Churchill instructor named teacher of the year — A4

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

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MediaOne raises cable fees

The basic rate for most Westland cable subscribers rises to $30.70 per month next year, and the cost of premium channels rises to $11.95 each, as MediaOne passes programming cost increases on to customers.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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MediaOne plans to sock its Westland customers with a nearly 6 percent rate hike in January.

Monthly bills for full basic service will climb from $28.97 to $30.70, MediaOne spokesman Bill Black confirmed Tuesday.

Black largely attributed the $1.73 increase to MediaOne programming costs that he said have climbed 15 percent since the last rate hike, one year ago.

But Westland city leaders are miffed about the latest increase – and they say that residents will likely be upset, too.

"To have to continually pay these price increases is frustrating," Councilman Richard LeBlanc said Monday during a Westland City Council meeting.

Council President Sandra Cicirelli agreed.

"That's going to be a substantial increase," she said, adding that she may shop around for other services.

MediaOne used to enjoy a 71 percent penetration of Westland, but local cable officials say that position has been eroded by competition from Americast.

MediaOne's full service basic offers 62 channels in Westland, Black said.

Not only has the company faced programming cost increases, but MediaOne has invested big dollars in improving its Westland services, Black said.

Monthly rate hikes for basic service aren't the only increase that Westland

Please see **CABLE**, A6

'Fur trader' visits elementary school

With one man posing as a fur trader, Hayes Elementary students learned Tuesday how French voyagers and fur traders migrated to the Great Lakes area.

History came alive as C. Michael George of the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority donned his fur-trading costume and other Metroparks employees, and students traded furs for metal lanterns, hatchets and pots, parks interpreter Jean Morfino said.

The program, part of the parks department's mobile learning center, serves students in grades three through six.

"We discuss how the French living in the Montreal area of New France kind of came into the Great Lakes area and discovered that we had a lot of fur from animals, like beavers, that were in short supply in Europe," Morfino said.

"Fur-trading companies were established, and they sent European goods into this area to be traded with Native Americans for furs," she added.

Morfino and colleague Joe Anicka explain the history, leading up to George's appearance as a French voyager.

"He acts like he's looking for volunteers for his brigade," Morfino said.

The project is aimed at adding a fun, visual dimension to history lessons to make them more appealing to young students.

STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

Canoe do this? *Hayes Elementary students Stephanie Sello (left) and Garrett Domke (right) paddle their canoe and sing Alouette with voyageur Mike George, as Jean Louis Baptiste.*

Who wants a paddle? *Jean Louise Baptiste (Mike George, supervisor interpreter for the Metroparks Mobile Learning Center) was looking for help to paddle his canoe for a voyageur trip at Hayes Elementary school this past week. Above, Baptiste was talking about a beaver fur with the students.*

Making a fire: *Metroparks Mobile Learning Center teacher Joe Anicka (left) demonstrates how the voyageurs traded and shows the Hayes Elementary students how a fire was made. Anicka was trading with fourth grader Alicia Naser (center) for furs.*

Improvements planned for Central City Park

BY DARRELL CLEM
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Central City Park – Westland's largest – will get a $63,000 facelift by next summer.

A new tennis court, an in-line skating rink and a new pavilion will be added to give the city's busiest park more of a family atmosphere, Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski said.

"We're just starting," he said, promising improvements for other city parks.

Central City Park improvements are expected to occur near the Westland playscape – a large wooden play structure for children, Kosowski said.

The park is located on the west side of Carlson between Ford Road and Marquette.

Kosowski predicted the park improvements will be completed in time for visitors to enjoy them next summer.

Councilman Charles "Trav" Griffin said the improvements should draw more people to the park.

"I think having an in-line skating facility will draw more young people to the park," he said. "Anytime we have something like that, it will attract more youth, which we need to do."

Kosowski's department has a long range plan to improve city parks, but some projects could hinge on state assistance.

The Central City Park plan has received a $47,250 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Kosowski said.

In return, the city has agreed to spend $15,750 on the park, pushing the total to $63,000.

Mayor Robert Thomas said the amount the city is receiving is welcome considering how little officials have to pledge toward the project.

Griffin conceded that he was "disappointed" that Westland received only $47,250 from the state when other communities got far more money.

Canton Township received $750,000 to improve its Summit on the Park recreation facility.

"You take what you can get," Griffin said. "Our improvements will help us. It's small improvements (compared to some communities) to be honest with you, but we need to get back some of the money."

"I think we're committed to trying to improve our parks," Griffin said, "and this is a start."

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Westland Observer

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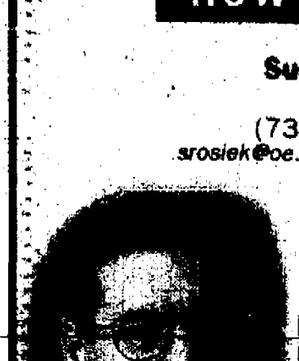

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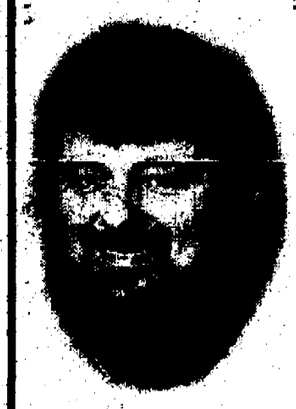

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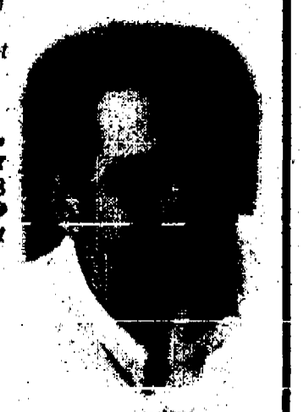

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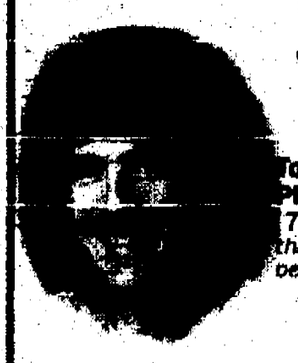

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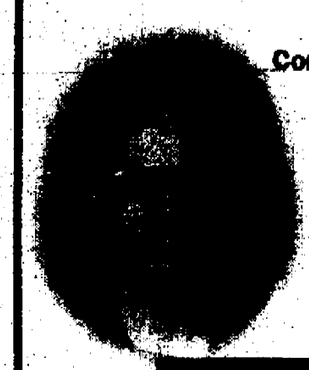

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CNC MPA SNA

Chemical company says water probably triggered explosion

BY DAVE VARGA AND LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITERS

In the aftermath of the chemical explosion Oct. 29 that sent a greenish cloud out of the McGean-Rohco Livonia plant, closed roads and schools, sent 40 people to the hospital, including a Westland man, and frightened people in nearby neighborhoods, the firm released a report to explain what happened, and announced product changes and new safety procedures.

"We're going to take every measure we can to make sure this never happens again," said Dave Hurder, vice president of operations for the firm. "We do understand that we've got to regain our credibility."

The plant is located off the I-96 service drive just west of Newburgh Road.

McGean-Rohco's report indicates the probable cause for the explosion of fire and gas was the introduction of a small amount of water into the dry blend of chromic acid and potassium ferricyanide.

It might have been caused by the high humidity of the day, some moisture already in one of the dry chemicals or a bit of water left in the mixing bin after cleaning, Hurder said.

"There are a number of deficiencies in the building," said Livonia Fire Marshal James Corcoran. "Until those are dealt with they are not going to be able to reopen."

City building inspectors would need to see problems rectified, such as a wall blown out, an area of the roof that was burned and the sprinkler system.

Livonia city officials told McGean-Rohco representatives late Wednesday that their plant cannot reopen.

McGean-Rohco management had informed the city by letter it intended to start up operations in a limited capacity Wednesday. A plant official refused to comment on whether operations restarted as planned.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESSLER

At the scene: *Lt. Jim Davison of the Canton Township Fire Department gathers information before entering the plant.*

"I've been advised by our attorney not to," said Jim Rector, McGean-Rohco plant manager.

Rector added the plant's attorneys are working closely with the city to reach "an amicable agreement."

The company's plan to reopen surprised city officials and prompted them to huddle Wednesday afternoon.

Mayor Jack Kirksey and Acting Fire Chief Alan Brandemihl, Fire Inspector James Corcoran, Senior Building Inspector David Woodcox and City Attorney Sean Kavanagh attended the meeting.

"I've let the city attorney inform them that it's not to happen," Kirksey said. "We don't believe it's safe for them to start until we've completed our investigation. ... I believe it's premature for them to open that plant."

Operations were reportedly to start in an area of the McGean-Rohco plant not affected by the chemical explosion.

Though the plant "is much safer today," Kirksey said there are still things that need correcting.

"Do I have some concerns? Yes, I have some concerns," Brandemihl said.

Fire inspectors said another exit door is needed for employees. They also cite a breach in a fire wall and an inadequate sprinkler system as other problems.

Also, chemicals in storage need to be better segregated from the processing areas, according to Brandemihl.

"Those are pretty big deficiencies as far as I'm concerned," Brandemihl said.

The plant manager disagreed.

"From our standpoint, all laws, regulations and codes have been complied with," Rector said. "Our clean-up is complete."

Although he has seen reports by the state Department of Environmental Quality and federal Environmental Protection Agency, "neither report says the plant is ready to open," Kirksey remarked. He said city officials are still waiting for the MIOSHA report.

Kirksey said he wanted to wait for the city-paid independent consultant to go into the plant and conduct an in-depth analysis of the facility and its processes before it reopened. He also wanted to determine a cause.

Cops crack down on main roads

BY DARRELL CLEM
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■ 'We are again hammering citizens on seat belts and speeding.'

Sgt. Peter Brokas
—Westland police

Westland motorists traveling Ford and Wayne roads may want to slow down and buckle up.

City police officers Monday will launch a program of stricter enforcement of speeding and seat belt violations on Westland's two busiest roads.

The crackdown will last through Dec. 6, with extra police officers placed on patrol as the bustling holiday shopping season starts.

"We are again hammering citizens on seat belts and speeding," Westland police Sgt. Peter Brokas announced Monday. "We're going to concentrate on speeding, but seat belts will be the second area of enforcement this time."

Brokas warned drivers that extra police officers will patrol Ford and Wayne roads, mostly from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"You might warn the citizens that the enforcement will take place in the morning and evening hours instead of the night hours this time," Brokas said.

Westland is among 14 Wayne County police departments sharing a grant to pay for overtime for police officers.

Westland's portion is $6,700.

Police say accidents are more likely to happen as large numbers of busy shoppers start heading for places like Westland Center.

"We're going to watch for speeding and seat belt violations because the shopping season is getting under way, and we'll have a high volume of shoppers," Brokas said. "We want to get a jump on that."

Brokas advised drivers that police don't have to have a secondary reason to stop them if it is suspected that a child under the age of 16 isn't belted in.

Brokas hopes his warning of an impending crackdown will convince drivers to make sure everyone in the car is property restrained and to ease off the gas pedal.

"Hopefully, they'll slow down," he said.

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Foundation plans holiday event

The Westland Community Foundation will hold a holiday event Wednesday, Dec. 15, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, on Joy between Wayne and Newburgh roads in Westland.

Admission is by donation of an unwrapped toy for the children of the Salvation Army and/or canned or boxed food.

At 6:30 p.m. there will be holiday classics by pianist Stefan Kukurugya. Hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments will be served.

At 7:30 p.m. there will be a show and sing-along by the Northwest Vicariate Handbell Choir and Singers. The event is for the entire family.

For reservations, call (734) 595-7727 by Dec. 8.

The foundation's yearly budget for holiday cards is being donated to the children of P.D. Graham Elementary, Hayes Elementary and Johnson Elementary, who have created more than 600 artistically unique cards. Each school will designate its own charity to sponsor.

Video service connects us with ancestors

BY DIANE GALE ANDRASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

■ 'These videos are often a catalyst to draw families together. Memories spark conversations, renew rapport and help relatives forget old conflicts.'

Bob Stockton
—video service owner

As boxes of old picture albums and keepsakes get taller and taller in the corner of a basement and attic, the more foreboding it is for anyone to want to sift through the mess.

Stockton Family Tree Video, operated by Bob and Joan Stockton, offers a service that compiles and preserves those memories in elaborate video presentations for generations to come.

"Ninety-nine percent of us save our family photos in boxes, either in albums, or just in folders or envelopes," said Bob Stockton, who has worked in public relations throughout the country for more than 30 years. "Those boxes rarely get pulled out of closets or basements or attics. What we offer is an opportunity to enhance and preserve those memories in a convenient, popular format for easy viewing."

Once the photos, slides, movies, birth certificates, marriage licenses and all kinds of other mementos are compiled, the video is set to specially chosen music.

As pictures age, often times younger generations lose track of who is who and what might have been an important family heirloom becomes meaningless.

Videos can tell powerful family stories that might otherwise get lost in the overwhelming task of wading through mounds of storage bins.

Rediscovering your ancestors and blending them with the present generation is one popular video theme. Another is following the childhoods of a bride and groom up to their courtship and showing the video during the reception.

Or tracing the milestones of a recent graduate and showing it during a graduation party. Holidays, too, are the most popular time for reminiscing about family heritage and looking at the past.

Preserving memories

Sitting in their Livonia home, where they run the business from a basement studio, the Stocktons explain how they realized recently the importance of preserving family memories after Bob's mother, Louise, and her cousin died. They were the oldest living family matriarchs.

Snippets of them on tape have become important links to Bob's past. In fact, they have footage of Louise, who was 94 when she died, telling stories about other family members that would have otherwise been buried with her.

"They're wonderful stories and you don't want to let them die," Bob said.

Married for 31 years with two grown sons, together they bring to their new business Joan's technical expertise and his public relations skills.

"We're not the originators of this concept, but we do bring a great deal of communications experience and appreciation of family history to this activity," said Joan, who worked as a professional employee trainer for major corporations. She has also taught middle school and English at Madonna University.

She recently produced her own family videos, two chronicling her mother's and father's lives. A third video, a directory showing and naming everyone in the family, became especially popular, because so many of her relatives had moved out of state and, the younger generation especially, was losing an understanding of who everyone was.

The Stocktons showed the three videos at a family reunion last summer and copies were sent to those who couldn't attend. Relatives around the country began calling them to say how much they appreciated seeing relatives they hadn't kept in touch with and, in some cases, never met.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Family Tree Video: *Joan and Bob Stockton have started a business of producing priceless photos, slides and old home movies into a heartwarming music video or CD ROM.*

Emotional experience

"Usually, during a graduation party or a reunion or anniversary celebration, the men are in one corner talking football or golf while one or two women sit on the couch and browse through a photo album," Bob said. "When you play a video, everyone at the gathering experiences the very same event and memory at the very same time. The emotional intensity is magnified many times.

"These videos are often a catalyst to draw families together. Memories spark conversations, renew rapport and help relatives forget old conflicts."

The customer decides what will be used, the order in which they will run and the number of videos. Joan then goes through and enhances the faded pictures and poor videos, adds explanations, voice-overs, music, written names and headlines.

A copy is kept in their archives in case something should happen to the customer's video.

"This can be an investment in the future," said Bob, explaining that the videos can be updated as changes, like marriages and births, happen. "A Stockton Family Tree Video program is convenient to store and can be enjoyed over and over again at the touch of a button."

While the core package begins at between $400-$500, Bob stresses the value of the video.

"While we're talking about hundreds of dollars, we are also talking about the preservation and presentation of memories that are literally priceless," he said. "You cannot put a price tag on lifetime memories and events."

Stockton Family Tree Video can be reached at (800) 544-8466 or by e-mail at stocktonbj@aol.com.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Those were the days: *Bob and Joan Stockton look through old photographs that can be placed for a family video.*

Council approves court expansion

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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■ The project will add about 10,800 square feet of space to the 19-year-old building, boosting its size by two-thirds. The court is located behind the Westland police station on Ford Road.

A proposed Westland 18th District Court expansion, aimed at increasing safety and improving work conditions, reached a new milestone Monday as council members approved a site plan.

In a sweeping vote, the council favored a court addition that Planning Director Tod Kilroy said will boost the building's size to 25,700 square feet.

"It's a great plan," he said.

Construction is expected to begin in four months and be completed by late January 2001, Judge C. Charles Bokos said.

The project will add about 10,800 square feet of space to the 19-year-old building, boosting its size by two-thirds. The court is located behind the Westland police station on Ford Road.

"I think it's going to add a touch of class to the central city area," Councilman Charles "Trav" Griffin said Monday during a council meeting.

Bokos and Judge Gail McKnight have voiced concerns about possible violence due to overcrowded conditions on days when they hear criminal cases.

Victims and released-from-jail defendants often have little room to avoid one another on busy court days.

Judges and some council members also have voiced concerns about crowded working conditions and inadequate air flow in the building – a situation that some say has caused sickness.

"I think it's an unhealthy environment," Councilwoman Sharon Scott said.

Griffin received assurances from Bokos that court revenue – rather than city tax dollars – will pay for the expansion.

"We don't think there will be any burden placed on the city," Bokos said Monday.

"We are right on track with the financial obligations that we anticipate occurring," Bokos said at another point during the meeting.

Court officials have said the expansion will mark the latest in their efforts to improve the building.

Already, they have implemented a new security system that forces visitors to pass through a metal detector

Convenience store robbed

A lone bandit who implied he had a gun robbed the Westland 7-Eleven at Merriman and Palmer early Sunday, escaping with a small amount of cash, police said.

The suspect entered the store while a 41-year-old clerk was stocking the cooler and demanded money when the worker came to the counter, police said.

The suspect implied he had a gun hidden in his waistband, prompting the worker to comply with his demands, police said.

The bandit then fled on foot and drove off in what was described as an older model, small, red vehicle with a loud muffler.

The suspect was described in a police report as a 5-foot-7 black male, about 25 years old with a medium build, light complexion and a mustache.

He was said to be wearing black pants, a black shirt and a black knit hat.

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'Educational but fun, a rare combination'

BY RENÉE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER
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STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Top teacher: *Livonia Churchill High School teacher Jennifer Dallacqua was named secondary teacher of the year. Even the students like her. "She always greets me. I don't know if that's for everybody or for me in particular. It makes me feel welcomed, relaxed. It's a good class atmosphere," said sophomore Kerry Mills, 16.*

Since kindergarten, Jennifer Dallacqua knew she wanted to be a teacher. She loved learning, idolized her teachers and even played school during summer breaks.

"I made my mother go to the teacher store and buy chalk. I had a chalkboard in my room," she said, laughing after she revealed her first students were "invisible people."

"It's my life. It's who I am," she said of her continued passion for the profession.

On Monday evening, the Livonia Public Schools' Board of Education honored Dallacqua, a language arts teacher at Churchill High School since 1994, as one of the district's teachers of the year for 1999-2000.

"It's an overwhelming honor. It never entered my mind going into education that this would be possible," she said a few hours before the ceremony.

Dallacqua teaches all grades, from basic freshman English 9 to Advanced Placement English 12. Her day begins early and doesn't end when she closes the door after her last class. She is the National Honor Society sponsor and the Quiz Bowl coach. She's also chairwoman of the reading committee and a member of the school's language arts committee.

And through all her busy school days she keeps her sense of humor.

"Two of the unique qualities Jennifer brings to the colleagues and students with whom she works is a magnificent sense humor and the ability to put things in perspective," wrote M. Jill Streit, language arts/social studies coordinator, in a letter of recommendation. "Every committee or group is better when Jennifer is part of it. With Jennifer there will be joy, there will be competence, and there will be goals accomplished."

A love for English

Dallacqua's love of teaching English was sparked by a 10th-grade teacher at Ladywood High School, Leah Holland. "She was so animated, she almost became literature. It permeated the room."

Now, when a student tells her he wants to teach English, Dallacqua is flattered. "That reminds me of Mrs. Holland and how I related to her."

Dallacqua learned her lessons well. The walls of her classroom are covered in posters of movies with literary themes: "Hamlet," "King Lear," "Romeo and Juliet," "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Shakespeare in Love." Her freshman class currently is reading "To Kill a Mockingbird," her favorite book.

She's an enthusiastic teacher who makes learning fun, say her students. She's also personable.

"She always greets me. I don't know if that's for everybody or for me in particular. It makes me feel welcomed, relaxed. It's a good class atmosphere," said sophomore Kerry Mills, 16.

"She's educational but fun. A rare combination for a teacher," said freshman Mike Vincenza, 15.

■ 'If I'm able to stay awake for a first-hour class, that's good. First hour is usually the class you sleep in.'

Dan Kurikesu
—student in Dallacqua's class

Helpful, inspiring

Although AP English isn't his favorite subject, senior Dan Kurikesu, 17, said Dallacqua conducts a lively class, full of discussion and creative assignments. "If I'm able to stay awake for a first-hour class, that's good. First hour is usually the class you sleep in."

"She's helpful and kind, and she's funny," said freshman Jenna Ellison, 15.

Principal Rod Hosman said he's honored to have Dallacqua at Churchill. "Jennifer is just an absolutely wonderful human being and an excellent teacher. She reaches students at all levels and inspires students at all ability levels."

There are frustrations in teaching, Dallacqua said. Sometimes she's not sure just what a particular student is getting out of her class. However, the rewards far outnumber the frustrations, especially when students start making the right connections. "Connections to their own life, experience, something they've studied before."

When asked how she would want to be remembered by her students at their 30th high school reunion, Dallacqua laughed once again, then became thoughtful. "I guess something about having introduced them to a different kind of literature ... To make them as excited about literature as I am. I think that would be nice."

But 30 years is a long way off. Dallacqua is content to live and teach in the present. "I love my job. I love my school. I love my subject."

Deep ditches upset Palmer Road residents

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

A Palmer Road resurfacing plan has upset some neighbors who said the project included ditches dug too deep in front of their houses.

But city officials said the project met engineering drainage specifications and isn't likely to be altered.

Resident Emily Sahlberg described her ditch as a 2-foot-deep moat since work crews last week resurfaced Palmer between Hix and Hannan, near the Canton boundary.

Addressing Westland City Council members Monday, she questioned why the city couldn't install storm sewers, but said she has no clout with City Hall.

"I don't have any friends in high places," Sahlberg said.

Resident Walter Pearl said the ditch in front of his Palmer residence is twice as deep and four times as wide as it was before the resurfacing project was started.

"Why wouldn't we have done it right?" he asked, adding that the ditches will retain too much water.

"We never had any standing water problems there before," Pearl said.

City officials contend the project – one of several recently completed – was done properly.

Public Services Director Richard Dittmar said some ditches are wider because the city wanted to install gradual slopes to make the property easier to maintain.

Mayor Robert Thomas also said storm sewers didn't appear to be an option because homeowners would be stuck with hefty assessments.

City officials said ditches had to be included in the resurfacing project to allow water to drain from the road.

Some council members questioned whether the residents could get any relief, but they didn't get any indication of help.

"So there's not much we can do to help these people?" council President Sandra Cicirelli asked.

"No," Dittmar replied.

The Palmer resurfacing was among several new projects. Others included:

■ Installation of a new Merriman Road relief sewer.

■ A Hix Road resurfacing project.

■ A new traffic light and resurfacing at Carlson and Marquette.

■ Kirke Neal subdivision resurfacing, second phase.

■ Preliminary designs for sanitary sewers on Wilmer, Globe, Belliveau, Grace and Hix.

Junior Miss to be chosen

The Wayne-Westland Junior Miss program will take place 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, at Stockmeyer Auditorium, Wayne Memorial High School. The school is on Glenwood at Fourth in Wayne.

Twenty young women, local high school seniors, will compete for the Wayne-Westland Junior Miss title that evening. A total of $12,000 in scholarships will be awarded and a new Community Service Award given.

"These young women have been working very hard," said Pat Hermatz, co-chairwoman for Junior Miss. Interviews, rehearsals and preparations have been keeping them busy.

"No matter who is selected, they're all winners," Hermatz said.

The woman chosen will go to Alpena to compete for Michigan Junior Miss March 25, 2000. If she wins, she will go to Mobile, Ala., to compete for America's Junior Miss in June.

Mistress of ceremonies will be Stephanie Mead, Wayne-Westland and Michigan Junior Miss for 1998. Jill Dobson, Michigan Junior Miss for 1995 and reigning Miss Michigan USA, will also be a mistress of ceremonies.

Ticket donations are $8. Tickets are available from contestants, at Wayne Lawn & Garden on Wayne Road in Westland or at the door.

For information, call Hermatz, (734) 721-5220.

CITY OF WESTLAND
INVITATION TO BID
BID ITEM NO. HSG 1999-02

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Westland Department of Housing and Community Development, 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, MI 48186, on or before Thursday, December 9, 1999 at 4:00 p.m. (no exceptions) for the following items:

PURCHASE OF ONE (1) MID-VOLUME COPIER

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Westland Department of Housing and Community Development. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

JAMES GILBERT, Director
Housing/Community Development
City of Westland

Bid Item No. HSG 1999-02
Publish: November 18, 1999

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Tuesday, Nov. 23, 1999, the Westland Police Dept. will conduct Public Auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 AM at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
1986	Volkswgn	Jetta/4 Dr	Brown	WVWGA0163GW239664
1985	Chevy	Van	Red	1GCEG25H4F7185813
1967	Chevy	Chevelle/2 Dr	Maroon	1351777134475
1984	Chrysler	LeBaron/Conv.	Gray	1C3BC55E6EG291768

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

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
	Honda	750/Motr Cycle	Black	CB5501206565
1977	Olds	98/4 Dr	Blue	3X69K7E152541
1990	Mitsubishi	Mirage/2 Dr	Silver	JA3CU24X5LU021964
1990	GEO	Metro/2 Dr	Gray	2C1MR2468L6026391
1985	Pontiac	Fiero/2 Dr	Silver	1G2PF3795FP215834
1986	Ford	Ranger/Pick-up	White	1FTBR10A0GUA89195
1988	Dodge	Shadow/2 Dr	Red	1B3BS44D4JN120249
1986	Plymouth	Voyager/Mini Vn	Blue	2P4FH41G6GR656012
1987	Ford	Ranger/Pick-up	Blue	1FTCR14T1JPB25823
1987	Acura	Intergra/4 Dr	Gray	JH4DA1756HS022664
1988	Pontiac	Bonneville/4 Dr	Silver	1G2HZ54C8JW278556
1980	Chevy	Monte Carlo/2 Dr	Gray	1Z37KA1441573
1988	Ford	F150/Pick-up	White	1FTEF15Y8JLB00953
1987	Ford	Taurus/4 Dr	Black	1FABP53U1HG186343
1982	Chevy	Camaro/2 Dr	Black	1G1AP87H8CL124962
1985	Buick	Park Ave/2 Dr	Gray	1G4CW6936F1536517

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

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION

Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after December 18, 1999, unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
1984	Toyota	Van	Rust	JT3YR26V7E6014354

Publish: November 18, 1999

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO MASTER PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the provisions of Act Number 285, Public Acts of 1931, as amended, that a public hearing will be held by the City of Garden City Planning Commission at 6:45 p.m., December 2, 1999 at the City of Garden City City Hall, Michigan.

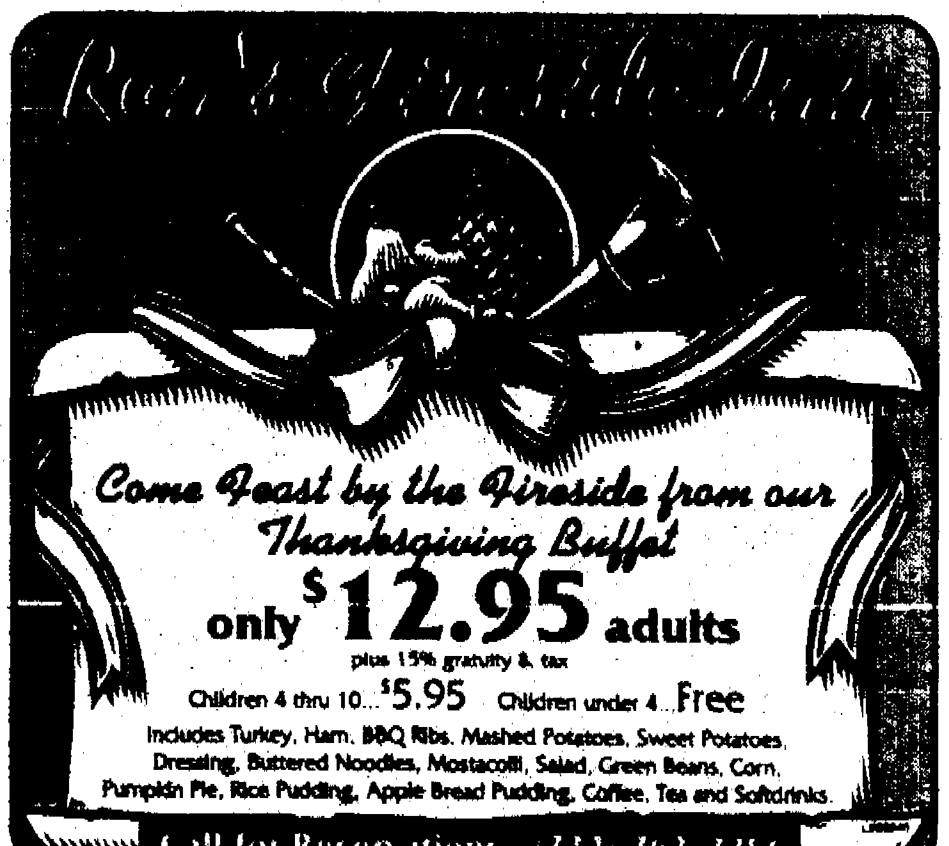
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the purpose of the public hearing is to hear and consider public comments on the proposed amendments to the approved Master Plan prior to adoption. The amendment will allow the expansion of parking lots adjacent to commercial property, and land located immediately south of the area proposed as Central Business District on the Future Land Use Map is proposed to be amended to Mixed Use.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the proposed amendments to the approved Master Plan may be examined at the City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135 during regular office hours until the date of the Public Hearing. Written comments on the proposed amendments to the approved Master Plan can be sent to the above address.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
Treasurer/City Clerk

EDWARD KANE
Chairman, Planning Commission

Posted: November 15, 1999
Publish: November 18, 1999



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DNR seeks deer heads to erase bovine tuberculosis

As an estimated 750,000 hunters head out for the 1999 firearm deer season which began Nov. 15, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has a simple message: "We need deer heads."

The request is part of the state's overall strategy to eradicate bovine tuberculosis from Michigan.

So far during the 1999 hunting season, seven deer, all females, taken in Alcona, Alpena and Oscoda counties, have tested positive.

All the animals were taken in the original five-county TB management area (now Deer Management Unit 452), established after the disease was found in a 4-year-old male whitetail shot in Alpena County in 1994.

This year, TB surveillance has been expanded to include Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Iosco, Kalkaska, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon counties.

"If you hunt in the 20-county area listed, bring your harvested deer to a DNR check station for a free examination that will be performed at our Rose Lake Laboratory in East Lansing," said Rebecca Humphries, DNR Wildlife Bureau chief.

"We're hoping to examine the heads of between 300 and 1,000 deer from each county."

Heads of bucks and does are needed for laboratory examination because the lymph nodes located in the head near the base of the neck are used to determine if the deer has TB. Half-year-old deer will not be tested. Deer with severe TB may have tan or yellow lumps lining the chest wall, but more than 60 percent of bovine TB-positive deer do not have these visible lesions in the chest cavity.

Hunters who see a deer with this type of infection should contact the DNR so the entire carcass can be examined.

DNR personnel at the check stations will be able to remove the head.

Hunters may cut off the head by removing it behind the first cervical vertebrate (about three to four inches behind the corner of the jaw). Deer heads can be tested with antlers removed.

All DNR check stations will accept deer heads for TB testing, but the following locations have been set up to handle the bulk of the collection:

Alpena (517) 358-0146; Cadillac (231) 775-9727; Atlanta (517) 785-4252; Evart (231) 734-5840; Bellaire (231) 533-8341; Kalkaska (231) 258-2711; Curran (517) 826-3211; Traverse City (231) 922-5280; Gaylord (517) 732-3541; Grayling (517) 348-6371; Houghton Lake (517) 422-6572; Indian River (231) 238-9313; Bay City (517) 684-9141; Lincoln (517) 736-8336; Gladwin (517) 426-9205; Mio (517) 826-3211; Harrison (517) 539-6411; Onaway (517) 785-4252; Nayanquing Point (517) 697-5101; Pellston (231) 539-8564; Standish (517) 846-4104; Posen (517) 785-4252; Rifle River (517) 473-2258; Roscommon (517) 275-5151; Tawas Point (517) 362-504; and West Branch (517) 345-0472.

Before traveling to a specific field office or check station, telephone first to confirm the location and hours. The schedule is available on the DNR Web site at www.dnr.state.mi.us.

Hunters also may bring their deer to one of four highway check stations. Three stations will be open Nov. 16-21 at the following locations: US-131 rest area south of Big Rapids; US-27 southbound near Alma and I-75 near Birch Run.

The St. Ignace station, on Marley Street south of US-2, will be open Nov. 17-21. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information regarding the TB testing program, call the DNR Rose Lake Laboratory at (517) 373-9358.

Students to work with HIV families

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

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

Developed by Plymouth resident Mary Mitsch, assistant professor of nursing, Westland resident Dennis Bozyk, associate professor of history, and Northville resident Ernest Nolan, vice president for academic administration, the Scholarship of Engagement Mini-Grant is in the amount of $2,000.

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

Howe signs

Hockey great Gordie Howe will be at Fischer's Hallmark at Westland Shopping Center from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Howe will be signing his 1999 Hallmark keepsake ornament. Tickets are $40.95 and include an autograph and ornament.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. No other memorabilia will be signed.

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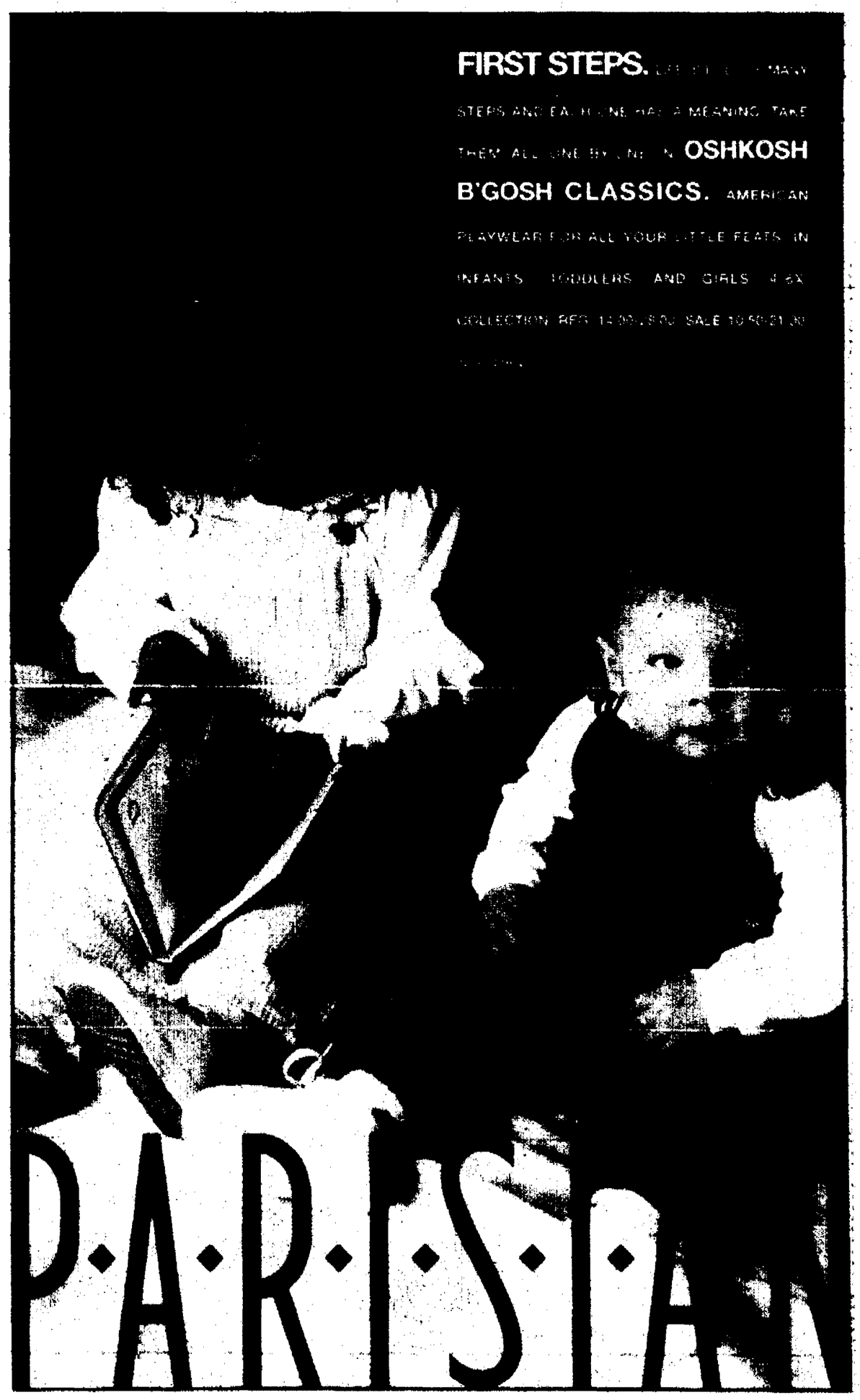

OBITUARIES

EDITH E. ALLEN

A memorial service for Edith Allen, 72, of Waters, Mich., will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, in St. John Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

Mrs. Allen was born Nov. 21, 1926, in Wayne and died Nov. 12 in Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are her sons, Ronald (Peggy) and Robert (Barbara); daughters, Mary (Pete) McCray and Lynda (Tony) Kiser; sister, Josephine Jeffries; and seven grandchildren.

Mrs. Allen's children reside in the Westland community.

Mrs. Allen was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon, on March 1 and one brother.

HAZEL S. COURTEAU

Services for Hazel Courteau, 52, of Westland were Nov. 8 in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock. Officiating was the Rev. Ernest Mindel.

Miss Courteau was born June 12, 1947, and died Nov. 4 in Farmington Hills. She was a technician.

Surviving are her brother, Harold (Patricia) Courteau; sisters, Kathleen (Martin) Duncan, Joyce Mindel, Rosalie (Duane) Dahlin and Colleen (Richard) Dittmar; 17 nieces and nephews and 12 great-nieces and nephews.

Miss Courteau was preceded in death by brothers Duane (Charlene) Courteau and Lester Courteau.

MARGARET M. WALTERS

Services for Margaret Walters, 82, of Westland were Nov. 12 in St. John's Episcopal Church with burial at Cherry Hill Cemetery in Canton. Officiating was the Rev. Arthur Mack.

Mrs. Walters was born Nov. 21, 1916, and died Nov. 10 in Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Wayne. She was a cook.

Surviving are her husband, Harry; sons, David (Karen) Stockman, Bill (Sharon) Copland, Robert Copland and Phillip (Lori) Copland; daughters, Barbara Copland, Joni (Jim) Fuchs, Sheri (Pete Woodard) MacDonald, Kathy (Jim) McCarson and Susie (Gary) Church; brothers, Bob Michaels and Will Michaels; sister, Dorothy Michaels; 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to St. John's Episcopal Church in Westland.

CAROL ANN LAUREL

Services for Carol Laurel, 57, of Westland were Nov. 1 in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Glenwood Cemetery in Wayne. Officiating was the Rev. James Skimina.

Mrs. Laurel was born June 4, 1942, and died Oct. 28 in Westland. She was a machine operator.

Surviving are her daughter, Michelle (Thomas) Krumm; brothers, Ralph and Stanley; sisters, Joann Williams and Judy Brittain; and grandson, Darren.

MARY H. GALE

Services for Mary Helen Gale, 73, of Westland were Nov. 13 in Vermeulen Funeral Home with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland. Officiating was the Rev. Emery F. Gravelle.

Mrs. Gale was born Aug. 23, 1926, in Detroit and died Nov. 9 in Wayne. She was an administrative assistant with the public schools.

She is survived by husband James J. Gale of Westland; sons K. Jay (Jonnie) of Denver, Colo., Jon (Diana) of Dearborn; daughter Lynda Royal Oak; and four grandchildren.

AGNES M. WOLLSCHLAGER

Services for Agnes Marie Wollschlager, 84, of Westland were Nov. 17 at Vermeulen Funeral Home with burial at United Memorial Gardens of Plymouth. Officiating was Chaplain Joseph Lowing.

Mrs. Wollschlager was born Feb. 10, 1915, in Wilkes Barre, Pa., and died Nov. 14 in Westland. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by sons Paul V. (Gail) of Westland, Joseph (Janet) of Westland; daughter-in-law Nancy of Westland; sister Mildred Burke of Southgate; 17 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

LUCILLE E. SKRUMBELLOS

Services for Lucille E. Skrumbellos, 74, of Westland were Nov. 8 at Uht Funeral Home with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland. Officiating was Chaplain Ken Aune.

Mrs. Skrumbellos was born Feb. 23, 1925, and died Nov. 5 at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

She was a homemaker, World War II veteran and member of the Harris Kehrer VFW Post No. 3323 Ladies Auxiliary.

Mrs. Skrumbellos is survived by her husband, Frank; son, Frank L. (Barbara); brother, Freddie Mongeau; sister, Alice Harvey; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

CLYDE J. TROUP

Services for Clyde J. Troup, 74, of Canton Township were Nov. 13 at Uht Funeral Home with the Rev. Jack Baker presiding. Cremation rites were accorded.

Mr. Troup was born March 22, 1925, and died Nov. 10 at home. He was a miner and member of the American Legion in Pennsylvania.

He is survived by sons, Michael (Vickie), Daniel P., Stephen J.; daughters, Janice L. Adams, Michaele A. Light; sisters, Mary (Peg) Sobczyk, Bertha Elersic; and five grandchildren. Some of the survivors live in Westland.

He was preceded in death by wife, Levon A., and brother, Daniel.

JEROME MCFALDA

Services for Jerome McFalda, 62, of Westland were Nov. 15 at Uht Funeral Home with burial in Knollwood Cemetery in Canton Township. Officiating was the Rev. Roy Forsyth.

Mr. McFalda was born Sept. 15, 1937, and died Nov. 10 in Garden City Hospital. He was a machinist.

He is survived by wife, Della, of Westland; sons, Jerome, Roy; daughters, Tammy, Kelly; sister, Geraldine (Vincent) Mickevicius; and six grandchildren.

MARTHA L. URMAS

Services for Martha L. Urmas, 84, of Westland were Nov. 6 at Uht Funeral Home with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland. Officiating was Fr. Stephen Keogh.

Mrs. Urmas was born Oct. 2, 1915, and died Nov. 3 in St. Mary Hospital. She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Urmas is survived by sons, James (Judy) Shaw, Glenn (Patty) Shaw; sisters, Dorothy Duffy, June Charopowicz; 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

KATHLEEN A. NAGY

Services for Kathleen Annie Nagy, 56, of Albert, Mich., were Nov. 14 at Uht Funeral Home with the Rev. Jack Baker presiding. Cremation rites were accorded.

Mrs. Nagy was born June 5, 1943, and died Nov. 10 in St. Mary Hospital. She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Nagy is survived by husband, Charles E.; daughters, Mary Margaret (Rob) Schmidt, Tina Marie (Jeff) Porter; brothers, Barry (Donna) McEachern of Westland, Marc (Marianne) McEachern; and three grandchildren.

PATRICIA A. SCOVONE

Services for Patricia A. Scovone, 52, of Westland were Nov. 17 at Uht Funeral Home with the Rev. Jack Baker presiding. Cremation rites were accorded.

Mrs. Scovone was born July 23, 1947, and died Nov. 14 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Wayne. She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Scovone is survived by husband, Joseph; sisters, Carol Smith, Jeanette Strickland; brothers, Fred Kinsman, Norman Kinsman; daughter, Robin Kinsman; and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by father, Emerson Kinsman; sister, Dolores Brown; and brother, Leslie Kinsman.

JESSE J. JORN

Services for Jesse J. Jorn, 69, of Westland were Nov. 4 at Uht Funeral Home with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland. Officiating was the Rev. Alberto Bondy.

Mr. Jorn was born Sept. 26, 1930, and died Nov. 1. He was a forklift driver.

Mr. Jorn is survived by daughter, Susan Jorn.

He was preceded in death by wife, Barbara Lebot Jorn.

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Cable from page A1

customers will see in January.

The cost of subscribing to HBO, Cinemax, Showtime and The Movie Channel will increase from $10.95 to $11.95, Black said.

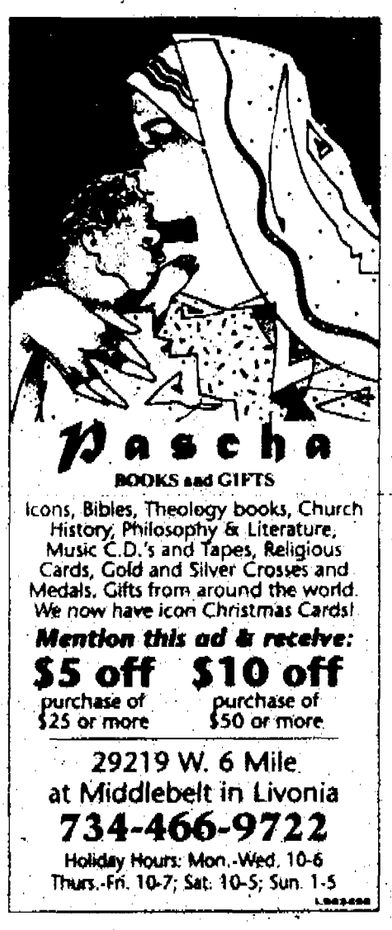
He attributed those rate hikes to price increases being passed on by the premium channels.

LeBlanc said the nearly 6 percent rate hike for basic service is "far in excess" of the average pay increase that most Westland residents receive at their jobs.

A comparison of MediaOne's rates with those of Americast wasn't immediately available, but LeBlanc and others have said the competition hasn't held the reins on cable-TV costs.

Rather than choosing a cable company for better rates, he said, "it appears as though it's a preference" for one company over the other.

