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Livonia office late last week. A new telephone system has been installed and like most new technology the "bugs" are still being worked out. We regret any delays this may have caused in connecting with our customers. We are improving our phone system to meet our company's needs into and beyond 2000. We appreciate your understanding and patience.

Sincerely,

Susan Rosiek

Susan Rosiek,
Publisher
Observer Newspapers

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

ENTERTAINMENT

New Year's Eve: Find out what's happening around town to make your New Year's Eve or Day a worthy celebration. /E1

REAL ESTATE

Incoming: The new president of the Building Industry Association loves his work as a builder. /F1

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Chuck gives up library position



The Westland library board will keep a policy prohibiting the hiring of board family members, following action taken during a Wednesday night meeting.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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Westland library board President Jim Chuck resigned Wednesday night amid a controversy that erupted when his wife was hired for a part-time job in violation of a library nepotism policy.

"I knew it would be tough, but this will be my last meeting," he said, his

voice cracking with emotion.

The board came under fire from some residents after Chuck's wife, Cheryl, started a \$12-an-hour, 30-hour-a-week job in the children's room on Oct. 18.

The situation only deteriorated after library board members indicated they might drop the nepotism policy in the wake of Cheryl Chuck's hiring.

Bowing to public criticism, Jim

Chuck announced his resignation on the same night the board chose to keep a policy prohibiting the hiring of library board immediate family members.

Cheryl Chuck had kept her library job all along, despite mounting public criticism on the issue.

Board members and Library Director Sandra Wilson on Wednesday praised Jim Chuck's job as president and said he will be sorely missed.

"I think we've done a really good job with your leadership," tearful board member Sharon Clark said.

"Jim has done a great job," board member Marty Wagner said. "He has

always been positive in fighting whatever issue we had to resolve."

Wagner said Chuck's leadership has established "a benchmark for others to follow."

Wilson, also fighting back tears, presented a farewell plaque to Chuck.

Outside the meeting room, she strongly commended his accomplishments for Westland's highly successful, three-year-old library.

She credited him with starting programs such as an annual employee picnic and worker merit raises based on job performance.

Please see LIBRARY, A3

Changes on tap at YMCA

BY DARRELL CLEM
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The Wayne-Westland YMCA has a new leader who confirmed Tuesday that a new facility could be built on the 827 S. Wayne Road site.

But Rick Rainville, in a new post as team operations leader for Wayne-Westland, Livonia and Downriver YMCAs, said new construction isn't certain.

"There is a possibility that the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit will work with a developer to construct a new facility on the current site," Rainville said. "But that's very much still in the discussion stage. It's being explored."

A renovation and partial new construction also is possible, he said.

Either way, talks are aimed at finding ways to improve child-care services and senior citizen activities at the Wayne-Westland center, Rainville said.

Otherwise, the latest developments shouldn't bring any major changes or disruptions in service for YMCA users, he said.

"We're planning on continuing with services pretty much as we have in the past," Rainville said.

More precise details about a possible new facility could come as early as February, he said.

Please see YMCA, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Those were the days: Ed Zezulka laughs about the good old days. He remembered walnuts in stockings of bad kids.

Yuletide memories sparkle still at Marquette House

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER
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As the December sun streams through the windows, the residents take turns describing their Christmas memories. There's laughter, and agreement, as memories combine into common themes.

The place is Marquette House assisted living in Westland, down across from John Glenn High School. Resident Mildred Vicary recalled seeing not a thing of Christmas until Christmas morning, in sharp contrast to today's early start.

Edward Zezulka agreed, adding that walnuts given to a child at Christmas meant the child had been bad. "They'd put them in your stockings."

Marjorie Watson lived on a farm in Wallaceburg, Ontario. "It was a small place and you had to order everything from a catalog."

Watson wanted a special doll. She

was getting suspicious about Santa, and her older brother said he saw Mrs. Claus fixing the doll's finger broken in shipping.

"It was my mother," Watson said.

