurant concept. "We think it's a tremendous opportunity for our company," he said. "It will help our reputation not only locally, but nationally."

"The name association lends credibility to whatever we have to offer," said Lane W. Maxey,

director of food and beverage for the casino.

"Matt Prentice has built a reputation for world-class food service and has a fantastic local track record," said Jack Barthwell, director of public relations for the casino.

Scheduled to open sometime this fall, the temporary MotorCity Casino will cover approximately 12 acres around the former Wonder Bread Bakery at Grand River and the Lodge Freeway. The casino, owned by Detroit Entertainment, L.L.C. (a joint venture of Detroit-based Atwater Casino Group and Las Vegas-based Mandalay Resort Group) will have two live entertainment venues, two main floors of gaming, a third floor non-smoking gaming area, and fourth floor high-limit area.

Deli Unique, along with a fine dining restaurant, buffet and Middle Eastern restaurant will be in the former Continental Bakery building attached to the main gaming building by two skywalks.

If you want a taste of what the new Deli Unique will be like,



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACOBFIELD

Number one barker: Chuck Ajlouny, managing partner of URC's Plaza Deli in Southfield, presents the Plaza Special, corned beef, cole slaw, Swiss cheese and Russian dressing on rye. Ajlouny keeps people laughing at lunch, and will train barkers at the MotorCity-Casino.

visit Ajlouny during lunch at Plaza Deli, 29145 Northwestern

Highway, corner of 12 Mile Road, Southfield, (248) 356-2310.

WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax, (734) 591-7279 or e-mail kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

What's Cooking includes listings of new restaurants, special dinners, menu changes, restaurant anniversaries and renovations.

■ **Schoolcraft College** — Sample dishes from more than 60 metro Detroit restaurants

and food distributors 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26 during Culinary Extravaganza, in the Waterman Center on the Schoolcraft College campus, 18600 Haggerty Road, (between Six and Seven Mile roads, west of I-275.) Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 for two. Call (734) 462-4417. Event proceeds help pay for scholarships for Schoolcraft College students. During the event, Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon of Unique Restaurant Corp. will present a wine seminar, matching wines to the foods from selected restaurants. A live auction will feature packages designed to

pamper and delight lucky bidders. Packages include a gourmet dinner for eight in your home, prepared by a Schoolcraft chef, and weekend getaway to Pelee Island with wine tour and tasting, dinner and hotel for four. Stay tuned to the Dining page for more information.

■ **Bella Ciao** — 118 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor (across from the Ann Arbor Art Center) offers "intimate dining with a European flair." The restaurant is open 5:30-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Call (734) 995-2107 for information, or www.belaciao.com on the Web.

■ **L.A. Subs** — The next time you're hungry for a sub, visit the newly opened L.A. Subs, 36147 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 261-4240. Menu also includes Buffalo wings, Shrimp in a basket, and pepperoni rolls. They're open 10 a.m. to midnight, Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday.

■ **Too Chez**, 2715 Sheraton Drive, Novi (248)348-5555 will offer customers ordering lunch or dinner all bottles of wine served during the meal at 25 percent discount Monday through Thursday from now through Nov. 15.

By-the-glass wines are not included in the promotion. For wine lovers, this is an opportunity to learn more about pairing wine with food. Executive Chef Greg Upshur and Maitre d'/Dining room Manager Achille Bianchi say they are at the ready to make food recommendations matching discounted wines selected by diners.

■ **Titanic Dinner at Duet** 3663 Woodward Ave. at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Detroit, (313) 831-3838, Thursday, Sept. 9, \$125 per person plus tax and gratuity is a complete entertainment package, including a

before-the-show feast featuring authentic recipes prepared on the infamous ship, tickets to see the stage version of "Titanic" at the Fisher Theater plus transportation to and from the Fisher. A wine package specially selected by URC Wine Director and Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon will be available at additional cost. Recipes for the four-course feast are from the "Last Dinner on the Titanic" cookbook by Rich Archbold and Dana McCauley and bearing the signature flair of URC Corporate Chef Jim Barnett. Due to ticketing, reservations must be secured with a credit card.

EATING OUT IN THE SUBURBS

Just in case you missed it, here are some of the restaurants we've recently featured on the Dining Page.

■ **Panini Cafe and Grill** — 42087 Ford Road (between Haggerty and Lilley roads in the Sears Shopping Plaza), Canton, (734) 981-7000. Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Menu: Middle Eastern cuisine with some American dishes, sandwiches, salads,

fresh juice, cappuccino and espresso. Vegetarian friendly. Kid's menu for children age 10 and under. Cost: Lunch \$4.95 to \$9.95; dinner entrees \$7.95 to \$13.95. Combination platter for two, \$16.95. Credit cards: All majors accepted. Seats: 50, all non-smoking. Reservations: Accepted. Carry-out: Available. Catering: Catering menu, 24 hours advance notice for catered items, minimum eight people per order. Gift certificates: Available

■ **Marco's** — 32758 Grand River (in Village Commons Mall) Downtown Farmington (248) 477-7777. Open: Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday; dinner 3-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 3-10:30 p.m. Friday; 4:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday. Menu: Eclectic collection of classic Italian with innovative dishes and specials that are more "novello" (new). Pastas are served with freshly-baked bread and fresh green salad. Main

courses include a side dish of pasta, vegetable and potato. Meatless options: Many Highlights: Intimate, comfortable, relaxed atmosphere to enjoy the heritage of Italian food. Outdoor seating for 20 at four tables. Restaurant seats: 85, smoking section 20 seats Handicap access: wide front door, no steps. Cost: Antipasti (appetizers) \$5.95-\$8.95; Zuppa (soup) \$2.50-\$3.50; pastas \$12.95 to \$17.95; Piatti della Casa (main dishes)

\$14.95-\$22.95. Luncheon menu includes fresh salads \$6.95-\$8.95; sandwiches \$4.95-\$5.95; pastas \$6.95 to \$12.95; entrees \$7.95 to \$13.95. Reservations: Recommended on weekends, and

for parties of six or more. Parking: Ample self park. Credit cards: All majors accepted. Extras: Gift certificates available, restaurant can be reserved for private parties.

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