"I'm disappointed that the choice of two providers in our community hasn't equaled better rates," LeBlanc said.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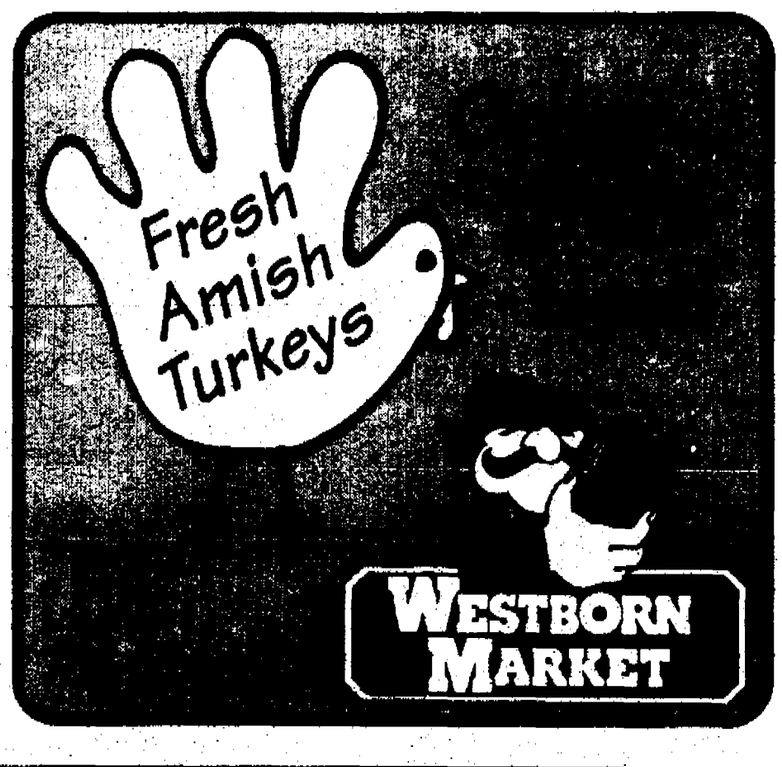

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24th Annual
Holiday Tables 1999
"A Farewell to the 20th Century"
At Historic Cranbrook House
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
November 19 through November 21
General Admission
Friday, November 19 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 20 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 21 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
$12.00 at the door ~ $10.00 advance purchase
Student admission K-12 when accompanied by an adult ~ $5.00
Holiday Boutique with selected American Girl™ items will be open each day.
For ticket information call (248) 645-3147
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1999
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Featuring informal modeling of children's fashions from the 20th Century
Performances of Seasonal Music throughout the House
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Division of HomeTown Communications Network

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You are invited to
A Millennial Thanksgiving Hymn Fest
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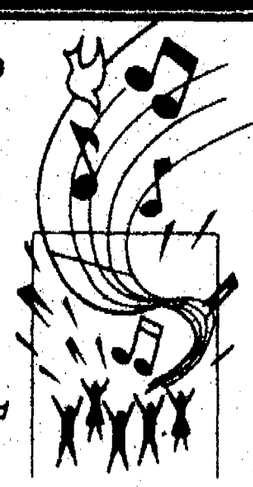
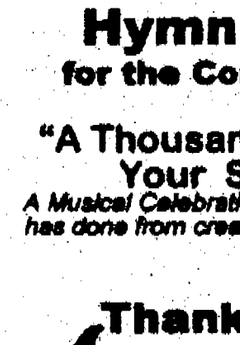
"A Thousand Ages in Your Sight"
A Musical Celebration of all that God has done from creation to the future



Thanksgiving Service

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Worship: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Church School: 9:30 (Adults 11:00 not Ages)
313-937-3170
+ Clarenceville
20300 Middlebelt, Livonia
Worship: 10:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Church School 9:00 a.m.
248-474-3444
+ Garden City First
6443 Merriman Rd. Garden City
Worship: 9:30 & 10:45 a.m.
Church School: 9:30 a.m.
734-421-8628
+ Lola Valley
16175 Delaware at Purlan
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Church School: 9:45 a.m.
313-255-6350
+ Newburg
36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia
Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Church School 9:20 & 11:00 a.m.
734-422-0149
+ Rice Memorial
20601 Beech Daly, Redford
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Church School: 11:15 a.m.
313-534-4907
+ St. Matthews
30600 W. 6 Mile Rd., Livonia
Worship: 10 a.m.
Church School: 10 a.m.
734-422-6050

Nature lovers question reason for controlled hunts

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
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Nature lovers fear that the controlled deer hunts scheduled to take place in three metroparks – Stony Creek near Rochester, Kensington in Milford and Hudson Mills near Ann Arbor – are a backdoor attempt to introduce sport hunting to Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority land.

HCMA officials, however, insist the hunts are a herd management tool, aimed solely at reducing the number of deer there. The critters have so overpopulated the parks that they live there in numbers 2 1/2 to almost six times what HCMA officials believe the land can support.

The first controlled hunt, in Stony Creek Nov. 5-7, was a success, Dave Mollanen, chief of interpretative services and public relations, told the HCMA board at a meeting Nov. 11. Thirty-three bowhunters took 37 deer, generating some 1,380 pounds of meat to be distributed to food banks and charities. Most importantly, there were no accidents. Safety was the highest priority, Mollanen said.

As a result, the board made no plans to alter its deer culling program. Another controlled archery hunt is slated for Stony Creek Dec. 3-5. Muzzleloaders will be used Dec. 10-12 and Dec. 17. Shotgun hunting is scheduled for Dec. 18 and 19. At Hudson Mills, bowhunting is set for Dec. 3, 4, 10 and 11.

Marksmen at Kensington

At Kensington, the most overpopulated park, rangers trained as marksmen will conduct deer hunts over bait piles at night sometime in mid-January. Aerial infrared surveys will be conducted before and after to update the deer population counts.

Activists reacted sharply to the report of the first hunt. The strongest statement came from Ann Arbor resident Robert Parnell, a self-described wildlife photographer and nature lover.

"It seems this hasn't been about facts, it's about politics and money," he said. "The three hunting organizations on the Wildlife Advisory Committee (the HCMA-appointed panel that recommended the herd management plan) are from the (Department of Natural Resource's) Hunting and Fishing Task Force. This task force has a stated objective to, 'Where possible, expand opportunities to hunt and fish in urban parks and recreation areas.' And further on says ... 'take any actions necessary to bring about the completion of this vital mission.'

"It seems that what this is really about is the HCMA playing ball with the DNR so that it can continue to receive financial favors from the DNR."

One grant referenced by Parnell was actually turned down by the DNR, but HCMA Chief Planner Dan Duncan confirmed the authority has indeed received two grants from the DNR this year – one for a playground and lake access site, the other for development of a picnic area. Neither was related to hunting.

In fact, Duncan, who handles grant application writing for the HCMA, said the DNR has never asked or pressured the metropark authority to open its lands to hunting in return for grant money.

Conflict of interest?

Livonia resident Noreen Owens, a member of the Metropark Deer Preservation Council, said she believes the presence of three hunting organizations on the advisory committee constitutes a conflict of interest. Those organizations – the DNR, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and the Michigan Bowhunters Association – also had representation on the Hunting and Fishing Task Force, a panel appointed by Gov. John Engler to promote hunting activity in Michigan.

Owens asked that the make-up of the advisory committee be revised.

Northville resident Judy Brock, also a member of that council, explained her group did not intend to accuse any member of the HCMA board of improprieties. She explained that when council members found an Internet Web site containing the recommendations of the task force and that they included expanding hunting into "urban parks," they believed there was a "hidden agenda" among those three hunting groups. And she contended those groups could stand to benefit financially from the promotion of hunting.

Carol Halstead of Hartland told the HCMA board, "Non-lethal methods should be given a chance. As overseers of our metroparks, you decisions-makers should be protecting the parks resources ... you should also be wary of hidden agendas."

"Your criticisms are fine," HCMA Chairman William Kreger said in response, "until you start making out that we are cutting deals with the DNR. There is no proof of anything like that ... I object to the innuendo that there has been some underhanded dealing. I love the deer and I couldn't shoot one myself, but if we are guilty of anything, it is that we waited too long."

Denise Mogos, public relations director for HCMA, noted that the committee membership also included representatives of the Michigan Humane Society, Audubon Society, Natural Areas Council, Botanical Society and Botanical Club. Several of the members were wildlife biologists.

"There were meetings in which the Humane Society said, 'We can't go along with the killing of deer.' There were meetings where the hunters said, "Our members won't go along with bringing in a sharp shooter.' Everyone was an equal footing. I don't remember any meetings where anyone said, 'Gee, we got everything we wanted,'" Mogos said.

Hunts a success

Craig Mortz, executive board member of Metro Wildlife Management Base Inc., a consortium of Michigan conservation organizations, and John Spehar, also on that board, rated the first weekend of hunting a success. Along with the hunters, they said some 70 to 75 volunteers donated their time to manage the hunt and process the meat for food banks.

Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger covered the costs of the food processing. They helped organize the hunt with the HCMA, from training the hunters to selecting the blinds which were used as the hunting sites.

The hunt had proved safe, which Mortz and Spehar said was their main goal.

Mogos said the reason various methods of hunting are being used is to evaluate the effectiveness of those methods at thinning the herd.

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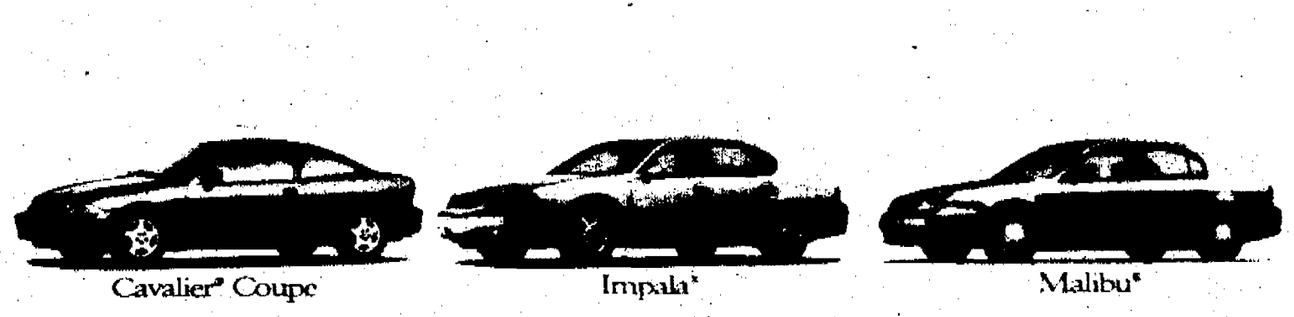

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Airport makes changes to avoid a winter disaster

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
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Officials at Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport are hoping equipment purchases and operational changes will help ease the air traffic gluts during snow storms.

They expect the opening of a third de-icing pad later this month near the end of the airport's runways will make planes safer by preventing the accumulation of ice on the planes, but also allow for better air traffic management and quicker departures for passengers in winter weather.

On Nov. 4, Wayne County commissioners also approved the lease of five snow blower trucks with 18-inch brooms for $1.9 million with C.E. Pollard of Detroit.

The county intends to execute a Ford Motor Credit Municipal Lease for five years, with a $1 buyout.

Deicing used to be completed near the airport's gates. Work crews used to move equipment from gate to gate, which took time, according to Detroit Metro Airport spokesman Mike Conway.

The new pad will help clear those gates.

"Gates will remain available for other flights," Conway said. That should help Northwest Airlines, which is Metro's principal carrier with more than 70 percent of the airport's 31 million annual passengers.

The Federal Aviation Administration had issued an advisory earlier this year that stated that airports in cold-weather cities should build deicing pads if planes face long taxis from gates to runways. Accumulated ice and snow can affect the lift of airplanes.

The three pads also should help prevent air traffic tie-ups similar to those created during the Jan. 2 snowstorm when many planes containing scores of holiday travelers remained on taxiways for several hours. While the de-icing procedures were not attributed as a cause for the airport delays, the snows and winds were attributed to Northwest's flight crews inability to get to the airport.

The third pad was built at a cost of $11.2 million and contains six tanks that can hold up to 10,000 gallons of deicing fluid. That fluid, glycol, will be recycled by EQ-The Environmental Co., a firm that paid Metro $50,000 for a three year contract.

With the two deicing pads and a program to recycle glycol, the county's costs for sewer and water use went from $1.3 million in 1997-98 to $923,460 in 1998-99, a decline of 30 percent, Conway said.

The five new snow blower trucks will be used after plows during snow removal operations. "Brooms will be attached to the trucks for use during light snows, or as a finishing task after the snow plows," said Brian Lassaline, airport spokesman.

The trucks are expected to arrive in December, Lassaline said.

Commissioners also approved a $127,000 contract with Standby Power Inc. of Redford for the purchase and installation of a 500-kilowatt backup generator for Detroit Metro Airport's Fire Station, as required for FAA regulations and Y2K compliance.

A resolution authorizing condemnation proceedings related to the acquisition of one-half acre for Runway 4/22 (Crane Road) at Metro Airport also was approved by commissioners.

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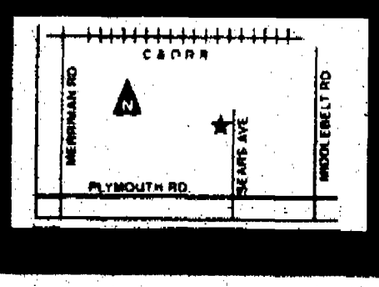

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Bennett unhappy with residency bill compromise

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
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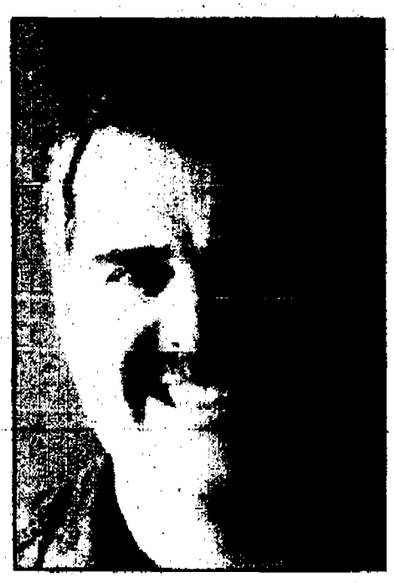
City employees would no longer be required to live in town by city charter or municipal ordinance, but such residency requirements could be subject to collective bargaining, under a compromise struck by the state House.

Rep. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, author of the compromise, said the purpose of his proposal is to preserve "home rule" and local control of the city governments while at the same time addressing the concerns over residency requirements.

"They (unions) said (city officials) wouldn't discuss it. Well, this now forces it to the bargaining table," Kuipers said. If finally approved, the compromise will mean city residency requirements will be a topic in union negotiations. If it is important to workers, unions will be able to trade off other benefits to get rid of such residency rules.

That doesn't sit well with Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, chief sponsor of the bill. He will attempt in conference committee to get the bill restored to something closer to his original version of Senate Bill 198, according to legislative aide William Sullivan.



Sen. Loren Bennett

Opposed to compromise

Rep. Robert Gosselin, R-Troy, is adamantly opposed to the compromise.

"The freedom to choose where you want to live is a fundamental civil right," Gosselin said.

Which means the issue isn't settled yet.

"I anticipate Bennett will be on the conference committee, because he's the sponsor. Typically, they put the committee chair on it too," Kuipers said, explaining why he thinks Gosselin will have a seat at the table, too. "I'm asking to be on the committee, but I don't know yet. If they restore it to the original version or something close to it, they are in for a fight from me."

Many cities in Michigan have residency rules, some set in charter, which require city employees to live in the town for which they work. Among those locally with such rules are Birmingham, Southfield, Hazel Park, Detroit and Pontiac.

While many city workers feel such rules are unfair, many city officials are arguing hard that cities should have the right to set their own rules, and not be subject to overriding state law.

Bennett's bill would have done just that, tossing out local requirements for residency. The only exception would have been for "on-call" employees, like part-time firefighters. Since cities rely on such part-time employees to respond from their homes when called, cities would still be allowed to require that they live in town. And Kuipers agreed with that.

But Kuipers said he is also strongly supportive of local control, the rights of cities to set their own rules. His compromise would put the issue into collective bargaining. The only exception in his verbiage is when married couples are employed in different cities which both have residency rules. Then, even if allowed in collective bargaining, residency could not be required.

Sullivan said Bennett is not satisfied with the compromise, although "it's better than what we have."

Not a major issue

Still, residency is not something that will be a significant issue for most employees, he explained.

If only 10 of 100 employees care about the issue, aides predicted the unions would more likely concentrate on other issues, like pay and benefits.

Kuipers denied his version was just an effort to move the issue from the House floor to conference committee.

"Many (lawmakers) came up to me to say thanks for coming up with something they could vote for," he said.

Kuipers said the issue was the subject of intense closed door discussions on the final day of session Wednesday, Nov. 10, before the Thanksgiving break.

"I knew I was involved in a big issue when the mayor of Detroit called to say he wanted to meet with me," Kuipers said. Dennis Archer came to see him in his Lansing office the day of the vote.

The issue is one of special importance to Rep. David Woodward, D-Madison Heights. While many older urban areas are getting rid of residency rules, one of the cities in his district, Hazel Park, just approved a new residency rule in the last election. The vote was 70 percent in favor of residency.

He said he believed the compromise found the middle ground, addressing the concern of employees while allowing cities the right of "self-determination."

The House voted 82-26 on final passage. The conference committee will likely be named after lawmakers return to session Nov. 30.

Representatives voted 60-32 to replace the bill with Kuipers' substitute.

Reps. Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, and Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, voted yes.

Reps. Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, and Laura Toy, R-Livonia, voted no.

'I knew I was involved in a big issue when the mayor of Detroit called to say he wanted to meet with me.'

Rep. Wayne Kuipers
R-Holland

Madonna University begins winter registration

Madonna University's registration for the winter 2000 term is in progress now through Jan. 7 for new and returning students. Office hours will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and until 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, with the exception of Dec. 20 and 23 when the office will close at 5 p.m.

All offices will be closed for Thanksgiving (Nov. 25-28) and Christmas (Dec. 24 to Jan. 3).

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Senate approves bill limiting right to public defender

BY MIKE MALOTT
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Defendants who have already pleaded guilty to a criminal charge in Michigan will no longer be able to waste taxpayers' money by using public defenders to file frivolous appeals ... or justice after plea bargaining will be reserved for the rich, depending on which side of the issue you listen to.

State senators voted 24-13 to pass House Bill 4625 Nov. 10, to limit a defendant's right to a court appointed attorney to file an appeal after having pleaded guilty to a charge.

The House has already approved the measure, sponsored by Rep. Judson Gilbert, R-Algonac. Considering that Gov. John Engler has pushed hard for the measure and that his staff did much of the research used to support the proposal, Engler is expected to give the bill a quick signature. Only a few technical glitches are slowing the bill and will have to be cleared up by the legislature in December, the governor's office said Nov. 15.

But critics are strong in their condemnation of the measure.

"I believe this bill is unconstitutional," said Sen. Alma Wheeler Smith, D-South Lyon, during the Senate debate. "I believe this legislation reinforces what the general public already believes about the criminal justice system. That is, if you are poor, you don't get justice, and if you have money and resources, then you have the right to justice and you often get it. I think that's a terrible message for the Legislature of the state of Michigan to be reinforcing."

Sen. Virgil Smith, D-Detroit, objected more strongly.

"We are setting up a two-tier system with this legislation. If you have money, then you automatically have a right to appeal and you have a right to have leave to appeal, because you have money and you can hire an attorney ... Ninety-seven to 98 percent of criminal defenders would have no ability to file an appeal on their own, they would have to have competent legal counsel. So that means only 2 percent might have the ability as a jailhouse lawyer, to file a competent appeal which is not thrown out on a procedural basis in front of the Court of Appeals. So in effect, you're eliminating all appeals on behalf of indigent defendants who cannot afford to hire an attorney."

Virgil Smith said the state supreme court is already wrestling with the very same issue in a case known as People v. Bolger. He warned that if the court eventually rules opposite the legislature's decision, Michigan's court system could then get hit with a backlog of appeals.

"We're stepping into treacherous waters ... There is not a state in the union which does not allow a right to appeal criminal cases. This in effect would accomplish that goal by taking away the right to have an attorney. We don't have the guts to confront the issue directly and deny all appeals of any criminal convictions made by a guilty plea in this state. But we will go around the back door and try to knock out 98 percent of them by denying them the right to have an attorney. This is a dangerous piece of legislation," he concluded.

Sen. William Van Regenmorter, R-Hudsonville, argued that the bill follows the wishes of Michigan voters, who approved wording ending automatic appeals in criminal cases. Van Regenmorter contended that when a judge takes a guilty plea or a plea of "no contest," court rules already require that the judge make sure the plea is being entered voluntarily. A judge can't accept the guilty plea unless he or she is convinced the charge is accurate and that the defendant understands it as well as the potential sentence. So there are already built-in protections for those who plead guilty, he argued.

The Michigan Chapter of American Civil Liberties Union has taken a position opposing the bill, but it is supported by the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan.

"This is only after the defendant has pleaded guilty, has admitted that he did the crime he's being charged for," Tom Robertson, spokesman for PAAM, said. "Where's the injustice in that?"

He argued the bill has enough safeguards built in to protect defendants' rights. For instance, he said, they will be able to get court-appointed attorneys if the sentence goes outside state-set guidelines or does not match what the defense attorney and prosecutor agreed to. There may be cases in which conditional plea bargains are struck, in which a defendant pleads based on evidence over which the admissibility is still in dispute. If an appeal to a higher court is already agreed to before the plea bargain, the defendant could keep his appointed attorney, Robertson said.

Those safeguards should avoid abuse of defendants' constitutional rights, he said.

On passage of the bill: Sens. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, and Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, voted yes.

Sen. George Z. Hart, D-Dearborn, voted no.

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Turkey ville

PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Get a grip: *Christine Roperti shows off her turkey-nabbing technique. She's had plenty of practice of putting wing-locks on birds determined to run away.*

BY RENÉE SKOGLUND
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Let's talk turkey. Ready?

"ERRR, ERRR, ERRR, UT, UT, UT, GOBBLE, GOBBLE, GOBBLE!"

Just trill your tongue at the 4,500 turkeys awaiting the ax at Roperti's Turkey Farm on Five Mile Road between Levan and Farmington in Livonia and you'll get quite a response.

And if you're brave or foolish enough to wade through the flock of plump, beady-eyed broad Wilford whites, don't wear anything with buttons below the waist. For turkeys, pecking off buttons is considered a sport.

In a small, cluttered turquoise and pink office, owner Christine Roperti and her new daughter-in-law, Ferida, keep busy taking orders over the phone, often repeating the same phrases over and over:

"We carry 15-18 pounders and 19-23."

"No, ma'am, I don't have any 10-pounders. They'd be too bony."

"Ma'am, you could freeze my turkeys for 12-15 months and they'd still taste like fresh."

"All our toms are gone."

"Delicious."

Farm girl

Roperti grew up on the 5 1/2-acre farm, which her father and mother, Thomas and Mary Roperti, Italian immigrants from the Calabrese region in Italy, started in 1948. The family leased 240 acres and maintained a herd of 40 dairy cows along with the turkeys. They also grew their own feed.

They milked the cows by hand and sold the milk to Twin Pines Dairy. Roperti recalls her father working from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. "Oh my gosh, it was hard work."

Roperti's older brother, Fred, was in the Army in the mid-1950s, leaving his 10-year-old sister to drive the tractor to their fields on the northwest corner of Six Mile Road and Haggerty. Her father would follow in a truck.

"I was my dad's boy," said Roperti.

Roperti took over the farm in 1988, shortly after her parents died. Today, with the help of her two sons, Tony Skrabut and Fred Roperti, and her husband, Wesley Bates, she operates a thriving landmark business.

But there's no mistaking who's boss, said Ferida Roperti with affection. The business remains a sole proprietorship. Deservedly so, Christine Roperti has come to be known as "the turkey lady."

Remembering when . . .

Fifty-five years ago, Thomas Roperti, bemoaned the market price of turkeys – 10 cents a pound less than the previous Thanksgiving, or about 39 cents a pound, live-weight.

Roperti had been a turkey farmer for five years and wanted a return on his investment. After all, he had 1,600 beaks to feed, and turkey feed was $3 a ton.

He started out with just 25 turkeys. Today, his daughter Christine, raises 4,500 birds, which she sells for $2.35 a pound.

A turkey's life

The fledgling turkeys arrive at Roperti's farm the first week in August. They're shipped from Holland in a large semi-tractor trailer, stacked in five layers of cages. They weigh about three or four pounds. "They're all legs," said Ferida Roperti.

Fed a diet of corn, wheat, and oats mixed with a mash concentrate, the turkeys soon triple their weight. Roperti starts processing turkeys for special orders Oct. 1, when many of the birds have plumped up to 12-14 pounds.

The largest tom she dressed last year topped the scales at over 42 pounds. This year may be a record-breaker. "The weather has been real good, so they're eating a lot."

Roperti doesn't freeze any of her turkeys until after Christmas. Freezing, she tells her customers, doesn't alter the taste of her hand-raised birds, known for their broad, juicy breasts. "All the taste, the juice and the gravy, comes from what the turkey has been eating. The secret is not fresh, it's what they've been fed."

Roperti's oldest son, Tony Skrabut, is the last person the turkeys see in their short, happy lives. "He's the killer. He kills every single turkey," she said.

Skrabut dispenses the birds six at a time. The process is simple and efficient. The birds are hung upside down by their feet and zapped by an electric knife. After their necks have been slit and the blood drained, they're put in scalding hot water to loosen their feathers.

Then comes a tumble in a feather-picking machine, followed by a final picking by hand. Heads and feet are then chopped off and the birds are gutted. Finally, they're packaged and weighed and ready for the customer.

Ferida Roperti says her mother-in-law never fixes turkey for Thanksgiving. "We have filet mignon, lobster tails, scallops, and shrimp — just because you're so sick of turkey by that day."

In addition to processing fresh turkeys, Roperti sells a few smoked birds. She soaks them in her own brine recipe, then smokes them over apple, cherry and hickory chips. "These are to die for," said Ferida Roperti.

Roperti and her turkeys will be together for many more years. She's proud of what Roperti's Turkey Farm has become and grateful for the community's support.

"The city has been very good to me. I plan to be here for a long time."

Roperti sells her turkeys for $2.35 a pound. Smoked sell for $3.69. To place an order, call (734) 464-6546.

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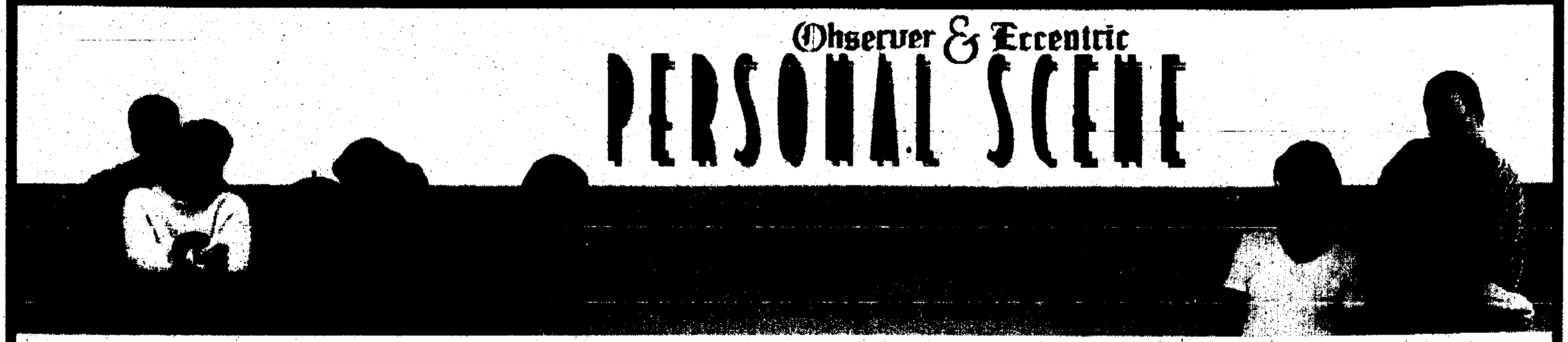

Observer & Eccentric PERSONAL SCENE

ANIMALHOLIC
Pretty, smart, pleasingly plump, bubbly SWF, 43, 5'4", blonde/blue, N/S, needs SWM, age open, veterinarian or true animal lover, for permanent fix. H/W proportionate not necessary. ☎1063

SEEKING TALL TEDDY BEAR
SWF, 45, 5'8", a few extra pounds, smoker, social drinker, seeks honest, romantic, sincere male, 47-55, with no small children, who enjoys dancing, quiet dinners, art shows, theater. One-on-one relationship. ☎1108

NATURAL & CHARMING
DWPF, 5'6", blondish, two grown children, seeks romantic white gentleman, 49-60, fairly sophisticated, financially/emotionally secure, interested in fun times and sports. ☎1112

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE
WF, 51, 5'7", medium build, seek commitment-minded, kind WM, 46-55, for LTR. Livonia. ☎1080

LOOKING 4 A COMPANION
SWF, 31, long blonde/blue, 5'3", 100lbs, smoker, who enjoys dancing, parties, dining out, movies. Seeking dark-haired S/DWM, 31-37, 5'7"+, for dating. ☎5782

SLIM, WITTY REDHEAD
Fetching SWC/F, 30, 5', 100lbs, seeks SWCM, 25-40, H/W proportionate with intelligence and humor. ☎1051

LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT
Attractive SWF, 38, 5'8", thin, brown/brown, intelligent, independent, good sense of humor, loves being outdoors, swimming, reading, gardening, concerts, museums, plays, festivals. Seeking attractive, tall, intelligent SWM, 33-40, similar interests. ☎1089

STILL SEARCHING
Full-figured, honest, caring SWF, 25, mother of one, enjoys long walks, quiet nights at home, dining in/out. Seeking someone 25-35, similar interests for possible LTR. ☎1037

SEEKING THAT SPECIAL YOU
SWF, 36, seeks WM, 32-39, 5'6"+, who's tired of the bar scene, likes sports, for special committed relationship. ☎6304

SPECIAL FRIEND
Intelligent, easygoing, sincere, caring, trustworthy SWF, 35, tall, enjoys dining, movies, biking, travel, cooking. Seeking financially/emotionally secure SWM, 35-55, similar interests, for LTR/marriage. No games, please. N/S, N/D. ☎6245

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Humorous, monogamous DWF, 35, 5'8", 140lbs, brown/brown, likes horseback riding, country music, movies. Seeking honest, sincere, fun-loving, employed male, 35-45, with similar interests. ☎6128

WATERFORD AREA MAN WANTED
One responsible man, sense of humor, loves animals, cuddling, videos, fairs, long rides, who can hold the interest of a shapely, full-figured DWF, 35, who will treat him as good as he treats her. ☎6214

FUN ANYONE?
DWPF, 25, N/S, mom of one, seek attractive, fun, outgoing SWM, 25-32, for dating, fun, whatever else may happen. Must have sense of humor. ☎6123

SHAPELY & ATTRACTIVE
Fuller-figured DWPF, 35, 5'8", great personality, outgoing, educated brunette with no children, fun-loving nature. Seeking sincere, secure, honest, employed S/DWPM, 27-40, to laugh and have fun with. ☎6025

GIVE ME A CALL
Classy, athletic, adventurous, optimistic DWF, 44, tall, slender, blonde/blue. Seeking honest, humorous, adventurous S/DWM, with strong values for friendship and possible LTR. ☎5447

BLUE-EYED BLONDE
Fun-loving DWF, 44, blonde/blue, curvy, size 14, enjoys movies, dining, dancing, music. Seeking DWM, 40-55, financially stable, with similar interest. Friendship first, possible LTR. ☎1040

MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC
Vivacious, romantic DWF, 46, blonde/blue, professional musician, seeks S/DWM, 40-50, N/S, with passion for life, interested in possible LTR (6/21, 9:08 PM, didn't leave number call again!) ☎3849

TAKE A CHANCE
Widowed lady, young 63, blonde/blue, enjoys movies, theater, dining in/out, animals, walking, swimming. Would like to spend time with loving, caring white gentleman, 60s. ☎6161

NO MORE GAMES
Petite, honest, sincere SWF, 44, blonde/blue, enjoys dancing, traveling, walks, romantic evenings at home. Seeking SWM, 30-45. ☎4637

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Pretty RN/pharmaceutical sales, financially secure, classy, slim, youthful SWF, 5'8", blonde/brown, N/S, no dependents, enjoys biking, entertaining, golf, theater, movies. Seeking educated, emotionally/financially secure SWPM, 45+, friendship, possible LTR. ☎5973

NOT A TEN
Nice SWF, 62, 5'4", blonde/green, medium build, retired, likes cards, traveling, bingo, movies, theater, outdoors, camping. Seeking nice guy, 55-70, N/S, moderate drinker ok, who likes some of the same things. ☎1060

START TOMORROW TODAY
Educated, sweet, warm, active, slim JF, 50s, 5'6", blue eyes, good cook, loves music, animals. Seeking available, understanding gentleman, for relationship, or whatever shall be. ☎5602

SECOND TIME AROUND
Spunky, classy, sensual, loving, lonely BF, 120lbs, blonde, senior, not young but fun, seeks witty, humorous SWM, 60 plus, N/D, who enjoys ballroom dancer, to spend time with. ☎7986

WAYNE COUNTY AREA
Attractive, intelligent, tall, slim SWF, 48, smoker, social drinker, enjoys fishing, dining, and pets. Seeking presentable, sincere S/DWM, H/W-proportionate, for monogamous LTR. No kids. ☎6248

MILLENNIUM IN PARIS?
Pretty, slender, shapely, sensual, smart, sophisticated, secure sweetheart, seeks best friend/lover for life, nice guy, 55-65, good-looking, in shape, refined, cultured, romantic. Let's enjoy world travel and adventure. ☎6156

REGISTERED NURSE...
seeks SDM, 36-48, doctor to share similar interests in medical profession. Very attractive, educated, ambitious, outgoing, friendly, financially secure DWF, 34, 5'5", blonde/green, great figure, great smile. For possible LTR. ☎6119

STABLE, SMART...
attractive blonde, 41 (looks 31), 5'6", nice figure, love to smile/laugh, love to keep an active/busy lifestyle. Seeking devoted, secure, intelligent man with handsome personality. Scrabble is the only game I play. ☎6120

HONEST BLONDE!
Intelligent, attractive, secure, sincere, outgoing DF, 5'7", long blonde/brown, proportionately fit, with great sense of humor, loves laughing, smiling, hockey, football, baseball, dinner, movies, social events. What more can an attractive man ask for? ☎6121

SEARCHING FOR MY SOULMATE
Pretty, tall, passionate DWF, 49, 5'10", blonde/brown, looking for that one-in-a-million, emotionally/financially secure guy who seeks a romantic, monogamous, fun-loving relationship. ☎6124

CLASSY, AFFECTIONATE, FUN
Very attractive, petite blonde, loves being by the water, boating, golf, snow ski traveling, dancing, concerts, romantic dinners, fun, hugs. Seeking attractive, affectionate WM, 42-47, financially secure with class, integrity. ☎6063

ATTRACTIVE WIDOW
Intelligent, slender, tall WF, 53, lady-like, warm-hearted, smoker, seeks tall gentleman, 53-65, with traditional manners, who is intelligent and interested in sharing romantic dinners, conversation, and laughter with me. ☎6061

THIN, TALL & SPUNKY
Pretty, blonde S/DF, 57, former teacher/fashion model, seeks companionship of professional gentleman, upper 50s-60s, for dining out, theater, travel, quiet dinners, good conversation. ☎5273

WATERFORD AREA
Honest, funny DWF, 45, 5'5", blonde, interests include outdoors, dancing, movies, dining, quiet times. Searching for DWM, 45-56, N/S, for friendship, companionship, and LTR. ☎5065

ONE IN A MILLION
DBF, 47, 5'8", slim build, N/S, social drinker, light-complected, beautiful inside/out, one eleven year-old at home, enjoys tennis, bingo, dining/dancing. Seeking slim-built, flexible SM, 45-55, 6', N/S, social drinker, LTR. No players. ☎5868

TELL ME YOU ARE FOR REAL
SWF, N/S, 5'7", slender, attractive, 50+ (looks younger). Seeking N/S, down-to-earth, financially secure, attractive, good-hearted man, 50-59, with sense of humor. North Oakland area. ☎5876

LOVELY, LONELY CLASSY LADY
Tall, slender, optimistic, attractive, romantic, fun, eclectic, special lady seeks honest, fun, loyal, flexible, special gentleman, 55+, N/S, for companionship and more. ☎5874

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
DWF, 40+, 5'7", H/W proportionate, tactile redhead, seeks a tall, sensitive SM, 6'+, for LTR. I believe you're out there. ☎5569

MAD ABOUT YOU
Slender, physically fit, attractive SWF, 38, 6', likes sports. Seeks single/DWPM, 35-50, for committed relationship. Must like animals. Kids ok. ☎5375

SEXY REDHEAD
Easygoing, fun-loving DWPF, 49, 5'8", 145lbs, great legs, no kids. Belleville homeowner, animal lover enjoys gardening, nature. Seeking DWPM, 50-60, 6'+, N/S, social drinker, for LTR. ☎4997

R U HONESTLY HANDSOME?
Honestly pretty SWF, 45, 5'4", 130lbs, enjoys canoeing, fishing, Harleys, camping, comedy clubs and more. Seeking truly handsome, fit, respectable male who enjoys romance, snuggling, deep conversations, with ability to express emotions. ☎5755

A RARE FIND
Pretty, curvy SWF, 53, 5'4", entrepreneur, lots of fun, enjoys movies, plays, concerts, traveling. Looking for sincere, successful WM, 45-75. Float your boat, make your day answer my ad today. ☎3738

SINGLE SENIOR
DWF, 63 years young, 5'6", blondish-gray, N/S, N/D, almost retired, loves travel, fine dining, theater, music. Seeking intelligent SWM, 60-65, N/S, with variety of interests, sense of humor, possible relationship. ☎1057

SPONTANEOUS, SENSUOUS...
romantic, intelligent SF 52, and fun! Medical professional, wrapped up in a great looking package ... for a N/S, H/W proportionate, professional guy, for good times and maybe more. ☎1031

ZENITH IN MOTION
Tall, shapely SWF, youthful 49, brunette, N/S, no dependents, likes astronomy and weekend escapes. Seeking interaction with intelligent WM, 40-55, who can exhibit honesty and passion. ☎6305

OLD-FASHIONED
Single mother of two, seeks attractive SM, 50-53, who loves God, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎6248

DO U EXIST?
Attractive AF, 38, 5'5", down-to-earth and easygoing, looking for kind, attractive, health-conscious SWM, 35-45, with old-fashioned values, preferably childless, good ethics, for dating, possible LTR. ☎6246

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND
DBPF, 47, 5'5", 150lbs, N/S, likes jazz, long walks, movies. Seeking SBM, 47-52, with similar interests. ☎6129

CHEERFUL & AFFECTIONATE
DBPF, 49, loves Lions football, Pistons games, Tiger baseball, long walks, Mystery channel, American Movie Classics, raunchy novels, cooking a hot, delicious meal. Seeking male, 40-59, to attend games with. ☎6209

CLARKSTON AREA
Attractive WPF, 49, 5'2", 115lbs, N/S, social drinker, great sense of humor, enjoys golf, bowling, theater, dining out. Seeking sincere, honest, handsome, affectionate SWM, 44-54, no dependents. ☎6211

KNOCK! KNOCK! R U THERE?
DWF, 49, looks younger, 5'4", long brunette hair, grown children, funny, articulate, spiritual, smoker, enjoys usual activities, cooking. Seeking S/DWM, with sense of humor, for companionship, fun, friendship, possible LTR. ☎6154

I'M STILL SEARCHING
Petite, attractive SWPF, dark/hazel, enjoys jazz/blues, sunsets on the beach, art festivals, dining, dancing, theater. Seeking a SWPM who is dignified, humorous, a great communicator, and enjoys experiencing the unexpected. ☎6153

ALMOST ANGEL
Outgoing, friendly widowed WF, youthful 52, 5'6", full-figured but losing weight, enjoys horses, walks, Harleys. Seeking tall gentleman, 45-65, with similar interests for LTR. ☎6149

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Full-figured SWF, 39, 5'5", brown/brown, many interests: bowling, quiet times at home, candlelight dining, horseback-riding, swimming. Seeking S/DWM with many different interests, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎6150

THE EYES HAVE IT
SWF, 40+, 5'6", attractive, hard-working, independent, seeks SWM who's handsome, tall, employed. Must have a great sense of humor and love animals, for friendship first. ☎6126

MUTUAL REWARDS
Pretty, older, sensuous WF, seeks youthful, sensitive, financially secure SWM, who's honest, for great times, LTR. ☎6062

ENCHANTING FLAMBOYANT
Creative, distinctive, industrious, ambitious, confident SWF, 41, N/S, vegetarian, enjoys nature, horses, gardening, Reiki, dancing, art, motorcycles. Seeking S/DM. ☎6056

PRETTY WOMAN
Spiritual, not religious, degreed, thin, energetic SWJF, 40-ish, child-like delight, seeks similar SWM to share pleasures of joy, hiking, meditation, yoga, life force food, open, honest communication, mutual trust. ☎5604

SHORT & SASSY...
and someone to hold onto. Open, honest, easygoing, down-to-earth DWF, 43, smoker, likes to dance, romance, and old cars. Seeking S/DWM, 40+, who enjoys life, good food, and a good woman. ☎5606

FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN
Attractive, compassionate, honest DWF, young 50, 5'4", brown/blue, N/S, emotionally/financially secure, good sense of humor, seeks similar SWM for concerts, dining, movies, sports, travel, being together, for mutual TLC, friendship, LTR. ☎5597

HONEST & LOVING
Sincere, trustworthy female, 34, 5'6", long brown hair, one daughter, likes comedy clubs, dancing, beaches. Seeking intelligent, attractive, upbeat, enthusiastic, honest, trusting male. ☎5861

BRUNETTE BROWN-EYED
Fun-loving, attractive SWF, 35, who loves to laugh. Seeking chivalrous, spontaneous, commitment-minded, humorous SWPM, 35-50, for dining, movies, tennis, golf, and lazy Sundays. ☎6157

ATTRACTIVE & AFFECTIONATE
Professional female, 26, once said I would never be caught dead doing this, yet here I am! Want to hear more? Call! ☎6064

TALK TO ME
SM, 5'10", husky build, dark brown/green, with one daughter, values communication, loves music, laughing. Seeking plus-sized or full-figured woman, articulate, expressive, sensitive, passionate, caring. ☎1120

MR. SUNSHINE
DWM, 44, 5'10, 230lbs, who enjoys concerts, movies, dining out and dancing, seeks that special woman, 30-50, to spend those special times with. Western suburbs only please. ☎1066

TAKE A CHANCE
Intuitive, educated, creative, persevering, Catholic SWPM, 43, 5'8", fit, brown/blue, no dependents. Seeking enlightened, fit, emotionally available SWPF, 25-42, for trust, friendship, communication and more. ☎5607

CHECKING FOR SPARKS...
chemistry, compatibility. Handsome, healthy, happy SWM, 45, ready to deal, available for adventures in date land while searching for that special, joyful lady and a loving relationship. ☎1079

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Sincere DWM, 53, 5'10", seeks honest S/DWF, with sense of humor to share dining out, flowers, concerts, dancing, cuddling by the fire, outdoors, weekend getaways, for LTR. ☎1082

YEAH, BABY!
Easygoing, honest SWM, 38, 5'8", 185lbs, likes sports, dining, going out, having fun. Seeking female, 23-42, who's pretty, petite and likes to be adored. ☎1063

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PASSION RULES
Pretty, intelligent DWF, mid 40s, seeks SWM N/S for happy days and romantic nights. Looking for attractive, smart, sincere, no games guy, for LTR that could get serious. ☎5972

CHEERFUL & AFFECTIONATE
Attractive, petite DWPF, young 47, childless, enjoys music, movies, pets, travel, antiques, time with friends, romance. Seeking gentleman, 42-52, N/S, with similar interests/qualities, for LTR. ☎5980

LADY IN WAITING
Beautiful BCPF, 47, mahogany complexion, N/S, enjoys all fun activities. Seeking gentleman Christian male, 40-55, N/S, who also enjoys fun activities, for friendship or possible LTR. ☎5677

LOVES ADVENTURE
Attractive SWF, 51, 5'4", loves walking, biking, shows, theater, dining, dancing. Seeking SWM, 46-56, similar interests. Sterling Heights. ☎5846

FRIENDS FIRST
SWF, 23, brown/blue, petite build, employed, seeks caring, reliable SWM, 21-24, to share dating, phone calls, movies, hanging out, possible LTR. Friends first must be ok. Livonia area. ☎5848

STARTING OVER WITH YOU
Easygoing, overweight DWF, 44, 5'10", N/S, N/Drugs, enjoys outdoors, walking, bowling, cards, pets, traveling. Seeking honest, loyal SWM, N/S, N/Drugs for relationship leading to marriage. ☎5780

SEARCHING FOR SOULMATE
Beautiful, classy, commitment-minded, redhead, 5'7", 125lbs, vacation all year long at my waterfront home. Seeking fun, spirit-filled, attractive man, 50-60, with the ultimate respect for body, physical health. N/S. ☎5693

BIRMINGHAM BLONDE BEAUTY
DWPF, mid-40s, 5'6", medium build, N/S, social drinker, college graduate, business owner, enjoys golf, water sports, college football, travel. Seeking professionally employed gentleman, 47-55, for LTR. ☎5691

CALL ME
Slender DWPF, mother of two, enjoys fishing, camping, dancing. Seeking family-oriented, down-to-earth, financially/emotionally stable, honest WM, 44-50, with similar interests for companionship. ☎5806

BOTH OF US
Friendly, sensitive, caring SBF, 26, 5'4", who enjoys movies, dining out, theater, travel, is hoping to meet a loving caring SBM who shares similar interests and has a good sense of humor. ☎5933

WISHFUL IN WATERFORD
Employed DWF, 5'2", 185lbs, blonde/blue, enjoys movies, comedies, outdoors, sports, etc. Seeking employed WM, 6'+, 200lbs+, who can communicate, with sense of humor. ☎6306

FRIEND OR DATING
Laid-back woman enjoys computers. Seeking male, smoker ok, N/Drugs, prefer N/D. Looks are somewhat important. ☎5971

LOOKING FOR YOU
Cute, full-figured DWF, 41, seeks W/BM who is interested in beaches, Vegas, travel. Serious replies only. ☎5931

SEEKING COMPANION
DWF, 61, 5'6", 155lbs, enjoys movies, dining out, parties, and much more. Seeking nice-looking, sincere, affectionate S/DWM, 40-65, for friendship, companionship and fun times. ☎5689

START HERE
SM, 5'8", 140lbs, dark brown hair/eyes, Catholic, N/S, N/Drugs, light social drinker, professionally employed, likes walks, talks, movies, four-wheeling, horseback riding, street fairs. Seeking very outgoing, ambitious, loving, loyal woman. ☎1095

HARD-WORKING, HONEST
Down-to-earth, friendly, passionate SM, 5'8", 170lbs, brown hair, likes walking, bike riding, golf, football, hockey, the outdoors. Seeking companionship leading to possible future together with honest, loyal lady. ☎1116

TOP GUN
Trim, handsome SWPM, 39, 5'10", 170lbs, great shape, custodial dad of 12 year-old son, enjoys outdoors, rock music, volleyball, dancing, biking. Seeking slender, attractive, independent female, with similar interests. ☎6616

MY CHRISTMAS WISH
Successful businessman, N/S, N/D, short, well-educated. Seeking one sweet woman, 35-45, N/S, short, H/W proportionate, to call my own. Should be financially secure, confident. ☎1081

IN OR OUTGOING
Retired male, 37, father of 3, independent, financially secure, likes movies, fun, dancing, going out, basketball, baseball, football. Seeking beautiful, nice, compassionate woman who likes to have fun. ☎1066

PILOT SEEKS CO-PILOT
Muscular, fun, adventurous, romantic, handsome SWM, 35, 5'11", 170lbs, high-achieving professional, great conversationalist. Traverse City and Oakland County lake homeowner, enjoys all seasons outdoors. Seeking attractive, intelligent, unique woman. ☎5205

SINCERE MALE
SBM, 35, D/D-free, likes dining in/out, cats, biking, music, companionship. Seeking sincere, down-to-earth SF who enjoys the same. ☎6027

MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
Humorous, fit, athletic, self-employed SM, 30s, 5'7", 180lbs, blond/blue, N/S, enjoys cooking, concerts, outdoors, travel, public radio/tv, vegetarian/healthy lifestyle. Seeking sharp, fit, outgoing SF, 25+, for LTR. ☎1077

SINGLE & AVAILABLE
Fun-loving, affectionate, well-rounded, active, handsome SWPM, 33, tall, seeks one woman who's smart, funny, caring, slim and attractive. ☎1078