Zezulka said outdoor decorations didn't come along until big department stores started the trend. He remembered taking his kids to the Ford Rotunda, which later burned down. His children believed Santa lived there.

"It was really nice," he said of the Ford Rotunda. "They had animals, deer. They had everything."

He remembered his parents as being good at hiding presents. "Boy, could they hide, I swear."

Margaret Ramsdell remembered her sister being in the Detroit parade in the 1940s. "In those days, it was a real Christmas," she said. "Now, it's so commercialized."

Jeanette Snider remembered being

Please see YULETIDE, A4



Major effort: Don Newell lived on an 80-acre farm, much of it wooded. He remembered the cutting down of the Christmas tree as a big deal. "That was an event."

Wounded man OK

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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An electrical contractor renting a Westland apartment was shot Saturday afternoon when he returned from an out-of-town trip and found a stranger in his residence, a police official said.

Roger Burns, a Tennessee native, survived a single shot from a .40-caliber automatic handgun after he entered his Venoy Terrace apartment, on Venoy south of Palmer, at 12:20 p.m. Saturday, Lt. Marc Stobbe said.

A single bullet pierced his upper

Please see WOUNDED, A4

Traffic stop by real policeman nabs impersonator

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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A fake police officer picked the wrong motorist when he activated flashing lights and tried stopping a real Westland patrolman in an unmarked car.

The incident happened while Westland Officer Michael Matich was driving near Hunter and Yale, a half-mile south of Westland Shopping Center.

Matich and the fake officer arrived at a stop sign at the same time last Friday at 5:30 p.m., and the suspicious driver started trailing Matich in a 1998 Dodge Dakota truck, a police report said.

The impersonator activated flashing lights mounted on the dash of his vehicle and also turned on flashing headlights, but Matich was suspicious of the vehicle.

"I did not stop until I caught up with traffic at Hunter and Wayne," Matich wrote in his report. "The vehicle stopped behind me for a short time, then turned into the parking lot of CVS (drugstore)."

Matich started trailing the suspicious car and called for help from marked police cars.

While waiting for the marked cars to arrive, Matich said the suspicious driver drove toward him, and Matich was able to identify himself as a police officer by showing his badge and identification.

"I ordered the subject who was the driver to stop, which he did," the report said.

Officers in marked cars arrived, and Matich asked the impersonator for his driver's license and paper work.

The fake officer could only produce

■ 'If they believe it's not a real police officer, they should keep on driving ...'

Lt. Marc Stobbe

an expired license and no paperwork, and he told officers he was a Romulus firefighter who had forgotten his identification and badge, police reports said.

He then changed his story again, and officers placed him under arrest. His vehicle was impounded.

The suspect has been charged with impersonating a police officer, reckless driving and not having a driver's license. Lt. Marc Stobbe said. The defendant could face a one-year jail term and fines of \$1,000 if convicted.

The impersonator's vehicle was

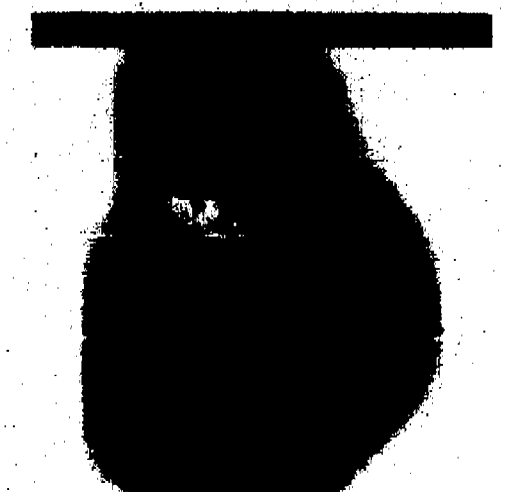
equipped with a siren, special headlights, a front window-mounted strobe light, and strobes on the front and rear turn signals.

The fake police officer was identified as a 25-year-old white male from Wayne.

Meanwhile, Stobbe offered advice for motorists who believe a fake officer is trying to pull them over.