STILL SEARCHING? ME TOO!
Very handsome, honest, dependable SWPM, 33, 6'2", 185lbs, N/S, never married, no dependents, great morals/personality/job/house. Seeking attractive, fit, honest SWPF for lasting monogamous relationship. ☎1052

SOULMATE NEEDED
Sensitive, honest, athletic, outgoing SWM, 35, likes all sports, outdoor activities. Seeking sensitive, honest SWF, with similar interests and qualities for possible LTR. ☎5749

NOT THE SINGLES AD TYPE
Attractive SWM, 36, 6', 180lbs, brown/blue, professionally employed, enjoys dining out, movies. Seeking an attractive SWF, for dating, friendship, possible LTR. Garden City/Westland. ☎5974

LIFE IS TOO SHORT
Employed SWM, 28, college student, enjoys amusement parks, cider mills, vacations, music. Seeking SF, 22-31, for friendship first, possibly more. ☎6308

SECRET AGENT
Intelligent, creative, college-educated, athletic, adventurous, open-minded, attractive SBM, 32, 5'7", enjoys getaway weekends, summer breezes, dancing, romancing, jazz, martial arts. Seeking fit, witty SW/BF, 20-40, for possible relationship. ☎4990

GOOD-LOOKING
Very outgoing, employed SWPM, 28, 5'11", 175lbs, brown/blue, seeks attractive, outgoing SWF, 18-35, H/W proportionate, who enjoys sports. ☎5377

SEEKS BEST FRIEND
Honest, funny, sometimes cynical, intelligent, logical SWM, 6'3", 34, 230lbs, enjoys nature, stargazing, snowmobiling, flying, Great Lakes fishing. Seeks slim SWF, N/S, who enjoys walking, talking, weekends getaways. No barflies. ☎5697

AWESOME OUTDOOR LOVER
Great looking, successful, motivated, family-oriented, down-to-earth SM, 37, 5'11", trim, sandy/blue, enjoys cabins, woods, lakes, gardens, back roads, motorcycle. Would appreciate a sweet, trim lady. ☎5937

BRUNETTE PREFERRED
Attractive, honest, secure SWPM, 36, 6'2", 190lbs, college-educated. Seeking attractive female, 28-38, H/W proportionate, with a zany sense of humor, for walks, talks, movies, and more. ☎5805

SOFT CHOCOLATE
Handsome SBM, 33, enjoys suspenseful movies, music, sports, classic cars. Seeking kind-hearted, full-figured SWF for possible relationship. ☎6029

LOVES DOGS & CATS...
and kids! Happy-go-lucky, handsome SWM, 41, nature and animal lover, could be an interesting addition to your family structure. Seeking special SWF, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎1033

JUST OVER 50
but looking good and feeling misty. Handsome, robust SWM, 51, full of laughter and fun, seeks attractive, fit lady of any age, who knows how to enjoy life. ☎1034

WHY BE ALONE?
Caring, affectionate, loving DWM, 52, 5'7", loves lake activities, skiing, movies, and quality times together. Seeking petite-medium SF, 40-50, for friendship, possible, long-term, monogamous relationship. Race unimportant. ☎4988

ATTRACTIVE PROFESSIONAL
Sincere, attractive, caring physician, searching for honest, clean-cut S/DPWF with sense of humor, healthy lifestyle, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎5878

YAHOO
You are here only once. Trim financially secure DWM coconut, 50s, seeks real, trim peach to make a pair. No lemons or sour grapes. ☎1029

FOREVER IN BLUE JEANS
Good-looking DWM, 44, spiritual, down-to-earth gentleman, with integrity seeks S/DF, 30-50, who enjoys the simple pleasures in life, for friendship first, then see what develops. ☎1030

MOVIE AND MUSIC LOVER
also enjoys playing tennis, ice skating, bookstores, travel, good conversations, and long walks. This sensitive SWPM, 41, 5'11", N/S, no dependents, is looking for someone to share his interests. ☎1032

A REAL MAN
DBM, 52, 6'1", 215lbs, professionally employed, enjoys outdoor activities, quiet walks, dinner, movies, and antiques. Seeking special trustworthy S/DF, 36-55, kids ok, race unimportant, for friendship/dating. ☎5596

GIVE DAD A CALL
DW dad, 5'9", brown/hazel, custodial parent, homeowner, loves camping, barbecuing, Cedar Point, carnations, motorcycles, movies, everything. Seeking DW mom with same interests, for monogamous relationship. Novi area. ☎5873

SEEKS A COMMITMENT
Strong, sensitive, affectionate DWM, 60, N/S, employed, good listener, enjoys outdoors, Red Wings games, romantic walks, family activities. Seeking a marriage-minded SWF, 45-55. If interested, please call. ☎6801

GOOD CLEAN FUN?
Go ahead and call! Easygoing, charming SWM, 40, active and adventurous, seeks classy, nice SWF, for romance and friendship. ☎6250

FUN-LOVING FATHER
SM, 47, 6', 200lbs, teacher, full-time father of a wonderful 10 year-old daughter, social drinker, N/S, enjoys music, cooking, outdoor activities. Bermingham area. ☎6303

RELATE-THEN IT'S A DATE
Successful, spiritual, sensual, slim SJM, 47, enjoys art films, dancing, book stores, self-discovery, contemporary/classical music, delis to Mideastern cuisine, warm getaways. Seeking marriage-minded SF, 30-43. ☎3623

BEE FOR YOURSELF
Handsome, personable SWM, 46, enjoy outdoor activity, dining and dancing. Seeking nice looking, uplifting SWF, for friendship and fun times together. ☎6252

CLASS COMPANION
A delightful dad desires a youthful, easygoing, attractive mate. This educated gentleman, 47, 6'2", 210lbs, enjoys golf, theater, motorcycles, more. Independent professionals, 36-47, please respond regardless of race or children. ☎4604

BRIGHT EYES
Attractive, very caring, outgoing, giving SWM, 46, with a variety of interests, loves to be romantic and cook. Seeking same in petite SWF, for friendship, maybe more. ☎6363

LET'S COMMUNICATE
SWM, 51, 5'11", 210lbs, good shape, brown/hazel, enjoys dining out, movies, cozy evenings at home. Seeking H/W proportionate lady, 45-60, with same interests for LTR. ☎6243

HANDSOME JOCK TYPE
Rugged, athletic, tall, muscular SWM, 40, 6'3", 235lbs, brown/blue, clean-cut, degreed, enjoys Las Vegas, road trips, outdoors, good sense of humor. Seeking friendly SF for companionship. Age/area open. ☎4018

GOOD-LOOKING/NICE GUY
Easygoing DWM, 5'11", 155lbs, 51 (looks 40), athletic, smoker, honest, romantic, considerate, seeks honest, truthful, petite SW/AF, 38-45, for LTR. ☎5876

ARTISTIC FLIRTATIOUS LADY
Precious yet mischievous with glamour and free spirit is sought by honorable, handsome SW businessman, 44, for jolly companion and loving relationship. ☎6068

ENJOYING LIFE?
DWM, young 50s, 6'1", 210lbs, N/S, light beard, blue eyes, enjoys dancing, dining, diving, golf. Seeking slim, fit DWF, over 40, sense of humor, for whatever keeps you happy. ☎6156

CITY TO RANCH
SWCPM, young 50s, 6'3", 205lbs, a generalist with morals, midwest ranch in my future, seeks slim, petite PF, 45-60, who likes dress or jeans, outdoors, animals, for LTR. ☎5934

ITALIAN STALLION
47, attractive, muscular, romantic. Seeking classy, slim, very attractive, selective SW/AF, under 45. ☎6155

TRUST IS A MUST
DHM, 34, 6'2", 185lbs, black/brown, looking for a SWF, 25-35, with similar interests, for friendship, dining, concerts, sporting events and quiet evenings together. Must enjoy children. ☎1065

FRIEND OR SOULMATE...
union lake area. Adventurous, slim, honest DCWM, 48, blond/blue, N/S, light drinker, enjoys bowling, boating, dancing, travel, amateur theater. Seeking lady, mid-30s to mid-40s, for friendship leading to LTR. ☎5988

HANDSOME & TALL
Humorous, attractive, affectionate, romantic DWM, 47, 6'2", 225lbs, into candlelight dinners, cuddling and going out. Seeking loving, honest, caring, compassionate companion/friend/partner, 37-43, for serious relationship and fun. ☎5365

WANTED: VERY PETITE FEMALE
For DWM, 40, 5'10", 142lbs, could pass for 25, physically fit, owns lake front house, own business, loves animals, children, outdoors. Seeking petite W/HF. ☎5879

WESTLAND AREA
Attractive SWM, 5'10", 175lbs, nice hair, bright brown eyes, N/S, no dependents, employed, homeowner, seeks slim, attractive WF, under 48. ☎5357

INTERACT WITH QUALITY
SWM, 43, 5'10", H/W proportionate, childless, college grad, does things well, open to marriage or LTR, which should include a good romantic life. Seeking SWF, 33-49, home-body okay. ☎5964

LOOKING FOR SOULMATE
SWM, 56, enjoys singing, walking, card games, board games. Seeking SF, 40-56, for LTR, possibly marriage. ☎1050

LOOKING FOR LOVE
WM, 6'1", light brown/brown, neatly-trimmed mustache, excellent shape, loves working out, biking, rollerblading, hockey, outdoor activities. ☎1065

MEET ME HALFWAY
SWM, 43, enjoys fine dining, travel. Seeking full-figured lady, 40-60, physical appearance not important, no children, or with grown children. Leave me a message, and we can have dinner. ☎6085

LET'S SHARE HOLIDAYS
Professionally employed, college-educated WM, 48, 5'11", 185lbs, brown/blue, no dependents, occasional social drinker, N/S, enjoys outdoors, fitness. Seeking similar in WPF, 40-52, N/S, with similar interests, for possible LTR. ☎1596

THE RIGHT FIT
DWPM, 42, 5'7", 140lbs, sandy blond/hazel-blue, no dependents, enjoys travel, dining out, movies, comedy clubs, sports. Seeking attractive WF, 36-45, similar interests, for possible monogamous LTR. ☎5758

LOOKING FOR SPECIAL PERSON
Very romantic SWM, 49, 5'9", 175lbs, brown/blue, looking for a very special woman, age open, for dating and more. All calls answered. ☎5454

LOOKING FOR NEW BEGINNING
Affectionate, honest, easygoing, hard-working DWM, 45, 5'6", 160lbs, brown/blue, N/D, N/Drugs, smoker, who likes camping, fishing, swimming, is looking for a new relationship, starting as friends, possible LTR. ☎5840

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY
Handsome, witty, sweet SHM, 47, seeks SW/HF, 40-50, N/S, for dating, dining, dancing, friendship, possible LTR. ☎5970

SHARE LIFE
Sincere, caring, fit, active SWM, 6', 170lbs, N/S, college graduate, foster parent, enjoys the outdoors, travel, culture, humor, and good conversation. Seeking retired SWF, 50s, LTR, to share life, adventures. ☎1014

SINCERE
Tall, honest, financially secure, slim loyal DWM, 55, 6'4", N/S, social drinker, in good physical condition, with sense of humor, seeks slender lady, 42-51, for companionship, possible LTR. ☎1038

LOVES THE FALL
Down-to-earth, sensitive, funny, cute, young-at-heart SWM, 47, 5'10", 165lbs, in good shape, seeks attractive, trim lady. ☎5781

WHERE'S MY MILLENNIUM GIRL?
I'm looking for a faithful, one-man woman, preferably widowed/DWF, 38-54. I am newly divorced (one year), 6', 215lbs, early 50s, just average, ordinary guy. Let's try to make a connection! ☎4915

SCIENTIST, PHD
DWM, 50, 5'10", trim, enjoys cider mills, jogging, plays, bookstores, nature, Detroit Film Theater, and hiking. Seeking intelligent, fit, happy women, 40-50, for companionship. ☎6066

INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION!
Humorous yet intellectual, active, outgoing SWM, 40, 5'10", 190lbs, enjoys reading, writing, outdoor activities, theater, movies. Seeking friendly, outgoing S/DWF, 34-48, N/S, small/petite build, for possible relationship. ☎5519

EARTH, WIND & FIRE
Earthy, honest, widowed WM, 49, 6', 208lbs, N/D, N/S, seeks SWF, 40-50, active, secure, proportionate, to conjure up warm wind, and eternal fire, possible LTR. Redford. ☎5096

MR WONDERFUL
Easygoing SWM, 44, seeks a woman, 30-50, who enjoys going to movies, walks in the park, holding hands. Kids ok. ☎6445

LET'S GO TO LUNCH
SM, 25, 5'4", financially secure, seeks female, 18-24, with goals and wants. Children are a plus. ☎6210

STARTING NEW
DWM, 47, 5'7", medium build, N/S, enjoys movies, dining, bowling, and working out. Seeking WF, N/S, for committed relationship. ☎5294

OPEN TO SUGGESTION?
Nice-looking, romantic, respectful SWM 47, enjoys oldies music, old cars, old movies, older female companionship, seeking kind, fun loving lady, 41-53, for friendship or relationship. ☎6151

OLD-FASHIONED
Widowed BCM, 48, father of twins, seeks attractive young woman, 30-50. Must be honest and have God first in your life! ☎6152

RETRAINABLE
SWM, 57, looks 43, 5'9", 190lbs, salt-n-pepper/brown, enjoys dining out, traveling, watching quiet times at home, motorcycles, yard sales. Seeking communicative SWF, under age 200, with sense of humor, for friendship first. ☎6118

ALWAYS A GENTLEMAN
DWM, young 65, 5'11", 190lbs, curly gray hair, N/S, enjoys exercising, walking, reading, traveling. Seeking DWF, 50s, with good sense of humor. Let me show you the secret for a good life. ☎6122

OLD-FASHIONED
Widowed BCM, 49, father of twins, seeks attractive young woman, 35-50. Must have God first and be honest. ☎6060

HANDSOME MATURE GENT
Romantic, creative, resourceful, articulate, caring, compassionate SBM. Sincerely seeking and deserving of same in loving female. 40-55, race unimportant. ☎5453

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
Intelligent, active, African American SM, seeks smart, down-to-earth, open-minded, real SWF, for long term companionship, friendship, romantic relationship. ☎6169

TROUBLE-FREE
Easygoing DWM, 42, N/S, N/D, good sense of humor, likes animals, outdoors, fitness. Seeking a trouble-free female, 35-45, H/W unimportant, N/S, social drinker ok, similar interests, for sincere, lasting relationship. ☎1035

ATTRACTIVE SWM...
young 30s, seeks fun-loving SWF, 30s-40s, for dancing, fun, C&W sports, weekend activities, bowling, ice skating, etc. ☎1036

HE GREAT GUY FOR YOU!
Attractive health care professional, 38, former lifeguard, originally from Europe, likes sports, traveling. Seeking feminine, educated female to spend romantic times with, a real friend/partner. ☎6253

VALUE
Attractive, sensual SWM, 40, 5'10", 180lbs, reddish/blonde, seeks slender, attractive WF, 25-50, who is interested in a true relationship. ☎6307

BIG HANDSOME OUTDOORS MAN
WM, 51, looks 41, great sense of humor, likes Harleys, log homes, gardening, week-end get-aways. Seeking special, down-to-earth WF under 50, who likes to laugh, for LTR. ☎6247

SLIM, SMART, NICE GIRL
This male engineer likes tourism, travel, tennis, and hotels. Seeking an excellent cute girl with whom to make my future more attractive. ☎6244

HEAVENLY ANGEL
PM, 36, college graduate enjoys rollerblading, biking, traveling, northward getaways, and working around the house. ☎6086

SIMPLE
Would you like to meet a nice mature man? Handsome man seeks nice lady, 36-45, who enjoys the simple things in life. ☎6067

LOOKING FOR COMPANION
Attractive, blonde, retired WF seeks well-mannered WM, 65+, who enjoys travel, movies, dining, for friendship, good times. N/S preferred. ☎6450

GOLF PARTNER
Petite DWF, N/S, social drinker seeks friend, 60-73, who enjoys golf, cards, bowling, dancing, travel. Preferably in [illegible]

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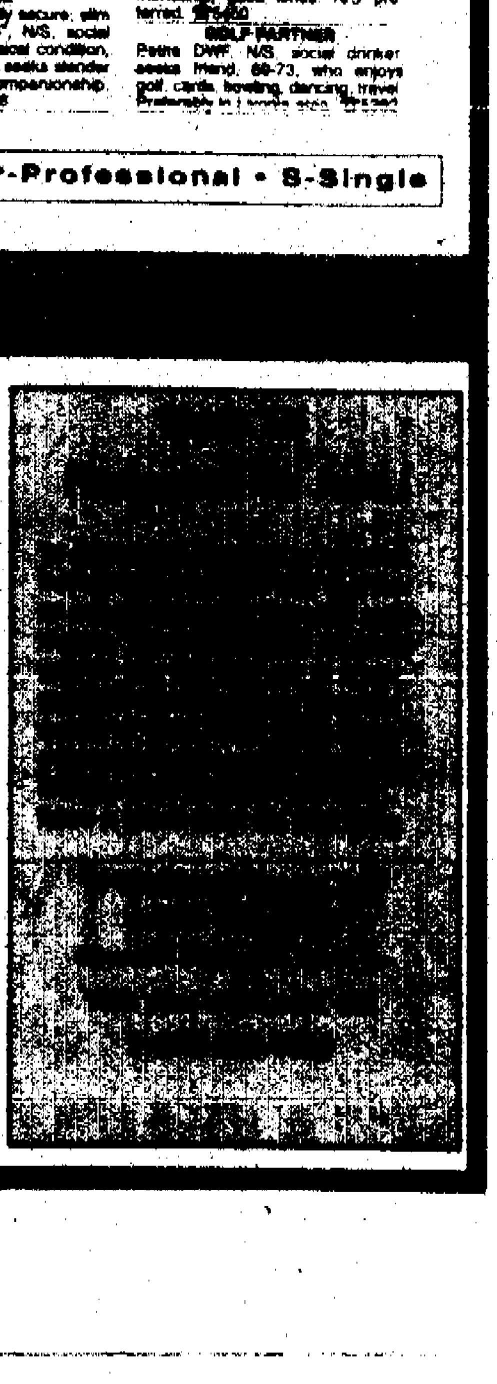

EMU Livonia campus: 'Perfect fit for western Wayne'

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

Carl Pursell thinks Eastern Michigan University is the perfect fit for western Wayne County.

An EMU regent, Pursell looks at EMU's new Livonia campus at Six Mile Road and I-275 and sees opportunity for working parents and those workers who wish to pursue undergraduate or master's programs to advance their careers.

"They can get off work and take a class or two," Pursell said. "It puts students on the fast track."

Pursell, a Plymouth resident and a former congressman, joined other EMU officials in the dedication Tuesday of EMU's 12,800-square-foot facility on the fourth floor of the Cambridge Center.

EMU opened the 11-classroom facility in May, but Tuesday was the official dedication to promote graduate degree programs in educational leadership, secondary education, construction and public administration. Non-credit training through EMU's Centers for Corporate Training also is available.

EMU programs in Livonia

...Eastern Michigan University ... offered at Eastern Michigan University-Livonia:

- College of Arts and Sciences: Master of arts in communication, master of public administration;
- College of Business: Graduate certificate in human resource management;
- College of Education: Doctorate and master's in educational leadership, master of arts in elementary education, and master of arts in secondary education;
- College of Health and Human Services: Bachelor of science in nursing, master of science in nursing, and bachelor's of science in hotel and restaurant management;
- College of Technology: Master of science in computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing, master of science in construction management, master of science in engineering management, master of science in quality, master of library science in technology and bachelor of science in manufacturing
- Non-Credit: professional human resource management.

Currently the facility houses about 200 students in 14 programs. David Wagner, manager of continuing education at EMU's Detroit Regional Center, expects that enrollment figure will double, considering the campus' location near the freeway.

EMU President William Shelton said the new facility "promises an outstanding academic experience." EMU is changing to meet the students needs in an age of information technology, Shelton said.

EMU Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Ronald Collins said the university will partner with business, industry and government workers. "We're treading in the midst of far-reaching implications in education," Collins said.

EMU's nursing program is expected to have a high demand because some registered nurses don't have a four-year degree, Wagner said. Programs offered there will work well with Schoolcraft College, Wagner said. "Nursing could be a good fit, along with hotel and restaurant management," Wagner said. "There is also a demand for teacher certification (in western Wayne County)."

Tuition is $107 a credit hour for undergraduates; $157 a credit hour for graduate level courses.

Carolyn Dahl, dean of continuing education, said studies by the Board of Regents showed a need for business and education programs in the area. For this reason, the facility features a corporate setting.

"When working adults go back, they don't look for a traditional university environment," Dahl said. They generally prefer a work environment, so the facility also has computer ports for laptops, Dahl said.

Schoolcraft College President Richard McDowell believes many of Schoolcraft programs "will fit nicely" with EMU's.

"(EMU's facility) will allow our students to stay here and study here," McDowell said. McDowell said Schoolcraft has "no problems" with Eastern's presence in Livonia.

"They will provide opportunities to people in this area," McDowell said.

Pursell also believes the two institutions will complement each other as will EMU with other community colleges, including Washtenaw. "The name of the game is choices," Pursell said. "A lot of good programs will be offered here, so (students) don't have to go far."

For information on EMU-Livonia, call (734) 542-4EMU.

Virtual University starts winter term registration

The Michigan Virtual University is beginning winter registration. The virtual university serves as a central access point for courses provided by Michigan's community colleges.

Winter semester offerings have expanded to more than 150 courses, all bearing the credit and credentials of Michigan public community colleges. The list includes such courses as accounting, chemistry, English composition, government, math and QS-9000 quality standards. It also includes a variety of computer topics such as interactive Web programming, networking and the Microsoft Office packages. Courses are offered via the World Wide Web and are transferable to all 28 participating community colleges.

"The biggest advantage for the student is convenience -- being able to do course work when it's convenient," says Michael Wahl, executive director of the Virtual Learning Collaborative that brings the community colleges together.

MVU's executive director of instructional technology, Kirby Milton, expects enrollments to boom. "Online courses are gaining in popularity. One college last month reported a 60 percent increase in enrollment in online courses. People of every age are getting comfortable with computers and the Internet, and this is an indicator of how people expect to learn -- anytime and anywhere."

To register, students can log on the Michigan Virtual University Web site (www.mivu.org) and click on the Virtual Campus tab. Courses begin in January and are available to anyone who registers at any of the 28 participating Michigan community colleges.

Community colleges providing winter classes through the Michigan Virtual University include Oakland Community College and Schoolcraft College.

The Michigan Virtual University is a private, non-profit corporation established in 1998 by Governor John Engler and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

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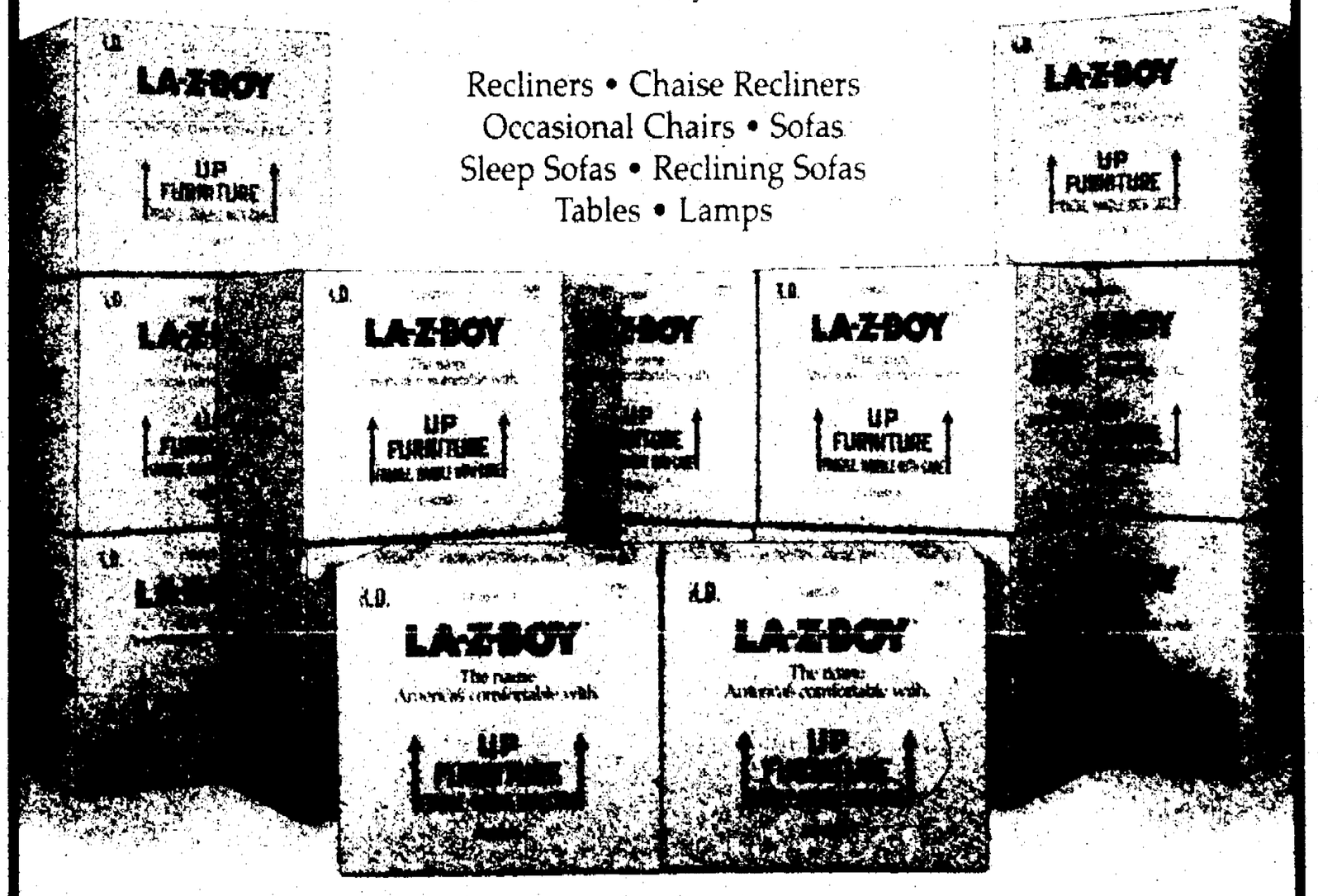

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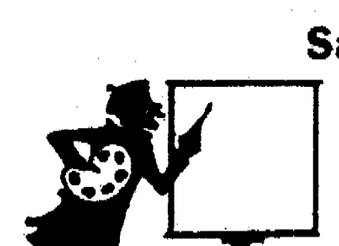

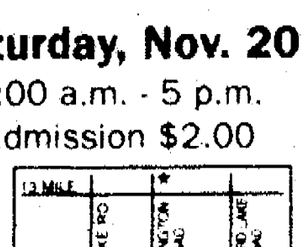

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FOR KEEPS
This friendly, honest SWF, 45, 5'4", 149lbs., who enjoys bike riding, dining out and dancing, is interested in meeting up with a caring, sincere SWM, 38-55, who shares similar interests. Ad#.4240

BIG-HEARTED
This friendly SWF, 37, 5'9", with black hair and brown eyes, who enjoys gardening, dining out and traveling, is looking for a SM, 35-45, to spend quality time with. Ad#.1361

ANGELS WELCOME
Outgoing and friendly SBC mom, 35, 5'8", who enjoys the great outdoors, is in search of an honest, morally correct SCM, 30+, who enjoys exploring our God given purpose and is secure in who they are and what they want out of life. Ad#.2112

A SIMPLE REQUEST
Make a new friend by calling this DWC mom, 40, 5'8", who's looking for someone to share her interests with. If you're an outgoing SWCM, 35-45, who enjoys walking, camping, bicycling and watching movies, then you could be a perfect match for each other. Ad#.8191

STILL SEARCHING
Semi-retired, spontaneous DWCF, 65, 5'7", with brown hair/eyes, who enjoys photography, traveling, cooking and baking, is in search of an honest SWCM, 60-69, who loves the Lord. Ad#.4444

FOCUS HERE
She is a friendly, attractive SWF, 52, 5'7", 125lbs., with auburn hair and hazel eyes, whose interests include hiking, biking and boating. She's looking for a handsome, intelligent SWM, 52-62, who lives life to the fullest. Ad#.6262

CAPTURE MY ATTENTION
This outgoing SWF, 30, 5'2", 110lbs., with brown hair and blue eyes, who enjoys jogging, reading and working out, is seeking an open-minded, honest SWM, 28-38, for a possible long-term relationship. Ad#.2469

CHARISMATIC CHRISTIAN
Spirit-filled, warm-hearted and employed DWC mother, 35, 5'5", is seeking a companionable, commitment-minded SWCM, 25-48, who shares her dedication to church and enjoys family activities. Ad#.7764

FAITH & HOPE
An educated SWPF, 50, who likes cultural events, listening to music, and reading, is seeking an intelligent, mature SWPM, for a possible relationship. Ad#.1998

MEET YOU HALFWAY
She's an outgoing, attractive SWF, 51, 5'4", medium build, blond hair, brown eyes, who enjoys music, dancing, long walks, and the theater. Her heart is open to share happiness and romance with a thoughtful, considerate SWM, 46-56, Ad#.5614

IS IT FATE?
This friendly SWF, 52, 5'3", who enjoys dining out, concerts and quiet nights at home, is seeking a SWM, 46-57, who has a good sense of humor. Ad#.2345

REBUILDING HER LIFE
Catholic DWF, 45, 5'2", 118lbs., with dark brown curly hair, a N/S, is looking for the right person, a considerate, respectful Catholic SWM, 40-50, who values his faith and family. She enjoys bowling, movies and a lot of friends. Ad#.5642

CIRCLE THIS AD
Employed, family-oriented SBF, 26, who likes long walks, outdoor activities, movies and is seeking a SBM, for a long-term relationship. Ad#.2218

CIRCLE THIS
Adventurous SWF, 35, 5'5", is seeking an honest, marriage-minded SWM, 30-38, who enjoys golf, fishing and dining out. Ad#.4528

KNOWS WHAT SHE WANTS
Pretty DWC mom, 44, 5'4", 145lbs., with light brown hair and hazel eyes, a N/S, non-drinker, is seeking happiness with an easygoing, family-oriented DWCM, under 54. She enjoys swimming, movies, bowling, and reading. Ad#.4108

BORN-AGAIN
This vibrant DWCF, 55, 5'7", a blue-eyed blonde, is a member of the choir who enjoys praise and worship, youth ministry, church activities, and seeks fellowship with a similar SWCM, 56-62. Ad#.5144

ONCE IN A LIFETIME
Attractive, personable Catholic SWF, 38, 5'4", with brown hair/eyes, is seeking an outgoing, sincere and handsome Catholic SWM, 33-44, who enjoys tennis, sporting events, reading and horseback riding. Ad#.6684

TO THE POINT
SWCF, 39, 5'5", full-figured, with brown hair/eyes, who enjoys horseback riding, swimming, and more, is looking for a sweet, sincere SWM, over 30. Ad#.2220

LOVES THE LORD
Outgoing, Born-Again SWCF, 43, full-figured, who enjoys music, swimming, singing, bible study, and more, is seeking a SWCM, 40-50, N/S, without dependents. Ad#.1956

LIFE GOES ON
This friendly, sincere SWF, 47, 5'4", who enjoys meeting new people, dancing, and walks in the park, is looking forward to meeting an upbeat SWM, 44-50, who shares similar interests. Ad#.2652

HERE SHE IS...
This caring DWCF, 51, 5'1", is a lady who enjoys church activities, her work, and would like to meet a similar SWCM, 49-62. Ad#.1665

IS IT YOU?
This friendly SBF, 39, 5'6", who enjoys movies, dining out, theater and travel, is hoping to meet a loving, family-oriented SM, 33-50, who shares similar interests and has a good sense of humor. Ad#.4581

WORKS & PLAYS HARD
Attractive, ambitious, secure DWPC mom, 36, 5'5", with blonde hair and green eyes, loves working out, outdoor activities and reading. She's looking for a SCM physician, 36-48, who will treat her well. Ad#.8888

HEAVEN SENT
This friendly SWF, 47, 5'9", whose interests include gardening, travel, taking walks in the park and camping, is looking to meet an honest, gentle SWM, 35-50, who likes children. Ad#.6561

SHARE MY FAITH
This churchgoing SWCF, 57, 5'7", wants to meet a tall, caring, sincere SWCM, 57-69, who enjoys hiking and the outdoors. Ad#.7575

TIME TO GET TOGETHER
Her dream is sharing a romantic, long-term relationship with an outgoing, sincere, handsome, SWM, 40-55 who enjoys biking, taking walks, music, and dancing. Be sure to let this very lovely, quite charming SWF, 43, know you're interested ! Ad#.9915

THE BEST THERE IS
Never-married, attractive SWF, 36, 5'2", with red hair and green eyes, who enjoys sports, music, traveling and playing cards, is ISO a kind-hearted SWM, 30-45, with similar interests. Ad#.6354

END MY SEARCH
Creative, educated and Jewish, I am a DWF, 55, 5'6", slender, with blonde hair and light blue eyes, who enjoys cooking and movies. I am looking for a communicative SWM, over 46, who knows what he wants. Ad#.2525

SIMPLY PUT
Romantic SWF, 60, 5'2", 118lbs., with brown hair/eyes, who enjoys dancing, travel, the theater, long walks and more, would like to meet a trustworthy SWM, 55-65, with similar interests. Ad#.5555

Observer & Eccentric

brings you:

The Christian Meeting Place

The easy way to meet area Christian singles

VIVACIOUS
Active, energetic DBCF, 58, 5'4", is seeking a childless, healthy SBCM, 58-69, for a possible LTR. Her interests include church, movies, and more. Ad#.1103

IS IT FATE?
Say hello to this personable SWCF, 38, 5'7", who enjoys cooking, jazz music and traveling. Her heart is set on sharing a long-term relationship with a responsible, handsome SWM, 36-47. Ad#.9455

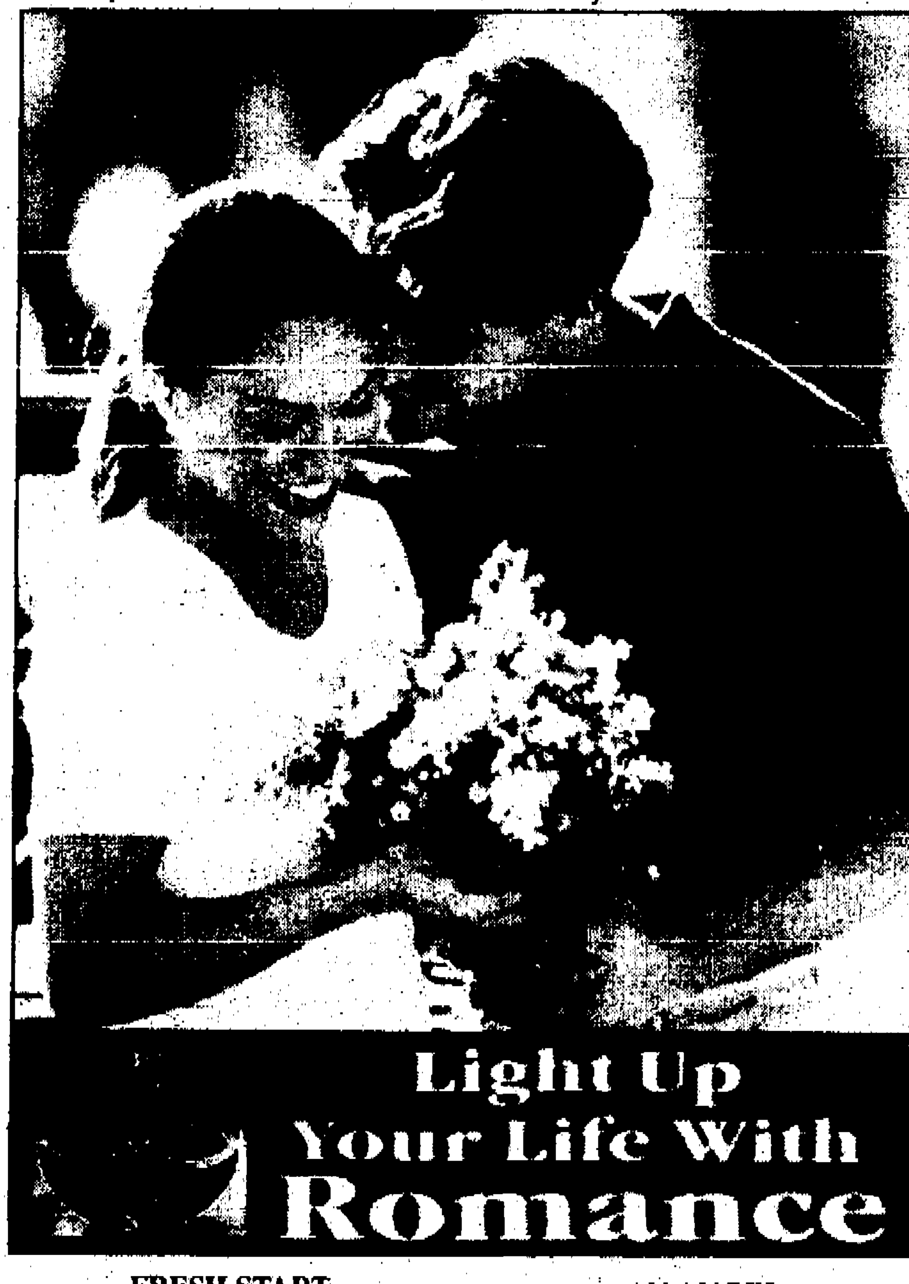
SO MUCH FUN TO BE HAD
This SWF, 21, 5'7", would like to spend time with a fun-loving SWM, 21-30, who likes children and sports. Ad#.1098

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE
Fun-loving DWCF, 47, 5'5", who enjoys sports, the outdoors and gardening, is seeking a sincere, dependable SWCM, 43-51, for companionship. Ad#.4488

A GOOD MAN
DWC dad, 37, 6', with brown hair and blue eyes, who enjoys the outdoors, is looking to share movies, family activities and a lasting friendship with an independent, petite SWCF, 30-45. Ad#.6683

LISTEN TO ME
Outdoor activities and bowling are interests of this friendly, outgoing, educated SBPM, 36 He is looking to meet a sincere, loving, tall, SBF, beautiful inside and outside, with a great smile, Ad#.8989

CONTACT ME
This friendly SB dad, 37, 5'11", who enjoys taking long walks, going to the movies and bike riding, is seeking a SF, who likes children. Has he found you? Ad#.4194



FRESH START
Hardworking, Catholic DWF, 48, 5'3", who enjoys walking, movies and going to church, is looking for a compatible, caring, Catholic WWWM, 48-52, without children at home, for friendship first. Ad#.3907

DEDICATED
She's a never-married SBF, 33, 5'9",", N/S, non-drinker, who is looking for a sweet, sincere SWM, over 34. Ad#.1980

COMPANIONSHIP
Outgoing, honest and fun-loving, describes this Catholic DWF, 50, 5'9", looking for friendship with a Catholic SWM, 45-55. Ad#.4536

LET'S CUDDLE
Catholic DWF, 59, 5'2" 125lbs., with blonde hair and green eyes, who enjoys family barbecues, picnics and more, seeks a Catholic, Italian SWM, 51-61, who shares similar interests. Ad#.1992

A RARE FIND
Sincere, compassionate SWF, 58, 5'4", full-figured, who enjoys music, Bible studies, traveling, movies, long walks, and more, is looking for a caring, compassionate SWM, 54-62, who shares similar interests. Ad#.7141

A RARE FIND
Compassionate DWPC mom of one, 47, 5'3", with reddish-brown hair and green eyes, who enjoys movies, concerts, walking, biking, travel, dancing and dining out, wants to meet a family-oriented SWCM, 42-52, who shares similar interests. Ad#.8317

UP FOR IT ALL
Friendly DWCF, 52, 5'10", with blonde hair and brown eyes, who enjoys sports, rollerblading and just keeping active, is seeking an easygoing, monogamous SWCM, 48-60. Ad#.3747

AN ANGEL
Outgoing, attractive SWM, 33, 5'6", 140lbs., with dark brown hair/eyes, who enjoys walks, good conversation, fishing, and more, is looking for an ambitious SWF, 24-36, who shares similar interests, for friendship first. Ad#.6321

INTERESTED
Here's a friendly SWM, 48, 5'7", who likes quiet evenings at home, trying new things and traveling. He's seeking a SWF, under 52, to share life and interests with. Ad#.4374

JOYS OF LIFE
He's a friendly SWPM, 58, 6'3", who enjoys renovating houses, dining out and more. He is in search of a caring, sincere SWF, 45-55, who shares his type of lifestyle. Ad#.1939

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Never-married SWPM, 37, with dark hair/eyes, who enjoys the theater, auto shows and music, is seeking a kind, caring SWF, for possible relationship. Ad#.1260

SOMEONE SPECIAL FOR ME
Shy and reserved, this never-married, college-educated SBPCM, 36, 5'5", 150lbs., 5'5", is ISO a never-married SCF, 25-39, with no children, who loves the Lord, to have a great time. Ad#.4949

WALK DOWN THE AISLE
Romantic, Catholic SWPM, 40, 6'1", who enjoys a wide range of interests, is seeking a marriage-minded, family-oriented, slender SWF who is athletically inclined. Ad#.1515

MARRIAGE ON HIS MIND
Take a minute to read about this wonderful DWM, 60. If you're a DWCF, 45-55, who enjoys, family times, picnics, country music and more, you're just one step away from meeting him. Ad#.1445

To Respond to These Ads

or Browse Hundreds More in Our System

Call: 1-900-933-1118

ONLY $1.98 per minute.

JUST YOU AND I
Athletic SWM, 40, 6'1", enjoys jogging, biking, and playing golf, is seeking that one special, goal-oriented, compassionate, slender SWF, for a long-term monogamous relationship leading to marriage. Ad#.2739

COMMON BOND
This outgoing SWM, 26, 5'10", 170lbs., who enjoys martial arts, movies and more, is interested in meeting a SF, to spend quality time with. Ad#.1580

SHORT BUT SWEET
Friendly, never-married SBM, 38, 6'1", who is seeking a slender, outgoing, degreed SF, under 44, for dating first. Ad#.9317

HAVE YOU SEEN...
My best friend? This shy SWCM, 28, 5'11", 160lbs., who enjoys boating, working out and the outdoors, is seeking a SCF, 20-35, who shares similar interests. Ad#.2727

NEVER-MARRIED
SWCM, 26, 6', 165lbs., blond with blue eyes, a N/S, non-drinker, seeks a petite, smart SWCF, 19-26, who has good morals, long hair and likes candlelit dinners, movies and time together. Ad#.1777

SEARCHING
Outgoing, friendly DWCM, 48, 5'7", with long brown hair, who enjoys street rods, the outdoors and concerts, is seeking a sweet, kind-hearted SWCF, 40-50. Ad#.6900

WANT TO HEAR MORE? CALL
Friendly, laid-back SWCM, 27, 5'8", who likes beach walks, movies and having fun, seeks a SWCF, 18-35, without children at home. Ad#.4523

A REAL TRUE HEART
This friendly SW dad, 35, 5'8", with brown hair and blue eyes, who enjoys singing, horseback riding and swimming, is looking for a SWF, 25-40, who has a good sense of humor. Ad#.1514

HEAVEN SENT
Delightful, handsome Catholic DWP dad of one, 38, 6'4", 215lbs., who enjoys boating, family activities, baseball, music, movies and travel, is seeking a similar Catholic SWF, 30-40, height/weight proportionate. Ad#.4324

HIGH MORAL STANDARDS
Athletic, Catholic SWM, 24, 6'3", 250lbs., with brown hair/eyes, who plays a variety of sports and coaches Little League, is seeking a romantic, Catholic SWF, 21-30, who likes movies, quiet evenings, dining out and more. Ad#.5150

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED
Outgoing, friendly, caring, honest DWCM, 59, 6', 195lbs., with brown hair and green eyes, is ISO a slender-to-medium-built SWCF, 55-65, to get to know. Ad#.6211

ONLY THE BEST
Educated WWWCM, 49, 5'11", 195lbs., with brown hair and blue eyes, who enjoys boating, fishing, movies, fine dining and trying new things, is ISO an attractive, affectionate SCF, age unimportant. Ad#.9876

HONESTY COUNTS
Shy SWM, 42, 6', who enjoys sporyts, the theater, spending time with family and friends, seeks a slender, romantic SF, 30-45, for a possible relationship. Ad#.4123

IT'S FATE
Never-married SWPM, 40, 6'1", 190lbs., is looking for a fit, petite SW mom, 28-44, for a romantic, monogamous long-term relationship. Ad#.4251

HONESTY COUNTS
Never-married, friendly SWM, 44, who enjoys Bible studies and outdoor activities, the theater and weekend getaways, is seeking a fit, pretty SWF. Ad#.4141

LOOKING FOR MS. RIGHT
Catholic SWM, 42, 6'1", who enjoys sports and family activities, is seeking a sincere, Catholic SAF, under 45, for a long-term relationship. Ad#.2942

FAMILY-ORIENTED
Charming SWCM, 42, 6'1", who enjoys outdoor activities, the theatre and dining out, is seeking a fun-loving SCF, who shares similar interests, for a LTR. Ad#.1414

HE COULD BE THE ONE
Catholic DWM, 41, 5'6", of Italian heritage, who enjoys skiing and boating, wishes to meet a Catholic SWF, under 41, without children at home. Ad#.2015

ONCE IN A LIFETIME
Handsome SWPM, 36, 6', 180lbs., with brown hair and blue eyes, is seeking an attractive SWCF who enjoys sports, movies, dining out and more. Ad#.1534

DOWN-TO-EARTH
He's a friendly Catholic DWP dad of two, 46, 6', 180lbs., with brown hair, green eyes, and glasses, a smoker, who enjoys bowling, golfing, movies, and much more. He is seeking a SWF, 35-47, for a special, one-on-one, romantic relationship. Ad#.6569

FAITH & DEVOTION
Pleasant, never-married SWPCM, 42, 5'10", with brown hair and blue eyes, who enjoys fine dining, concerts, movies, sports and walking, is interested in meeting a compatible SWCF, under 37, N/S, who shares similar interests. Ad#.1111

FOCUS HERE
This friendly, handsome DWM, 46, 5'11", who enjoys most sports, traveling and comedy clubs, is seeking a fun-loving, attractive SWF, 33-44, who shares similar interests. Ad#.1301

DELIGHTFUL
Never-married . Catholic SWM, 50, 5'11", 180lbs., who is active in his church choir, enjoys children, dancing, walking, movies, music and good conversation. He wants to meet a SWCF, under 50, for a long-term relationship. Ad#.3580

A PEACEFUL MAN
Never-married, caring, handsome SBM, 28, 6', is in search of a down-to-earth, true SWF, 40-50, who shares similarr interests, and who has God in their life. Ad#.4278

MIXED BLESSING
He's an outgoing, employed DWJM, 44, 5', who enjoys sports, bowling and movies, ISO a commitment-minded Catholic SWF, 39-49, who shares similar interests. Ad#.2251

CALL ME SOON
This friendly DWCM, 52, who enjoys the outdoors, movies and bowling, would like to share companionship and good times with a SWF, who can appreciate a wonderful guy who knows how to treat a lady. Ad#.8267

To place an ad by recording your voice greeting call 1-800-739-3639 enter option 1, 24 hours a day!

To listen to ads or leave your message call 1-900-933-1118, $1.98 per minute enter option 1

To browse through personal voice greetings call 1-900-933-1118, $1.98 per minute enter option 2

To listen to messages call 1-800-739-3639, enter option 2, once a week for FREE or call 1-900-933-1118 $1.98 per minute, enter option 3 anytime.

For complete confidentiality give your **Confidential Mailbox Number** instead of your phone number when you leave a message. Call 1-900-933-1118, $1.98 per minute, enter option 3, to listen to responses left for you and find out when your replies were picked up.

To renew, change or cancel your ad call customer service at 1-800-273-5877.

Check with your local phone company for a possible 900 block if you're having trouble dialing the 900#.

If your ad was deleted, re-record your voice greeting remembering **NOT** to use a cordless phone. Also please do **NOT** use vulgar language or leave your last name, address, telephone number.

Your print ad will appear in the paper 7-10 days after you record your voice greeting.

M	Male	B	Black
D	Divorced	F	Female
H	Hispanic	C	Christian
W	White	A	Asian
S	Single	WW	Widowed
N/S	Non smoker	P	Professional
NA	Native American	ISO	In search of
LTR	Long-term relationship		

Service provided by
Christian Meeting Place Inc.
5678 Main Street, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221

Christian Meeting Place is available exclusively for single people seeking relationships with others of common faith. We reserve the right to edit or refuse any ad. Please employ discretion and caution, screen respondents carefully, avoid solitary meetings, and meet only in public places. GF LO 1112

ON JANUARY 1, 2000 BE PART OF YOUR HOMETOWN HISTORY

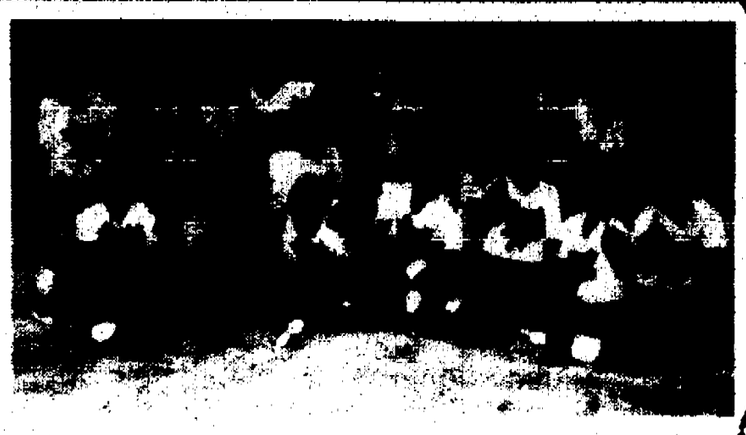
Our first editions of the new millennium will serve as an exciting "time capsule" featuring messages like the ones you see here.

Here is your opportunity to mark the turn of the century with a message about the future or a last loving look at the the past!

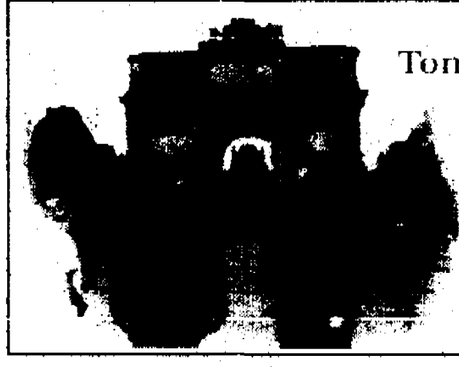
Be part of this very special edition of your hometown Observer with a picture and message about your family, your service organization, your place of worship...the list is endless. Perhaps you had a significant anniversary, a special event, or another important milestone in your lives during the past century. Here's your opportunity to record it for your friends, family, neighbors and business associates!

These special messages will appear on the pages of the January 1st edition of your hometown Observer on January 1, 2000 and you can deposit the entire issue in your own time capsule, so that when you look at it again in the years to come, you'll enjoy remembering or telling your grandchildren what was going on in your hometown!

Here's all you do to be part of our Hometown History pages:

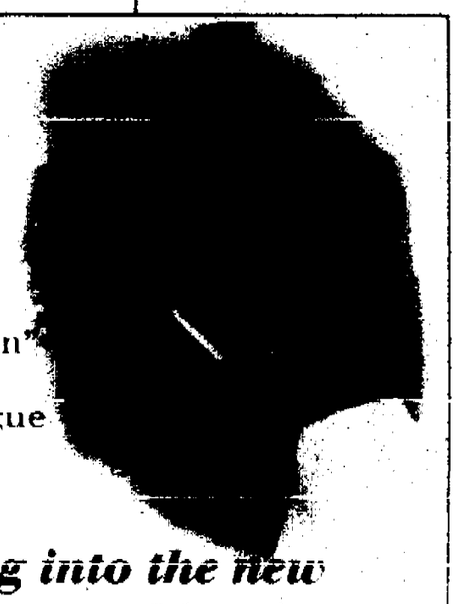


The Hammerheads hail the new millennium and remember March 16, 1999.



Tom and Ken in Paris

May your dreams come true in the new millennium!



Max,
"All Star Champion"
Left Outfielder,
Canton Little League

Swinging into the new millennium and batting 2000!

1. **Fill in the information requested on the form below.**
2. **Clip one of the sample ads below and send it with your message and photo**
3. **Enclose one photo, no larger than 8"x10" per message.** *(If you wish photo returned please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope)*
4. **Compose your message of 25 words or less.**
5. **Tell us in which Observer newspaper you would like your message to appear.**
6. **Include your check for $30, $60, or $90 for your message, made payable to: "The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers"**
7. **Mail to: 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150— Attention: Hometown History**
8. **Questions? Call Jane Garner (734) 953-2235**

Please include the enclosed message and photo on
The Observer HomeTown History pages!

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE WITH AREA CODE _____

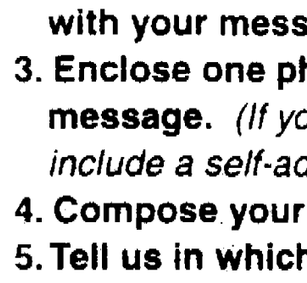
NAME OF GROUP _____

or NAMES OF PEOPLE IN PHOTO _____

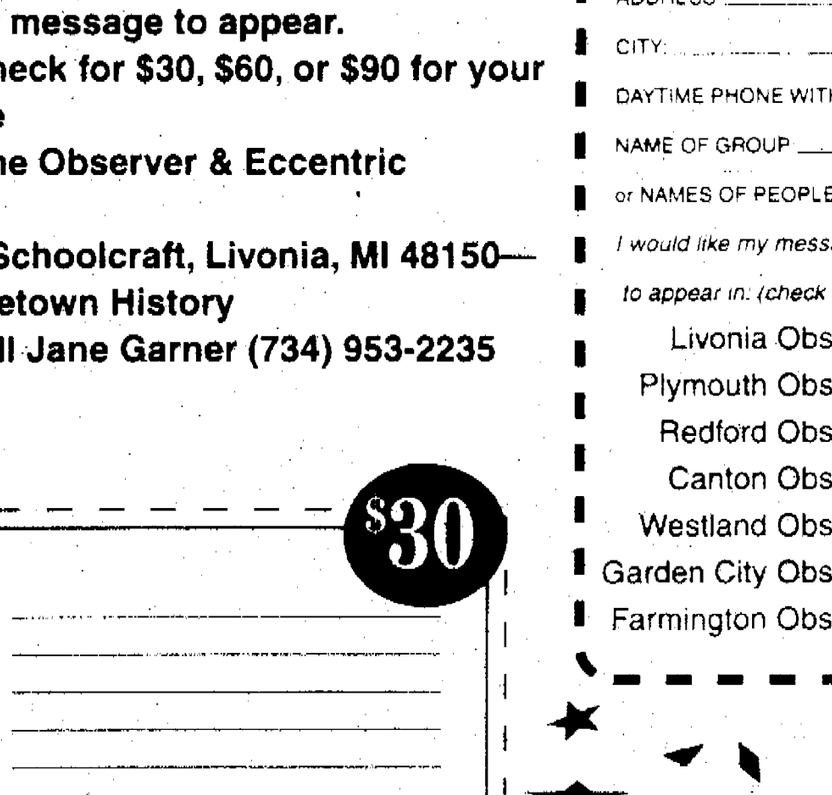
I would like my message to appear in: (check one)

- Livonia Observer
- Plymouth Observer
- Redford Observer
- Canton Observer
- Westland Observer
- Garden City Observer
- Farmington Observer

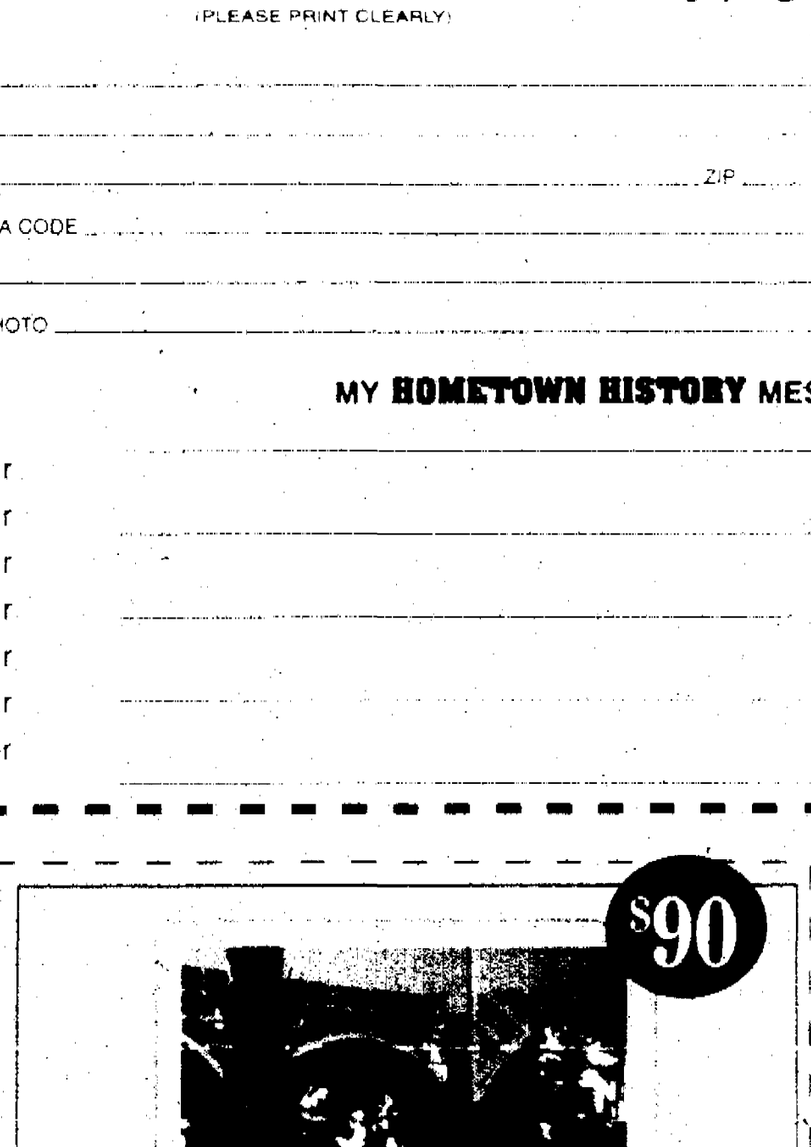
MY **HOMETOWN HISTORY** MESSAGE:



SAMPLE #1—Actual Size—4¼" wide x 2" deep



SAMPLE # 2—Actual Size—4¼" wide x 4" deep



SAMPLE #3 Actual Size 4¼" wide x 6" deep

Enclose a copy of your ad with this form and your message typed along with your photograph and check for payment.

Serving

Church effort merits praise

When the Rev. John Hearn retires, he'll leave behind big shoes to fill.

Hearn is leaving his 42-year post at Peoples Community Baptist Church on the southeast side of Westland. The Inkster resident has long followed a philosophy of "the church is at its best when it is outside of the walls that you're doing your work."

That has included a mission to help people in Haiti, where poverty is dire. The Caring and Sharing Mission also includes a school and orphanage.

Closer to home, Hearn helped establish his church's nonprofit Peoples Community Hope For Homes, spurring new housing in the Carver subdivision in Westland.

Affordable housing and preservation of the area's history are high on Hearn's list. The pastor intends to remain active in the church and its work. Son Gary has been named pastor-elect.

A life such as Hearn's, admirably lived, serves as an inspiration to the rest of us. It's a reminder, too, of the vital role of churches and other religious organizations in our community.

They take care of those who often have nowhere else to go. Another local organization, the Salvation Army, will start its Red Kettle campaign this Friday, Nov. 19. The goal for Wayne-Westland is $120,000 this year, according to Lt. Chuck Yockey, commanding officer.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Reaching souls: *The Rev. John Hearn is the retiring pastor of the Peoples Community Baptist Church.*

Yockey, who is seeking bell ringers, hopes contributors will dig deep this holiday season, so the Salvation Army can provide food, clothing and other essentials to the needy people of our community.

Let's remember the work of various religious organizations as we wish Hearn well in his retirement. Those organizations do a great deal to make our community a better place to live for all concerned.

Religious freedom has long been a pillar of our freedoms in this country, and people shouldn't feel pressured to join a religious organization against their will. Support for their good works, however, is another matter, one upon which we can all agree.

Glenn gridders show spirit

The scoreboard may have said 35-0 Friday night, ruling out a victory for the John Glenn Rockets in their match with powerful Walled Lake Western. The players, and their supporters, are winners in the more important game of life.

Glenn coach Chuck Gordon praised his team, noting they went from a 5-2 record to the playoffs. "Our leadership pulled us together and we were able to win four in a row, two in the playoffs," he said.

"I'm proud of them and I'll have great memories of them," Gordon said after Friday's loss.

Overcoming adversity – off the playing field – will face these young people as they advance through life. The lessons they've learned in high school will serve them well in those challenges.

The Rockets, who ended the season with a 9-3 record, made us proud.

Anti-riot bill won't solve problem

State Sen. Loren Bennett wants rioters on college campuses not only sent to prison for their crimes but also banned from *all* state public colleges and universities for at least one year.

The legislative proposal, while passing the lowest possible potential legal barrier, just doesn't make good public policy.

Certainly, the Observer isn't condoning wanton displays of public vandalism, but let's take a look at reality.

The Bennett bill is based on last spring's rioting on the Michigan State University campus after the Spartans basketball loss in the semi-finals of the NCAA Final Four basketball tournament.

While the image of TV newscasts showing students, nonstudents, passersby and others watching a couch on a public street being torched, it is a scene that rarely happens. For sure, there are outlandish displays of behavior on campuses following a sports event, but on a national or even a state level, those are very few.

Enforcement of the proposed new law would be a major problem. How would the municipal and/or campus police in East Lansing, Ann Arbor or any other public college campus ever spot a violator in stadiums housing as many as 76,000 (at MSU) to 111,000 (at U-M) or just walking down the street and passing a college building? The answer is obvious – it would be impossible.

The legislature would be better off worrying about more important matters – such as public school financing, how to treat juveniles in the criminal justice system, among others.

Bennett's bill would substantially widen the penalties for convicted rioters liable for more than just the vandalism directly involved in the criminal charges.

Senate Bill 525 allows courts to ban anyone convicted of a misdemeanor from entering *any* Michigan public college campus for a year if convicted of a misdemeanor, two years if convicted of a felony.

The state House Committee on Criminal Law and Corrections amended the bill, already approved by the Senate, to also allow courts to order rioters to pay restitution to local communities, colleges and schools for costs related to their crimes – which does make sense and is good public policy.

But overall, the penalties in the legislation go too far and should be blocked by the state House.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

With Thanksgiving coming next week, what are you most thankful for this year?

We asked this question at the Westland Kroger on Ford Road.

"God."

Marie Chambless

"My new grandson, Eric."

Vivian Willman

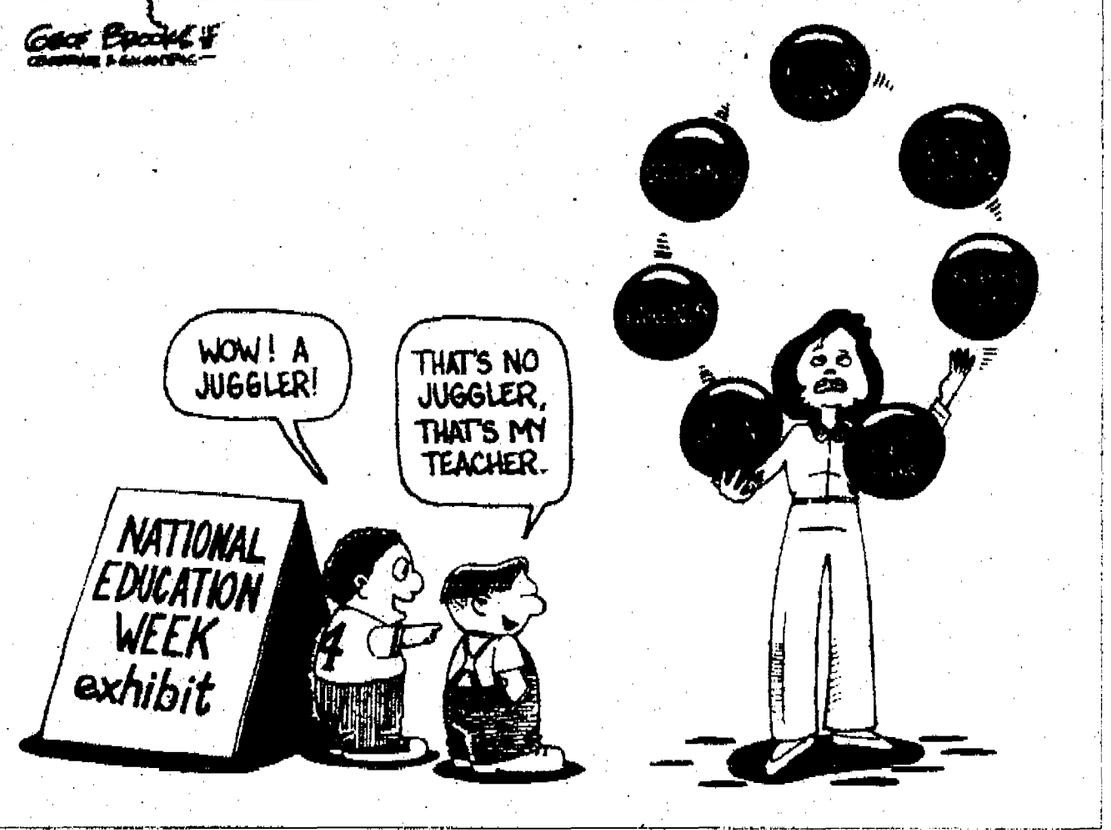
"My job at Ford's."

Jennifer Ruchinski

"Health."

Tim Lawson

GEOF BROOKS



LETTERS

Opinions are to be shared: *We welcome your ideas; that's why we offer this space for your opinions. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you provide a contact telephone number and if mailing or faxing a letter, please sign it. Letters can be mailed, to: Julie Brown, Westland editor, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, faxed to her at (734) 591-7279 or e-mailed to jbrown@oe.homecomm.net.*

Election thoughts

I watched on election night when, at the 11th hour, defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory ... and once again less than 6 percent ruled over 94 percent of the voters in Westland.

Due to a low voter turnout at the precincts, the block of absentee ballots pulled three of the Motley 5 through the election once again.

And thus again we have so many doing so little to stop so few.

To the almost 11 percent of the voters that made the effort to voice their position by voting ... no matter who they vote for ... I say thank you for participating in the election.

So now I will bring out my crystal ball (shine it up real good) .... wait!!! Let's get to my predictions first!!!

I predict when appointments come up for the planning and zoning boards, that Justine Barns "will" get one of them!! (Of course, that's an easy one since in July I recorded a phone call ... and was told so!!)

Next, I predict that how (with a Motley 5 sitting on the council) when Bob Thomas wants to build a new City Hall and recreation center he "will get them" "and" you can flip a coin as to which one will be the Thomas Building and which one will be the Barns Building?

When the predictions I've made come true, "and they will," and the almost 88 percent of nonvoting people feel like the biggest fools on the face of the earth and they want to know who caused this to happen ... you won't have far to go ... just look in the closest mirror and you will see the cause of where we are.

And if you want me to try and help you in trying to correct the problem and then go back to sleep, "well," remember the crystal ball that I shined up real good ...

I urge that anyone who reads this letter and is not sure of what I have predicted ... then cut out this letter ... put it in a safe place and let's see if ... down the road, I'm correct or not!

James R. Davis

Social Security games

Most people correctly believe that Social Security has been our most successful social program. However, as the program has matured, it faces many obstacles to its viability.

The first major crisis it faced was in 1981 when concerns were raised about the trust fund running out of money by 1983. The Greenspan Commission was formed, which made recommendations to resolve the short-term financing problems the program faced. A combination of legislation enacting the recommendations, low inflation and the economic boom has contributed to yearly trust fund surpluses until the proclaimed total is now in excess of $650 billion.

■ Unfortunately, within the Treasury, Social Security taxes are commingled with general tax revenues, which allows Congress to spend Trust Fund surpluses to fund other expenses within the budget.

Unfortunately, within the Treasury, Social Security taxes are commingled with general tax revenues, which allows Congress to spend Trust Fund surpluses to fund other expenses within the budget. For example, the 1999 $70 billion surplus existed only because Congress included the 1998 $99 billion surplus when the actual budget showed a deficit. To cover up the embezzlement of trust fund money by Congress, the Department of Treasury has been forced to issue nonnegotiable IOU bonds to the trust fund.

Congress has exploited the co-mingling flaw in the trust fund to achieve a spending coup without having to increase income taxes, but at severe cost to low-income workers. Workers have been hit hard when the regressive Social Security tax has also been used to fund other spending programs. This has been particularly devastating to the self-employed business people such as entrepreneurs, farmers and ranchers who must contribute at double the normal Social Security tax rate.

Isn't embezzlement of trust fund money a felony?

Robert Dahlquist
Orange, Calif.

Westland Observer

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— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

She who gobbles last ... gobbles best

Hopefully, my revenge will be sweet ... and succulent.

I'm talking about one nasty, fowl-mouthed, beady-eyed, overweight old hen who persistently pursued me at Roperti's Turkey Farm in Livonia the other day.

OK, so I entered the turkey quarters uninvited (by the turkeys), but reporters go to a lot of places uninvited. I didn't mean to ruffle any feathers. I had a job to do. My editor wanted a Thanksgiving story.

I'm convinced that savage bird pegged me for a good pecking as soon as I closed the gate behind me. She emerged from a sea of white feathers and headed my way, head bobbing and knee-level gaze never wavering.

She's just assertive, I thought at first. How cute.

"Oh, look at that funny, little black spot on her back," I said to our photographer, who was surrounded by a group of turkey groupies. Black Spot stood transfixed in front of me.

"Isn't she cute...ooohhh, birdie, birdie...don't get so close...nice turkey, go away...no, don't...no!"

Peck, peck, peck.

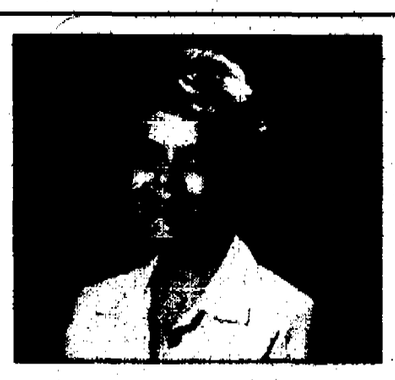
"It's your buttons," said Christine Roperti, foster mother to Black Dot and her 4,500 siblings.

I looked down my dress. Twelve shiny brown buttons, from neck to mid-calve. Holy white meat. I was turkey feed. I took several steps backwards. Black Dot followed.

Peck, peck, peck.

I wasn't going to give up my buttons without a fight. THWACK! I broadsided the bird with my notebook, knocking her a couple of feet across the yard.

She regained her drumsticks in no time.



RENEE SKOGLUND

■ I wasn't going to give up my buttons without a fight. THWACK! I broadsided the bird with my notebook, knocking her a couple of feet across the yard.

Peck, peck, peck.

THWACK! THWACK! THWACK! This time, Black Dot budged less than a foot. I was going to lose the great Button Battle. I ran to the other side of the yard, parting those Broad-Breasted White Wilfords like Moses parting the Red Sea.

Ah, safe.

Peck, peck, peck.

I know. By now you're expecting me to roll out the credits to Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds." (Was that Tippi Hedren or Tipper Gore?) But this scenario was "The Birds" on steroids. This was "The Turkeys."

By the time Christine came to my rescue, I had decided my editor would have a bird-less Thanksgiving edition. No story was worth being stripped of my buttons.

However, once safely outside the turkey yard, I changed my mind.

"I'd like to see your slaughter house," I told Christine.

"You would?"

"Yup."

"Why?"

She needed to ask? I looked over my shoulder and gave Black Dot and all the other $2.39-a-pound gobblers the cranberries.

"Christine, I'd like to order one of your birds this year," I said, following her into the turkeys' death chamber. "Do you take special requests?"

Heh, heh, heh..., revenge indeed is sweet. Remember, Thanksgiving is at my house this year.

Four o'clock. Black Dot and all the trimmings.

Renee Skoglund is an Observer staff writer. See her story on the turkey farm on page A11.

Overlapping anti-tax proposals could cause real quagmire

Voters could see, not one, but two questions on the ballot next November about constitutional amendments that would require a "supermajority" anytime the Legislature wants to increase taxes.

Rep. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) is sponsoring House Joint Resolution B, which would require a two-thirds majority in the House (73 votes of 110 total) and Senate (26 of 38 votes) for any increase in taxes.

The proposal would have an impact on all taxes, including income taxes, gas taxes and business taxes.

Rep. Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland) is the sponsor of House Joint Resolution G, which calls for a three-fifths vote to increase taxes. In the House, that translates to 66 votes; in the Senate, 23.

But Kuipers' plan also addresses fees, those charges levied for specific government services. It is his belief that any increase in state revenue should be subject to the higher standard.

MIKE MALOTT

And House Tax Policy Committee Chair Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) wants to put both on the ballot.

"Two-thirds can be a very tough standard. It's a question of where to set the chinning bar," she said. "If we look at tax increases in future, the responsible thing to do is to look at the spending carefully to make sure that it is justified and needed ... If the hands of the Legislature in the future are tied, it won't be the Legislature that does it, it will be the citizens of the state, just as they decided on term limits."

She believes voters will be able to sort out the two questions, and she'd prefer to let them make the call.

"The chair of House Tax Policy is a very wise woman, indeed," Patterson said, agreeing both should be placed on the ballot.

Patterson said he has confidence in voters' ability to sort out the details of the two plans. And he prefers to "empower" voters rather than decide for them.

"We should do the work," countered Kuipers. "We should refine it down to the one proposal we think is best before asking voters to decide. It it doesn't fly, we can try again in another election."

Needless to say, there are others in the Legislature who think the whole thing is a bad idea. Rep. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods), for instance, considers the entire discussion to be just "politics, shortsighted politics at that."

The economy is good now, and it is easy to trim taxes when the state budget continues to create sizable surpluses. But the economy will slow and sour sooner or later, she said. Then, when the state is in need of higher revenues, the Legislature will still have to overcome the higher standard.

"It gives more control to a minority," she explained. It's possible somewhere down the road that 72 representatives will recognize the need for a tax hike, and be frustrated by only 38 holdouts.

Nonetheless, in a state that played host to a tax revolt throughout the '70s and '80s, Jacobs predicts any attempt at the ballot box to set a higher standard for tax increases is likely to get a warm reception from voters.

She's certainly right about that. One of the frustrations expressed by voters back in those days was that the state had a pretty free hand to raise taxes as it saw fit. Only the sales tax requires a vote when increased. And the only limitation on state tax levels is in the Headlee Amendment.

So it is quite conceivable to me that voters would pass both if given the opportunity. We've seen that before, where the same section of the constitution is amended in the same election, and it is always confusing. Do you adopt whichever standard is higher? Or do you adopt the standard that won more votes at the polls?

Would it, in this case, make fee increases subject to three-fifth majority votes, while taxes must have two-thirds?

I'm less concerned about the confusion voters might face when confronted with two similar proposals on the ballot than I am with the confusion and unintended consequences that could result should both win approval.

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

Talented Engler appointee must get word out about state's strengths

One of the best things John Engler has done as governor is to have attracted Doug Rothwell to Michigan from Delaware in 1993.

Initially director of the Michigan Jobs Commission, an agency that consolidated the various job training programs into one coherent administrative unit, the slim and intense Rothwell has won praise for his intelligence, foresight and willingness to take risks by doing new things.

He moved over to run the Michigan Economic Development Corp., a public corporation set up outside the stifling state bureaucratic structure to oversee the state's job and business attraction and retention programs. (He got a hefty raise by moving outside civil service pay restrictions, but that's OK. You get what you pay for, and Rothwell's the real deal.)

The MEDC has just issued a report on Michigan's economy, "Strategic Directions for Michigan's Future." It makes fascinating reading. In the decades following the Great Depression, Michigan's auto-led economy flourished, leading the nation in automation, production and technological progress. Our economy stalled in the '70s and '80s when the auto industry was being pummeled by foreign competition and unemployment skyrocketed. But good times in the '90s led to a surging auto industry and a rapidly growing service sector.

The MEDC report points out that Michigan began to "benchmark" against other industrial states such as Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin in the early '90s. In many ways, Michigan has improved its ranking against these competitors in recent years.

Current success in automobiles, however, has led to new goals. The MEDC report suggests Michigan should now concentrate on growth over the next decade in areas where the state has a comparative advantage against other states: advanced manufacturing, information technologies and life sciences.

And the report proposes a new set of "benchmark" states, including California, Washington, Virginia and Massachusetts. When ranked against our new competitors, Michigan doesn't look so good.

For example, while Michigan's work force productivity ranks third when compared with our old competitors, it comes in dead last against the new set. While Michigan is technologically advanced compared to its old competitors, our state is last among our new competitors in percentage of households with Internet access.

Worse is our standing in venture capital, arguably the main growth engine for new, high-tech companies. Among new competitors, Michigan ranks dead last in the dollars available for venture capital financing. The dollar gap is considerable: Michigan, with $2.4 million available for venture financing in the first quarter of 1999, is far, far behind Virginia, with nearly $60 million available to entrepreneurs.

PHIL POWER

Moreover, Michigan has a poor image among business leaders. A focus group quoted in the MEDC report concludes that "a number of people didn't think of anything specific when asked for their thoughts on Michigan – nothing comes to mind or they simply said – Detroit – and nothing else." Many business leaders think Michigan is simply dominated by the auto industry, with little room for any other kind of business.

Such perceptions, though faulty, lead to decisions that hurt Michigan. A group of business leaders in New York, when asked which states they would consider for expansion or relocation, ranked North Carolina, South Carolina and California at the top, with Texas and Ohio in the middle. Michigan ranked last.

So part of what MEDC wants to do is as simple as educating business leaders around the country about Michigan's real strengths. There is a real story to be told here. Michigan kids scored an average of 1,100 in the SAT exam in 1997, above any of our new competitors. And Michigan's colleges and universities are as good as they get, the University of Michigan, for example, is No. 1 in the country in sponsored research.

(This is the first of a series of columns examining the MEDC report on Michigan's economic future.)

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

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Madonna receives technology grant

With a recent grant from the United States Department of Education, Madonna University will equip itself for the 21st century with state-of-the-art instructional technology.

The $1.6 million Title III grant incorporates many uses of technology which respond to the demands of Madonna University's diverse student body. These include: using technology to improve student retention; strengthening retention efforts across the university; assessing the technology literacy of graduating students; enhancing the technology infrastructure; augmenting faculty professional development; and expanding distance education instruction and support services.

"The Title III funding will allow Madonna University to excel in the area of technology," said Dr. Ernest Nolan, vice president for academic administration. "The award comes at a critical juncture in the history of the long-range planning process, when the university is positioning itself for the future. The grant will support the infrastructure to make it possible to explore the curricular implications of technology across the university."

Among the initiatives slated to strengthen student learning will be technology literacy placement tests, which will assist in placing students in computer courses according to their skill level. The current computer lab will be expanded to accommodate more students and to increase multimedia capability.

■ 'Of importance is the use of technology as a learning tool while maintaining a strong dimension of our mission, including respect for each person's talents and needs.'

Sister Mary Francilene
Madonna University President

To ensure student satisfaction with the technologies for teaching and learning, an annual survey will be conducted.

For students experiencing academic difficulties, several measures will be employed. A Web-based learning/advising center will increase contact between students, faculty and advisors. Also, an electronic tracking system, including an early-warning mechanism, will be employed to track at-risk students.

To assess the knowledge students have gained about technology, students preparing for graduation will be required to make a multimedia presentation in major senior courses and will be evaluated using a common technological literacy assessment instrument developed by the faculty. Online testing of student computer proficiency will be conducted prior to graduation.

The university will initiate an upgrade plan that will equip six classrooms per year for five years with the appropriate level of technology for the teaching-learning needs of faculty and students.

The faculty will receive additional computer training, which will result in increased learning opportunities for all students, particularly those who are academically and economically disadvantaged. By January 2003, the faculty will integrate computer technologies into all general education and major classes.

A faculty professional development center will include a multimedia authoring lab with eight work stations to assist faculty in teaching in the classroom or through distance learning. By September 2004, it is proposed that all faculty members will be oriented to the lab and will produce at least one piece of courseware for their classes.

To meet the needs of today's busy student, an accelerated baccalaureate degree program in general studies will be delivered through distance education by the fall term in 2003.

"The Madonna University community acknowledges the U.S. Department of Education for providing us the opportunity to support the rapid changes in technology that influence how students and faculty together can enhance the teaching learning process," said Sister M. Francilene, president.

"Through the utilization of advanced computer technology across the University, it is projected that students will respond positively, resulting in increased student learning, academic success and greater student retention. Of importance is the use of technology as a learning tool while maintaining a strong dimension of our mission, including respect for each person's talents and needs."

To continue project activities beyond the funding period, the university will participate in an endowment challenge grant in the amount of $180,000 over five years to be matched on a 2-to-1 basis, or two federal dollars to each institutional dollar for a total technology endowment of $270,000.

Group wants to track power outages

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
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A toll-free number may be available next year for residents in western Wayne County to report power outages, part of an effort by leaders of those communities to pursue outage issues with Detroit Edison.

The Conference of Western Wayne, a legislative consortium of 18 communities, created an ad hoc committee in October. On Friday, that group forwarded recommendations back to the CWW, a consortium of elected officials from the cities of Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland and the townships of Canton, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren.

The committee recommended that:

■ Effective Jan. 1, 2000, all CWW communities begin to document power outages within their communities for a one-year period, including input from residents. CWW communities will ask residents to contact their city or township hall after notifying Detroit Edison of the power outage. CWW staff also will explore the feasibility of adding a toll-free phone number to report power outages.

■ Individual communities research and identify when "troubled" lines were installed.

■ CWW fire chiefs will forward to the CWW copies of the Michigan Fire Incident Report System filed with the state for 1999 and 2000. The MFIRS tracks responses to downed wires or shorting/arcing incidents.

■ Communities will forward to the CWW their franchise agreements with Detroit Edison. These agreements were enacted about 30 years ago and are currently expiring in many CWW communities. CWW communities may wish to determine as a region the length of the new franchisee agreements.

■ The CWW will enhance its relationship with the Michigan Public Service Commission and gain a better understanding of the MPSC's role.

CWW Executive Director Marsha Bianconi expected a follow-up report will be made to the CWW in December on the feasibility of establishing a toll-free number and the other recommendations.

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The Observer

Thursday, November 18, 1999

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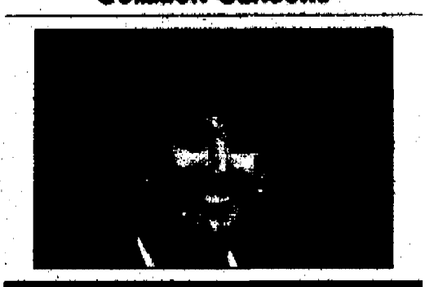
COMMON SENSORS



JACQUE MARTIN-DOWNS

Being there for your kids does matter

My cousin came to town recently to be part of a family reunion. At one point he and I were sitting and talking about children and working parents.

"Ya know," he said, "with my girls as young as they are (2 and 4), Robin (his wife) and I have been considering having one of us stay home and be there for the girls. And I've been the one thinking about doing it."

Here is a guy who, among other things, used to write ads for Leggs pantyhose. I thought I'd drop my teeth out when he said he was thinking about giving up a "high-powered career" to take care of the children, because he was a corporate kind of guy.

More and more families are revisiting the idea of whether both parents should work. Lots of parents want to be more involved in their children's lives.

A recent piece of research gave some of the reasons parents are rethinking full-time work. Ellen Galinsky, a work-family researcher, recently published a book titled "Ask the Children: What America's Children Really Think About Working Parents."

Although the headlines in the newspaper suggested that kids basically don't have a problem with their parents working, what struck me was that her study found that kids ages 8-18 are not necessarily content with their relationships with their parents.

■ On the question of whether their parents really knew what was going on in their lives, 31 percent gave dad an 'A' and 35 percent gave mom an 'A.' Half the 1,000 children surveyed thought their time with their parents was rushed.

On the question of whether the kids felt their parents spent time talking to them, only 43 percent gave their parents an "A."

On the question of whether their parents really knew what was going on in their lives, 31 percent gave dad an "A" and 35 percent gave mom an "A." Half the 1,000 children surveyed thought their time with their parents was rushed.

Based on the survey, it sounds as though kids would be pleased with just hanging out with one or the other parent. Hanging out is a hard notion to get in your head when time is precious.

As a mom who worked part time when the children were little, I can vouch for the fact that when you're at home, you're often still working – cleaning, cooking, mowing, doing laundry. Being with the kids is very different from just being home.

If I had to do it again, I would have "hung out" more with the kids. The legacy I leave would sound much better if it read, "I was there for my kids" rather than, "I was there for my job."

Time seems to be the critical factor. Nobody ever has enough of it. I applaud my cousin's desire to stay home. He knows that's the only way he will ever have enough time with those kids. As he said, "When it's all said and done, will the kids care if I was able to afford a bigger home or a slick car?"

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

On the road

Testing aims to keep senior drivers safe

STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

Checking it out: *Barbara Spreitzer-Berent, the author of "Supporting the Mature Driver: A Handbook for Friends, Family Members and Advisors," goes over the results of a driving test with Margaret Pittman-Hadley of Bloomfield Hills.*

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

The two 80-somethings were polite but firm.

They wanted the people running the mature-driver workshop to know they'd already self-evaluated and had adjusted their driving accordingly: She drove at night, he drove during the day.

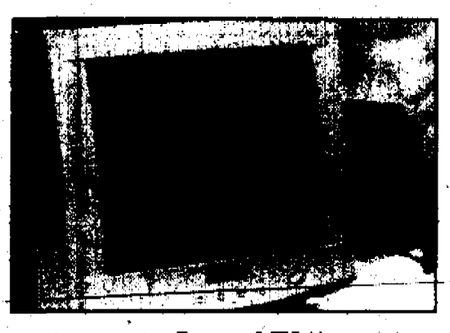
All they wanted, they said, were a few driving tips and the latest roadwork information.

But what they got was a shock.

"We found out she was night-blind and he wasn't," said Frank Cardimen, whose organization has been sponsoring the workshops around metropolitan Detroit for more than 11 years.

Cardimen is president of the private, award-winning, non-profit Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County, a Bloomfield Hills-based engineering group founded 33 years ago to stem the then-rising traffic death toll in Oakland County.

Since then, TIA has added high-quality traffic safety/ enforcement educational programs and, in 1988, the mature driver workshops, becoming a national leader in its field. This year TIA received an Institute of Transportation Engineers award for its years of community service.



Just a test: *One of TIA's testing machines checks people's cognitive ability for deficiencies.*

Each in its own way, TIA and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments are pushing to improve traffic safety for Michigan seniors.

TIA offers a very large program for testing, evaluating and teaching seniors better driving safety, said Jennifer Evans, a SEMCOG transportation engineer.

"It's quite well-known across the country" for its innovations, she added. "AARP has senior driver retraining classes, but they're not nearly as advanced."

One TIA innovation is the Universal Field of Vision computerized testing machine, developed jointly with the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Cognitive ability

The testing machine checks people's cognitive ability for deficiencies by testing how well and how quickly they can identify and recall the location of a type of vehicle in a maze on a screen.

Research shows there is a "direct correlation between cognitive ability and traffic accidents" among older drivers, Cardimen said.

Cognitive ability – defined as the facility for understanding what we see

Please see DRIVING, B2

Handbook helps deal with driving

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
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If you're a baby boomer, chances are good you've got at least one parent who's still driving.

And if you're holding your breath every time they do – because their driving skills have diminished but their need for independence and dignity haven't – well, metro Detroit gerontologist and educator Barbara Spreitzer-Berent has a handbook you'll want to read and keep around.

Spreitzer-Berent's "Supporting the Mature Driver: A Handbook for Friends, Family Members and Advisors" aims at helping boomers, their families and friends and professional caregivers deal with the often perplexing and sensitive issue of safe driving in later life.

"The vast majority of mature motorists are safe and responsible," said Spreitzer-Berent who's also an urban planner and founder/ president of Quest Learning Resources in Royal Oak. "Yet friends and family members may have questions about some older drivers' skills on the road."

Her handbook provides insights that help readers approach the mature motorists in their lives with the respect those elders deserve to avoid risking cherished relationships.

Its 28 pages give hands-on, practical information, including checklists, resource guides and worksheets that help readers recognize a decline in an older person's driving skills, improve driving performance and explore transportation alternatives.

It's designed to help keep older drivers on the road as long as safely possible, help them make a smooth transition when driving is no longer an option, help people know when to get involved and initiate a conversation about driving and stay objective when talking about driving problems.

There's a special section for professionals, such as doctors, nurses, social workers and law enforcement personnel, who may work with older drivers.

Please see HANDBOOK, B2

Cemetery takes in people's 'little friends'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
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Shirley Cameron knelt next to her grandson, Robert Ortiz, as he placed a bouquet of flowers on the grave. She kissed him on the cheek and hugged him closely. They would both miss their dog, Buster, very much.

"Sometimes this is the first time for a young person to experience a death," said Sharon Lewinsky, the family's memorial counselor at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland.

On that October afternoon, the Cameron and Ortiz families of Redford lovingly wrapped their dog Buster in his own blanket and said their goodbyes as he was buried. Robert was allowed to come home early from school to attend the service.

"It's hard to say good-bye," said Dana Hannan, Robert's mother. "It's nice to be able to have a place to come and bring flowers."

Buster was a schnauzer/terrier/dachshund mix and a special pet to Robert.

"We got Buster out of the shelter and they grew up together," said Hannan. "That was his buddy."

The family found out about the local pet cemetery from Virginia Reinke, Dana Hannan's aunt and a Westland resident. She buried her own pets at the cemetery and recommended it because of the professional staff and location. Reinke said its a good choice for those who can afford it.

Touching moment: *Robert Ortiz and his grandmother, Shirley Cameron, place flowers on the grave of their beloved pet Buster at the Garden of Our Little Friends pet cemetery in Westland.*

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Dispel any thoughts of Steven King's thriller "Pet Sematary" from your mind. When a beloved pet dies, the experience is one of grief and sorrow, not fear. Nothing demonstrates the affection owners have for their pets more than a place dedicated to the memories of those precious, mostly furry, members of the family.

The Garden of Our Little Friends is devoted to pets who passed on and the owners who adored and cared for them. The pet cemetery was added in January 1986.

Please see CEMETERY, B2

Driving from page B1

– begins diminishing after age 55 although at a different rate for each person, according to Cardimen.

This "window of attention" includes visual acuity plus other factors, but, "if we lose 40 percent of our cognitive abilities, statistically we have a 94-percent chance" of being in a crash within one year.

"If we can measure cognitive abilities and tell people they are having trouble, we can mitigate it," Cardimen said.

He said a 92-year-old woman in Milford "had the highest UFOV in the whole class.

"We complimented her and she said, 'I have to be strong to take care of the old people back at the center,' " he said.

And what of the elderly couple at Greenfield Village?

"We persuaded them to switch," Cardimen said.

TIA usually presents its senior workshops to groups of up to 25 at retirement centers in six of southeast Michigan's seven counties – Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Livingston.

The workshops run from March to November to accommodate road-testing of seniors in their own vehicles.

The Traffic Improvement Association held more than 25 workshops in 1999.

Draft form

SEMCOG's Evans has been working on the Elderly Mobility and Safety Plan of Action for Michigan, now in draft form with the Michigan Safety Commission. She, SEMCOG and other organizations statewide will offer more recommendations in December.

The Safety Plan of Action is very broad and all-encompassing, Evans said.

It's designed to make traffic engineers, city planners and people in general more aware of what's needed to make roads safer for all drivers.

Among its recommendations are larger traffic-signal lights and regulatory signs, additional intersections with protected, green-arrow left-turn lanes, ways to improve alternative transportation for people who no longer drive and even "planning urban and suburban developments to allow for walking to the pharmacy," Evans said.

An education section has suggestions for making the public more aware of where to get assistance with traffic problems or where to send those needing beginning or advanced driver training.

The plan doesn't call for stricter licensing at this time but rather for more effective screening tools, Evans added.

Cemetery from page B1

"This is closure," said Lewinsky. "It's very important. People who don't have pets usually don't understand it. I'm really proud of this Garden of Our Little Friends.

"This young boy, he's going to remember this experience. I find this very special."

Stones carved with messages of love and bouquets of flowers mark the final resting places of dogs, cats, hamsters, iguanas, parakeets and a pony who will be missed but always remembered.

A large stone structure in the center of the cemetery is for those animals who have been individually cremated and placed in cultured marble urns.

Headstones are not required at the pet cemetery, but can be purchased there. The Rock Shoppe, at 6275 Gottfredson in Plymouth, specializes in landscaping, but also carves pet memorials.

"We do all kinds of stonework," said owner Marco Scappaticci. "We specialize in bluestone memorials. They are inexpensive and popular. They can say anything you want to."

While the calls mostly come in for dogs and cats Scappaticci said he does get the occasional request for a beloved iguana – and for people, too. A bluestone memorial ranges in price from $59 to $100, but more elaborate stonework could cost up to $1,000, he said. Expect two weeks to prepare the stone which can be shipped in the mail.

Not so unusual

Flowers, wreaths and grave blankets can be laid on the sites, and Michael J. Southam, manager, said it's not unusual to see a few animal toys laid near the graves.

Burial plots cost between $85 and $235 although animals over 140 pounds are too large to be buried in the cemetery. Caskets range from $99 to $345. Cremation costs between $40 and $170. The cemetery does offer payment plans.

At the Rock Shoppe, Scappaticci noticed he's received a lot of calls for the service in the past few years. He attributed the rise in requests to the way the memorials help ease the grieving process.

"It's not one of our happiest calls," he said.

Pre-planning for pets has become a common practice over the last decade, said Southam.

"More people pre-plan," he said. "They come into the office by appointment and sit down with our counselors. A lot of people don't want to do this at the time of death. When you lose a pet, you just call here. Everything's already filled out. It makes it a lot easier."

He said that pets provide owners with companionship, unconditional love and loyalty. They are especially important to people who live alone, or are without a partner or children.

The memorial services, themselves, are as individual as each pet and family, he said. Some families ask a minister to come, others just use the time as a chance to say good-bye.

By burying a pet at the Garden of Little Friends, or other pet cemeteries, there is a sense of closure and a permanent place where family members may visit.