"If they believe it's not a real police officer, they should keep on driving at a safe speed and pull into a police station or a populated area," Stobbe said. "A real police officer won't mind."

Stobbe also suggested that in addition to driving at safe speeds to a safe area, it could be helpful to wave or signal to the supposed police car so that a real officer will know that he isn't being ignored.



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Winter holidays prompt closings

Local government will come close to a halt for the holidays. Westland City Hall will be closed Dec. 23-24 and Dec. 30-31 for Christmas and New Year's, respectively. Emergency police and fire services won't be affected.

The 18th District Court of Westland will close Dec. 23-24 and Dec. 30-31. The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland will close Dec. 24-26 and Dec. 31 through Jan. 2.

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Sports fan a homer in business

BY LEONARD POGER
STAFF WRITER
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Greg Every practices what he preaches while making money doing what he loves best — boosting local sports.

But he doesn't get involved with all sports teams, just those in southeast Michigan. "I could see a lot of New York Yankees and Notre Dame items, but I don't. I'm a homer," he said, evidenced by his wardrobe of a Detroit Tiger cap and golf shirt and Red Wing jacket.

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

Added to his inventory are autographed jerseys.

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

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

Now he opened his second location, on the southwest corner of Ford Road and Henry Road, between Middlebelt and Merri-man.

The former Westland resident, who now lives in Plymouth, has been a sports nut since he was 5 years old.

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

"I lived off the fourth hole, which was next to my back yard (on Carrousel Street in Westland)," said Every, 36.

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

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

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

That started the business career of Every who had special-

ized shirts and souvenirs made for championship teams and "went on the road" across the country.

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

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

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

The Garden City location is his second.

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

Every said his wife, Jodi, sometimes reminds him to "put on a normal shirt," instead of the sports items.

He also said that while he enjoys competing in football,



Open for business: Greg Every displays a Tiger Stadium souvenir photo under the Spartan-Wolverine helmet canopy of his store.

golf, volleyball and softball, he will cut back because of the birth of their first child, a son, six weeks ago.

OBITUARIES

PATRICIA L. SAVAGE

A funeral Mass for Patricia Savage, 44, of Westland was Dec. 14 in St. Valentine Catholic Church. Officiating was the Rev. Thomas Belczak.

Miss Savage, born July 31, 1955, in Detroit, died Dec. 9 in Westland. She was a former resident of Redford Township.

Surviving are her parents, Anthony and Geraldine Savage of Redford; brothers, Charles (Diane), Robert, Michael (Shawnee) and David; and sister, Janet.

Miss Savage was preceded in death by her mother, Kathleen

Savage.

Memorials may be made to Wayne County Living Services, 35425 Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184 or Catholic Central High School Scholarship Fund, 14200 Breakfast Drive, Redford, MI 48239.

Arrangements were made by Fisher-Goodnuff Funeral Home.

ANN BARTLETT

Arrangements for Ann Bartlett, 94, of Northville were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Westland.

Mrs. Bartlett, born Nov. 23, 1905, in Bavaria, Germany, died

Dec. 8 in Novi. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are her son, Lee Bartlett of Northville; daughter, Ann Siroonian of Boca Raton, Fla.; sister, Emelia DeVore of Westland; six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

ALICE M. BATKE

Services for Alice Batke, 83, of Westland were Dec. 14 in John N. Santeu & Son Funeral Home. Officiating was the Rev. Barbara Aimone from Community Hospice & Home Care.

Mrs. Batke, born Nov. 13, 1916, in Wayne, died Dec. 11 in Westland. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are her husband, Harold, and daughter, Paula (Tom) Lewis.

Memorials may be made to Community Hospice or Michigan Humane Society.

JACOB L. ALLS

Services for Jacob Alls, 84, of Livonia will be Dec. 17 in the

Bryan Funeral Home in Hoxie, Ark.

Mr. Alls, born Oct. 1, 1915, in Lynn, Ark., died Dec. 12 in Westland. He came to the Livonia community in 1950 from Arkansas. He worked at General Motors as a millwright for 23 years. Mr. Alls was a Mason and a Navy veteran of World War II. He liked to hunt, bowl and play pinocle. He loved to travel to Arkansas to visit his family.

Surviving are his wife, Mabel; son, John (Vicki) Alls of Caruthersville, Mo.; daughters, Norma (Patrick) McIntosh of Troy and Pam O'Connor of Livonia; brother, Clinton Alls of Van Buren, Ark.; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association, Detroit Area Chapter, 17220 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076.

Local arrangements were made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

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Skating has yule theme

The Westland Sports Arena will host "Skate With Santa" 1-2:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18. Admission price is \$2.75 for a

child/senior, \$3.25 for an adult. The Christmas Show will be 3:30-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, with admission at \$1.

ACHIEVERS

Joseph A. Wallen received a bachelor of arts degree in art from Adrian College during Dec. 10 commencement ceremonies.

Wallen, a 1993 graduate of Redford Union High School, is the son of Edward and Lynn Wallen.

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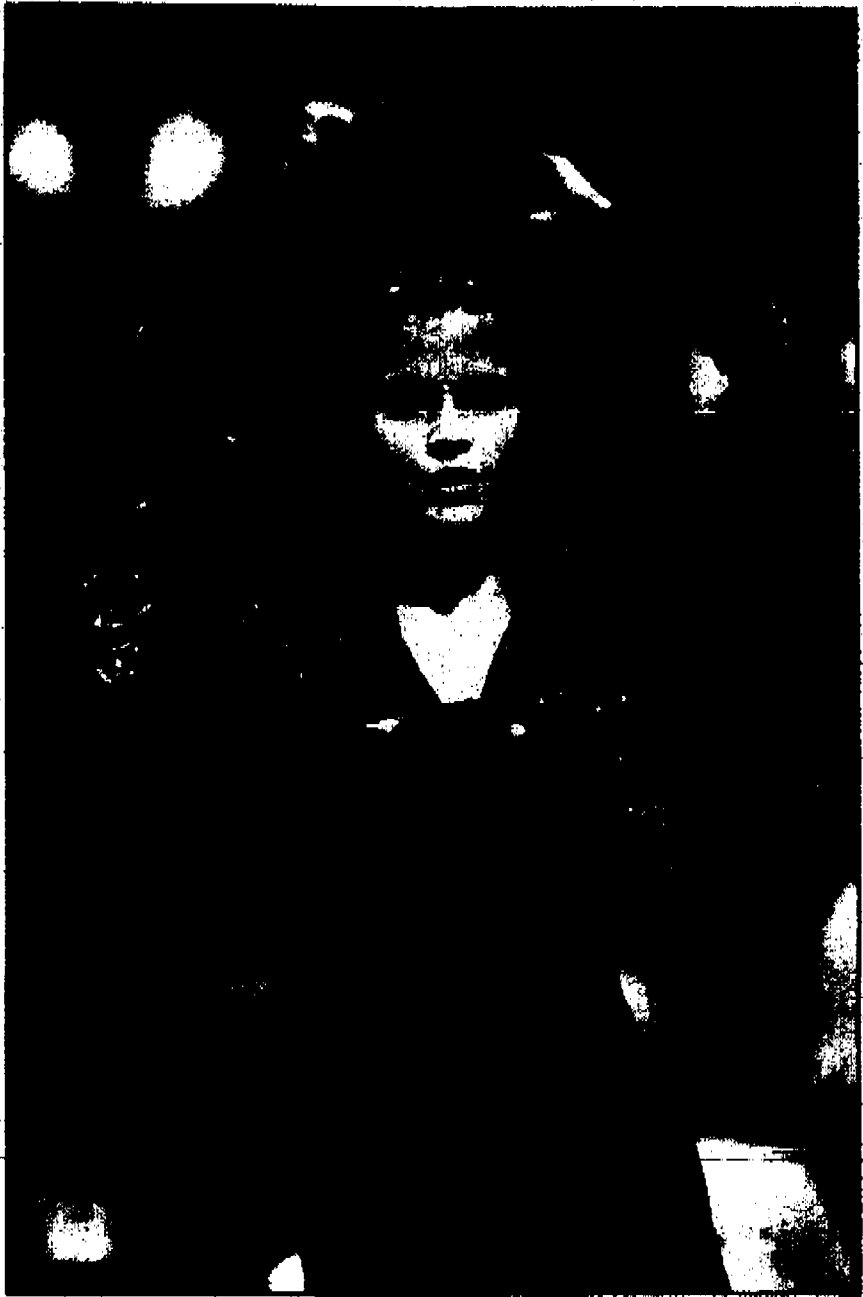
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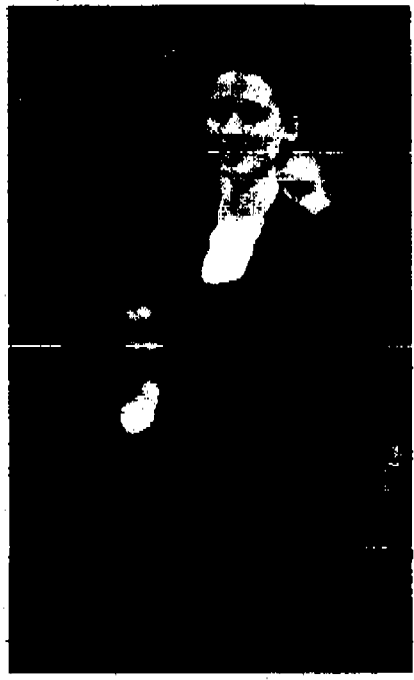
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Dance to the music