"This is part of an endowment," said Southam of the cemetery. "They can come here forever."

Read Taste on Sunday

Handbook from page B1

Another section discusses driving and dementia.

Hot topic

Older-adult driving is a hot topic today because more than 18 million drivers over age 70 are on the road, including 429,000 in southeast Michigan, and certain crucial skills and senses that affect driving begin diminishing after age 55.

As a result, "There's a disproportionate amount of crashes and fatalities among those 65 and over, not only in Michigan, but in the United States," said Frank Cardimen, president of the non-profit Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County.

But more important, said Cardimen, demographers predict that the over-65 age group will double in the next 15 years.

"If we don't evaluate and develop ways to help that (senior) demographic now, we'll be in a helluva situation in 20 years," he said.

What makes Spreitzer-Berent's handbook good, he said, is it is aimed "not to pick on this age group, but to help" those in it and those closest to them.

The key is helping people remain mobile, because without that, "the quality of life declines," Cardimen said. "When you lose your independence, you lose your ability to be free."

In greater Detroit "there are no (alternate) ways" that make it easy to get to the pharmacy, doctor and grocery, Cardimen said.

"When you lose your ability to do something, you have to ask someone else to help you (and so) you lose a quality of life that is critical in mental health at that age," he said. "Barbara's book is a very valuable tool in this whole process. She really knows her business and is very much in the forefront on the needs of families and (senior) motorists."

"One of the things we talk about is how to broach the subject and help the conversation flow more easily," said Spreitzer-Berent, an instructor in TIA's mature-driver seminars around southeast Michigan. "If you wait to the last minute to talk to Mom and Dad, the only option is to take away the keys. If you start the conversation earlier, they have the chance to work on their skills and continue to drive."

For example, reaction time can be improved, she said, as can an older person's ability to turn their head and neck, thus improving their area of vision.

'Lifetime plan'

But everyone, she said, should have a "lifetime mobility plan" that takes into account how and where one will spend his or her retirement and also how they will get around.

"If you plan ahead and think about the risk of losing your driving skills, you can extend your driving career," she said.

The daughter of Bill Spreitzer, a General Motors traffic safety researcher for 50 years, Spreitzer-Berent brings a varied background to both her business and the handbook, which she produced through her company's specialty division, AgeQuest.

A graduate of Albion College, she added a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Michigan then worked as a government planner and grants coordinator and also as a GMC real estate and community development professional. Among her GMC projects was the New Center Development Partnership in Detroit.

"(But) I decided for my 40th birthday to give myself a change of careers," she said. "I decided to go back to school and learn more about aging."

There followed earning a graduate certificate in long-term care administration from the gerontology department at Madonna University in Livonia, then a nursing home administrator's license.

Spreitzer-Berent most recently served as the assistant director of community care services for the Area Agency on Aging 1-B.

Quest Learning Resources offers training and development programs to business professionals. Its subdivision, AgeQuest, addresses the interests of older adults, family caregivers, professionals in the field of aging and businesses who serve the mature market.

"Supporting the Mature Driver" ($6.95 plus tax, postage and handling) is available by calling AgeQuest at (248)-547-4618.

Music to our ears:

"I sold my piano right away!"
Anna D. of Bloomfield Hills

We're pleased to introduce a few of the many folks who are also singing our praises.

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*"

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."

Lori C. of Troy advertised her car and furniture—
"I had great success—the Observer and Eccentric Classifieds give great exposure to a lot of wonderful, polite, sincere people."

Mark C. of West Bloomfield furniture—
"I sold nearly the whole Drexel Heritage collection on the first day. Everyone who called and bought merchandise saw my ad in the Observer. Your clientele is much better than other papers I've used."

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!"

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."

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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Bullock-Fisher

Christopher Bullock and Jennifer Ann Fisher were married May 30 at Bay Point Golf Club in West Bloomfield.

The bride is the daughter of Dick and Leah Fisher of West Bloomfield. The groom is the son of Dennis and Jerilyn Bullock of Scottsdale, Ariz., formerly of Plymouth.

The bride is a graduate of West Bloomfield High School and Arizona State University.

The groom is a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School and Michigan State University.

The couple received guests at a reception at Bay Point Club House. Following a trip to Aruba, they are making their home in Royal Oak.

Klaes-Gaffield

Timothy Stephen Klaes and Kimberly Anne Gaffield were married Oct. 22 at Vergennes United Methodist Church in Lowell, Mich.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Gaffield. The groom is the son of Mrs. Richard Klaes.

The bride is a graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School and Michigan State University. She is employed as a seventh grade language and drama teacher.

The bridegroom also is a graduate of Michigan State University. He is employed as an engineer.

The couple honeymooned in San Francisco and the wine country of California.

Brenner-Tarchow

Diane Brenner of Livonia and Harold Brenner of Dearborn Heights announce the engagement of their daughter, Aimee Lynette, to Craig Daniel Tarchow, the son of Daniel and Ann Tarchow of Grand Rapids.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Livonia Franklin High School, Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in psychology, and the Center for Humanistic Studies with a master's degree in psychology. She is employed at MSX International in Staffing Services.

Her fiancé is a graduate of East Kentwood High School and Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in recreation management. He is employed in management at Enterprise Rent A Car Corp.

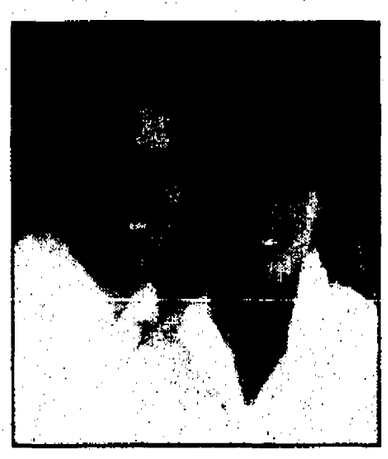
An April wedding is planned at Mt. Hope Congregational Church.

Suddendorf-Scheuher

Jack and Sandy Suddendorf of South Branch announce the engagement of their daughter, Martha Ellen, to Jeffrey Loran Scheuher, the son of Paul and Joan Scheuher of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. She is employed as a secretary in Wixom.

Her fiancé is graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School and is a junior at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. He is employed as a chemical blender in Wixom.



A February wedding is planned at Our Lady of Grace Church in Dearborn Heights.

Fouch-Ingold

Robert and Carol Fouch of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Collette Danielle, to Richard Aaron Ingold, the son of Richard and Linda Ingold, also of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 1994 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and a 1998 graduate of Hope College. She is employed at Max and Erma's Restaurant as a waitress.

Her fiancé is a 1992 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School. He also attended Schoolcraft College. He is employed as an account executive at Bell and Howell.

A May 2000 wedding is planned at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

Young-Grady

Lynn and Sindie Young of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristina Lynne, to Adam Kemp Grady, the son of Michael and Paulette Grady.

The bride-to-be is a 1990 graduate of Garden City High School. She is employed by ClaimsPro in Southfield as a marketing assistant.

Her fiancé is a a 1994 graduate of the University of California-Riverside with a bachelor of science degree. He is employed by the Ford Motor Co. in Powertrain purchasing as a buyer.

A September wedding is planned at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Dearborn.

Molly-Knolle

Katherine Florence Knolle and Andrew Martin Molly were married Oct. 23 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Sandia, Texas. The Revs. Jack Partel and Celestine Murray, former pastors of St. Pius X Church, officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Pearson Knolle Jr. of Sandia. The groom is the son of Jean Boyd Molly of Jakarta, Indonesia, and Michael Frank Molly of Westland.

The bride is a graduate of Orange Grove High School and Texas A&M University at College Station. She is employed as a civil engineer in Houston, Texas.

The groom is a graduate of Jakarta International School and Texas A&M University at College Station. He also is employed as a civil engineer in Houston.

The bride asked Karin Elizabeth Knolle and Ginger Coffin to serve as her maids of honor, with Carmen Christina Knolle and Sarah Frances Molly as bridesmaids.

The groom asked Drake Weisert to serve as best man, with Maurice Paquette, Anthony Wolfe and Matthew Pearson Knolle as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at a reception at the Corpus Christi Town Club before leaving on a honeymoon trip to Kauai.

LaGrow-Graham

Karyn Graham and Roger LaGrow were married Aug. 28 at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Livonia.

The bride is the daughter of Kenneth and Mary Graham of Canton. The groom is the son of Suzanne and Tony Fenech of Northville and the late Roger LaGrow.

The bride is 1993 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. She is employed by General Motors.

The groom is a 1991 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School.

He is employed by Electrical Union Local 58.

The bride asked Mishelle Winekoff, Kelly Graham, Marsha Fistler, Sonya Martain, Kim Breckenridge and Jennifer Stern to serve as her attendants.

The groom asked Mark Cross, Kevin Graham, Ken Fistler, Malen Reager, Jolfre LaFontain and Gunnar Alson to serve as his attendants.

The couple received guests at Burton Manor in Livonia. They honeymooned on a Caribbean cruise.

The couple make their home in Livonia.

Hamm-Moreno

Anna Pille Moreno and James Brian Hamm were married Oct. 16 at Mill Race Historic Village in Northville. Ernestine Griffin officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Juan and Dorothy Moreno and Carol Schramm, all of Ann Arbor. The groom is the son of Jan and Carl Wilton of Brighton and Bill and Rose Hamm of Monroe.

The bride is a graduate of Milford High School and the University of Michigan.

She is employed as a social worker by the Huron Valley School District.

The groom is a graduate of Garden City High School. He is employed as a comedian.

The bride asked Pilar Moreno-Jones to serve as her honor attendant with Laura Garvey as bridesmaid.

The groom asked Michael Shelton to serve as best man with John Watts and Theo Moreno as groomsmen and Bob Hamm and Mel Elandt as ushers.

The couple received guests at a reception in Mill Race Village. They are making their home in Garden City.

ANNIVERSARIES

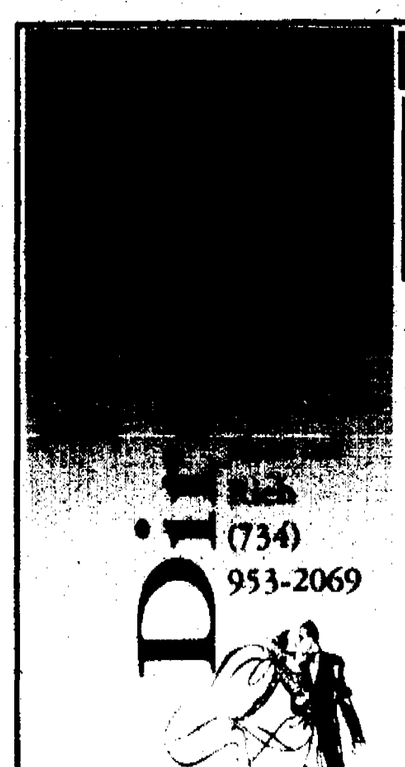
Geppert

Henry and Lorraine Geppert of Livonia recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner at The Whitney for family and friends, given by their children.

They are 48-year residents of Livonia and have two married daughters.

He worked as a engineer at Detroit Edison.

They are active in their church and enjoy spending time with their five grandchildren.



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Rich (734) 953-2069

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For information about advertising in this unique section please call Rich at 734-953-2069

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHARTER SCHOOLS
Janet Cooper, president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, will speak 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, at the Westland Democratic Club meeting in the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, one block east of Venoy and two blocks south of Palmer in Westland. Cooper, who will discuss charter schools, is also a member of the Livonia League of Women Voters. Both of her organizations have studied charter schools. For information, call (734) 729-6248 or (734) 422-5863.

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 hold a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

WESTLAND CENTER

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

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 (precision) skating are needed to build Novi FSC and Westland FSC joint-venture teams. Prior team experience is not necessary. This is an opportunity to build skating and team skills while having fun. For information, call Cheryl Gutowski at (734) 427-0305.

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 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
Veterm's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0627.

CAMELOT HALL
Camelot Hall Convalescent Center seeks volunteers to spend time with residents, providing an activity or a one-on-one pursuit such as reading to blind people or just talking. The facility is at 35100 Ann Arbor Trail in Livonia. For information, call Esther or Diana in the Activity Department, (734) 522-1444, Ext. 27.

SCHOOLS

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 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 Newburg United Methodist Church on Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne and Newburgh. For more information, call April at (734) 207-7889.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
The Wayne-Westland Community School District has ongoing registration for the preschool programs at Stottlemyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Programs include an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a pre-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 children ages 3-4, is at 9601 Hubbard. Parents learn with their children. Enrollment 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 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 age 4. Tots 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 sixth grade. The school emphasizes a basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills. The school offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-1466 or (248) 569-7787.

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

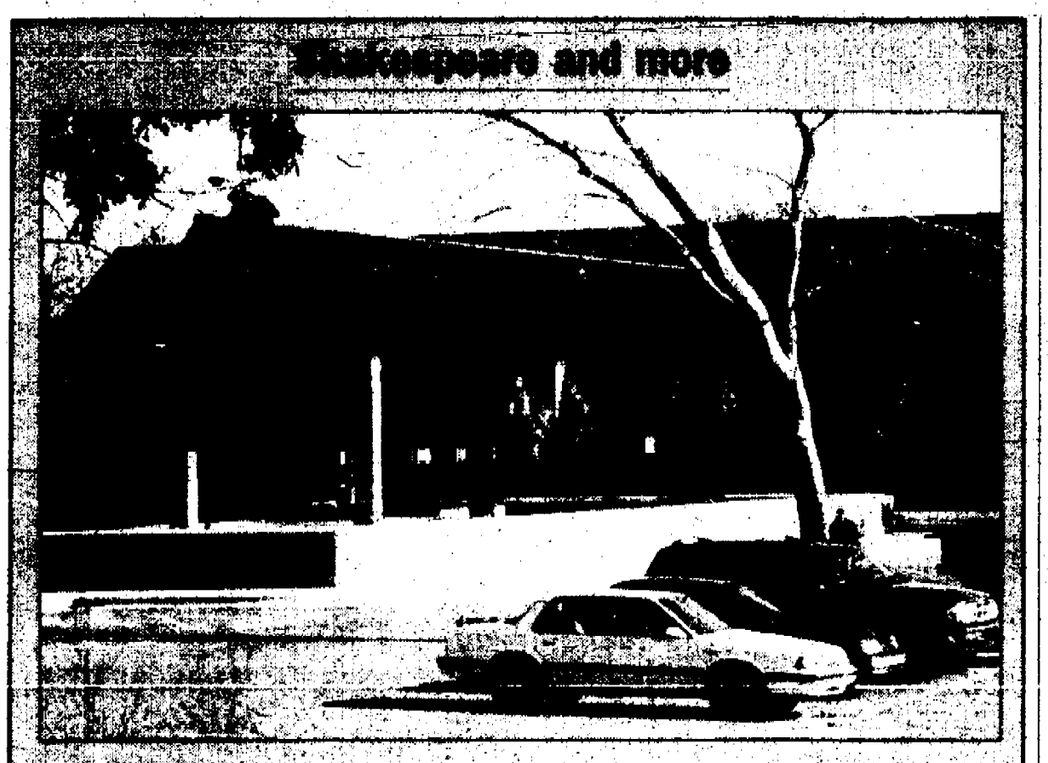
LITTLE LAMBS
Little Lambs Preschool, on Farmington Road south of West Chicago in Livonia, is holding registration. Classes meet Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoons and Tuesday-Thursday mornings for 3- to 5-year-olds. Little Lambs is a nonprofit, nondiscriminatory preschool. Call (248) 471-2077.

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.

BUILDING BLOCKS
Building Blocks Preschool in Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia, has morning and afternoon classes for 3- and 4-year-olds. A pre-kindergarten readiness class for 5 year olds and a parent/ child toddler class for 2 year olds are offered. Call (734) 421-7359 for registration information for the 1999-2000 school year.

FRANKLIN PTSA
The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the 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, 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. Wednesdays and Thursdays, is for students ages 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Leau'Rette Douglas, (734) 722-3660.



***Good place to be:** If you're looking for a good book, or just some information, stop by the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. Current hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The library is on Central City Parkway between Warren and Ford. For information, call (734) 326-6123.*

ADULT LITERACY
An adult literacy program is being offered free Wednesdays at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center. 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 Newburg United Methodist Church, on Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne and Newburgh, Livonia. Children are grouped together by ages in rooms with two caregivers per room. The program is an optional co-op, with parents working once each month. Call (734) 422-0149.

HISTORIC

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

FRIENDS MEET
Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday 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

TURKEY TIME
The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center) will hold its annual Thanksgiving celebration noon to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, at the center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Price is $6 for members, $9 for Westland seniors who aren't members. There will be a turkey dinner, live band, dancing, prizes and other fun. Tickets are available at the front desk or through clubs. Those attending should bring a piece of fresh fruit for fruit baskets for shut-in people. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

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 to 3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

SENIOR CHOIR
The 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 1 p.m. two Fridays a month in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, unless a trip or program is planned. Programs include speakers, films, celebrations of birthdays and weekly door prizes. There is an $8 membership fee for Westland residents. Call (734) 722-7632.

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 non-members. 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, yard work, housework, etc. Workers can specify the type of work they are willing to perform 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 held at 1 p.m. every Wednesday in Hall A of the Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 Newburgh. The 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 ADELINES
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. MI28, 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 OptimEyes, Westland Super Vision Center, 35184 Central City Parkway, Westland. Call (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.

BINGO

DEMS' BINGO
The 13th Congressional District Democratic Party sponsors bingo games at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays in the M.J. Hall, 35412 Michigan, next to the Farmer Jack Supermarket in Wayne. Call (734) 421-1517.

MORE DEMS' BINGO
The 13th Congressional District Democratic Party holds bingo games at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Cherry Hill Hall, on the southwest corner of Cherry Hill and Venoy. Call (734) 421-1517.

ST. MEL CHURCH
Bingo games are held 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church's activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren Road. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

WFCL BINGO
The Finesse Girls Travel Softball Boosters hold bingo games at 6:30-9:45 p.m. every Monday to raise money for girls' softball programs. The bingo games take place at the Wayne-Ford Civic League hall, on Wayne Road two blocks south of Ford, Westland.

MORE BINGO
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club sponsors bingo games at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Joy Manor Bingo Hall, on the south side of Joy east of Middlebelt in Westland. Proceeds are used by the club to sponsor Little League baseball teams, the Salvation Army and School for the Blind. Call (734) 422-5025 or (734) 729-8681.

SHAMROCK BINGO
Bingo is played at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

SMOKELESS BINGO
"Smokeless" bingo meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Sts. Simon and Jude Parish Hall, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy in Westland. Offered are three jackpots of $400, $300 and $200.

K OF C BINGO
Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games take place in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

HEARING IMPAIRED
Self-Help for Hard of Hearing People Inc. (SHHH) for Western Wayne County is an international nonprofit education organization of hard-of-hearing people, their relatives and friends, devoted to the welfare and interests of those who cannot hear well. SHHH meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Allan L. Breakie Medical Building next to Garden City Hospital, Inkster Road between Warren and Ford. For information, call Robin Leitner at (734) 595-0194 or Ginny Schroeder at the Garden City Hospital Audiology Department, (734) 458-3408.

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 734-953-7279. 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

Church's 'Detour' auction offers therapy for road rage

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

They say it's all because of Jan Humphrey who sprained her ankle and ended up riding around in a wheelchair.

This year's proceeds from Garden City's First United Methodist Church auction will be used as a kickoff for a capital funds drive after Jan. 1 for a new building fund.

"Our goal is to build off the back and get everything on one level and make it more accessible," said Doug Weber, auction chairman. "The addition will cost $1.3 million. We need $350,000 to break ground and right now we have $9,000."

The annual fund-raiser, – this year's theme is "Detour – Auction Ahead" – will take place Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood south of Merriman Road.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the silent auction starting at 6:45 p.m. and the live auction, with professional auctioneer Ben Cody of Stanwood, beginning at about 8 p.m.

The evening will include an hors d'oeuvres and dessert buffet, catered by B&E Parties, coffee and punch and music by the Ernie Matchulat Jazz Quartet.

Tickets are $15 per person or $25 per couple and are available by calling (734) 421-8628.

On the auction block will be sports memorabilia like a mini sports helmet autographed by Johnny Unitas, an Al Kaline baseball and a program from the Detroit Tigers' last baseball game at the corner.

"That was given by the couple who bought the tickets at last year's auction," said committee member Sue Weber. "That's one that keeps on giving."

Other items include two time shares, one is anywhere in the world at anytime and the other is in Branson, Mo., an overnight stay at the Bayshore Resort in Traverse City, Brunch for two at The Whitney in Detroit, dinner for two at Alexander The Great in Westland, golf at the Inkster Valley Golf Course, gift certificates from the Fire Academy, wedding cake and goodie basket certificates from Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, gift certificates from Naimola's Barber Shop in Livonia, a cookie bouquet from Cookies by Design in Livonia, and theme baskets, including a Millennium basket filled with canned Spam, candles and other necessities, and a complete set of the 1999 McDonald's Teenie Beanie Babies.

Congregation member and master carpenter John Sullivan has again donated eight hours of handyman services and another member, a teacher in the Birmingham school district, has donated three hours of tutoring.

"There was one man whose wife bid on everything and he ended up just handing her his wallet," said Humphrey. "John's services was in the live auction and the woman with the wallet wanted it really bad. He ended up working on her bathroom remodeling."

Another congregation member who lives on the edge of the Hawthorne Valley Golf Course and who gets a lot of golf balls in his backyard, donates them to the auction.

"He gives us 100 experienced golf balls that we clean up for the auction," said Weber. "They're a popular item."

More than 120 people turned out for last year's auction, the first time it was held outside the church. In previous years, the auction was held after worship services.

"The people who came were surprised by our nice, refined party," said Humphrey. "Last year, everybody asked us to do it again, so as long as we continue to improve each year, then it's a worthwhile activity."

The idea of a road construction theme came about as part of a brainstorming session. It started with Route 66 and ended up as a "Detour – Auction Ahead."

"By then we were in the thick of the road construction," said Humphrey. "And everybody else seems to be doing millennium, so we went with this. It's our answer to road rage reduction therapy."

"I'm already thinking of a theme for next year," added Weber.

Last year's benefit raised $4,000 – "the best ever," according to Weber – for church missions, but the committee is hesitant to set a goal for this year.

"I've stopped doing that," said Weber. "I don't want to get my hopes up. I figure anything we do over last year is just fine."

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Auction time: *Pastor Jerry Smith of Garden City's First United Methodist Church and Doug Weber show off items for the annual auction on Saturday, Dec. 4.*

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PASTOR

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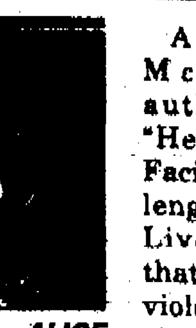
Violence, relation to teens important subject to discuss



ALICE MCCARTHY

Alice McCarthy, author of "Healthy Teen: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives," writes that the issue of violence in relation to adolescents is a difficult yet overwhelmingly important subject to discuss.

In Chapter 10, "Teens and Violence," Amitai Etzioni, professor at George Washington University, says the Columbine High School shootings were caused by a combination of several factors, and hence attacking any one of them will not eliminate the problem.

He believes there is no silver bullet and no magic cure. But this valid observation should not be used to conceal the fact that guns, the culture, and the Internet each carry some of the blame.

"Healthy Teens" draws from the philosophy that parents, caregivers, administrators, teachers, and others concerned with youth development can teach children and adolescents self-control and empathy.

Lesson after lesson in leading health education curricula use student role playing and exercises to teach students how to resist drugs and alcohol, tobacco and premarital sex.

Empathy training begins in kindergarten by teaching youngsters how to identify feelings and continues more in-depth through elementary and middle school lessons. Discussion of important literature and social justice issues also helps to build the character traits of self-control and empathy.

Dr. Etzioni emphasizes: "What schools should help youngsters develop – if schools are going to help lower the likelihood of more Columbines – are two crucial behavior characteristics: the capacity to channel impulses into prosocial outlets and empathy with others.

"Teenagers can learn to channel their aroused urges to activities that do not harm others and yet are self-fulfilling. Sports, if properly conducted, provide a major opportunity."

Etzioni is referring to sports conducted in the British manner, where it does not matter if you win or lose, but how you play the game. While jocks often pick on other students, he says, such behavior is not inherent in athletic activities.

Indeed, when any group of students picks on others, or isolates them, this should not be viewed as a reason to cut back on their positive activities, but as an opportunity for education, to develop the much-needed capacity of empathy.

Culture

Hundreds of studies completed at leading universities have come to the conclusion that there is some link between viewing violence on television and in the movies and aggressive acts.

L. Rowell Huesmann of the University of Michigan recently told a Senate hearing: "Not every child who watches a lot of violence or plays a lot of violent games will grow to be violent. Other forces must converge, as they did recently in Colorado.

"But just as every cigarette increases the chance that someday you will get lung cancer, every exposure to violence increases the chances that some day a child will behave more violently than they otherwise would."

Huesmann has worked on two studies related to the effects of television violence. One he is finishing in 1999 has tracked 750 Chicago-area elementary school children for three years.

He indicates that "boys at age 8 who had been watching more television violence than other boys grew up to be more aggressive than other boys. They also grew up to be more aggressive and violent than you'd expect them to be on the basis of how aggressive they were as 8-year-olds."

Huesmann agrees that media violence cannot be singled out as the most important factor in influencing aggressive behavior, but it is one of the pervasive influences.

Manufacturers have produced a variety of software that helps keep certain material on TV out of the view of children and adolescents. NetNanny, Cyber Patrol, and the V-chips that are required for new TV purchases. While this software is not a substitute for youngsters learning how to evaluate the media they are viewing or family supervision, it can provide some peace of mind.

William Damon, a professor of education and director of the Standford University Center on Adolescence, has been quoted in the New York Times as saying, "There has never in the history of the civilized world been a cohort of kids that is so little affected by adult guidance and so attuned to a peer world. We have removed grown-up wisdom and allowed them to drift into a self-constructed, highly relativistic world of friendship and peers."

■ 'In our representative sample of 146 schools nationwide, two-thirds of schools had guns in them on at least one of the 30 days in the previous month.'

Peter S. Bearman
Columbia University

Damon was stunned when he went to Littleton, Colo., after the high school shootings there, to find people saying they thought they had no business learning what children were doing on the Internet. The two students who carried out the carnage had vented their hatred on the Internet.

Damon said the fact that modern adults have a less black-and-white view of morality and human behavior seems to be blocking their ability to give clear-cut guidance and make strict rules for their children.

Guns in school

Writing in the New York Times of May 26, 1999, Peter S. Bearman, director of the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Theory at Columbia University, said: "In 1995, roughly 9 percent of all adolescents interviewed in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health once brought a weapon, such as a knife, gun, bat, or club, to school.

"In our representative sample of 146 schools nationwide, two-thirds of schools had guns in them on at least one of the 30 days in the previous month."

The lesson: Guns are not clustered in a few problem schools. Twenty-five percent of all adolescents report having easy access to guns in their home. Ninety-nine percent of all students attend schools in which at least one adolescent has "easy access to a gun."

Etzioni points out an issue that is a common example of confused thinking about guns.

"First, there is no 'right to bear arms' that the press so often speaks of. The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution reads, 'A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.'

"The meaning of this right has been tested before the highest court in the land five times over the past 155 years. In each and every case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that there are no Constitutional impediments to imposing gun controls on individuals.

"This is the reason the National Rifle Association as a rule does not challenge gun control measures in courts ...

"Our children's safety requires not fewer gun controls, but more, of the sweeping and encompassing kind that Canada, Britain, France, and Germany have."

There are two important booklets that every school administrator and parent of teens should review.

The first resource is "Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools" from the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice. This booklet outlines exactly what schools need to do to keep students safe, as well as early warning signs of a troubled child.

The second resource is the U.S. Department of Education's 1998 Annual Report on School Safety. Richard Riley, current secretary of education, indicates that the 1998 report describes steps for developing and implementing a comprehensive school safety plan.

The report also provides information on what schools, students, parents, business leaders, law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies and elected officials and government agencies can do to contribute to the creation of safer schools.

Schools cannot be expected to solve all the problems of society; school violence is one of these problems. Many parents and community leaders are already deeply involved in working with their school system to reduce school crime and violence.

Please join in this effort-an effort to maintain a safe environment not only for your own children, but for all children in your community.

"Healthy Teens: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives" by Alice McCarthy costs $14.95 plus $3.50 shipping and handling, and is available through Bridge Communications Inc., 1450 Pilgrim Road, Birmingham 48009. For more information or to order the book, call (248) 646-1020 or order by e-mail at bridgecomm @aol.com.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will publish excerpts on teens and sexuality from "Healthy Teens" Thursday, Nov. 25.

Blue Care Network of Michigan announces open enrollment for its non-group product.
Open enrollment dates are November 15, 1999 to December 14, 1999 for a January 1, 2000 effective date.
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RELIGIOUS NEWS

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

'DIAPERS AND WIPERS'

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne is conducting a "Diapers and Wipers" collection now through Sunday, Nov. 28, as part of the national Make a Difference Day campaign.

The diapers and baby wipes will be donated to the Wayne County Family Shelter in Westland.

The shelter has a great need for large diapers (more than 25 pounds). Donations can be dropped off in the church fellowship hall, 3 Town Square, Wayne. For more information, call the church at (734) 721-4801.

BLOOD DRIVE

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church will have a Red Cross blood drive 2-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at the church, 40000 W. Six Mile Road, Northville. Donors are invited to stop by and give the gift of life.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance for divorced and separated Christians, will attend Mass at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, followed by a turkey dinner and open mike – say a clean joke and don't pay for supper – at St. Kenneth's Parish, Haggerty Road, south of Five Mile Road, Plymouth Township.

The group also meets at 10 a.m. Sundays for breakfast at the Redford Inn, Five Mile west of Beech Daly, Redford, and 11:15 a.m. for Mass at St. Aidan's Church, Farmington Road north of Six Mile, Livonia – call Val at (734) 729-1974 – for coffee and conversation at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Archie's Restaurant, Plymouth Road west of Middlebelt Road, Livonia – call Mary at (734) 722-2612.

IN CONCERT

Organist Ray Ferguson will perform in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 13542 Mercedes Ave., east of Inkster Road, Redford.

Accompanying him will be Michael McGowan on trumpet. They will perform music from the United States, France, England and Germany. The concert is being held to celebrate the dedication of a new three-manual Johannus organ.

A light meal will be served following the concert. A free will offering will be taken. For more information, call the church at (313) 538-2660.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Garden City Presbyterian Church is offering a contemporary worship service at 9:15 a.m. Sundays, Nov. 21 and Dec. 12, at the church, 1841 Middlebelt Road, between Ford and Cherry Hill roads, Garden City. The contemporary service offers upbeat music and an informal atmosphere.'Be Not Afraid'

A team of young adults will offer a Christian, youth-oriented musical ministry at a concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Captive Free band members commit to a year-long, full-time tour performing in hundreds of churches as well as schools, youth events, coffee houses, nursing homes, camps and prisons.

Incorporating contemporary music, drama, puppets, personal sharing and group building, team members reach out with a message of "Be Not Afraid," the theme of this year's program. Captive Free is one of seven bands sponsored by Minneapolis-based Youth Encounter. A free will offering will be taken at the performance. For more information, call the church at (734) 522-6830.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING

The churches of the Plymouth Ministerial Association will have the annual Community Thanksgiving at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St., Plymouth.

The service will be lead by the Rev. Bill Lupfer of St. John's Episcopal Church. Members of the ministerial association will also take part.

A free will offering will be taken to assist the Salvation Army' holiday outreach. Canned goods, packaged foods and money donations will be accepted.

Refreshments will be served following the service.

The churches are the First Baptist Church, First Church of Christ, Scientist, First United Methodist Church, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, New Life Lutheran Church, Henry Ford Hospital Chaplaincy, St. John Episcopal Church, St. Kenneth Church and the Salvation Army.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, will have a special service on Thanksgiving Day for people to feel more of God's beneficence, to express their heartfelt thanks for the good God has for all, whether or not it is presently felt.

The service will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 25, at the church, 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, north of Harvey Street, Plymouth. For more information, call the church at (734) 453-0970.

BENEFIT CONCERT

Nationally acclaimed Christian music quartet, Proclaim, with soloist Jim Kitchen will be in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, at St. Gemma Catholic Church, 23450 W. Davison. Advance tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children under age 12. Cost is $12 at the door. For more information or to order tickets, call (313) 255-3666.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY

St. James Presbyterian Church will celebrate St. Andrew's Day at a 10 a.m. worship service and 11:30 a.m. dinner on Sunday, Nov. 28. The St. Andrew's Society Band bagpipers will perform during the service and at the dinner.

The dinner costs $9 for those 12 years and older, $4 for those 4-11 years and free for those 3 years and younger. St. James is at 25350 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. For more information, call (313) 534-7730.

FREE SEMINAR

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church will have a free seminar, "Is Mormonism Christian?," presented by the Rev. Luke Wilson, executive director of the Institute for Religious Research, at 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, in the sanctuary of the church, 40000 W. Six Mile Road, Northville. Child care will be available for children through age 4.

For more information call the church at (248) 374-7400.

NEW BEGINNINGS

The topic for the Thursday, Dec. 2, meeting of New Beginnings, a grief support group, will be "Making It through the Holiday." The group will meet at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, east of Merriman, Livonia. The program is for people suffering as the result of the death of a loved one. There are no fees. Anyone may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need. For more information, call the church office at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (734) 462-3770.

MUSICAL PRODUCTION

Covenant Community Church will present "Savior," the story of God's passion for his people, at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at the church, 25800 Student, Redford. The musical production is being done in the spirit of the Messiah and they style of "Les Miserables." Admission is free. A nursery will be provided. For more information, call the church at (313) 535-3100.

'GLORY OF CHRISTMAS'

Temple Baptist Church will present its 1999 edition of "Glory of Christmas" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 and 10, 1 and 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 and 11, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 and 12, at the church, 49555 North Territorial Road, Plymouth.

Tickets cost $10 and are available by sending a check payable to Temple Baptist Church or by charge (VISA/MasterCard) to Temple Baptist Church Ticket Office, 49555 North Territorial, Plymouth 48170.

For more information, call the church at (734) 414-7777, Ext. 600. Due to the length of the program, children under age 4 will not be admitted. No nursery facilities will be available.

ADVENT RETREAT

Madonna University will hold an Advent retreat, "Christmas: A Time for Giving," 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, in the Founder's Room and University Chapel in the Residence Hall on the campus at Schoolcraft and Levan in Livonia.

The Rev. Edward Prus of St. Raphael Catholic Church in Garden City will lead the activities which include prayer, quiet reflection, conferences, a reconciliation service and liturgy. The public is invited. The cost of the retreat is $12, including lunch and refreshments.

For reservations or more information, call Deacon Gene Desjarlais in the campus ministry office at (734) 432-5419. Reservations must be made by Dec. 1.

ADVENT BREAKFAST

Doug Haugen, director of Lutheran Men in Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will speak about "Men in Mission" at the 19th annual Detroit Presbyterian Men's Council's Advent Communion Breakfast Saturday, Dec. 4.

The breakfast, served by the Boy Scout troop of Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, will be at 8 a.m. at Roseville Erin Presbyterian Church, 30000 Gratiot at 12 1/2 Mile Road, Roseville.

Tickets cost $7 and are available by calling the Detroit Presbytery Office at (313) 345-6550 or George Irwin at (734) 425-3024.

CONFIDENTIAL HELP

Have a problem? Need to talk? Life Care Ministries of Livonia offers a free, confidential and anonymous Christian telephone listening service 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call (734) 427-LIFE.

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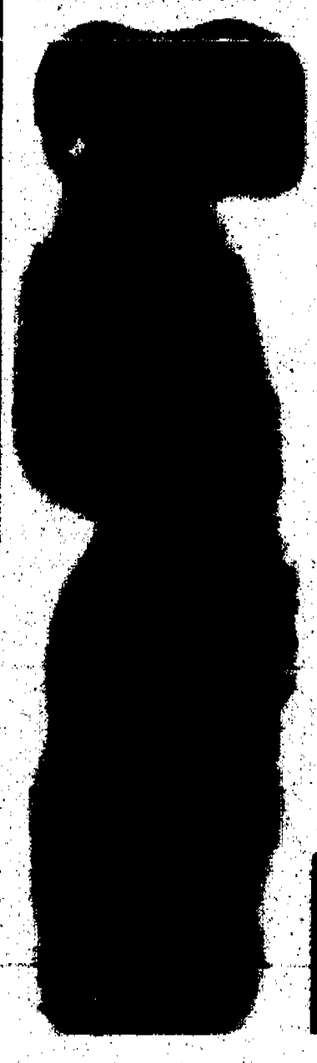

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In Concert

Plymouth church event: *The Detroit Handbell Ensemble, under the direction of Susan Berry, will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at the First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. The group has been performing since 1991 and its musical selections range from simple folk tunes to celebrated hymns and transcriptions of orchestral classics. Advanced tickets – $6 for adults and $15 for a family – are available by calling Handbell Services Inc. at (313) 278-7387. They also will be available at the door, costing $7 for adults and $16 per family. For more information, call Fran Loiselle, director of handbells at the church, at (734) 453-5280 and (734) 459-4263.*

Society seeks St. Anne 'families'

Descendants of the people who worshipped at or whose names are associated with the history of Ste. Anne Detroit Parish, the Gabriel Richard Historical Society would like to hear from you.

The society is inviting people who have roots in the church which will celebrate the 300th anniversary of its founding on July 26, 2001, to share their history for the tricentennial.

As the first church in Detroit, Ste. Anne's served as the worship center for Catholics, Protestants and native Americans for more than 100 years.

Detroit' founder, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, and his family worshipped at Ste. Anne's. Cadillac's daughter, Marie-Therese Guyon-Cadillac, worked with Fr. DelHalle, Ste. Anne's first parish priest, to teach religion and embroidery to European and native American girls.

Besides the Cadillac family, Ste. Anne's history is peopled with names such as Leger, Marsac, Langlois, Parent, Campau, Chene (Chene), Roy, Raymond, Casse, Rivard, Normand, Gatineau, Deslorier, Labadie, Lyons, Mallet, Beaubien, Loranger, Livernois, Bienvenu, Boutron, Magnant, Bouet, Chouet, Groesbeck, St. Amour, St. Antoine, DuBois, Riopelle, Durand, Meldrum, Macomb, Woodward, Monteith, Cass, Wayne, Tecumseh, Pontiac, Woodbridge, Hamtramck, Griswold, Hull, McDougall and Williams, to name a few.

To share your history, call (313) 963-1888 or write to the society, 1000 Ste. Anne St., Detroit 48216.

CRAFTS CALENDAR

ST. VALENTINE
The Redford St. Valentine Parent Teacher's Club holds its eighth annual Holiday Crafts Shoppe 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 20 in the Activities Building on Hope Street at Beech Daly Road, Redford. There will be more than 50 crafters, a Country Kitchen, bake sale and holiday raffle with a 27-inch TV as first prize. Admission will be $1. For more information, call (313) 255-6825.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
The Livonia Franklin High School Patriots Club will have its fall craft show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 20 at the high school, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia. The juried show will feature more than 180 crafters. For more information, call (734) 522-5287.

NORTH FARMINGTON
The North Farmington High School Band and Orchestra Boosters' ninth annual winter arts and crafts show will take place 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 20 at North Farmington High School, 32900 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 553-6699.

ST. GEMMA
St. Gemma Parish will have a craft show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 27 in the school, 13550 Virgil near Schoolcraft. Table rental is still available and costs $30. For more information, call Beverly at (313) 255-3666.

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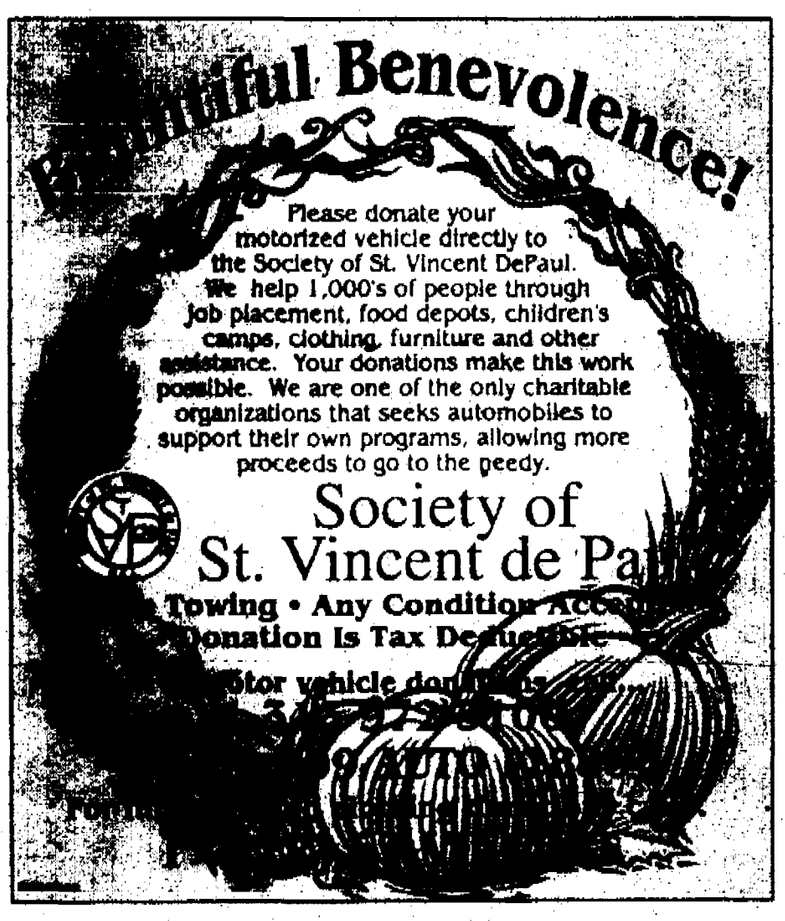

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Great American Smokeout helps Americans kick habit

Today, the American Cancer Society's 23rd Great American Smokeout will help millions of smokers kick the habit, and help youth understand the importance of never starting to smoke.

The Great American Smokeout promotion is the American Cancer Society's annual, nationally recognized day when they ask smokers to put down their cigarettes, cigars, spit tobacco, or any tobacco product because they all have the potential to cause cancer.

Because ACS knows that approximately 32 million smokers (out of 47 million current smokers) want to quit smoking completely, they will continue to offer support and education to the public. The promise of an addiction-free life has encouraged many smokers to join in and prove to themselves that they can live a day without cigarettes, and that they can therefore live the rest of their lives without them.

In 1998, 19 percent of smokers participated in the Great American Smokeout (approximately 8,930,000 people), and of those 10 percent reported they were smoking less or not at all one to five days later. That is over 89,000 people who are well on their way to healthier, smoke-free lives, thanks to the American Cancer Society.

■ In 1998, 19 percent of smokers participated in the Great American Smokeout, and of those 10 percent reported they were smoking less or not at all one to five days later.

The Great American Smokeout is not just about adult smokers and cessation. As the times change and our understanding of the addictive cycle of nicotine increases, American Cancer Society is working to prevent children from ever becoming smokers. More than 80percent of current adult smokers started before they were 18 years old. That's why the Great American Smokeout is also focusing on promotions that will communicate to today's children the social disadvantages of smoking, and provide them with the tools to recognize and avoid negative social influences.

Everyone can participate in the Great American Smokeout —it's really quite simple. Smokeout events can be held in malls, schools, businesses, restaurants, military bases, hospitals, and colleges across the entire country. If you're a smoker, decide today, you will put your cigarettes down for good. Quitting won't be easy, but by preparation, determination, and some assistance, it can be done. And if you're not a smoker but want to get involved by joining the American Cancer Society in promoting the Great American Smokeout, or if you are helping a loved one quit, there's a place for you too during Smokeout.

To find out about Great American Smokeout events in your area, contact your local American Cancer Society, call (800) ACS-2345, or visit our web site at www.cancer.org .

Programs benefit from Nights gala

Say cheese: *Striking a pose in the lobby of Laurel Manor were Hollywood Nights chair Sherri Fletcher (from left), St. Mary Hospital director of development and volunteers; WYUR radio personality Jimmy Launce and his wife, Briggitte; and Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and his wife, Patt.*

Organizers of St. Mary Hospital's largest fund-raising event have a lot to be happy about. The seventh annual Hollywood Nights raised more than $150,000 for community and family wellness programs.

The more than 650 party-goers attending the event at Laurel manor in Livonia enjoyed a pre-party, dinner, concert by The Preps (the lead singers of The Association, The Four Preps and The Diamonds) and after-glo.

Honorary host and hostess for the evening was Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and his wife Patt*ok*, with Jimmy Launce of WYUR-FM serving as toastmaster. Honorary chairs were Gov. John Engler and his wife, Michelle.

Guests had an opportunity to meet Miss Michigan Audrie Chernauckas; Lila Lazarus, health reporter for WDIV-TV Channel 4; Cheryl Chodin, reporter and anchor on WXYX-TV Channel 7; and David Scott of UPN-TV Channel 50.

Home sales in section F

Cardiac center moves

The Oakwood Cardiac Rehab Center has moved to a new location, with more room for expanded services. Formerly located at 1331 Monroe in Dearborn, the Center has moved across the street to 22060 Beech.

"We will have 4,415 square feet of space in our new location," reports Center Lead Exercise Physiologist Jennifer Dykstra. "That's 1,800 more square feet than our old place, giving patients a lot more elbow room for exercising and giving us room to expand in the future." Along with the added space, the Cardiac rehab Center will obtain a conference room/kitchen area large enough to provide health-related lectures and cooking demonstrations.

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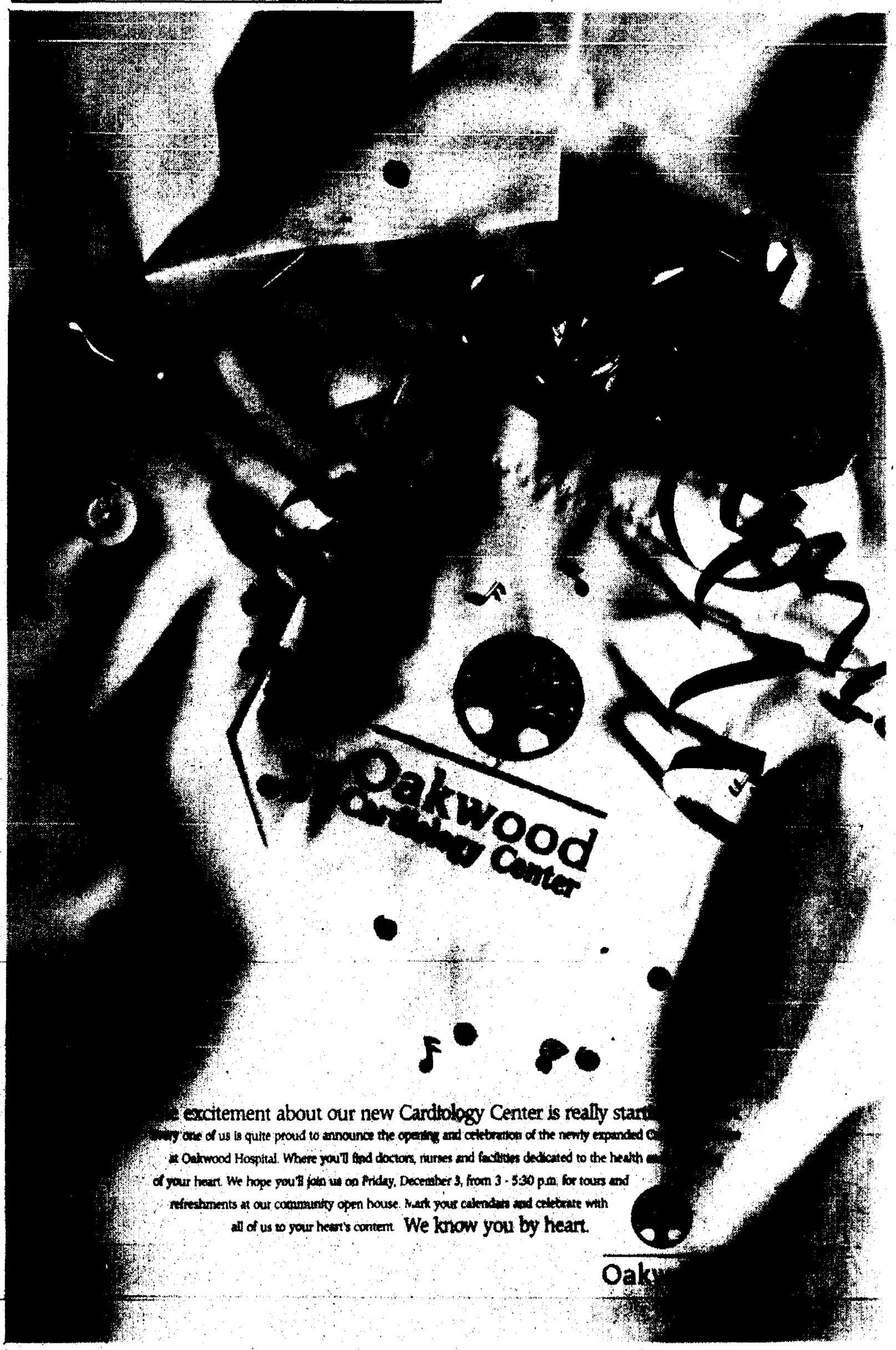

The excitement about our new Cardiology Center is really start[illegible]
Every one of us is quite proud to announce the opening and celebration of the newly expanded C[illegible]
at Oakwood Hospital. Where you'll find doctors, nurses and facilities dedicated to the health a[illegible]
of your heart. We hope you'll join us on Friday, December 3, from 3 - 5:30 p.m. for tours and
refreshments at our community open house. Mark your calendars and celebrate with
all of us to your heart's content. We know you by heart.

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Observer Sports

The Observer

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OBSERVER
SPORTS SCENE

Mazzoni nets All-State

Livonia Stevenson's No. 1 singles player Erin Mazzoni, a freshman, was recently named to the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association Division I girls All-State team.

Mazzoni finished 17-9 this fall with a first-place finish at the Monroe Invitational, along with a runner-up finish in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament and Saline Invitational. She also took third at the Flint Carmen Ainsworth Invitational.

Her season ended with a 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 loss in the regional semifinals to Lisa Sayed of Ann Arbor Huron.

Travis NCAA qualifier

Livonia Stevenson High product Kelly Travis, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, earned one of four individual qualifying berths to the upcoming NCAA women's cross country championships with a sixth-place finish Nov. 13 at the Southeast Regional at Furman (S.C.) University.

Travis posted a time of 17:24 to become only the second UNC-Charlotte women's runner to qualify for the nationals.

She holds the school record with a time of 17:05.5 set recently during a runner-up finish in the Conference USA meet.

Elks hoop shoot contest

The Livonia Elks Lodge and Livonia Parks and Recreation will sponsor a hoop shoot contest starting with registration at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 at Churchill High School, located at Newburgh and Joy roads.

Separate age groups for boys and girls include 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Ages will be determined as of April 1, 2000.

Competition starts at 11:30 a.m. Winners in each division will advance to district competition in Januray.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Summer baseball tryouts

Summer baseball tryouts for the Westland Baseball Federation will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. (ages 11-12, 13-14) and from 1:30-3 p.m. (ages 15-16, 17-18) Sunday, Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at John Glenn High School.

For more information, call Charlie Grant at (734) 326-5626 or Dave Carroll at (734) 453-0033.

Madonna softball clinic

Madonna University will have a softball hitting clinic in the school gym 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Dec. 19. The cost is $35 per player.

Players must register in advance by calling Madonna softball head coach Al White at (734) 432-5783.

OU offers mini clinics

Any girls interested in improving their softball games, Oakland University is offering a couple of different camps under "the bubble" on the OU campus in Rochester.

Fall mini-clinics will be on Monday or Thursday evenings, or on Saturday afternoons, starting Nov. 18. The mini-clinics are for fast-pitch softball players, 6-16 years old.

In the first grouping, there are three sessions: on Mondays (Nov. 22, 29 and Dec. 6, 13); Thursdays (Nov. 18, Dec. 2, 9 and 16); and Saturdays (Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 11 and 18). Those 13-and-under meet 6-7:45 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, 2-3:45 p.m. on Saturdays; those in the advanced age division meet 8:15-10 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, 4:15-6 p.m. on Saturdays.

Other winter clinics are available. Cost is $85 for the four-session mini-clinics; single-day holiday camps are $50 each.

For more details, call OU softball coach Steve Ogg at (248) 370-3103.

Inline skate sessions

The Pontiac Silverdome will host open inline skating now through April 2000.

Enter at the West Gate on the third level. Admission is $6 for adults, $5 for students (with I.D.) and $4 for youths 12-and-under. Skate rental with pads is $5. Safety gear (rental only) is $2.50.

For schedules and more information, call the 24-hour hotline at 1-877-875-2832.

Glenn earns 2nd chance

Belleville next up in district

By Brad Emons
Sports Writer
bemons@oe.homecomm.net

Now it's time to get down to the nitty-gritty.

State-ranked Belleville and Westland John Glenn will collide Friday in the Class A district girls basketball finals at Romulus High School. (Game time is 7 p.m.)

On Wednesday, Belleville ran its record to 21-1 by smothering Wayne Memorial, 51-13, in the nightcap of a double-header.

Meanwhile, Glenn took care of business by dumping Garden City, 43-29.

Belleville, a 63-21 winner over Glenn in the season opener on Sept. 2, will be the heavy favorite. But coach Kevin Edwards is a little leery of the 12-10 Rockets.

"They didn't have No. 4 (LaToya Chandler) the first time and they (Glenn) definitely have improved," Edwards said. "We're going to try to play a high pressure game, but I'm not sure what they'll do. They may try and slow it down.

"Joel Lloyd (Glenn's coach) is a good coach and he'll have them well prepared and well focused."

Lloyd is well aware of Belleville's size and talent.

"The first game they beat us pretty bad," he said. "We're going to have to play really smart, take care of the ball and make good decisions."

Against Garden City (6-15), Glenn jumped out to an 11-2 lead before the Cougars closed the gap to three, 17-14, on a pair of free throws by Jill Merriman with 5:46 left until intermission.

Glenn then responded 13-0 run to end the half to gain a commanding 30-14 advantage. The Rockets shot 50 percent from the floor (15 of 30) during the first 16 minutes of action.

Staff Photo by Bryan Mitchell

Tiger sandwich: *Glenn's Bianca Woods (left) and teammate Lacey Catarino (right) converge on Garden City's Mary Kovacs.*

Garden City, plagued by a total of 27 turnovers on the night, never got closer than 10 points the rest of the way.

"That's been one of our basic problem all year — taking care of the ball," GC coach Marshall Henry said. "It's the mental aspect of not making the right decisions that have hurt us."

Sophomore guard Stephanie Crews led Glenn with 13 points, while sister Samantha, a senior, contributed 11. Chandler, a 5-8 senior who was all over the floor, ended up with nine points and 10 rebounds.

"I told our kids that they were bigger at four of the five positions so we had to check them out, but they (Glenn) got the rebounds and the transition baskets," Henry said.

Merriman, a 6-foot junior, scored 10 points. Junior guard Taryn McCloud added nine.

"To start the game we shot well and both LaToya and Samantha did a good job on the glass and that kind of set the tone," Lloyd said. "We wanted to get on the glass at both ends."

Belleville once again was led by the Kilgore sisters, daughters of former River Rouge High All-Stater and Michigan State player Bill Kilgore.

Ryann, a 6-1 senior headed to Providence, led the Tigers with 14 points. Kristen added nine.

Belleville led 18-3 after one quarter and stretched the lead to 47-9 after three periods against Wayne (4-17). That's when running time started as both coaches emptied their benches.

"I saw some good things from the start," Edwards said. "Our pressure defense was good early and I hope it carries over to Friday."

Ladywood vs. Southfield in final

■ DISTRICT GIRLS BASKETBALL

By Richard L. Shook
Staff Writer

The team that can execute will be the team that stays alive Friday when Livonia Ladywood hosts Southfield in the District 24 finals of the Class A state high school girls basketball tournament.

Ladywood used a press and polished passing Wednesday night to sideline Livonia Stevenson, 56-36, in one district semifinal while Southfield survived a scare from Redford Union before posting a 36-31 victory in the other.

"We're better when we press and play aggressive defense," coach Andrea Gorski of the Blazers said. "We're better going all-out.

"Southfield has great quickness. I think they like a slow tempo. Our job is going to be to quicken the game."

Ladywood will have a chance to quicken the game because Southfield plays Coach Ben Kelso's brand of aggressive pressure defense in an effort to force turnovers and get some easy fast-break baskets.

"Redford Union's zone bothered us some," said Kelso, whose team is 20-1. "We weren't hitting. We didn't come ready to play.

"We have not played strong competition, and if we play like we did against RU, we're going to have problems.

"We haven't played to the level some of those teams have played. And it's not how you do, it's who you do it against."

Ladywood, 16-6, smothered Livonia Stevenson early with 12 unanswered points after the Spartans, 9-10, opened with a 5-2 lead. It was 20-7 after one quarter and 31-12 at the half.

Michelle Harakas scored eight of her 12 points in the first half while Kristen Barnes scored all 10 of hers early. Melissa Harakas had eight, Liz Obrecht seven and Nikki Watts six.

Kate LeBlanc led Stevenson with 14 points and Katie King had nine. The Spartans' tandem of Lindsay Gusick and Chery Fox scored two and four points, respectively.

"We were a lot more relaxed in the second half," coach Amy Rozman of Stevenson said at the end of her rookie coaching season. "For whatever reason, we were very tight in the first half. We did not look comfortable.

"Twenty points is a tough hole to climb out of. But I had a lot of fun this year and I think the girls had a lot of fun. We jelled at the end of the year."

Redford Union had a terrific shot at an upset — if it had only been able to take and make a couple more shots.

The Panthers, who ended 3-18, rocked the Blue Jays with a 6-1 lead at the outset and were up, 12-5, after one period. But they only made two baskets in the second quarter and frittered away a 16-7 lead by giving up 11 unanswered points in the final 5:56 of the half.

"We've played well all year," coach Marty Lowney said. "We've struggled to take care of the ball. We played good defense all year.

"We get stops, then we get turnovers."

Redford Union came out in the third quarter and erased its 18-16 deficit to take a 27-24 lead into the final eight minutes. It was ahead, 29-28, but Southfield scored the next six points.

Debbie Hitt, who had 15 points, sank a layup on an inbounds pass to make it 34-31 with 2:10 to play but the Blue Jays kept them from getting any good shots the rest of the game. Jessica Gonzales had eight points for RU.

Staff Photo by Tom Hawley

Ball pressure: *Stevenson's Mary King (center) has company in Ladywood's Kristen Barnes and Melissa Harakas.*

"For the most part," Lowney said, "we took care of the ball. But when they got back in the game in the second quarter, we got sloppy.

"We heard they like to get out and run and the only way we knew to slow them down was to make them work for shots."

The help-out aspect of Redford Union's zone bothered Southfield but the Panthers were just as bothered by the quicker Blue Jay defenders.

Jazmine Williamson rescued Southfield with her outside shooting. She scored nine of her 14 points in the second quarter and made three free throws in the final three minutes to keep RU at bay.

Kelso's daughter, Jennifer, scored nine points for the Blue Jays.

"They have good outside shooters when they get their feet set," Gorski said of Southfield. "We'll see if we can keep them from getting set.

"We're not going to do anything special. We'll try to get the ball inside. And if the (fast) break is there, we'll try to take advantage of it."

Southfield will have to adjust to Ladywood's lightning ball movement and cutting. Stevenson brought in some boys for three practices in an effort to get used to the Blazers' speed game.

"And we still had a tough time stopping it," Rozman added.

MEN'S SOCCER

Dynamic UK pair eye trip to NCAA

Sersen, Stonestreet help lead Wildcats into matchup vs. IU

By Brad Emons
Sports Writer
bemons@oe.homecomm.net

The University of Kentucky's men's basketball program will always be king in Lexington.

But at least this week there's room for the men's soccer program after the host Wildcats captured the Mid-American Conference title Sunday with a 2-1 victory over Northern Illinois.

And thanks to the efforts of two senior defenders, sweeper Scott Sersen (Livonia Stevenson) and stopper Todd Stonestreet (Plymouth Canton), the Wildcats (13-6-1 overall) will play in their first-ever NCAA tournament game Sunday against defending champion Indiana (16-3) in Bloomington.

"There's kind of been a buzz on campus," said Sersen. "Everybody pays attention to basketball, but people around campus are congratulating us and wishing us good luck. It's the most attention we've ever gotten."

Not that Tubby Smith and the guys will ever take a back seat, but UK men's soccer can now be found on the front pages of the Lexington Herald-Leader.

"It's real gratifying because we've been so close the last three years, but now the weight has been lifted off our shoulders," Stonestreet said. "This year we've had the perfect chemistry. This group of seniors is all about winning. We make everybody feel like they're part of the team. We're friends and that brings everybody together."

UK coach Ian Collins, who has put together the upstart Wildcats, likes what he sees in both Sersen and Stonestreet.

Sersen, who became a starter as a junior, missed seven games this season with a broken foot. His absence was noted when UK went on a mid-season four-game losing streak.

"Scott plays a very important leadership role," Collins said. "His communication skills, his understanding of the game and how he relates to his teammates, along with his knowledge of tactics, are very good.

"The players relate to him very well. He's been a solid defender and has always been enthusiastic, like a coach on the field.

"Scott also has a great personality. He's easily the team comedian."

Sersen tried to make the best of his seven-game absence.

"It was terrible sitting on the sideline, but I decided I was going to be the team cheerleader," Sersen said. "I was almost an assistant coach. I was the middle man between the players and the coach."

Building "team chemistry" was also Sersen's role as a tri-captain along with Stonestreet.

"The biggest transformation this team has made is that the seniors no longer look down or segregate themselves from the underclassman," he said. "We took all the freshmen under our wings and treat them equals."

Stonestreet, who became a full-time starter as a sophomore, was a second team All-MAC selection, but Collins believes the Canton grad deserves more recognition.

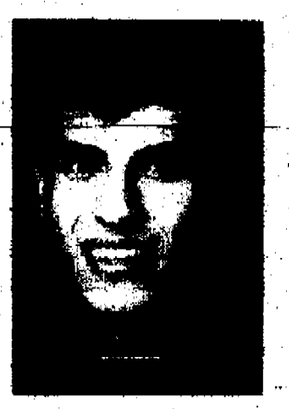
"I believe Todd is the most underrated defender in America," the UK coach said. "His job is to mark the opposing team's most dangerous offensive player. We've played five or six top 20 teams this season and nobody has gotten the best of him.

"Todd is very quiet off the field,

Please see KENTUCKY BOB, C4

Matt Daly
Redford CC

Doug Gibbons
Redford CC



Charlie Stamboulian
North Farmington

Donnie Warner
Plymouth Salem

1st-team All-Area selections

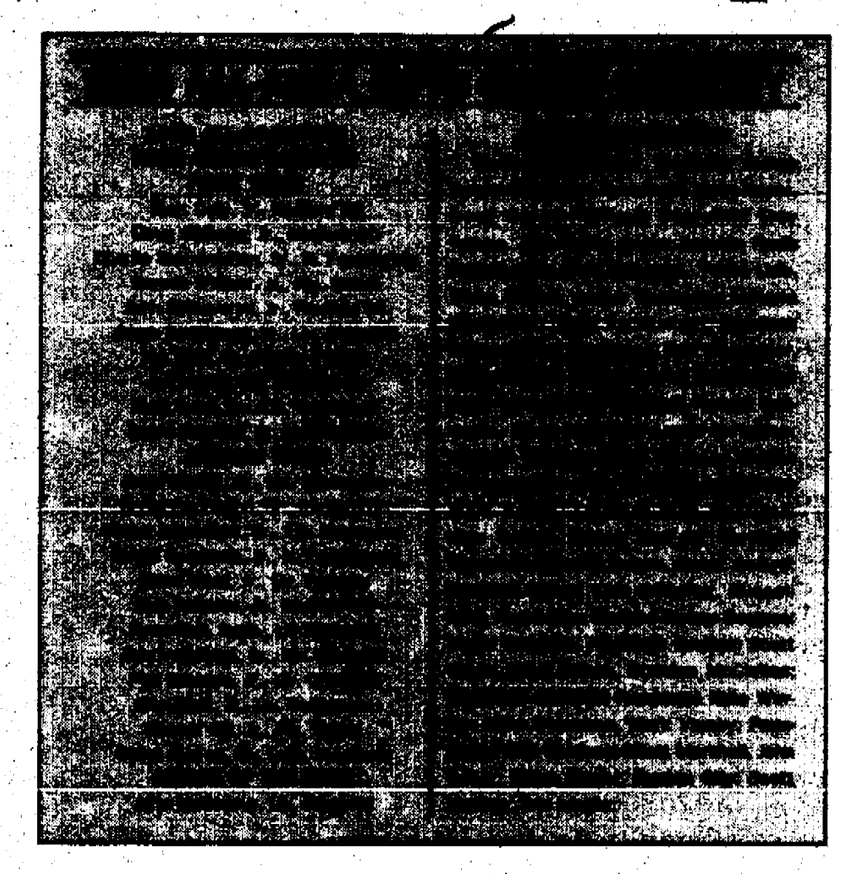
John DiGiovanni
Redford CC

Jason Richmond
Livonia Churchill

Joe Wax
Redford Union

Jeff Haller
Redford CC

Shamrock quartet set All-Observer pace



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

John McGreevy believes there is strength in numbers.

The fifth-year boys cross country coach at Livonia Churchill has slowly built his program up from thee bottom of the Western Lakes Activities Association to a state qualifying berth this season, ending a 16-year drought.

The Chargers wound up 17th at the state Class A meet.

"We had 30 kids this year and that makes a big, big difference," said McGreevy, who guided Churchill to its second straight Western Division title in the WLAA and a fourth-place finish in the league meet. "In the fall we separate, but in the summer we work hand-in-hand with the girls program and it works out nice'

"I get kids out of the hall and I also get them from track team."

McGreevy, named Observerland Coach of the Year, is also an assistant boys track coach and counselor at Churchill.

McGreevy is a 1966 graduate of Livonia Franklin and graduated from the University of Detroit where he majored in history and English. He later earned a masters degree in guidance counseling from Eastern Michigan University.

McGreevy coached track for 16 years and cross country for 13 at Redford Bishop Borgess before moving over to Churchill. At Borgess, two of McGreevy's girls' teams qualified for the state meet (1987-88).

So what are the prospects for next season's Chargers?

"We'll lose our front-runner Jason Richmond, and two other seniors in Danny Valentino and Paul Mercier," McGreevy said. "But we look pretty solid next year because we have five runners back who competed at the state meet."

Redford Catholic Central, sixth in the state Class A meet, leads the All-Observer squad with four runners.

Matt Isner
Livonia Stevenson

Steve Stewart
Livonia Franklin

John McGreevy
Coach of the Year

Among the first-team All-Area repeat selections are CC"s Matt Daly and John DiGiovanni, along with Churchill's Richmond.

Introducing the 1999 All-Area boys cross country team.

Matt Daly, Jr., Redford CC: Daly is a repeat selection to the All-Observer first team and this year added all-state to his resume.

Daly finished sixth individually in the Class A meet in a time of 15:43 after winning the regional (15:56). The times helped the Shamrocks win the regional and take sixth at the state meet.

He also had first-place finishes at the Catholic League and Sturgis meets as well as second at the CC and Haslett invitationals and third at the Holly Invitational.

Undefeated this year in dual meets, he carries a 4.0 grade point average.

"Matt is a first-rate runner, consistent and focused in every race," CC coach Tony Magni said. "He is a fierce competitor yet humble in acceptance of his victories. Matt is an accomplished student and a gracious sportsman, determined to be the best he can be."

Doug Gibbons, Jr., Redford CC: Gibbons had a memorable first year on the CC cross country team, earning all-state honors after taking fifth in the regional (16:27) and 17th at the state meet (16:16).

He placed second at both the Catholic League and Sturgis meets and fourth at the CC Invitational. Gibbons played soccer his first two years at CC before opting to run cross country this season.

He is a distance runner on the CC track team in the spring.

"Doug was a welcome addition to the team," CC coach Tony Magni said. "His approach to running at the start of the season was timid and reserved but as he grew more confident his finishing time improved each race. He saved his best race for the state finals and attained all-state honors - a remarkable accomplishment for a first-year runner."

Charlie Stamboulian, Sr., N. Farmington: Stamboulian concluded his high school career by qualifying for the state finals and finishing 32nd with his best time of the season (16:23).

He was seventh in the regional (16:36), second in the Western Lakes (17:02) and 13th in Oakland County (17:01). The North team captain earned all-WLAA and all-county recognition.

Stamboulian qualified the last two years for the state meet and was All-WLAA three straight years. He was named the most valuable runner for North the last two years.

"Charlie will be truly missed at North Farmington for his athletic abilities and his strong leadership qualities," North Farmington coach Paul Welch said. "He was real dedicated. He'd do anything you asked him. He was a good person to have on the team, and he's going to be missed."

Donnie Warner, Jr., Ply. Salem: Warner, who played both soccer and ran cross country in 1998, had quite a 1999 season with the Salem harriers.

He finished 41st in the state meet with a personal best time of 16:32.6, along with a 14th-place regional time of 16:50.4. Warner also added a seventh-place time of 17:22.3 on the Kensington Metropark course in the WLAA meet.

"This is Donnie's first full year of cross country," Salem coach Geoff Baker said. "He played soccer and has run cross country the last two. He had a great junior year and I'm looking forward to him having a great senior year.

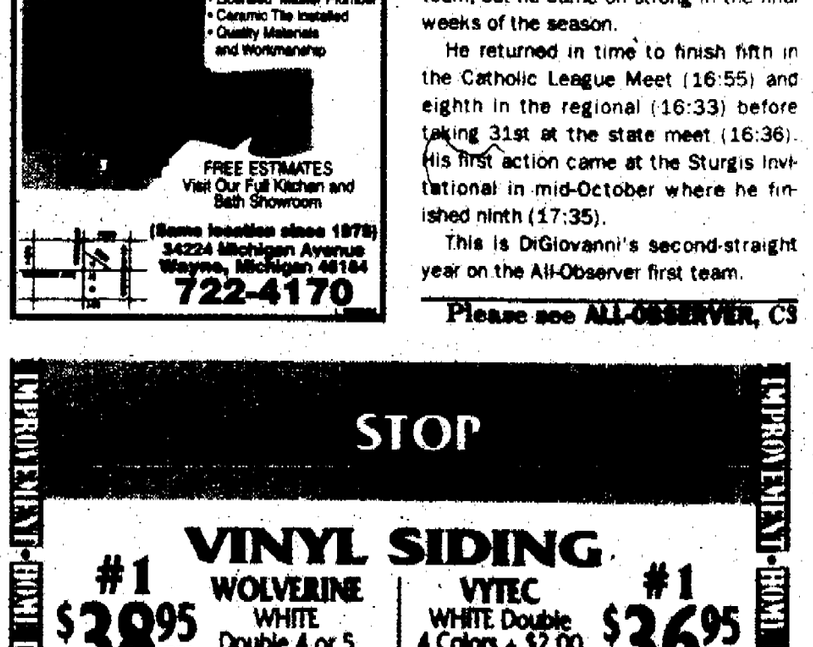
"Donnie is a hard worker and a great leader."

John DiGiovanni, Jr., Redford CC: A stress fracture in one of his knees limited DiGiovanni's contributions to the CC team, but he came on strong in the final weeks of the season.

He returned in time to finish fifth in the Catholic League Meet (16:55) and eighth in the regional (16:33) before taking 31st at the state meet (16:36). His first action came at the Sturgis Invitational in mid-October where he finished ninth (17:35).

This is DiGiovanni's second-straight year on the All-Observer first team.

Please see ALL-OBSERVER, C3



All-Observer *from page C2*

"John endured a frustrating and emotional season of medical setbacks that consisted of hours and days of rehabilitation to get back into running with the team. With diligence and perseverance he successfully attained his goal. John was born to run and we expect he'll be among the leaders again next year."

Jason Richmond, Sr., Liv. Churchill: The senior was the Chargers' most consistent runner during the season.

He finished 53rd in the state meet, sixth at the regional (with a season best time of 16:29) and fifth in the Western Lakes meet (17:12).

He also was Livonia Public Schools champion (17:10), fifth at the New Boston Huron Invitational (16:52), sixth at the Redford Union Invitational (16:48.5) and 12th at the Brother Rice Invitational (17:09).

He holds the Churchill record at Cass Benton Park (16:23).

"Jason has been the primary reason the Churchill boys program has become competitive," coach John McGreevy said. "He has not only been a fine runner, but an excellent role model and leader. Jason has a strong desire to excel. It will take quite an effort to replace him.

"He has become a familiar figure running through Hines Park at any time of the day, week or year."

Richmond also excels in the classroom, carrying a 3.74 grade-point average.

Joe Wax, Sr., Redford Union: Wax finished ninth in the Mega Conference White Division, 12th in the Class A regional and 61st in the state meet (16:41.2), all on a bad foot.

Wax competed the last month of the season despite suffering torn ligaments in one of his feet. A cast was placed on his foot after the season, his third on the RU varsity.

"Joe had a very, very good season," RU coach Kevin Psik said. "This is the first time he's run for any more than two or three months at a time, training the last 10 months, and all the hard work paid off for him, and the team.

"It's a testament to his work ethic that he ran through the pain. He couldn't go to all the workouts near the end of the season but he did a lot of work on his own, in the pool and weight room, and was still able to finish in the top 65 at the state meet. I couldn't ask for anything more from him. He's come a long way in the three years I coached him."

Jeff Haller, Sr., Redford CC: Haller had five top 10 finishes this year for the Shamrocks, including 10th place at the Class A regional in a time of 16 minutes, 46 seconds.

He was seventh in the Catholic League Meet (17:00) and 53rd at the state meet (16:47).

Haller, the senior class president with a 4.0 grade point average, earned All-Catholic honors three straight years. He served as team captain this year.

"Jeff is a one-of-a-kind guy," CC coach Tony Magni said. "His strong leadership and keen aptitude for energizing the team earned him the admiration and respect of his teammates. Throughout the season he dedicated his efforts to insure the overall success of the team. He is a fine runner who proved himself an invaluable asset to the team."

Matt Isner, Sr., Liv. Stevenson: The state qualifier (96th overall) wound up 18th at the regional (16:57.5) and took 11th at the WLAA meet.

The team captain also finished second in the Livonia Public Schools meet, fifth at the Center Line Invitational, sixth at the Shamrock Invitational and seventh at Holly.

"Matt was our most improved runner in 1999, leading the team in all but two of the meets," Stevenson coach John Gores said. "Matt was a very tough competitor and a good team leader on and off the field."

Steve Stewart, Jr., Liv. Franklin: Finished 97th at the state meet (16:49.7), 15th at the regional (16:55.9) and eighth in the Western Lakes meet (17:23).

His best time came in the Livonia Public Schools meet when he clocked at 16:46 on the Cass Benton Park course.

Stewart also finished eighth in the Monroe-Jefferson and Walled Lake Western invitationals, along with a ninth at the RU Invitational and 13th at the Gabriel Richard meet.

"Steve is a hard-working and consistent runner who has made excellent profess in his two years at Franklin," coach Bob Holmes said. "He runs intelligent races that stress a very even pace from start to finish."

[illegible]

Madonna at Wilberforce (Ohio), 6 p.m.
Schoolcraft vs. Casper (Wy.)
at College of Southern Idaho, 6 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 19
Schoolcraft at Southern Idaho, 8 p.m.
(Wilberforce, Ohio Tournament)
Madonna vs. Transylvania (Ky.), 8 p.m.
UM-Dearborn vs. Wilberforce, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 20
S'craft vs. Mt. San Antonio (Calif.)
at College of Southern Idaho, 1 p.m.
Wilberforce Tourney, 4 & 6 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Nov. 19
(Huntington, Ind. Tournament)
Huntington vs. Trinity (Ill.), 6 p.m.
Madonna vs. Cedarville (Ohio), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 20
[illegible]

Rockets secure district opener

A 15-point, 13-rebound performance by Samantha Crews extended her senior season of basketball.

Crews' performance Monday night on Romulus' home floor put Westland John Glenn into a second-round Class A district tournament game against Garden City.

Glenn defeated the host **Eagles, 52-30.**

"In the first half we got the shots that we wanted to take," coach Joel Lloyd said of his team, which took a 25-9 halftime lead. "We did a good job on the offense glass. And we played stingy defense.

"They made a little run in the third, but we put it away in the fourth."

Romulus came out on fire in the third quarter and rolled up a 17-9 quarter but John Glenn righted itself and cruised to the win.

Junior guard Lacey Catarino scored 11 points while Samantha's sophomore sister, Stephanie, scored eight points had four rebounds and four steals.

Tiffany Ash scored 16 to lead the Eagles while Patricia Beasley added seven.

"This was our first game in a week," said Lloyd, whose team assured itself of finishing at least .500 by raising its record to 11-10. "We're happy to win; happy to be able to fight another day."

•BELLEVILLE 55, FRANKLIN 39: The Patriots flirted with the upset of their season Monday before succumbing to the state power Tigers.

Belleville held a 27-18 lead at halftime before blowing out Livonia Franklin with a 15-4 third period in their district tournament opener at Romulus.

"We didn't give up," coach Gary Warner of Franklin said, "but things didn't fall our way."

The Tigers (20-1) got 12 points from Ryann Kilgore, 11 from her junior sister Kristen and 10 from Crystal Stewart.

Franklin (8-13) got 11 points from Tera Morrill and eight from Liz Cochran. Kathryn Borowski and Jenny D'Annunizo each got six.

Belleville, which made through the regionals last year, used a solid matchup zone press to pester Franklin's guard. Livonia only had one free throw attempt in the game while Belleville was 6-for-12.

•LADYWOOD 64, REDFORD 30: The Blazers held the Huskies to just seven points in the first half Monday night to win their Class A district tournament opener.

It as 40-7 after two periods and Coach Andrea Gorski's team eased home from there to win on its home court. Livonia Ladywood advanced with a 15-6 record while Detroit Redford's season ended at 6-10.

Junior guard Melissa Harakas led the Blazers with 18, many of them coming as a result of her eight steals. Junior guard Jen Hunley, junior forward Melissa Harakas and sophomore center Liz Obrecht scored eight points apiece.

Senior forward Krystie Lucy paced Detroit Redford with 11 points.

Neither team burned up the nets. Ladywood put the ball up 70 times but made only 18 shots while Redford was 8-for-46.

The Blazers held a 49-15 edge in rebounds.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

•NOVI 63, CHURCHILL 26: Senior guard Jessica Gilbert scored 12 points and Beth Rice added 10 Monday, leading host Novi (20-1) to the Class A district victory over Livonia Churchill (4-16).

Deanna DeRoo scored seven for Churchill.

•FLAT ROCK 69, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 24: Lutheran High Westland (6-15) bowed out of the state Class C tournament Monday by losing to the host Rams (13-8).

Shannon Brodie pumped in 17 points to lead Flat Rock, while Beth DeCorte contributed 16.

•BORGESS 90, CLARENCEVILLE 16: Playing at home Monday, Redford Bishop Borgess (9-11) left no doubt about Livonia Clarenceville's winless season (0-21) as Joel Clyburn led the winners with a game-high 20 points.

Niya Haggard contributed 14 for the Spartans.

Jessica Kennedy had a team-high 10 for Clarenceville.

•ST. AGATHA 45, HURON VALLEY 25: Switching from a man-to-man to a zone defense in the second half Monday not only helped the Aggies avoid foul trouble, it helped them avoid a loss.

Redford St. Agatha held a 13-6 lead after one quarter and was only up 17-13 at halftime before it made the defensive move. A 15-7 third quarter broke the game open.

St. Agatha reached 20 victories, with only one loss, in the Class D district game at Plymouth Christian while coach Kris Springstroh's first season at the helm with Westland Huron Valley Lutheran ended 13-8.

Sophomore center Jessica James scored 12 of her game-high 14 points in the second half for St. Agatha. Scoring eight points each were Kim Dennis and Krystol Dennis and Kristen Rogers.

Huron Valley was led by Stacie Graves with 10 points.

•LADYWOOD 58, RENAISSANCE 53: Melissa Harakas turned in a 21-point game Saturday at Calihan Hall to lead Ladywood to victory in the Operation Friendship consolation game for third place.

Detroit Martin Luther King handed Dearborn Divine Child its first loss of the season, 56-52, in the championship game.

Harakas added 10 steals to her performance, went 9-for-9 from the line and hit two three-point shots to lead Livonia Ladywood. Kristen Barnes also hit a pair of triples in a 16-point game. She had 12 of her points in the first half. Michelle Harakas had 10 points and Liz Obrecht contributed eight rebounds.

Randee Henry led Renaissance, 16-3, with 18 points. Joanna Cooper had 15 and sophomore Stephanie Douglas scored nine.

Ladywood, 14-6, was outscored 21-9 in the third quarter but steadied itself in the fourth quarter, which it won by a 13-12 margin despite making just 7-of-16 free throws in the period. The Blazers were 17-for-32 from the line in the game.

Renaissance made 22-of-34 free throws. It dug itself a hole with a four-point first quarter.

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Salem denied in final

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

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHMANN

Race to the ball: *Rochester Adams' Simon Omekanda (left) makes the charge up field against Salem's Brett Stinar (middle) and Keith Schenkel (right).*

Yes, Ricky Strong is a great player, perhaps deserving of the Mr. Soccer award.

Yes, the Rochester Adams team Strong plays for is extremely talented, very likely the most talented high school team in the state.

And yes, Strong legitimized both arguments by scoring both Adams' goals in its 2-1 victory over Plymouth Salem in Saturday's Division I state final, played at Bloomfield Hills Andover HS.

But was Strong truly the difference in this match? Did he simply take control against what had been considered one of the finest defensive squads in the state, a Salem team that had shut out 11 consecutive opponents and had not given up two goals in a game since a mid-September blowout of Farmington?

"They are a great team," said Salem coach Ed McCarthy of his opponent. "But they really did take advantage of two miscues. You just have to clear those balls from in front of the net.

"And when you play on a small field like this, little mistakes tend to stand out more."

It wasn't so much Adams' superior play that proved decisive; it was the Highlanders ability to take advantage of the chances afforded them. They finish with a 21-2-1 record; Salem ends with a 23-2-2 mark.

"We finished our opportunities," was the difference, according to Adams' coach Juan Delgado.

Both teams had opportunities in the early going, but it took a mistake to produce a goal. The Highlanders were applying the pressure, putting the Rocks on the defensive, when a miscommunication between Salem keeper Justin Griffin — filling in for Tavio Palazzolo, who injured his ankle in the semifinal win over Livonia Stevenson — and his defenders resulted in Strong's shot rolling past Griffin and into the net.

The goal, scored with 18:58 left in the first half, was assisted by Bobbie Dobbie.

Just 48 seconds later, Strong (who was well marked most of the game by Dustin Drabek) got off one of his better shots at the net, firing a rocket that Griffin managed to deflect high, over the goal.

But it was clear the Rocks were struggling. Their offensive opportunities were few; an attack featuring more than two-straight completed passes was rare.

With 5:01 remaining in the half, disaster struck Salem a second time. A ball rolled to defender Ben Wielechowski in front of the goal, but he mis-kicked his clearing attempt. The ball dribbled to Strong, who pounced on it and sent it into the left corner, past a diving Griffin.

A one-goal deficit had seemed imposing. A two-goal lead looked almost insurmountable.

But the Rocks knew they were better than what they had shown, and throughout the second half they proved it. It took them just 26 seconds to make it a one-goal game, showing an offensive aggressiveness that had been missing through most of the first half.

Their quick attack to start the second half caught Adams off-guard. This time, it was the Highlanders who couldn't clear; Chris LaMasse jumped on a free ball in front of the Adams goal and knocked it in to narrow the gap to 2-1.

The Rocks relentless pressure continued throughout the second half. With Strong seemingly neutralized, Salem had its opportunities.

"I was really proud of our second half," said McCarthy. "We had our chances to tie it. But in the second half, we just seemed to be a step away.

"Boy, it sure would have been nice to have tied it."

Kentucky duo *from page C1*

but very aggressive, tough, quick and athletically gifted on the field."

Collins believes Stonestreet has a future in professional soccer.

"I would push Todd to any club team," the UK coach said. "Second-team All-MAC is not an indication of his performance."

Could the MLS, America's premier professional circuit, be calling?

"It would be hard to go in the (MLS) draft because our team has not been recognized and I haven't gotten a lot of accolades," Stonestreet said. "But I'd like to try out somewhere, anywhere they'd want me. I'd prefer the west coast, somewhere where they have warm weather."

Once rivals on the high school soccer fields, but teammates (with Vardar) during the summer club season, Stonestreet and Sersen arrived at UK together four years ago and have remained roommates and close friends to this day.

Ironically, both major in Economics and have taken the same classes.

"I'm the laid-back one," Stonestreet insists. "Scott keeps everybody loose. He has more of a light-hearted side."

On Oct. 20, in Bloomfield, UK stayed close for both halves with the host Hoosiers before losing 4-2.

The rivalry is nearly as intense as it is in basketball.

"When we played them the first time I thought we held our own," Sersen said.

"The shots were 19-17. We've been analyzing their Big Ten championship game tape against Penn State, and our own tape against them three weeks ago. We're devising a new game plan."

Stonestreet is also looking forward to the challenge of playing the NCAA's No. 2-seeded team.

"They (IU) have a great tradition and when we play them every year it's always a big crowd," the Canton grad said. "We have to stick to our game plan, stay disciplined, leave it all out on the field and expect nothing else.

"I think it will be a good game and we hope to play our best."

Collins is also anxious to see how his team will fare in the rematch.

"It's obviously a tough place to play," he said. "We made some mistakes in our first match that won't be able to make in this one. But the last time we had some good chances.

"The kids have worked very hard. We're going to have to play at the top of our game."

Whatever the outcome, Sersen and Stonestreet, both former All-Staters and Olympic Development Program members, have no regrets about migrating to Lexington.

"I'm happy I went to a great school and it's been a great experience," Stonestreet remarked. "Coming up together, the experiences we've had, cannot be replaced."

Adds Sersen: "I'm very satisfied. To see where we were, and the way our attitudes have evolved as far as the maturity of the team and to see that we can compete with the best — has been very gratifying."

And Collins has no regrets about the two recruits he signed in 1995.

"They're both very pleasant guys, both easy to coach," he said.

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[redacted]

It also cast a slight shadow on an otherwise superb week for Madonna forward [redacted]. The 6-foot junior from [redacted] was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference player of the week after averaging 16.3 points and 4.3 rebounds in the three games.

In Saturday's loss, a couple of factors cost the Crusaders. While they limited Olivet Nazarene to 27-of-63 shooting from the floor (42.9 percent), they managed to make just 15-of-44 themselves (34.1 percent).

Madonna was also outrebounded 44-35, and made just 1-of-6 three-point tries.

Only two Crusaders reached double figures in scoring: Panganis, with 11 points (and five rebounds), and Jackie Kacis, with 10 points. Kristi Fiorenzi (from Plymouth Canton HS) contributed six points and a team-best eight rebounds, and Carissa Gilicki added seven points and five steals.

Nazarene got 15 points from Christina Golden, with Lenita Thomas and Myndie Vaughn collecting 11 points apiece; Thomas also grabbed 13 rebounds and [redacted] 12 steals. Chris Dietrich added nine points, six assists and three steals, Fiorenzi had eight points and 10 rebounds, and Kristen Pena had nine points and two steals.

For the Raiders, Tanesha James' 15 points was best. Erin Kish added 12.

The Crusaders travel to the Huntington College Tournament Friday and Saturday, playing Ouachita (Ohio) at 6 p.m. Friday in [redacted]. The loser goes against the loser of Friday's Huntington-Trinity Christian at 1 p.m. Saturday; the winners of Friday's openers meet for the title at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Schoolcraft splits in tourney

Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team made its trip to the Waubonsee Tournament in Sugar Grove, Ill., last weekend something for the Discovery Channel.

The Lady Ocelots and their coach, Karen Lafata, found a weapon that's going to give a lot of teams trouble. They also found some problems that will need some attention.

[redacted] had a major role for [redacted] this time to their [redacted] Wesleyan 61-[redacted] with [redacted] 26 turnovers, [redacted] steals.

[redacted] had 16 first-half shots in scoring 20 points. She also had six [redacted] and four steals. Chris Dietrich added nine points, six assists and three steals, Fiorenzi had eight points and 10 rebounds, and Kristen Pena had nine points and two steals.

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Tri-State eliminates Crusaders in upset

■ VOLLEYBALL

Looking beyond the task at hand, every coach warns their players to beware of any such potential catastrophe, yet every coach has to endure it sometime during their career.

For Jerry Abraham and his Madonna University volleyball team, it happened last Friday in the semifinal round of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Tournament, played in Grand Rapids. Everyone knew it would be No. 2 seed Madonna vs. No. 1 seed Cornerstone for the championship on Saturday.

Sure, sure, Madonna had to get past Tri-State University and Cornerstone had to beat Siena Heights in the WHAC semifinals first. But what's the big deal? After all, the Crusaders had handled Tri-State before; in two previous matches, Madonna had won six-of-seven games.

Such past successes carried no weight here, however. The third-seeded Thunder, who eliminated Spring Arbor in straight sets in the WHAC's opening round, took it to the Crusaders from the start, blowing them out 15-1 in the first game.

Madonna never really recovered. Tri-State won the second game 15-11, but the Crusaders managed to delay defeat with a third-game win, 15-6. But it couldn't save them; the Thunder prevailed in the pivotal fourth game, 15-6.

The loss ended Madonna's season at 29-14 overall. Tri-State lost in straight sets to Cornerstone in the final to finish at 25-17.

Brandy Malewski, a junior middle hitter from Redford (Thurston HS) had a solid performance in the semis for the Crusaders, collecting 21 kills (a .600 kill percentage), four blocks and 15 digs; she led Madonna in kills and digs.

Stephanie Uballe added 10 kills, six blocks and nine digs, and Jennie Wind finished with 37 assists to kills and 12 digs. Nicole Burns totaled seven kills, nine digs and five blocks, Donna Birkenhier had five kills, and Marylu Hemme (from Plymouth/Livonia Ladywood) and Kelly Artymovich added 11 digs apiece.

Malewski, Uballe and Artymovich were named to the all-WHAC first team, while Burns was a second team selection.

Malewski has led the NAIA in kill percentage through most of the season. She topped Madonna in kills with 582, in solo blocks with 158 and in block assists with 413.

Uballe, a senior, finished with 560 kills, 117 solo blocks and 269 block assists; Artymovich, a junior, survived several injuries to total 284 kills, 587 digs, 66 solo blocks and 144 block assists; and Burns, a senior, finished with 172 kills, 67 service aces, 502 digs, 68 solo blocks and 235 block assists.

Wesleyan clips MU in repeat of Nov. 6

■ MEN'S HOOPS

Madonna University fell to 1-3 on the men's basketball season Tuesday by losing to visiting Indiana Wesleyan for the second time within a span of two weeks, 82-70.

On Nov. 6, MU fell in Marion, Ind., 89-68.

Danny Harris paced Indiana Wesleyan (4-1 overall) with 25 points, while Josh Hummel chipped in with 19.

Madonna, which trailed 43-38 at intermission after falling behind 8-0 at the start.

Mike Massey scored 21 to lead the Crusaders, who were never able to cut the deficit under five.

Aaron Cox came off the bench to contribute 16 points. Jason Skoczylas added 11. Chad Putnam (Redford Thurston) snared a team-high eight rebounds.

•ROCHESTER 85, MU 77: Poor shooting plagued Madonna University throughout its game at home Saturday against Rochester College.

The Fighting Crusaders converted just 13-of-33 first-half shots (39.4 percent) and were only 25-of-62 for the game (40.3 percent). Rochester, by comparison, made 17-of-34 from the floor in the first half (50 percent), including 6-of-10 three-pointers (Madonna was 4-of-10).

For the game, the Warriors were 29-of-63 from the field (46 percent). Their first-half shooting enabled them to take a 45-38 halftime lead, something the Crusaders could not overcome.

Massey led Madonna with 24 points; he also grabbed seven rebounds. Putnam (from Redford Thurston) added 15 points, nine rebounds and three steals, and Josh Jensen scored 10 points. Cox contributed nine points.

The Warriors were paced by Pete Males (from Garden City/Schoolcraft College) and Mike Robinson, each with 18 points. Males dished out five assists, while Robinson hauled in 10 boards. Tim Webb contributed 15 points; Josh Graves scored 11, and Terry Patterson finished with 13 rebounds.

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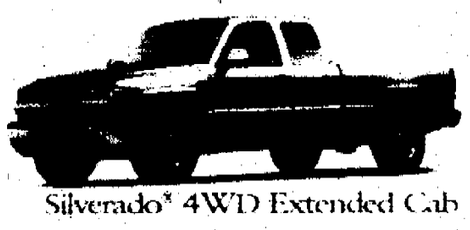

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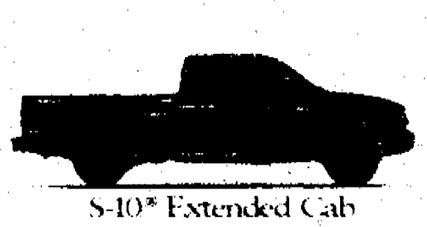

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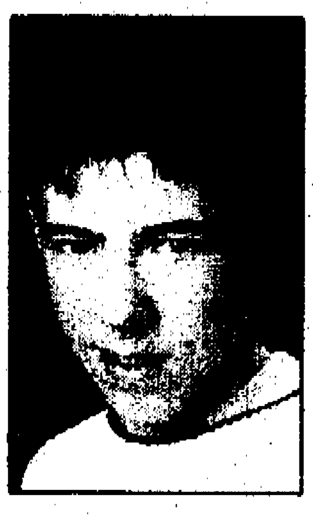
HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY PREVIEW

State champion Shamrocks face rugged 1999-2000 slate

Season opens Friday vs. Red Wing Old-Timers

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
skowalski@oe.homecomm.net

Ben Dunne
Junior netminder


Dave Moss
Senior forward

Jim Spiewak
Junior forward

Redford Catholic Central's hockey team has some impressive newcomers, most notably senior forward Brian Williams, but some recent retirees may have the biggest impact on the Shamrocks' season opener Friday night at Redford Ice Arena.

Like the last several seasons, CC opens with a game against the Detroit Red Wings' Old-Timers, who uncharacteristically lost last year's meeting.

Rumor has it the Old Timers roster may get a little boost with the additions of recent National Hockey League retirees Dino Ciccarelli and Paul Ysebaert, whose legs are still young enough to skate circles around high school players.

The Old-Timers like keeping this game close for entertainment reasons, but don't like to lose.

The puck drops at 8 p.m.