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURCHMAN

Zebra power: Wayne Memorial High School Zebra Dance Team member Tina Ukaj performs for the basketball crowd at halftime Friday night in Alumni Arena. The game was against the John Glenn Rockets. At left, Amanda Marsh performs at halftime.



Benefit a boon to ailing youth

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
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As a hockey player, Jerry Ball was used to fighting for every goal and every win.

Now, the 15-year-old Wayne resident is fighting for something much more important — his life. A little more than a year ago, Ball was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

Since then, he has had radiation and chemotherapy treatments to stop the tumor's growth.

"It's not killing the cancer," said his mother, Gloria Ball. "But it's not allowing it to progress."

A bone marrow transplant may be the teenager's best bet. Fortunately for Ball, the new procedure is done locally at the Karmanos Cancer Institute at Harper Hospital in Detroit.

The only rub is money. Medical insurance will not cover the procedure, which may cost in excess of \$100,000.

"The doctors feel this is what he needs," said Gloria. "His body can only take so much chemotherapy."

Genesis Salon of Canton is holding a benefit for Ball noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Stylist Lisa Rodriguez, a family friend of Jerry's, organized the event.

"We do a lot together," she said of the teen's family. "They're great people."

At least five stylists will be cutting hair Sunday. A minimum donation of \$10 will be asked for. No appointment is necessary.

All donations and tips will go to benefit Ball. Genesis Salon is in a strip mall on Sheldon Center Road north of Warren.

Gloria Ball remembers the day the tumor was found: Nov. 12, 1998. Jerry was playing in a hockey game.

"He kept falling down," she said. "He was off balance because of the tumor."

She took her son to the family's pediatrician to find out what was wrong. Ball said she was skeptical when a doctor said



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURCHMAN

Benefit: Liz Nowak cuts the hair of Chris Combs of Howell at Genesis Salon. She and Irene Akers, cutting hair at left rear, will host a benefit.

Jerry simply had an allergy.

They went to Garden City Hospital the next day for a second opinion. An MRI revealed the tumor, which was lodged too close to his spinal cord to allow for an operation.