CC, 29-1-1 last season and the defending Class A state champion, is in search of its third state crown in the last four years. The Shamrocks may get a better read on themselves when they open a grueling high school schedule with a game on Wednesday against Birmingham Brother Rice at Cranbrook Arena.

The Michigan Metro League has disbanded and the Shamrocks have joined with Rice, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook and Port Huron Northern to form the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League.

Each team plays the other three teams twice, home and away. The league is unique in that several other games against common non-league opponents such as Livonia Churchill, Grosse Pointe North and Trenton are counted in the regular-season standings.

Trenton, a former Metro League rival, shows up on the CC schedule twice. CC's schedule also includes a holiday tournament in Milwaukee, Wis. Dec. 28 and 29 and the Alpena Tournament, Feb. 4 and 5.

"Our schedule this year is multiples tougher than it's been," CC coach Gordie St. John said.

The Shamrocks, who have won three state championships in St. John's six years as coach, are top state title contenders again despite the loss of key players to graduation, including Mr. Hockey winner Keith Rowe.

Another major loss is senior forward Todd Bentley, a leading Mr. Hockey candidate who remains in school but opted to play for the Compuware Junior A travel team in the North American Hockey League.

Goaltender Ben Dunne, a first-team All-Observer choice as a junior, returns along with senior forward Dave Moss, who had 28 goals and 26 assists, and junior forward Jim Spiewak, who had 18 goals and 25 assists.

All three are all-state candidates.

Williams is a welcomed addition, joining the team for his senior year after leaving Honeybaked Ham, a state power in Midget AAA play.

Among the other top returnees are senior forwards Brandon Kaleniecki, Joe Moreau and Ryan Yost and junior defensemen Derek Genrich and Sean Genrich.

Derek Genrich can't join the lineup until February, however, because of foot surgery.

St. John said the Shamrocks enjoy being the game every team circles on its schedule in the preseason.

"We work harder than anyone else, from June 1st when the players start with their off-ice program they don't stop working until the season is over," St. John said. "It's hard to get our team up for every game with the same intensity. But we'll be at the rink."

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Plymouth Whalers garner tie vs. Kitchener Rangers

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net

OHL REPORT

Justin Williams' goal with 1:27 remaining gave the Plymouth Whalers a 3-3 tie with Kitchener Saturday at Compuware Arena.

Leading the entire game, Plymouth fell behind in the third period after two Rangers' goals. Williams tied the game and forced overtime.

Assistant coach and general manager Steve Spott said he was happy to pick up a point.

"Four of our top players and our two most veteran defensemen were out with injuries," he commented. "We'll take that point and run."

Plymouth currently stands in third place in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division with an 8-10-3 mark.

The Whalers play tonight on the road at Peterborough and tomorrow at Kingston.

Heading into Saturday's contest, Plymouth and Kitchener were coming off vastly different performances.

The Whalers beat North Bay at home Friday 5-2.

The Rangers, however, were skunked by Windsor 9-0. Those outcomes carried over into the early going Saturday, as Plymouth was the team that skated with fire.

The Whalers dominated play over the first four minutes. That hard work resulted in the game's first goal with just less than 10 minutes gone by.

Jonathan Billy collected a rebound from Kitchener goalie Reg Bourcier and swished it home to make it 1-0. Rob McBride and Surma assisted on Billy's first OHL goal.

The Whalers made it 2-0 with 2:52 to go before intermission. Morris scored seconds after a Plymouth power play ended on a tip-in.

Kitchener cut the lead in half in the second period. Ryan Held beat Plymouth's Rob Zepp at 11:27 of the period from point-blank-range in front of the net.

The Rangers continued to dominate in the third. The bigger, more physical team seemed to wear down Plymouth.

Ryan Milanovic tied the game with less than three minutes gone by. Kitchener then took the lead at 14:24 as Allan Rourke tallied.

The two squads then went to overtime. The OHL mandates a five minute four-on-four extra session.

Neither Plymouth or Kitchener threatened, however. The Whalers closed the game with a shot advantage of 39-27.

"Kitchener's a team I think we'll compete with all year," said Spott.

The coach said several players had strong games. He was particularly impressed with the work of defenseman Shaun Fisher, who assisted on Williams' tying goal.

"He has probably been our best all-around player this year," Spott said.

Whalers top North Bay

Plymouth jumped out to a 4-0 lead Friday night at Compuware Arena, then held on for a 5-2 win over the North Bay Centennials.

Underage rookie defenseman Cole Jarrett scored his first OHL goal in the second period and it proved to be the game-winner.

"I never saw it go in," smiled Jarrett. "I thought the goalie stopped it."

Damian Surma netted his 11th off a slick pass by newly signed forward Jonathan Billy (Clinton Township) on a two-on-one. Surma one-timed a shot past Cents goalie Andrew Penner.

Justin Williams made it 2-0 at 5:37 of the second. Jarrett put the Whalers in front 3-0 with his first OHL score at 9:13 of the middle period.

Stephen Morris scored his second of the year, a pretty wrist shot from a tough angle, 2:29 into the third to make it 4-0.

North Bay's first-rounder Chris Thorburn ruined Rob Zepp's shutout bid at 5:51. Samu Isosalo brought the Cents to within a pair 1:17 later.

Tomas Kurka gave the Whalers some cushion at 13:52 with his seventh.

Zepp made 19 stops for the win, while Penner turned aside 35 for North Bay in a losing effort.

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHMAN

All alone: *Scott Wray of the Plymouth Whalers (No. 8) skates in with the puck past a sprawling Kitchener player during Saturday night's 3-3 deadlock with the Rangers at the Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.*

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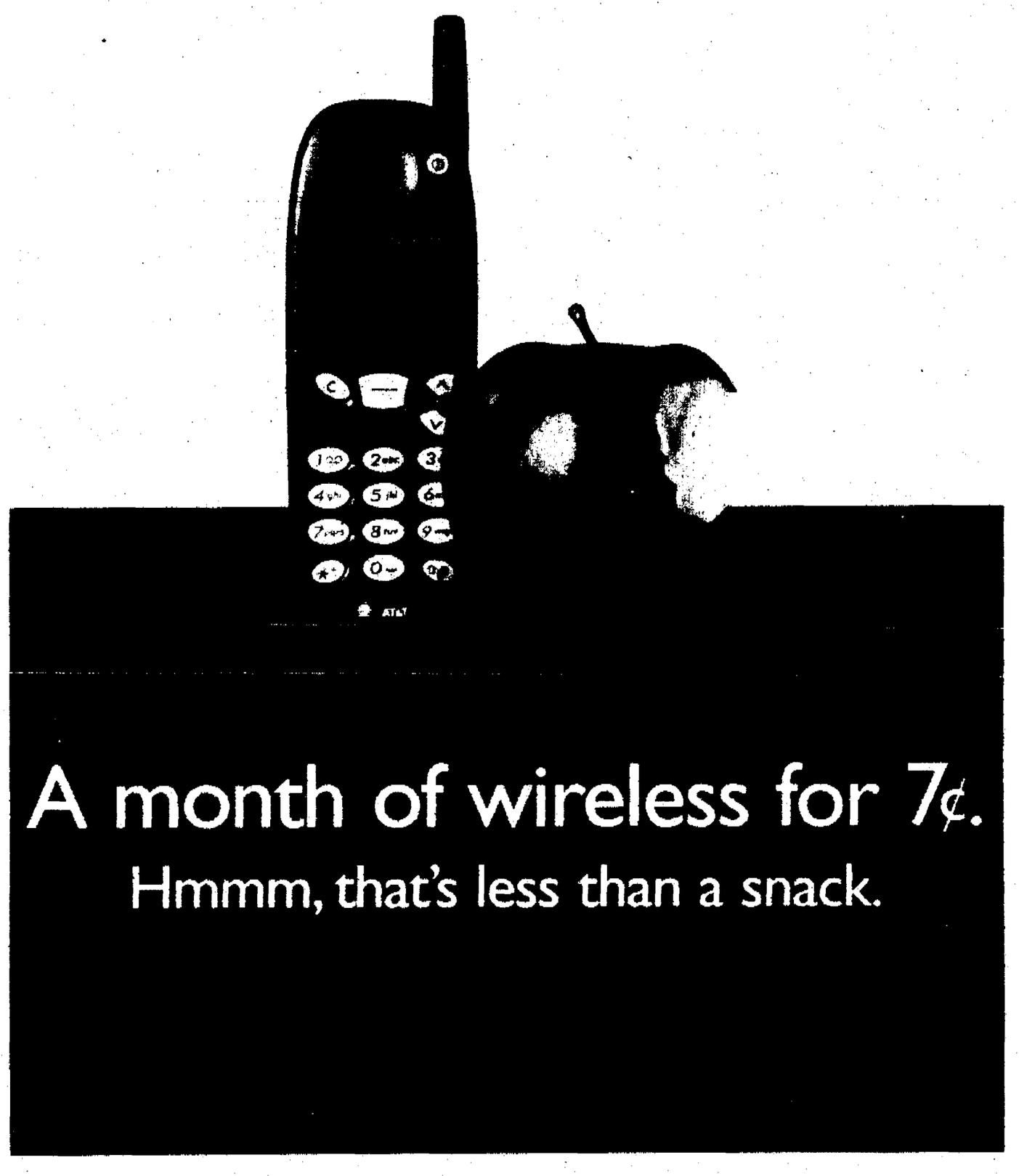

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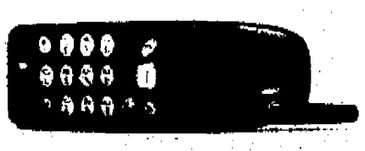

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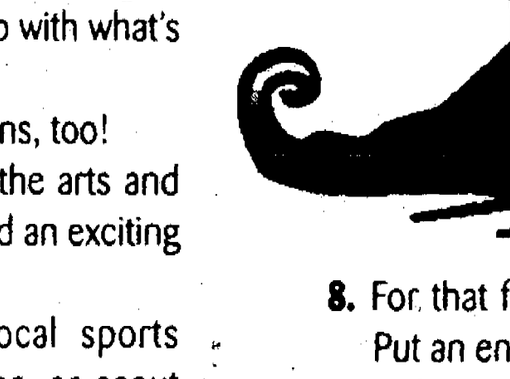

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Entertainment

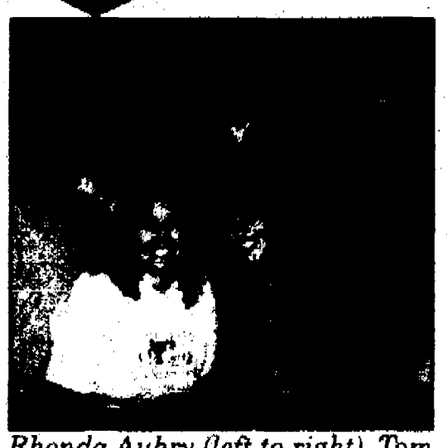
THE Observer NEWSPAPERS

★ Page 1, Section E

Keely Wygenik, Editor 734 953 2105, kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net on the web: http://observer-eccentric.com Thursday, November 18, 1999

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



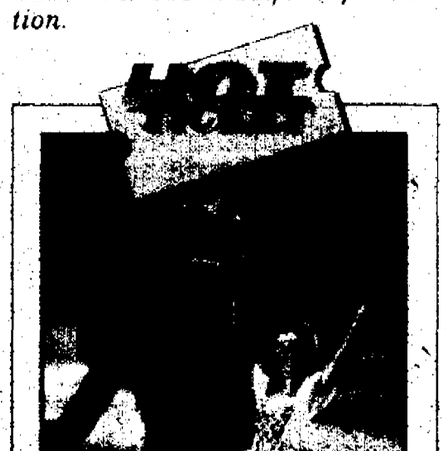
Rhonda Aubry (left to right), Tom Padilla, Kim Smith, Nic Thompson, Sharon Spring, Keith Chadrick, Janet Jimenez-Smith and Gina DeBrincat star in "Godspell" presented by Pontiac Theatre IV 8 p.m. at Lincoln Middle School, Mountcalm and Summit, west of Baldwin Road, Pontiac. Tickets $8 adults, $7 children / seniors, (248) 681-6215.

SATURDAY

Former Detroit Red Wing Dino Ciccarelli and Miss Michigan Audrie Ann Chernauckas will be among the celebrities at the 17th annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Parade starting at 9 on Plymouth Road, beginning east from Merriman to Middlebelt, ending at Wonderland Mall. For more information, call (734) 466-2212.

SUNDAY

Barbara Colbeck (seated at piano) rehearses with Mary McBride (left), Mona Mason, Adele Popoff, and Patricia Knorp for a 3 p.m. Thanksgiving concert at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, south of Five Mile Road, Livonia. The concert will feature singers and handbell ringers. There is no admission charge. Call (734) 464-1222 for information.



Hot Tix! "Disney on Ice presents Toy Story," through Sunday, Nov. 21, at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Tickets $30, $18.75, $16.75 and $13.75 available at the box office and all Ticketmaster outlets. For show times and other information, call (313) 983-6606. To charge tickets, call (248) 645-6666.

A holiday favorite

PLYMOUTH THEATRE GUILD OPENS SEASON

Holiday tradition: *The Plymouth Theatre Guild rehearses a scene from "It's a Wonderful Life," the James W. Rodgers' story about a man who gets his wish to have never been born.*

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

The holidays just wouldn't seem the same if Kristin Curle wasn't able to watch George Bailey rescue an angel named Clarence from the icy river in Bedford Falls.

Curle, who directs the Plymouth Theatre Guild's production of "It's a Wonderful Life," opening Friday Nov. 19 at the Water Tower Theatre in Northville, first saw the holiday film classic as a teenager growing up in Redford.

"It was one of my father's favorites," said Curle. "After the first time I saw it, I wanted to see it again and again. It would end on one channel and I'd flip it to another. Now that I have a tape of it, the whole family is in trouble."

Curle retains many elements of James W. Rodgers story about a man who wishes he'd never been born. Set in the 1930s and '40s, the production is authentic right down to the seams in the backs of the women's nylons.

"It's loosely based on the movie, especially the dialogue," said Curle. "The only element we've added is a chorus who will sing Christmas carols throughout the show. We wanted to tie it in with a Christmas theme. It will be a great way to start your holidays."

What makes George Bailey, the lead character in "It's a Wonderful Life," so appealing is "everyman." Since his youth, Bailey dreamed of adventures in faraway places only to come to the realization he'd never escape the small town of Bedford Falls.

At the same time, Clarence a guardian angel, has to descend on Christmas Eve to earn his wings. Bailey provides the perfect vehicle. Clarence saves Bailey by showing him what the world would have been like if he'd never been born. Up to this point, Bailey is feeling sorry for himself and thinks he's just another "poor sap."

"I'm very excited that my directoral debut is with this show and with the Guild," said Curle. "It's a dramatic, heartwarming story. I like the story line that George Bailey really didn't believe that he was important in people's lives."

Curle's experience in producing the Guild's productions of "The Sound of Music" and "Wait Until Dark" last season made it easy for her to cast the parts in "It's a Wonderful Life." Dennis Hubel plays George Bailey, and Dennis Brunzell of Canton is the angel Clarence Odbody. Marlene Landry of Livonia plays Bailey's wife.

"I knew after the actors were chosen that this was my dream cast," said Curle. "I've liked working with the actors on their character development. It's like giving birth."

Family affair

Hubel auditioned for "It's a Wonderful Life" for family reasons. His daughters Stephanie, 11, and Vanessa, 15, were becoming involved with the production so the Plymouth resident decided to read for the lead.

Vanessa plays the nurse who pushes the play's villain, ol' Mr. Potter, around in a wheelchair. Stephanie is cast as a paperboy. Both girls are involved with theater groups at their Plymouth-Canton Schools.

"I thought it was a good way to spend time with them," said Hubel, who grew up in Redford. "I always loved Jimmy Stewart and all of the characters in the film. It's a great story and something we can all relate to, but my original notion was to be in a play with my kids."

"It's a Wonderful Life"

WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, 26-27 and Dec. 3-4, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28.

WHERE: Water Tower Theatre, on the campus of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital, 41001 W. Seven Mile, west of Haggerty, Northville.

TICKETS: $10, $7 students ages 18 and under. Call (248) 349-7110.

Singer keeps in step with the times

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

"Keeping in Step With Time" is more than just the title of J.G. Contour's new CD with Brother T. For Contour, it's a way of life.

Contour, who sang lead with The Contours for two decades, and his brother Herman Green (a.k.a. Brother T) renew their musical bonds with each other after more than 40 years in the business. Their songs appeal to the young as well as to those who grew up listening to such Motown hits as "Do You Love Me."

Recorded at Talent Live in Canton, the CD revisits those mellow Motown sounds while keeping in step with the times. Two of the songs rap an anti-gang, anti-drug message.

"There's everything ranging from the era from which I came to the present day with rap being positive music for young people," said Contour. "Some of the rap music today is trashy stuff. This is all positive. You can lead them to do positive things. I'm always trying to tell people the right things to do."

Contour grew up in a family where music was key. His 10 brothers and three sisters all sang in church choirs in Alabama until the family moved to Detroit in 1949.

"I was singing spirituals at first until one day my sister Ethel came home with a song she'd heard a group sing in town," said Contour, who was born Jerry Green. "Herman had also been singing in a spiritual tone. We got to Detroit to find street corner doo wop

Please see SINGER, E2

Keeping in Step: *J.G. Contour (right) with Herman Green (a.k.a. Brother T) and Ray Green (middle).*

WHAT: J.G. Contour performs with Brother T. for the Maurice King Foundation of American Music's annual fund-raising dinner. Also appearing are Bettye LaVette and her band led by Rudy Robinson.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20.

WHERE: Warren Chateau, 6015 E. 10 Mile, east of Mound Road.

TICKETS: $50. Proceeds go to educational grants for music students in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Call (313) 933-0310.

COMMUNITY THEATER

Actress enjoys playing Goldilocks

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook presents its annual children's production, "Goldilocks & the Three Bears," 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19; 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20; 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 at the theater, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets $6, call (248) 644-0527. Park across the street from the theater in the Christ Church parking lot, and take the shuttle bus to the theater. Fifty percent of net profits from all six performances benefits the Old Newsboys Goodfellows Fund of Detroit.

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

Connie McEwan has enjoyed playing a backstage role — building and decorating sets at St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook. It's safe — no lines to remember, no opening night jitters.

But the story of three little bears, a young girl who doesn't fit in, and her zany camp counselor made McEwan want to "get in front of those footlights again."

She's playing a leading role this time around in St. Dunstan's children's production, "Goldilocks & Three Bears," playing Friday-Sunday at the theater on the Cranbrook campus in Bloomfield Hills.

"I really loved the script," she said. "It's pretty funny and a little off-center. Primarily I paint sets, but when I read the script, I said 'Maybe I should, maybe I could,' and I did. It was the least scary, it's not a long show, it's so much fun, nothing serious, it's a safe entree back into drama."

Goldilocks is a brunette, and tired of being teased by all of the kids at camp. She keeps running away, and Ranger Rosie, the slightly neurotic camp counselor, has to keep looking for her. Meanwhile, in the woods, Papa, Mama and Baby Bear are looking for a comfortable place to stay. Uncle Sid from Hollywood pops in for a surprise visit and to mooch off his relatives. Papa bear discovers Ranger Rosie's cottage while she's out looking for Goldilocks, and decides it's a really cool place for his family to stay.

"The show is very audience interac

Please see GOLDILOCKS, E2

Children's show: *Janie Castagna (left to right) is Ranger Rosie, Connie McEwan, Goldilocks, and Margie Brooks, Baby Bear in "Goldilocks & the Three Bears."*

Dated comedy has bright moments

Village Players of Birmingham presents "The Man Who Came to Dinner," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20 and 26-27, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the theater, Chestnut Street and Woodward. Tickets $12, $10 students, call (248) 644-2075.

BY VICTORIA DIAZ
SPECIAL WRITER

And you thought your holiday season was going to be hectic!

Picture this: As Christmas approaches, a famous radio star slips on the ice in front of your home and apparently cracks a hip bone. Confined to a wheelchair, the vinegary curmudgeon proceeds to spend the days taking over your household, and threatening to sue. He tells you what to do, he tells your children what to do, and he issues orders to anyone else who gives him half a chance. He knows everybody from Eleanor Roosevelt (it's 1939) to Mahatma Gandhi to Samuel Goldwyn.

Thanks to him and his friends, your house gets cluttered up with everything from penguins to cockroaches to

Please see COMEDY, E2

Singer *from pageE1*

groups. We'd been singing in church, so it didn't take us long to blend in."

In 1958, Herman Green founded The Rivals. Before long, Contour was singing lead. He wrote and produced the group's first four songs, which became hits in 1962.

"Herman formed it when we were getting out of high school," said Contour of his older brother. "The CD with Herman's a wonderful thing. It keeps us intact from the early days.

"'The Rivals' opened doors for me. We're proud of the fact we were the first African-American group ever to do commercials for major companies (Wrigley's Spearmint Gum, Gobel Beer and Delco Batteries) because this was something advertisers had not wanted African Americans to do at the time."

Contour wants future generations to know about The Rivals so he's donated a copy of their album, "The Soul of Detroit," to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Contour's Motown days began in 1958 when he auditioned for Berry Gordy Jr. in a two-family flat on Gladstone and 12th Street in Detroit. Contour knew he was on his way when Brian Holland and Smokey Robinson wrote a song for him shortly thereafter. By 1964, Contour was singing lead with the Contours.

For the next two decades and four albums, the group topped the charts with such hits as "Do You Love Me" and "First I Look at the Purse." Contour was honored with the Legendary Music Achievement Award by the Metropolitan Music Association in 1997. Contour wants young aspiring musicians to know there were ups and downs throughout his journey in the music business. Contour was able to feed his family and pay the bills by working at Ford's Livonia Transmission Plant for the last 31 years. He's grateful to have had those paychecks to fall back on.

"They don't realize that times can be tough when you're looking to record your music," said Contour. "It took me nine years to write and record 'Keeping in Step With Time.'"

Today, Contour owns a record label and production company which gives him the artistic freedom to do what he wants, but that wasn't always true. "I want to have an outlet for young people so they don't have to go through strenuous times to get a record out. But I'll tell them to go and get your education. There's nothing guaranteed in this life. I know about doors slamming in your face. This is where I can bring them in and work with them. 'You've gotta love this business. It's something that I love to do. And I want to keep kids out of gangs. I'm anti-gang and anti-drug. If you want to perform on one of my productions you have to be drug free."

"Keeping in Step With Time" is available at local record stores, or call (313) 867-4843.

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Goldilocks *from page E1*

tive, which is a blessing and a curse," said McEwan. "I walk through the audience and ask them to help me find Ranger Rosie."

McEwan's roles weren't always behind the scenes. She studied drama at Michigan State University, and was active in the Orchards Community Theater in the early 1970s before joining St. Dunstan's in 1991. Orchards Community Theater later merged with Pontiac Theatre IV. Raising children, and a career as an advertising agency owner have kept McEwan busy, but she's happy to be back on stage.

Fifty percent of net proceeds from the shows will benefit the Old Newsboys Goodfellows Fund of Detroit. Children from the inner city of Detroit will be brought to the theater to see the show Tuesday-Thursday. As for those opening night jitters – "I think I remembered my lines," said McEwan with a laugh.

Comedy *from page E1*

an octopus to some Chinese students in the bathroom. It also gets cluttered up with his nurse, his secretary, a wild-haired entomologist, two convicts, an insufferable actress, and a guy named Banjo, who bears a striking resemblance to Harpo Marx. A newspaper reporter shows up in your living room, along with a detective, various and sundry radio performers, and an angelic children's choir. And who knows how long all of the hullabaloo is going to go on?

If you actually found yourself involved in such a godawful mess, chances are good that you wouldn't find it fun. On the other hand, it sounds like material that could make for memorable theater. Which is exactly how audiences felt about "The Man Who Came to Dinner" when it opened on Broadway 60 years ago. Since then, of course, the comedy by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman has been performed thousands of times. Could it be possible that it's growing a little creaky around the edges? As performed currently by the Village Players of Birmingham, it would seem so. Directed by Jay Kaplan, this production comes across as a bit slow and a little tired. At times, it's even slightly tiresome to watch. Jeff Trudeau plays the title character, Sheridan Whiteside. Possessing an engaging stage presence, he looks the part of the celebrated Whiteside, and he certainly seems well-drilled in the hundreds of lines he's assigned. But he doesn't always seem to know his character well, and he also doesn't appear to be having much fun portraying the celebrity, whom Hart and Kaufman based on famed drama critic Alexander Woollcott. A large supporting cast is inconsistent. Admirable standouts include Sallie Savoie as Whiteside's spunky secretary; Matt Rafferty as a small-town newspaper reporter; Barbara Bloom as a loquacious actress; and Gertrude Fox as Whiteside's long-suffering nurse (who delivers a feisty exit speech that doesn't go unappreciated by this '90s audience). Costumes, sets, lighting and other peripherals work well, adding important notes of brightness and spirit to this holiday production.

Musical set to lift mood, brighten spirit

The Bloomfield Players presents "Meet Me In St. Louis," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19 and 20, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, Lasher High School, Lasher Road just north of Long Lake Road. Tickets $9, call (248) 433-0885 for information.

BY THERESE L. MCFARLAND
SPECIAL WRITER

"This (the Bloomfield Players) is an opportunity for everyone, young and old, experienced or not," said June Hamilton, executive producer, referring to the philosophy of the ten-year-old Bloomfield Players community theater company.

A cast varying in ages and experience performed a lighthearted, cheerful rendition of the classic all-American favorite musical "Meet Me in St. Louis."

It's 1903, a much simpler time when the "buzz" is all about the amazing, impending World's Fair coming to St. Louis to commemorate the 100-year-anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase.

The story follows the tight-knit Smith family and the antics of their two teenage girls Rose and Esther, hot on the trail of suitable beaus; two mischievous younger sisters Agnes and Tootie; and their Princeton-bound brother, Lon. An uninformed Mr. Smith (Clif Furgison) thinks he's at the helm. However, it is actually Mrs. Smith (Debra Luria), Katie – the family cook – and Grandpa, who keep home and hearth together until Mr. Smith announces that due to his job, the family will leave St. Louis and move to New York City, much to the family's despair.

Bethanne Still captured the quick exuberance of Esther Smith as she sang her way through "The Boy Next Door," and a toe-tapping execution of the award-winning tune, "The Trolley Song." Still conjured an audience belly laugh during her very reluctant dances with the three most ineligible bachelors in St. Louis, played by Brian Carter, Andrew Miller and Ian Dittus.

Esther's blossoming romance with the boy-next-door, John Truitt (Christian Maurice) was interrupted briefly by an amusing scene where she beat him up, as she uttered the classic line, "If there's anything I hate, loathe, despise and abominate, it's a bully!"

Meanwhile, a cat-and-mouse game ensued between the lovely, composed Rose Smith (Elizabeth Stalker) and the heir to the Sheffield fortune, Warren, played by Patrick Devine.

Nine-year-old thespian Jessica Miller as Tootie, stole hearts from her opening solo of "Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis" and her memorable line, "Wasn't I lucky to be born in my favorite city?" In a performance that would make little Margaret O'Brien proud, Miller delivered her humorous lines with poise and beguiling charm. Tootie's constant morbid references, including her doll's "four fatal diseases" and John Truitt's attempt to "kill her," brought levity to the production.

Miller's performance of "Under the Bamboo Tree" together with Still and energetic young actress Sarah Kiperman, as Agnes, was a playful delight.

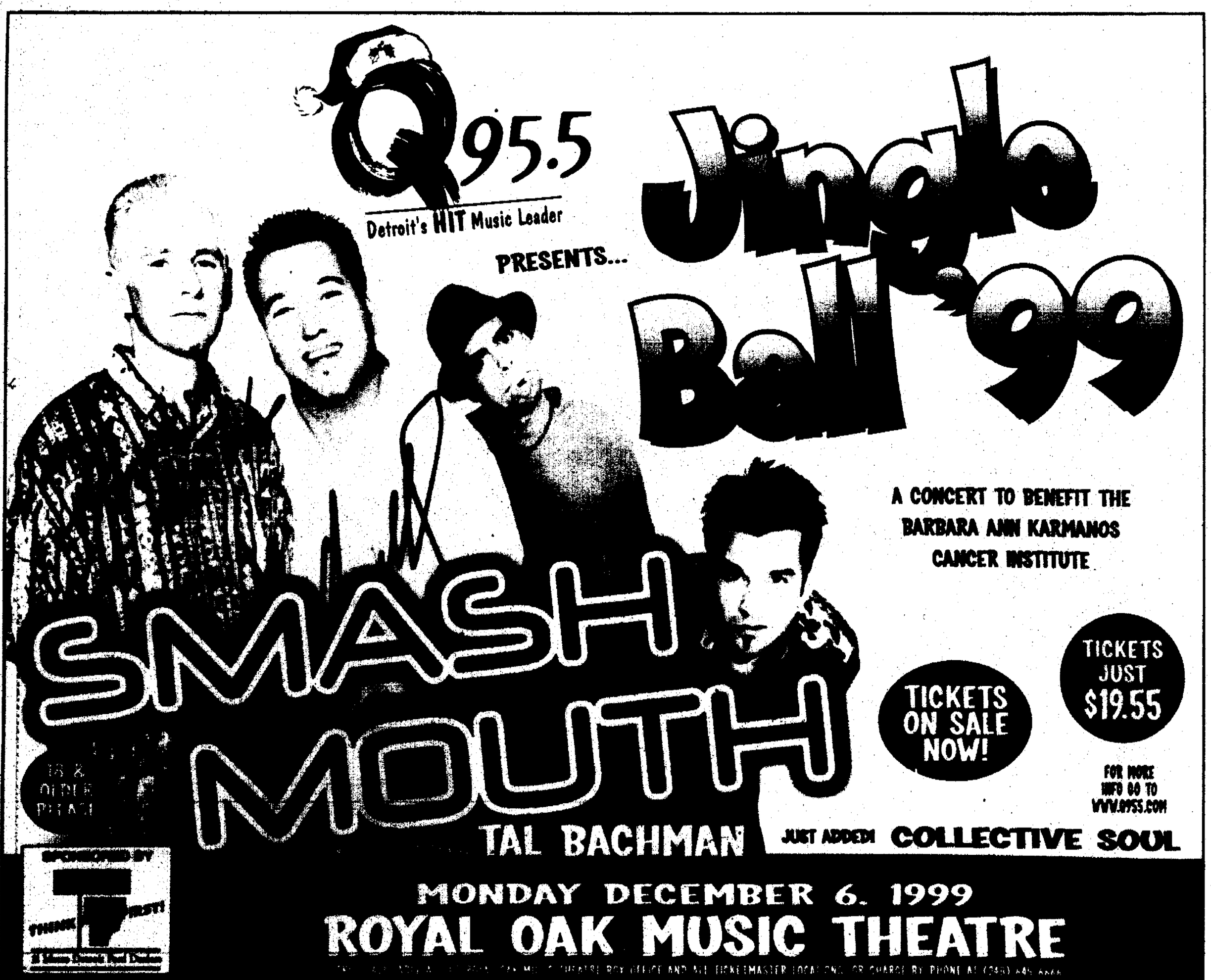
A Bloomfield Player veteran, Larry Miller boldly projected a loveable Grandpa. He and a witty Katie (Kay-Ellen Murphy) kept the family solidly grounded.

A functioning trolley car that traversed the stage by discreet pulleys provided a clever backdrop for the famed "Trolley Song."

The sound system difficulties that periodically plagued the first Act seemed to improve in the second Act. Musical director Sharon Thomas engaged the audience in singing along with the finale song of "Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis."

Other actors included Robert White (Lon Smith), Jamie Hallmark (Lucille Ballard), Carly Peterson, Gary Quick, and Jerry Payton.

"Meet Me in St. Louis" is a wonderful chance to step back into a simpler time filled with familiar, fanciful tunes, sure to brighten your spirit.



'The Women' entertaining, historically interesting

. Farmington Players presents "The Women," a comedy by Clare Boothe Luce, 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, 26-27, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the theater 32332 W. 12 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Tickets $12, call (248) 553-2955.

BY ROBERT WEIBEL
SPECIAL WRITER

The Farmington Players production of "The Women" is an entertaining and historically interesting biting comedy. While playwright Clare Boothe Luce takes a few shots at men ("they should only be let out of the house on a leash") she aims her most savage satire at the sisterhood for frittering away their lives on silly pursuits.

Clare Boothe was born (1903) illegitimate to an ex-chorus girl and itinerant musician. By the time of her death in 1987 she was considered by many to be among the first Renaissance women. She used her beauty and brains to have more careers than most even dream of – including actress, war correspondent, editor of *Vanity Fair*, congresswoman and ambassador to Italy.

Along the way she married an older, wealthy man and later Henry Luce (co-founder of *Time* and *Life* magazines). She virtually "clawed" her way to the top when it was hardly the "ladylike" thing to do.

As a popular socialite, she had little patience with wealthy women who waste their time on affairs, gossip and playing up to men who are weasels. She makes that abundantly clear in "The Women" with its all-female cast (18) playing 35 different characters in 12 scenes.

■ Director Cynthia Tupper captures the spirit of the play and the times (1936) with excellent costuming and music from the '30s.

Director Cynthia Tupper captures the spirit of the play and the times (1936) with excellent costuming and music from the '30s. The focus of the play is one Mary Haines who learns from gossip at the beauty salon that her husband is having an affair (but then, in this play who isn't?).

Ellen Akins creates a sympathetic character as Mary, who in the end turns the tables on her husband's paramour. That would be Lisa Curry as Crystal, who is a most convincing vixen. The way she puts out a cigarette reminds one of Bette Davis at her evil best.

Suzanne Rogers is very good as Mary's friend, Sylvia, who swears, "I never interfere in other people's affairs" then cannot wait to spread the latest gossip. Mary Ann Tweedie is most convincing as Edith, who keeps her marriage going by looking the other way ("pride – that's a luxury a woman in love cannot have.")

Margaret Gilkes as Nancy, a worldly writer, scores with many sardonic lines such as, "No one remembers a clever woman."

Marge Wetzel is a hoot as the much-married Countess DeLage. Emily McSweeney warmly gives motherly advice to Mary. Kathleen Monticello (the cook) and Stacey DuFord (the maid) create one of the best scenes as they give their view of life in the Haines household.

Also appearing (most in multiple roles) are Jacquie Pouillon, Kathleen Ternes, Lucy Rogers, Janet Ginis, Cheryl Gordon Glicker, Nicole Ludwig, Maureen Mansfield, Karen Novak and Angie Tyburski.

Mike DeMott and Phil Hadley, dressed in spiffy evening attire, change stage settings between scenes.

Robert Weibel is a Westland resident and writes theater reviews for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

'Jest A Second' evokes laughter

The Ridgedale Players presents "Jest a Second," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the playhouse, 205 W. Long lake between Livernois and Crooks, Troy. Tickets are $11, $10 for seniors and students on Sundays. Price includes sandwich and afterglow. Call (248) 988-7049.

BY HELEN ZUCKER
SPECIAL WRITER

The Ridgedale Players production of "Jest A Second!," directed by Kent J. Martini and Jim Rink, is very funny. I agree with author James Sherman's opinion that "Jest A Second!" is a better play than "Beau Jest." It has funnier lines and a more intricate plot. The cast of six does a lovely job.

Four of the cast members play the same characters they played in last spring's production of "Beau Jest," a continuity that adds to the believability of this comedy.

Selma Cohen was born to play Miriam, the self-sacrificing, dour mother who dominates her husband and her children's lives without doing anything but being there. Even when she's absent, Miriam is present in everyone's thoughts.

The comedy consists of absurd behavior on the part of everyone while trying to please this woman, who enjoys nothing but news about single Jewish doctors. Cohen delivers lines like, "I once had a chance to change – I decided not to," and "It's a beautiful place to visit!"

Cohen responds with great weariness: "I was born there. I left."

It's Miriam's play in many ways, and Cohen picks up the challenge.

Jack Abella as Abe, Miriam's retired husband, is a good foil. Abe runs out for dozens of bagels at the drop of a hat. He drags chairs up apartment steps. He seems obsessed with "parking in front," and with leaping up and doing his wife's bidding. Abella looks like the classic James Thurber husband, dwarfed, hidden behind his wife and making a show of putting up a fight now and then.

Carl Jones is terrific as Bob, the converted Jewish actor. He's a bundle of energy, running out to the synagogue three times a day, keeping everyone kosher (until Miriam takes him aside), leaping up to take his pregnant wife to the hospital the moment she says anything and changing into his neon dress from "La Cage Aux Foux" to help his gay brother-in-law who can't come out to his parents. Jones is wonderful as "Randy," a pediatrician girlfriend whom Miriam takes a shine to.

Lynn Koch has stage presence as Sarah, Bob's wife who's three weeks late giving birth. Sarah walks like a woman who's been carrying for a year, offers snide remarks to her womb and is supportive to her gay brother after thinking about it. Koch turns in a thoughtful performance, and looks fine slim.

Tom Coffey, as Joel, Sarah's very troubled brother, walks about looking doomed. As a therapist with a wife who's suing him for custody of his kids, and a set of very straight parents, in addition to falling in love for the first time in his life, Joel has a full plate. Coffey looks like a broken man with a good haircut.

Ross Grossman as the real "Randy" is hilarious; he saves the day. He has great charm and speaks lilting Yiddish to boot. And the pair look as if they belong together.

The production staff did a great job, especially Linda Martini and crew on costumes (oh, that sequined dress!), Mike Flum, Sonia Milton, Stan Iobst and crew on the set. Kudos.

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center would like to thank Ford Motor Company for sponsoring the Evening Palette Black Tie Dinner-Dance, International Art Exhibition, and Lincoln Navigator Raffle.

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THEATER

CENTURY THEATRE
"Forbidden Christmas," 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

MASONIC TEMPLE THEATRE
"Chicago," the Drop-Dead Broadway Musical continues through Nov. 28, 8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, no performance Thursday, Nov. 25, at the theater, 500 Temple, Detroit. (313) 832-5900

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE
"Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church," through Dec. 31, at the theater,13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. $15. (313) 868-1347

GEM THEATRE
"Escanaba in da Moonlight," a comedy by Jeff Daniels, through Feb. 13, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays, at the theater, 33 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

COLLEGE

EMU THEATRE
"A Woman Called Truth," 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20 and Friday, Dec.3, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 20-21 and Saturday, Dec. 4, Quirk Theatre, on the Ypsilanti compus. $8 Thursdays, $13 Fridays-Saturdays, $11 Sunday matinee. (734) 487-1221

OU THEATRE
"Rock and Roll Lysistrata," a saucy twist on Aristophanes' classic comedy, through Sunday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, and 11 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, in the Varner Studio Theatre on campus, Rochester. $12, $10 seniors, $6 students. (248) 370-3013/(248) 645-6666

UD-MERCY
"Skylarks," 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 5. (313) 993-1130

WSU HILBERRY
"Some Americans Abroad," through Feb. 5, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27; "Merchant of Venice," 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23 and 30, at the theater 4743 Cass, Detroit. $11-$18. (313) 577-2972

COMMUNITY THEATER

ACTOR'S COMPANY
Neil Simon's "Broadway Bound," Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild, 15138 Beech Daly, south of Five Mile, Redford. $14, $12 students/seniors. (248) 988-7032

BLOOMFIELD PLAYERS
"Meet Me in St. Louis," 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at Lahser High School Theater. $9. (248) 433-0885

CLARKSTON VILLAGE PLAYERS
"Close Ties" by Elizabeth Diggs, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18 ($10), and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20 ($12), at the Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road, Clarkston. 248-625-8811

FARMINGTON PLAYERS
"The Women," a comedy by Clare Booth Luce, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Nov. 19-20, 26-27 and Thursday, Nov. 18, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the theater 32332 W. 12 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. $12. (248) 553-2955

MT. ZION THEATRE COMPANY
"The Old Faith, Hope & Charity," a comedy with lots of heart by Pat Cook, Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, at Mt. Zion Center for Performing Arts, 4453 Clintonville Road, Waterford. $8. (248) 391-6166

PARK PLAYERS OF NORTH ROSEDALE PARK
Rick Abbot's "Play On" about a struggling community theater group putting on a new locally created drama, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19 ($10), and 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20 ($15 wine and cheese), at the North Rosedale Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, east of Outer Drive, north of Grand River, west of the Southfield Expressway, Detroit. (313) 835-1103

PLYMOUTH THEATRE GUILD
"It's a Wonderful Life," 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Nov. 19-20, 26-27 and Dec. 3-4, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, Water Tower Theatre, on the campus of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital, 41001 W. Seven Mile, west of Haggerty, Northville. $10, $7 students ages 18 and under. (248) 349-7110

PONTIAC THEATRE IV
"Godspell," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, at Lincoln Middle School, Montcalm and Summit, west of Baldwin, Pontiac. $8, $7 children/seniors. (248) 681-6215

RIDGEDALE PLAYERS
"Jest a Second," 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Nov. 19-20, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the playhouse, 205 W. Long lake, between Livernois and Crooks, Troy. $11, $10 seniors/students on Sundays, includes sandwich and afterglow. (248) 988-7049

ROSEDALE COMMUNITY PLAYERS
"Three Murders and It's Only Monday," by Pat Cook, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, Upstage Theatre. Tickets $10, reserved. (313) 537-7716

STAGECRAFTERS
"Dracula," through Nov. 21, signed performance for the deaf Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. $12 $14. (248) 541-6430

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE
"To Forgive, Divine," a comedy by Jack Neary, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Nov. 19-20 and 26-27, and 3 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 21 and 28, at the theater, 38840 W. Six Mile, between Haggerty and I-275, Livonia. $10, $5 Sundays. (734) 464-6302

VILLAGE PLAYERS OF BIRMINGHAM
"The Man Who Came to Dinner," 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Nov. 19-20 and 26-27, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the theater, Chesnut Street and Woodward. $12, $10 students. (248) 644-2075

DINNER THEATER

BACI THEATRE
"Flanagan's Wake," 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays ($25 Thursdays and Sundays, and $30 Fridays-Saturdays), and "Tony n' Tina's Wedding," at 40 W. Pike, Pontiac. (248) 745-8668/(248) 645-6666

DAVE & BUSTER'S
"A Gift of Murder" continues Saturdays through Nov. 20, at the restaurant, M-59 and M-53, Utica. $32.95. (810) 930-1515

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

BLOOMFIELD HILLS ANDOVER PLAYERS
"West Side Story," 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 18-20, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, in the theater, one block west of Telegraph, south of Long Lake Road. Mature content. $9, $6 back balcony. (248) 645-4679

DETROIT PUPPET THEATER
The classic Russian tale "The Firebird," 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, Nov. 20-21 and 27-28, at the theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. $7, $5 children. (313) 961-7777

MARIAN-ROCK PLAYERS
Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing," 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 18-20 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at Marian High School, 7225 Lahser Road, Bloomfield Hills. $9. (248) 644-1750

MARQUIS THEATRE
"Jack in the Beanstalk," through Sunday, Jan. 16, at the theater, 135 E. Main, Northville. $7. (248) 349-8110

PARK PLAYERS
Shakespeare's Macbeth, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 18-20, at Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium, Joy Road west of Canton Center Road, Canton. $5. (734) 416-7723

REDFORD UNION THEATRE
"Noises Off," a British comedy involving the play "Nothing on," features a two-story set on a revolving stage, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 18-20, at the Redford Union High School Auditorium. $8, $6 advance. (313) 592-3170

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK
"Goldilocks and the Three Bears," 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20 and 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the theater, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Parking across the street at Christ Church Cranbrook and shuttle service available. $6. (248) 644-0527

SPECIAL EVENTS

AMERICA'S THANKSGIVING PARADE
9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 25, from Woodward and Mack.

ART AUCTION
1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at Plymouth Elk, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. $5.

DETROIT PUPPET THEATER
Maria Mikheyenk singing Russian Romance Songs, 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 19, at the theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. (313) 961-7777

FIBER SYMPOSIUM
9 a.m. to 5p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, at Cranbrook Art Museum, 1221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 645-3361

MOTOR CITY EXTRAVA CON
Comic books, Pokemon, non-sports card, action figures, toys and Beanie Baby show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at Knights of Columbus, 19601 Farmington Road, between Seven and Eight Mile, Livonia. $2. (248) 426-8059

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
Soprano Pamela Jordan Schiffer and tenor David Gordon sing everything from Cole Porter to Andrew Lloyd Webber 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction, Plymouth. $25. (734) 416-4ART

"WILD LIGHTS"
Opens Friday, Nov. 19, runs through Sunday, Jan. 2, 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, until 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, at the Detroit Zoo, Woodward and I-696, Royal Oak. $3 members ($2 ages 2-12), $4 nonmembers ($3 ages 2-12). (248) 541-5835

BENEFITS

EMPTY BOWL PROJECT
To benefit Haven, an Oakland County domestic violence shelter, decorate your own bowl symbolizing hunger around the world, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, hot soup by Zoup! $20 per parent and one child fo one-hour, $10 each additional child. (248) 350-3007

FINE ARTS AUCTION
Conducted by Park West Gallery of Southfield to benefit the Ecunemical Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies, 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the Botsford Inn Coach House, Farmington Hills. $15. (248) 557-4522

HOB NOBBLE GOBBLE
6-10 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, black-tie fundraiser for The Parade Company, at Detroit's Cobo Center. $350-$500. (313) 923-7400

TURKEY TROT
8 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 25, att the corner of Jefferson and Woodward. $20, proceeds benefit America's Thanksgiving Parade. (248) 544-9099

ALEXANDER ZONJIC
6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19. $60 with reception, $35 concert only, proceeds benefit Don Bosco Hall. (313) 869-2200

CLASSICAL

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
"The Flying Karamazov Brothers," 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. $19-$55. (313) 576-5111

PIOTR FOLKERT
The Polish pianist presents a concert featuring the works of Frederic Chopin, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, at St. Hugo of the Hills Church, 2215 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills. Suggested donation $15, $25 family. (248) 644-5460

POPS/SWING

MERIDIAN
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, at Andiamo Italia West, 6676 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300

JIM PARAVANTES & COMPANY
"Frank Sinatra Tribute," 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Fridays-Saturdays through November, at Andiamo Italia West, 6676 Telegraph Road at Maple, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300

ALTURO SHELTON
The musical impressionist sings "A Motown Tribute," voices include Stevie Wonder, Sammie Davis, Jr., and Nat King Cole, 9 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Ponchatrain Hotel, Detroit. No cover. (313) 965-0200/(248) 354-1194

Ice show: ***Woody and his new pal Buzz Lightyear demonstrate that "You've Got a Friend in Me," as a tale of two toys unfolds in Disney On Ice presents "Toy Story," based on Disney's 1995 film, "Toy Story," Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 18-21, at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Performances 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, with additional shows 11 a.m. Thursday; noon and 3:30 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets $30, $18.75, $16.75 and $13.75 available at the box office and all Ticketmaster outlets. Kids, age 12 and under, and senior citizens, age 62 and over, save $3 on the 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, and noon Saturday, Nov. 20, performances, excluding VIP seats. To charge tickets, call (248) 645-6666. For more information, call (313) 983-6606, or visit www.olympia entertainment.com on the Web.***

AUDITIONS

MEN'S BARBERSHOP CHORUS
Looking for singers, auditions not required but ability to sing on key is understood. (313) 278-1078

NANCY GURWIN PRESENTS
Auditions for "Oliver," 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, in Room 107A at the Jewish Community Center. For performances weekends Feb. 5-27. (248) 354-0545/(248) 352-2797

PLYMOUTH THEATRE GUILD
Auditions for "Oliver," 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 (children), and 7:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Nov. 22-23 (adults), at the Water Tower Theatre located on the campus of Northville Psychiatric Hospital, 41001 W. Seven Mile, Northville. For performances Feb. 18-19, 25-27 and March 3-4. (248) 349-7110.