Four days after the discovery, Jerry was undergoing radiation. Treatments continued for six months. Gloria Ball said her son did well during the period and was actually able to return to the ice briefly.

By July, however, the teenager had double vision in his left eye and his condition was worsening. Chemotherapy started shortly afterwards.

While the chemotherapy was relatively mild, Ball said it was tough on her son.

"His moods have fluctuated a

lot," she said.

Chemotherapy, Ball added, will not cure her son. Transplanting bone marrow could.

The teen's bone marrow would be removed. He would then receive a "super" chemotherapy treatment to kill the cancer. Ball's own bone marrow would then be transplanted back to him.

The family is appealing Blue Cross/Blue Shield's decision not to pay for the procedure.

"We're on our third appeal," said Ball.

Besides the Genesis Salon benefit, the Wayne Wheels held a charity game on Nov. 5. Another game is planned.

For more information or to make a donation, visit: www.friendshelpingfriends.net.

Library from page A1

"He was the one that offered the leadership," Wilson said. "He was for the staff. I think this will be a real loss to the staff unless his eventual replacement is like that."

Former Mayor Tom Taylor has been tapped to replace Chuck on Jan. 3, but the five-member board still has two vacancies.

One of those vacancies was created when former board member Jo Johnson, saying she opposed the nepotism policy violation, resigned after Cheryl Chuck was hired.

Early in Wednesday's meeting, another former library board member, Marjorie Kay Daniels, hinted that Jim Chuck could be damaging any future political ambitions he may have.

"Things have a way of coming back when you least expect it," Daniels said.

Chuck had entered the Westland City Council race this year but was eliminated in the Sept. 14 primary.

Resident Jim Cook also reminded the board that nepotism "is not something that anybody is going to think highly of."

Chuck described his library board experience as a monthly meeting of friends who gathered to improve a top-notch facility

'I made friends, and that's what I'm going to take away from here.'

Jim Chuck

—leaving library board



Jim Chuck

"that speaks for itself"

In November, alone, the library's circulation included 62,209 materials. The door count was 25,257 people.

Chuck's colleagues credited his leadership for some of that success.

Chuck said the library board has always had a "we" philosophy at improving the facility.

"I made friends, and that's what I'm going to take from here," he said Wednesday night.

Wilson was responsible for hiring Cheryl Chuck and has apologized for it. She said she has been "desperate" to find and retain good employees — some of whom have left for higher-paying jobs at other libraries.

But critics had warned library officials that refusing to address the nepotism flap would tarnish the library's image.

Sentencing date set in attack on woman

Four men face a January sentencing in an attack last spring on a 39-year-old Detroit woman.

Scott Hartmeyer and Keith Ziebron, of Livonia, Erik Michaud of Canton Township and Ryan Corley of Westland could face up to 10 years in prison. They each pleaded no contest in Wayne County Circuit Court last month to a charge of assault with intent to do great bodily harm in the March 29 attack on the woman, who was working as a prostitute.