THEATRE GUILD OF LIVONIA REDFORD
Is searching for directors, choreographers, musical directors, and all others interested in musical comedy theater. Call (313) 531-0554 for information, or deliver resumes and letters of interest to the Theatre Guild, 15138 Beech Daly, across from the Township Hall in Redford.

WALT DISNEY'S TOY STORY
Auditions for skaters 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. (313) 471-3268/(313) 471-3279

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

CHORAL

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS
Presents a "Holiday Greetings" concert 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 3-4 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at Plymouth Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton. (734) 455-4089

UM MEN'S GLEE CLUB
8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, at Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor. $12, $10, $7, $5 students. (734) 764-1448

JAZZ

GEM JAZZ TRIO
Performs 7-11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at the Century Club Restaurant, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

JOHNNY & AL
Tuesdays, Nov. 23 and Dec. 7, at Sweet Lorraine's, 29101 Greenfield, Southfield. (248) 559-5985

RICH K. TRIO
8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at Big Fish, 700 Town Center Dr., Dearborn. (313) 336-6350

MATT MICHAELS TRIO
Don Swindell, trumpet and flugelhorn, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, at Ron's Fireside Inn, 28937 Warren, east of Middlebelt Road, Garden City. $5 cover. (734) 762-7756

JEANNINE MILLER
With Vincent Shandor Trio, 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley Street, Ann Arbor. Cover $5. (734) 662-8310

T.S. MONK SEXTET
Thelonious Monk's son and his award-winning combination perform 8 p.m., 11:30 p.m. Thursday Nov. 18, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley Street, Ann Arbor. $20 advance. (734) 662-8310/(248) 645-6666

ALMA SMITH
Tuesdays, Nov. 30 and Dec. 14, at Sweet Lorraine's, 29101 Greenfield, Southfield. (248) 559-5985

JANET TENAJ TRIO
Featuring Sven Anderson, piano and Kurt Krahnke, bass, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays, at Fishbone's Restaurant, 29244 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. (248) 351-2925

URSULA WALKER AND BUDDY BUDSON
With Dan Kolton, 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursdays at Forte, 201 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 594-7300

WARREN COMMISSION
6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, at Andiamo Osteria, Main Street, Royal Oak. (248) 582-8300

ED WELLS
The pianist performs 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, at the Century Club Restaurant, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

WORLD MUSIC

FINVARRA'S WREN
With Jim Perkins 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, at Cowley's Old Village Inn, Grand River and Farmington Road, Farmington. (248) 474-5941

PACO DE LUCIA & SEPTET
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, at Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. $20-$36. (734) 764-2538 (flamenco)

FOLK/BLUEGRASS

KATIE GEDDES & THE USUAL SUSPECTS
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, at Greenwood Coffee House, 1001 Green Road, Ann Arbor. (734) 665-8558

SARAH MASEN
8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, west of I-275, Livonia. $10, $8 members. (734) 464-6302

POETRY/ SPOKEN WORD

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN
Workshop for poets looking for more members, 2-4 p.m. third Tuesday of month, in the Jenkins rooms on the third floor of the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. (734) 762-7568

DANCE

BALLET HISPANICO
8 p.m.Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 18-20 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway. $17-$42. (313) 237-SING

BALLROOM DANCING
9 p.m. Saturdays, at the Dance Scene, 25333 Van Dyke, Centerline $6. Also swing and Latin classes. (810) 757-6300

ON STAGE
Dance performances for children 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, in the Community Arts Auditorium at Wayne State University, Detroit. $5, $4 children/students/seniors. (313) 577-4273

POLISH ALLIANCE DANCERS OF DEARBORN
Dance and language classes for ages 3 to adult have begun Saterday mornings at Prince of Peace Church on Altar Road, Dearborn. (313) 581-3181

STARDUST BALLROOM
Dance parties 9 p.m. Fridays, lessons also available, at the dance studio, 28651 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. $8. (248) 356-5678

COMEDY

ANDIAMO ITALIA WEST
Mike Young, also Jeff Pirrami, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, 6676 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300

ELDORADO COUNTRY CLUB
Bill Hildebrandt with Bill Bushart & Dee Profitt, 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, at 2869 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Twp. (248) 624-1050

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB
at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Third Level Improv and new talent nights, 8 p.m. Sundays ($5). (734) 261-0555

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S
at the club, 5070 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885

MAINSTREET COMEDY SHOWCASE
314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 996-9080

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE
at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 7:30 p.m. Sundays (248) 542-9900 or http://www.comedycastle.com

SECOND CITY
Alternative Mondays production through Nov. 22 ($8), "Phantom Menace to Society" Wednesday-Sunday, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Mainstage comedy acts $10 Wednesdays, Thursdays, Sundays, $17.50 on Fridays, and $19.50 on Saturdays. (313) 965-2222

MUSEUMS AND TOURS

ANN ARBOR HANDS-ON MUSEUM
Re-opened its door Oct. 19, the celebration continues with more than 250 interactive exhibits intended to make science fun, at the museum, 220 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. $6, $4 children/seniors/students. (734) 995-5439

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM
"Frontiers to Factories: Detroiters at Work 1701-1901," formerly known as "Furs to Factories," with a new Land Office, a "Wheel of Fortune" style land acquisition interactive, three new video screen interactives, a documentary video, a new Heavy Industry section and a display explaining Detroit's move from "Stove Capital of the World" to the Motor City, automobile capital of the world, at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Free admission Wednesdays; $3 for adults, $1.50 seniors and children aged 12-18, free for children ages 11 and younger Thursdays-Sundays. (313)

Please see next page

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

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833-1805 or http://www.detroithistorical.org

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER
IMAX movies include "Tropical Rainforest" at 10 a.m. Mondays-Fridays, "Thrill Ride: The Science of Fun" at 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and "Everest" and "Whales" multiple showings seven days a week, at the center, noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sundays, at 5020 John R (at Warren), Detroit. Admission to Exhibit Hall is $3 for adults, $2 for children ages 3-15 and adults ages 60 and older, free for children ages 2 and younger. IMAX films are additional $4. (313) 577-8400

DETROIT ZOO
The exhibit, "Inside/Outside: The Art of Caring" continues through Jan. 2, in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile, Royal Oak. $7.50, $5.50 seniors/students, $4.50 ages 2-12. (248) 398-0903

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM
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
Estate tours include the restored riverside 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
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
Holiday Walk features French treasures in the 110-room historic mansion built by Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer John Dodge, and her second husband Alfred G. Wilson, beginning Friday, Nov. 26 through Sunday, Dec. 5 the 110-room historic mansion built by Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer John Dodge, and her second husband Alfred G. Wilson, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, until 8 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester. $12, $6 children ages 3-12. (248) 370-3140

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
"I Made This Jar..." the life and works of the enslaved African American potter, Dave continues through Jan. 2, at the museum, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. (313) 494-5800

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
"Celebrate the Century" exhibit continues at the museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth. $2, $.50 kids, $5 family. (734) 455-8940

SPIRIT OF FORD
Interactive automotive science and technology experience with exhibits and theaters for all ages, NASCAR Pit Stop Challenge, Turbo Tour full-motion simulator ride. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, at 1151 Village Drive, across from Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, Dearborn. $6, $5 seniors, $4 ages 5-12. (313) 317-7474

THE PARADE STUDIO
Tours weekdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the studio, Detroit. $10, $7 student. (313) 341-6810

POPULAR MUSIC

AGENTS OF GOOD ROOTS
9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, Blind Pig, Ann Arbor. $8 advance, $10 day of show, 19 and older. (248) 645-6666

GREG ALLMAN
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, State Theatre, Detroit. Tickets $28.50, $24.50. All ages. (248) 645-6666.

LORI AMEY
8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, Camp Ticonderoga, 5725 Rochester Road between Square Lake and Long Lake roads in Troy. 21 and over. (248) 828-2825

AQUABATS
With The Hippos, 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Tickets $10. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com.

THE BACK DOORS
8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. $10 in advance. (248) 544-3030

BARENAKED LADIES
With Tal Bachman, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets $50 and $35 reserved. (248) 645-6666

BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, Clutch Cargo, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Tickets $17 on sale now. All ages. (248) 645-6666.

THE BLANKS
With Criminals, LES Stiches, Ducky Boys, 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Tickets $8. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

BLUE CAT
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

BLUE ROSE
Saturday, Nov. 20, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Avenue, Novi. (248) 349-9110 (blues)

ROBERT BRADLEY'S BLACKWATER SURPRISE
9:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. Tickets $10 advance. (734) 996-8555

MAIRE BRENNAN
8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Tickets $20. 18 and over. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

BUCKCHERRY
8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. $12. All ages. (313) 961-MELT.

CAFE DE TACUBA
6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Tickets $10 advance/ $12 day of show. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

COMMON GROUND CD RELEASE PARTY
With Scott Campbell, Jill Jack, Hope Orchestra, Miriam Shor, 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. $5. 18 and over. (248) 335-8100.

CHAIN REACTION
Friday, Nov. 26, Scalici's Lounge, Allen Park. (313) 438-0029; Thursday, Dec. 9, Token Lounge, Westland (313) 513-5030

CHEF CHRIS BLUES BAND
9:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, Karl's Cabin, 9779 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. (734) 455-8450

CHRIS CORNELL
7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, State Theatre, Detroit.

THE COREVARES
With Mr. Tidy, A Planet for Texas, 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, 313.jac, upstairs from Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street, Detroit. $5 cover, 18 and over. (313) 962-7067 (punk)

CROSBY, STILLS, NASH AND YOUNG
8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets $76, $51, and $40.50 reserved. Eight ticket limit per person. (248) 645-6666 or (248) 377-0100

DANIELS CROSSING
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, Borders Books and Music, 3924 Baldwin, Auburn Hills. Free. (248) 335-5013 (folk)

DANZIG
With Samhain, Hatebreed, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, State Theatre, Detroit. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

DAYS OF THE NEW
8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Tickets $12. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

DEATH IN VEGAS
With DJs Paul Heart and Richard Fearless, 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 22, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Tickets $10. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

DEZINE INTENT
9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, Dec. 10-11, Monday, Dec. 31, Mr. Z's Steakhouse, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Redford. (313) 537-5600

DJ VADIM
9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, St. Andrews Hall, 341 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Ticket price to be announced. (313) 961-MELT

DOMESTIC PROBLEMS
With The Lash, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. $6 cover, 21 and over. (248) 544-3030

EL VEZ
9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. $10 advance, $13 day of show. (248) 645-6666

EMINEM
Friday, Nov. 26, Royal Oak Music Theatre, Royal Oak. Tickets $20. (248) 645-6666 (hip hop star comes home)

ESHAM AND NATAS
With Workhorse, Friday, Dec. 10, Clutch Cargo, 65 E. Huron at Mill Street, Pontiac. Tickets $12. (248) 645-6666.

FAN MAIL TOUR
With TLC, Christina Aguilera, Destiny's Child, 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets $39.50 and $29.50 on sale. (248) 645-6666

FANTOMAS
With Kid 606, 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, St. Andrews Hall, 341 E. Congress, Detroit. $15. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

GET UP KIDS
With At The Drive-In and Ultimate Fakebook, 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, Magic Stick, Majestic Theatre Center, Detroit. $7 advance. All ages. (313) 833-9700

GUTTER PUNX
With Unity, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, The Shelter, 341 E. Congress, Detroit. $5. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

HEMIGOD
9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets $5 or free with 311 ticket stub. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

AL HILL AND THE LOVE BUTLERS
10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, The Cavern Club, 210 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 332-9900 (blues)

HOWLING DIABLOS
With Tripper and 60 Second Crush, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. $7 cover, 21 and over. (248) 544-3030; Wednesday, Nov. 24, Village Idiot, 15421 Mack, Detroit. (313) 844-1111.

J. GEIL'S BAND
With The Romantics, 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets $99.50, $79.50, $59.50, $19.99 includes parking cost. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

ALAN JACKSON
With Lonestar, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets $32.50 and $25.50. (248) 645-6666.

JARS OF CLAY
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, Clutch Cargo, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. All ages. Tickets $15 advance. (248) 645-6666

JELLY'S PIERCED TATTOO
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, Borders Books and Music, 1122 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. (248) 652-0558 (funk/alternative)

JODI
6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, Oxford Inn Tavern, 43317 E. Grand River, Novi. (248) 305-5856

KGB
9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, Oxford Inn Tavern, 43317 E. Grand River, Novi. (248) 305-5856.

BB KING
With Bobby "Blue" Bland, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12, Royal Oak Music Theatre, Royal Oak. Tickets on sale $55. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

EARL KLUGH AND BOB JAMES
6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, State Theatre, Detroit. Tickets on sale $45, $27.50, $15. (248) 645-6666

KNEE DEEP SHAG CD RELEASE PARTY
With Johnny Socko, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. $8 cover, 21 and over. (248) 544-3030

LADY SUNSHINE AND THE X BAND
9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty, Plymouth. Cover charge, 21 and over. (734) 451-1213

SHEILA LANDIS TRIO
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, Borders Books and Music, 1122 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. (248) 652-0558 (holiday jazz)

BOBBY LEWIS AND HIS CRACKERJACK BAND
After the Winter Wonderland Holiday Parade, 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, Wonderland Mall, Livonia. (734) 466-2212 (classic pop)

EUGENE MANN
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, Borders Books and Music, 1122 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. (248) 652-0558 (saxophone)

SARAH MASEN
8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, Trinity House Theatre, 38840 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Tickets $10, $8 for members. (734) 464-6302 (singer songwriter)

MEATLOAF
6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, State Theatre, Detroit. Tickets $58.50, $49.50. (248) 645-6666

MICKEY STRANGE AND THE KINGS OF PAIN
Wednesday, Nov. 24, Token Lounge, Westland. www.mp3.com/mickeystrange

DAVID MILES
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, all at Oxford Inn Tavern, 43317 E. Grand River, Novi. 21 and over. $5 cover Saturday performance only. (248) 305-5856 (r&b)

JEFF MILLS
9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets on sale $25. 18 and over. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

TS MONK SEXTET
7:30 p.m., 11 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley Street, Ann Arbor. Tickets $20 advance. (734) 662-8310

MIKE NESS
With The Road Kings, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, Clutch Cargo, Pontiac. Tickets $17.50 advance. (248) 645-6666

THE NIGHT 898X STOLE CHRISTMAS
Featuring Bush, Oasis, blink-182, Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals, 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, Cobo Arena, Detroit. Tickets on sale $34.89, $24.89, $19.89. (248) 645-6666 (alternative bash)

ROBERT NOLL MISSION
Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, Hamlin Pub, 741 S. Lapeer Road, Lake Orion. (248) 814-8109.

THE NUMBERS
10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, 313.jac, upstairs from Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street, Detroit. $5 cover. 18 and over. (313) 962-7067 (Britpop)

ROBERT PENN
10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main Street, Royal Oak. (248) 543-4300 (blues)

PENNYWISE
With Strungout and All, 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, Clutch Cargo, 64 E. Huron, Pontiac. All ages. Tickets $12.50. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

PHISH
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets on sale $25 advance/ $27 day of show. Eight ticket limit per person. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

PODUNK
8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Tickets $6. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

PUSHERS UNION
10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, 313.jac, upstairs from Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street, Detroit. $5 cover. 18 and over. (313) 962-7067 (rock)

QUEENSRYCHE
With Caroline's Fire, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, State Theatre, Detroit. Tickets $39.50, $29.50. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

RADIUM
Friday, Nov. 19, Scalici's, 6650 Allen Road, Allen Park; Saturday, Dec. 4, Old Miami, 3930 Cass Avenue, Detroit; Saturday, Dec. 18, Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street, Detroit. (Rock)

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE
With Gang Starr, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets $25. (248) 645-6666

JAKE REICHBART
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, Borders Books and Music, 1122 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. (248) 652-0558 (holiday guitar)

RARE EARTH
Friday-Saturday, Nov. 26-27, Oxford Inn Tavern, 43317 E. Grand River, Novi. (248) 305-5856

SATIN DOLLS
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, Borders Books and Music, 1122 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. (248) 652-0558 (vocal quartet)

SAX APPEAL
7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues duo)

STEPHANIE SCHINDLER
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, Borders Books and Music, 3924 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. Free. (248) 335-5013 (jazz)

JOHN SCOFIELD BAND
With Charlie Hunter, Adam Cruz Duo, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, Majestic Theatre, Detroit. Tickets on sale $22. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

SGT. ROCK
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, Mr. B's Farm, 24555 Novi Road, Novi. No cover, 21 and over. (248) 349-7038. Wednesday, Nov. 24, Woodbridge Tavern, 289 St. Aubin, Detroit. (313) 259-0578. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 3-4, Lake Point Yacht Club, Livonia. (734) 591-1868

SISTER SEED
With Michael King, daniels crossing, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. $6 cover, 21 and over. (248) 544-3030

Q95.5 JINGLE BALL FEATURING SMASH MOUTH
With Tal Bachman, Monday, Dec. 6, Royal Oak Music Theatre, Royal Oak. Tickets on sale $19.55. Proceeds benefit Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. Observer and Eccentric Newspapers are sponsors of the event. (248) 645-6666

SMOOTH JAZZ CHRISTMAS
Featuring Dave Koz, David Benoit, Brenda Russell, Peter White, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, State Theatre, Detroit. Tickets $25, $20. (248) 645-6666

KRISTEN SMYTH
Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, Rogey's Bar and Grill, 142 E. Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake. (248) 669-1441

SOULFUL CELEBRATION
Featuring Kirk Franklin, Hezekiah Walker, Kelly Price, Karen Clark-Sheard, Crystal Lewis, Anointed, Marvin Sapp, Darwin Hobbs. Lead by musical director, Shelia E., 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11; Joe Louis Arena, Detroit. Tickets on sale $50, $35, $25, $15. (248) 645-6666.

STEREOLAB
With Jim O'Rourke, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, Clutch Cargo, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Tickets $12 advance, $13 day of show. 18 and older. (248) 645-6666.

STING
With M'shell Ndegeocello, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 1, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. All ages. Tickets $110, $85. (248) 645-6666.

JOE STRUMMER AND THE MESCALEROS
With Pietasters, 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. 18 and over. Tickets $20 advance/ $23 day of show. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

STUNNING AMAZON CD RELEASE
With Foxgloves and special guests Vinny and Joey of Sponge, 10 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, 313.jac, upstairs from Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street, Detroit. $5 cover. 18 and over. (313) 962-7067 (acoustic rock)

KOKO TAYLOR
10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main Street, Royal Oak. Tickets $10. (248) 543-4300 (blues)

TWISTING TARANTULAS
9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, Karl's Cabin, 9779 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. (734) 455-8450

U-GOD
With Shyheim, 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. $6. 18 and older. (313) 961-MELT

WILCO
With Old 97s and Outrageous Cherry, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, Majestic Theatre, Detroit. Tickets $15 advance, $18 day of show. (248) 645-6666

ANDRE WILLIAMS & THE SADIES
With Mr. Quintron, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, Magic Stick, Majestic Theatre Center, Detroit. $10 advance. 18 and over. (313) 833-9700.

WINDHAM HILL WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT
Featuring Liz Story, David Arkenstone, Lisa Lynne, Sean Harkness, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Tickets $15, $25, $35. (734) 668-8397

WU-TANG CLAN'S U-GOD AND FRIEND SHYHEIM
10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets $6. 18 and over. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

YES
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, Royal Oak Music Theatre, Royal Oak. Tickets on sale $42.50. Call (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

2XL
Wednesday, Friday-Saturday, Nov. 24, 26-27, Bogey's Bar and Grill, 142 E. Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake. (248) 669-1441

311
9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Sold out. All ages.

CLUB NIGHTS

ALVIN'S
The Hush Party with resident DJs Melvin Hill and Cent, 10 p.m. Mondays; and Club Color, featuring funk and disco, 8 p.m. Wednesdays (free before 10 p.m.), at the club, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. $5, 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or http://www.alvinsxtcom.com

ARBOR BREWING COMPANY
Latin dance night, 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tuesdays, 114 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. Free. 21 and older. (734) 213-1393 or http://www.arborbrewing.com

BIRD OF PARADISE
The Bird of Paradise Orchestra performs Mondays, cover $5; Ron Brooks Trio performs Wednesdays and Thursdays, cover $3; Paul Klinger's Easy Street Swinglet plays Dixieland 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Friday, cover $2. Paul Finkbeiner's Jazz Jam can be seen 9 p.m. Sundays, cover $2, all at the club, 207 S. Ashley Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 662-8310 (jazz)

BLIND PIG
"Swing-a-billy" night with dance lessons, dancing, 7 p.m. Sundays at the club, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. $3 in advance, $5 at the door, 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 or http://www.intuitsolar.com or http://www.blindpigmusic.com

BULLFROG BAR AND GRILL
Acoustic night with Pachistan-Tambourine Mondays; Karaoke with DJ Eric Tuesdays, Bridge performs Thursday-Sunday; After-work party with Joint Venture 6-9 p.m. Fridays, all at the club, 15414 Telegraph Road, Redford. (313) 533-4477

CLUTCH CARGO'S/MILL STREET
"Flashback" night with "The Planet" WPLT on level two (Clutch Cargo's), old school funk on level three, and techno and house on level four, 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, at the club, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Free before 9 p.m. 21 and older; Alternative dance night, 8 p.m. Wednesdays in Clutch Cargo's. 18 and older. (248) 333-2362 or http://www.961melt.com

FLYING FISH TAVERN
See Larry Arbour live 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, at the tavern, 17600 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. (248) 647-7747 (acoustic folk)

GOLD DOLLAR
Hip-hop and dancehall reggae dance night with DJ Chinc, 8 p.m. Wednesdays at the club, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge, 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or http://www.golddollar.com

THE GROOVE ROOM
Goth and industrial with D.J. Paul Wednesdays. Free admission with Goth attire; Funk, hip-hop and top 40 with DJ Mac D. Thursdays. Women admitted free; "Love Factory" alternative mix of 80s and 90s with D.J. Matt Fridays; Alternative dance with DJ Matt Saturdays, at the club, 1815 N. Main St. (at 12 Mile Road), Royal Oak. Free before 10 p.m. nightly. 21 and older. (248) 589-3344 or http://www.thegrooveroom.com

JD'S KEY CLUB
Working Wednesdays with free food buffet, $1 off drinks, featuring Matt Safranak, Jimmy Sullivan, Marc Doiron and WIZ, doors at 4:45 p.m. Wednesdays. Ladies Night featuring Rod Norman, Jimmy Sullivan, Gary Mumford and WIZ, doors at 7 p.m. Thursdays: Matt Safranak, WIZ, Rod Norman, Gary Mumford, Marc Doiron and Jimmy Sullivan perform. $5 cover and doors at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, all at the club, 1 North Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 338-7337 (dueling pianos)

LA BOOM TEEN NIGHTCLUB
Dance night for teens ages 15-19, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the club, 1172 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. Ages 15-19. (248) 926-9960

MAJESTIC THEATRE CENTER
"Good Sounds," with music by The Tonehead Collective and images by Thomas Video, 9 p.m. Fridays at Magic Stick, 18 and older, Free. "Work Release," Rock 'n' Bowl, happy hour with bowling, music and complimentary food from the Majestic Cafe, 5-8 p.m. Fridays at Garden Bowl. $6, 18 and older. "Rock 'n' Bowl" with DJ Del Villareal, 9 p.m. Fridays and DJ Gutterball, 9 p.m. Saturdays at Garden Bowl. Free, 18 and older. "The Bird's Nest," punk rock night with live performances, 9 p.m. Mondays at Magic Stick. Free, 18 and older. "Soul Shakedown" with DJ Big Andy, 9 p.m. Tuesdays at Magic Stick. Free, 21 and older. (313) 833-9700

MOTOR LOUNGE
"Back Room Mondays," service industries employee appreciation night, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Mondays. Free, 21 and older. "Family" with DJs Derek Plaslaiko, Echo and Deep, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesdays, 18 and older. "Maximum Overload" on Fridays, 10 p.m. $6, 18 and older. "Big House," 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturdays, $6, 21 and older, at the club, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. (313) 396-0080 or http://www.motordetroit.com

ST. ANDREW'S/THE SHELTER
"Three Floors of Fun," 9 p.m. Fridays, $3 before 11 p.m., $5 afterward, 18 and older. "2K" dance night, 10 p.m. Saturdays. "Incinerator," 8 p.m. Wednesdays in The Shelter, $6, 21 and older. St. Andrew's and The Shelter are at 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com

STATE THEATRE
"Ignition" dance night, 10 p.m. Saturdays at the club, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Cover charge, 18 and over. (313) 961-5451 or http://www.statetheater.com

24 KARAT CLUB
"Cruise Night" with hot rods, Harleys and live bands, 8 p.m. Thursdays. Latin House dance night, 9 p.m. Sundays. Intermediate swing lessons, 9 p.m. Tuesdays, and beginner swing lessons, 9 p.m. Wednesdays, at the club, 28949 Joy Road (two blocks east of Middlebelt Road), Westland. Cover charge, 21 and older. (734) 513-5030

VELVET LOUNGE
"Viva La Noche Latina!" with dance lessons from 9:30 p.m., followed by dance night, Fridays at the club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. (248) 334-7411

'To Forgive, Divine' shares story of a look back on life

Trinity House Theatre presents "To Forgive, Divine," a comedy by Jack Neary, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20 and 26-27, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 and 28, at the theater, 38840 W. Six Mile, between Haggerty and I-275, Livonia. Tickets $10, $5 Sundays, call (734) 464-6302.

BY SUE SUCHYTA
SPECIAL WRITER

"To Forgive, Divine" is the humorous and warm-hearted story of a young priest, Jerry, who finds himself wondering about his choices when he helps plan a high school band reunion with a former classmate, Katie, "the girl who got away."

To complicate matters, Katie, trapped in a loveless marriage to a man who once humiliated Jerry, reciprocates his feelings. Stir in some town gossips and a baseball bat-wielding husband, and the stage is set for story that will leave you guessing right up until the end.

Director Thomas Malcolm Olson has integrated a strong, cohesive cast into a fast-paced show rich with emotion and likable, identifiable characters. The blocking is natural and seamless, and the characters interact well with each other, whether it's friend-to-friend or more personally intimate.

Tim Dunham plays Father Jerry Dolan with a guileless charm that's difficult to resist. With a boyish face and slight build, he's hardly imposing, but his confidence and self-assurance gives him a quiet but strong masculinity – he may be a priest, but his character is appealing as a man. And when he finally wins his long-awaited wrestling rematch with Katie's husband, we find his character is more than able to meet life's physical challenges as well.

Julie Cullen is a delightful treat as Katie Cachencko: she radiates joy. Her eyes are bright, her face is animated and her movements are quick and energetic. Her voice is clear and lyrical and plays the wide range of her character's shifting emotions well, whether nervous and vulnerable around Jerry, or vehemently angry at her cheating husband. Cullen does not lack energy or stage presence – she glows.

Nora Bonner as the young teen Margaret Crowley and Dorothy Dunne as her Aunt Milly are a warm, likable pair. They capture the nature of small-town gossips, from chatty teens to the good old girls grapevine. As the rectory's custodians, they overhear more than they should, and keep the parish posted on Jerry and Katie "sightings." The two are very human, multi-faceted characters.

Nora puts a wide range of emotion into her roles, from effervescent teen to grieving girl. One wonders why it's taken her so long to get a speaking part at Trinity House – her most recent roles were as a sheep and a maid.

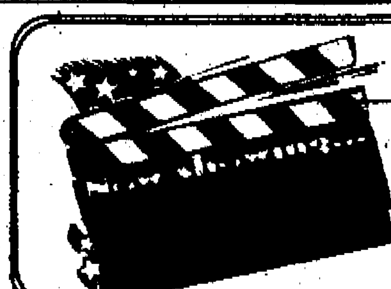
Jamie Macek as Ralph Cachenko, Katie's emotionally callous husband, has taken a role that could have been played stereotypically and made him almost likable – very human at the least. More than a baseball bat-wielding brute, he's a man who loves his wife but never bothered to become a loving husband.

Amidst Ralph's shallowness we get fascinating glimpses of his own vulnerability, making it difficult to dismiss him quite so easily. Macek carries himself confidently and exudes the physical bravado of a jock.

Trinity House has remodeled its stage area to give the actors more room, gutting the stage left wing and extending the set area to the upstage wall. Although this limits exit and entrance locations, it gives the actors more room to work and the set designers more room, too. They've also run an on-stage staircase up to the building's attic, a permanent fixture they plan to use in future shows.

The set was dressed in nondescript but functional office furniture. The characters wore street clothes that offered subtle clues to their character, with Ralph wearing a sports jersey and Jerry noticeably without his clerical collar.

The funniest prop was the portable confessional kneeler, the object of many a battle when Jerry tries unsuccessfully to avoid hearing confessions that complicate the plot. Kudos to the technical crew for attention to detail.



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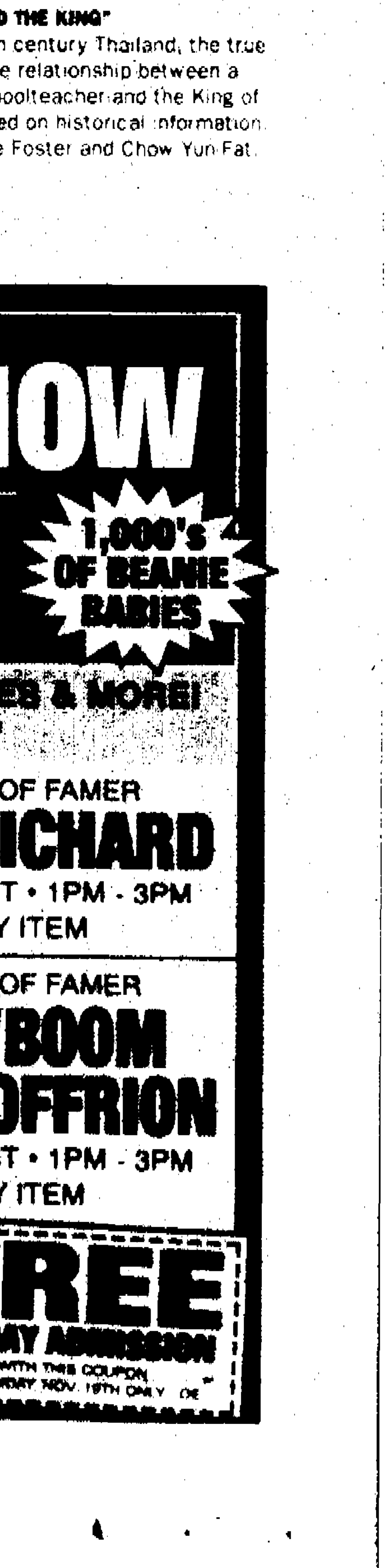

SCREEN SCENE

Local artists are hitting their stride

BACKSTAGE PASS

ANN DELISI

Just about everyone questions his career choice at one time or another. Often, the doubt surfaces when the goals we set aren't achieved by our own arbitrary deadlines. It's even more deflating when we begin to feel that those lofty objectives are no longer worth the bother.

It would seem artists and performers would be most susceptible, particularly if they strive for artistic, critical, and commercial success along with self-satisfaction. Pulling off a grand slam like that doesn't happen often.

What sustains an artist is the opportunity to keep active in his creative field. With persistence, those moments that remind you why you do what you do will come.

It has been a year for those moments for Alicia Gbur and Christine Kerwin of Sister Seed. It's eight years since they met in college and five years since they began performing together. Along the way they've collected two Detroit Music Awards for best acoustic group, recorded and released a pair of well-received albums and performed with Patty Larkin and other musicians they've long admired. Just before their television debut on Detroit Public TV's Backstage Pass, which can be seen at 5:30 p.m. Thursday and midnight Friday, Alicia said that having the chance to perform at Pine Knob this summer was a tremendous thrill. It's a moment any aspiring musician would dream of if you grew up in the Detroit area as Alicia did.

Another example of an artist hitting his stride is Chris Turner, whose metal sculptures have won plenty of praise in the 1990s but not a great deal of common exposure. Turner has been commissioned by the city of Detroit to create the Millennium Bell, a 24-foot-tall sculpture that will ring in the new year from its soon-to-be-permanent installation in Grand Circus Park.

"Chris and his partner, Matt Blaze, are making good progress," says Todd Hastings, producer of a segment on the Millennium Bell to air Nov. 21 on Backstage Pass. "The piece will become a downtown landmark like the Spirit of Detroit statue once the bell sounds for its first and only time on New Year's Day."

Todd explains that the ringing device will be removed once the new millennium is observed, but the bell will remain as a part of the city's history.

"I couldn't be happier for Chris Turner, who is very deserving of this honor. Although he's still a young man, he made a commitment to the city years ago and has since been joined by quite a few other talented artists who do their work in Detroit," says Hastings.

We usually don't have to look too hard to find those moments that make our work worthwhile. Backstage Pass series producer Mark Nathanson makes no secret of his love for theater. When he's not producing the show, it seems he's attending a play or working on a production. Most recently, he directed the St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook's presentation of "The Heidi Chronicles." When producer Cameron Mackintosh of "Les Miserables" and "Miss Saigon" fame came to town to announce the new musical "Martin Guerre" would be presented at the Fisher Theatre, Mark booked him on Backstage Pass for Nov. 21.

I'm not surprised that Mark chose to produce the segment himself. It was just one of those moments.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Nov. 19

"FELICIA'S JOURNEY"
Exclusively at the Maple Art. Psychological drama centers on a pregnant Irish girl who sets off for England in search of her lover. Unable to find him, she ends up in the arms of a sociopath with a proclivity for lost girls.

"SLEEPY HOLLOW"
Tim Burton revises the classic Washington Irving story. This suspenseful and sweeping tale, set in the 1780s, tells of an eccentric and earnest constable who investigates a string of murders, allegedly committed by a headless horseman. Stars Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci.

"THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH"
The 19th installment in the James Bond series. This time out, Bond is assigned to protect the daughter of a murdered oil tycoon and defuse an international power struggle with the world's oil supply hanging in the balance. Stars Pierce Bronson, Robert Carlyle, Sophie Marceau.

"BOY'S DON'T CRY"
Exclusively at the Landmark Main Art Theatre. An exploration of the contradictions of American youth looked at through the true life and death of Brandon Teena.

Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 10

"THE GREEN MILE"
Remarkable story of a guard in a Southern prison's death row in 1935 and one of the inmates over which he has charge. Based on the 1996 serialized novel by Stephen King. Stars Tom Hanks.

"ANNA AND THE KING"
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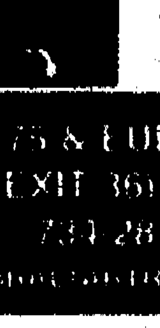

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Local rock: Knee Deep Shag's time for change begins now

STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

If I close my eyes real tight, I can still see and hear it — The exact day I was introduced to the brilliance of Kalamazoo-based band Knee Deep Shag. Earth Day, 1995. Michigan State University's Landon Field. Afternoon. Sunshine. And then they began to play.

While the line-up has changed, the singer has regrown his hair, and the music has evolved, the energy never wavered. Blending rock, funk and soul into some kind of magical, musical potion, Knee Deep Shag has set audiences in motion since the start, around 1992.

Their strength? Each band member is a true musician, a standout in his own right. Whether you're taken by the way guitarist Phil Barry seems to slide back into some altered state with his guitar, how singer Matt Gross croons and slithers across the stage, or you're mesmerized by pounding drum and bass lines and bright keyboards, you can't take your eyes off the band.

Knee Deep Shag stands on the verge of change. Now bidding good-bye to one member and adding another, the band prepares to release its third compact disc.

Drummer Jeff Moehle called me Oct. 27 just moments after receiving the new disc. "It sounds really good," said Moehle, whose parents live in Troy. Other band members blared the music from a lower level of Kalamazoo house as we spoke about the future of Knee Deep Shag.

"Good Disguise" marks the departure of bassist and long-time friend Troy Stansberry. Stansberry decided to leave the band to spend more time with his family. Mike Fuerst, formerly of Daddy Longlegs, takes over on bass these days.

"It's such a weird time," said Moehle. "At the end of September we played our last show with Troy. The very next week we finished the album with Mike. It's the highest of the highs and lowest of the lows."

Knee Deep fans may detect a shift in bass styles as well. Where Stansberry was known for his funky R&B flavor, Fuerst leans more toward rock 'n' roll. He also plays guitar and violin.

"I think everyone will like it; it takes an adjustment," said Moehle, adding that that the band will miss Troy Stansberry. "He is just such an engaging character. The nicest guy you'll ever meet. That drew a lot of people in."

It was Stansberry's suggestion that the band ask Fuerst to join. The bandmates agreed he was the natural choice. "He totally jells with us, personality-wise," said Moehle.

The disc was co-produced, engineered and mastered by Jon Frazer (The Verve Pipe). It took a month and a half of truly focused studio time to complete.

Over the years Knee Deep Shag fans have noticed a transition in style. A member since 1995, Moehle said there's more change to come. "When I joined up, the band was still a funky jam-band...We were all pretty much raised on some sort of rock 'n' roll."

While the early Knee Deep Shag is still evident in song and style, the music has drifted deeper into a rock, blues and soul vein. The addition of Rob Cookman on keyboards in 1997 was another step in that direction. "Rob is just such a huge part of our sound now," said Moehle.

EWOLF

Knee Deep Shag is: *Rob Cookman, Phil Berry, Mike Fuerst, Matt Gross and Jeff Moehle.*

As Knee Deep Shag takes it to the next level with "Good Disguise," the new line-up looks to the future. But fans don't have to wait that long to catch a show.

Experience Knee Deep Shag Wednesday, Nov. 24, Magic Bag Ferndale/248/544-3030. The album can be found at Borders Books and Music, and online at www.kneedeepshag.com.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola is a popular music writer. She can be reached at 734/953-2130 or scasola@oe.homecomm.net.

Old 97s reveal Texas roots rock at its finest

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

Remember this name: Old 97s. The Dallas foursome – singer Rhett Miller, guitarist Ken Bethea, bassist Murry Hammond and drummer Philip Peeples – will open the Detroit show on one of just seven tour dates with Wilco, a more established band in the same musical genre.

Touring in support of their second Elektra Records release, "Fight Songs," the alterna-pop twang-masters delighted audiences as openers for Cake at the State Theatre last summer.

On his way back to this northern stop, Murry Hammond phoned in on Wednesday, Nov. 3, from his hometown to talk about the upcoming show.

"We play rock 'n' roll pop music with pretty much ... a rootsy thread that goes through all of it," said Hammond. "It's fairly energetic, pretty dynamic."

Listen carefully to the mysteriously melancholy "Fight Songs" and hear the hints of bluegrass and country. "We like the mournfulness," explains Hammond of those musical roots. "But we draw heavily on '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll."

With influences from The Byrds to The Beatles, Old 97s leave room for just about any style to creep into their sound. But one thing never changes.

Old 97s songs tend to deal with relationships — from the most elated moments to the most miserable. Hammond said the band steers clear of topical subjects. "You won't get current events in our music ... We like the old favorites: a happy, catchy tune and filling it up with mind-bending miserable lyrics."

On "Fight Songs," "Lonely Holiday" shows off that vulnerable side of the Old 97s that is somehow presented in a melodic, almost-giddy, pop-on-Prozac fashion.

"Fight Songs" is more reflective than their past recordings. Touring for the Old 97s is an on-the-road, off-the-road gig, spliced between working on material for an upcoming record and side projects for some of the boys.

With a sliding southern drawl, Hammond leaves with one appropriate, parting statement: "Y'all take care."

Old 97s perform with Wilco 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, at the Majestic Theatre, Detroit. Tickets cost $15 in advance. Call (248) 645-6666.

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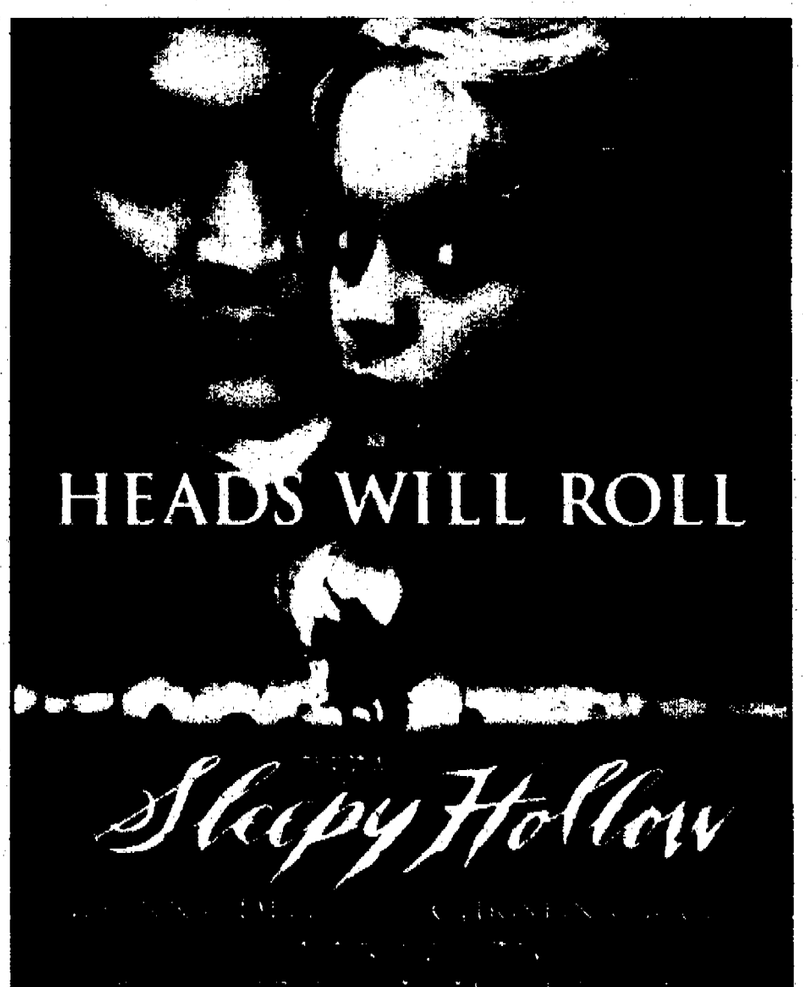

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The Toledo Museum of Art

Tradition and Nu-Asian harmonize at Empire Dynasty

By Eleanor Heald
Special Writer

Proprietors spend serious moments choosing a name for a restaurant. In Farmington Hills, owner Kevin Hoang-Do named Empire Dynasty from his heart. "In Chinese, empire reflects a family concept," he said. "Dynasty is a land of your own, forever."

Of Chinese origin, 42 year-old Hoang-Do emigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam in 1980 with a degree in architecture and design. He is grateful to be a U.S. citizen – his land forever. He went on to earn an electrical engineering degree at Oakland University in Rochester. During his student days earning a master's degree in electrical engineering at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, he worked for a friend in a Chinese restaurant. There he learned to speak Chinese, the language of his ancestors, and gain a love for its food.

He never practiced in his schooled profession, except to use his engineering, design, and architecture skills to personally remodel his restaurant from a former Mexican eatery at the location. He opened Empire Dynasty's doors a year ago.

"Cooking is an art," he said. "It's like my second marriage. It makes me happy. I want to pass this feeling on to my customers."

And he does. Hoang-Do spends his time greeting diners and visiting them at the table to learn their satisfaction with dishes, prepared by his two chefs Randy and Michael Wang. Randy specializes in Szechuan cooking. He formerly worked at one of New York City's most successful Asian restaurants, Szechuan Empire. His brother Michael is the specialist for Cantonese dishes.

Hoang-Do is the inspiration behind Nu-Asian innovations such as Heavenly Shrimp, which he created four years ago to celebrate the anniversary of good friends. The special sauce takes jumbo prawns to new heights. Dynasty Sizzling Fried Noodle's creation was inspired by the opening of Empire Dynasty. Cantonese noodles are complemented by Szechuan flavors.

A dish such as Empire Duck is seldom seen because marinating is not traditionally done in either Szechuan or Cantonese provinces. In this dish, sliced duck is marinated and slowly barbecued in a new-age Chinese oven, then stir-fried with select vegetables in a Szechuan sauce.

Volcano Delight breaks all the rules. This dish is hard to explain, but suffice it to say that if you thought of Szechuan as hot, this dish is not – it's spicy and full of flavor. If you consider Cantonese as a lot of over-battered fried food, not in this dish. The mixture of stir-fry and sauté flavors explodes in your mouth. Pun intended!

Quite unusual for a Chinese menu are three lamb dishes. Hoang-Do explained that in China, only the province of Szechuan cooks lamb. Empire Dynasty's preparations result in very balanced flavors.

November's house special is named Queen's Paradise, a classic Szechuan and Cantonese style combination of fresh jumbo prawns sautéed with selected vegetables in hot, spicy sauce and joined with golden-brown boneless chicken breast in the chef's fresh lemon sauce. Yum at $14.25.

Returning in December is the Marco Polo Special, marinated, tender steak mixed with fresh pineapple and pepper, sautéed in the chefs' most sophisticated sauce and served on a tropical golden pineapple.

Empire Dynasty's atmosphere is upscale yet casual. Tables on two levels break up a large dining area. They are not crowded together and the booths are roomy. Green, mauve and beige tones serve to accent a large, brightly lit replica of the Hong Kong skyline.

Going unused due to outmoded Michigan liquor licensing is an unstocked bar area. After a year, Empire Dynasty remains a place where you cannot, in this modern era of matching wine and beer with food, have either with your chosen dish. This is a travesty some 66 years after the repeal of Prohibition.

Many thanks to a Southfield reader who called Empire Dynasty to my attention, pronouncing it "outstanding." What more do I need to say? Two things. Lunch specials total 37; dinner menu items number 145 and all plates have grand eye appeal. That's exceptional!

Empire Dynasty
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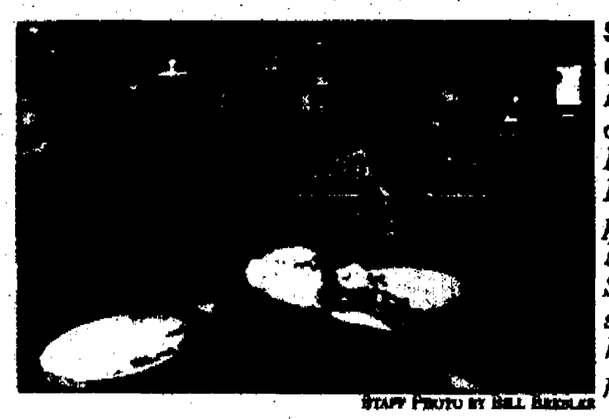

Staff Photo by Bill Brecklar

Specialty dish: *Kevin Hoang-Do, owner of Empire Dynasty, presents the Marco Polo Special served in half a pineapple.*

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The "BIG 7" Freeway Updates
Every 15 minutes
Only on 760 AM WJR
The "BIG 7" always in this order:
I-94
I-96
I-696
I-275
I-75
Southfield Freeway
The Lodge
(and any other problem areas)
The Easy & Better Way To Get Traffic
We're taking the guess work out of traffic!
The "BIG 7" Freeway Updates -- 7 days a week, 24 hours a day -
and every 15 minutes when you need it the most during morning and afternoon drivetime.
WJR 760am
The Official Voice of the "BIG 7" Traffic & Highway Construction Reports