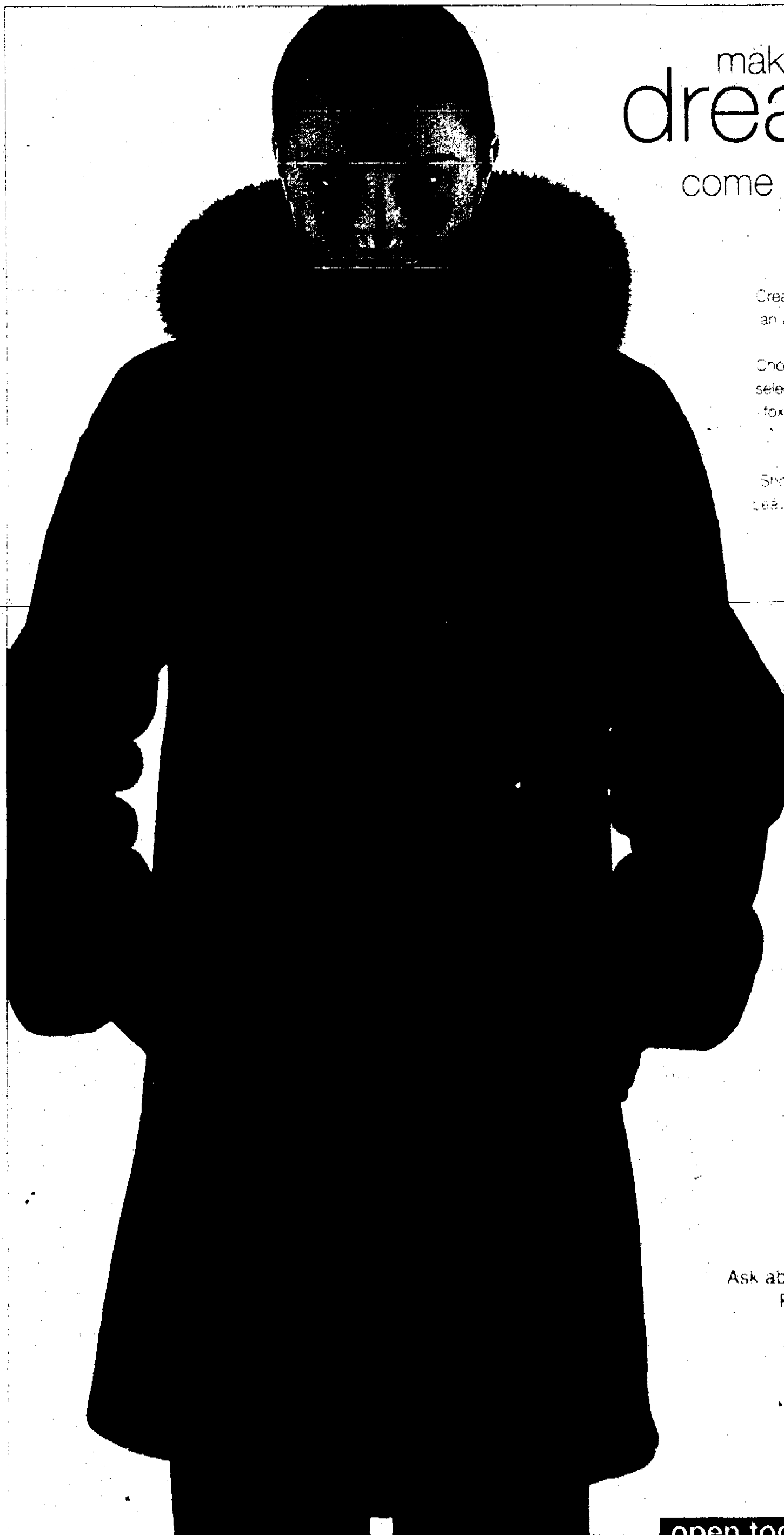
The four had originally been charged with four counts each of

first-degree criminal sexual conduct. Those charges were dropped.

The four are to appear before Circuit Judge Yonda Evans on Friday, Jan. 7, for sentencing.

In an April preliminary hearing in 16th District Court, the victim testified that the four sexually assaulted her in a house on Five Mile near Middlebelt. All but Hartmeyer punched her and threatened her life, she said.

She was uncertain, however, which man began the assault by threatening her with a knife.

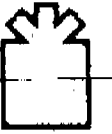


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YMCA from page A1

Rainville started his new, broader duties as team operations leader for Wayne-Westland, Livonia and Downriver YMCAs on Dec. 1.

He assumed his position as former Wayne-Westland Director Rich Perkowski left his job on Nov. 30 for what YMCA officials described as personal reasons.

"He seemed to be wanting to advance, and there was no advancement here," Wayne-Westland YMCA board Chairman Ed Turner said. "He left completely on his own."

Turner said Perkowski had "feelers out" but didn't have another position in place when he left. Turner and others

offered to give him a good recommendation.

"The staff here all love him," Turner said, adding later, "Rich is a super nice guy. I hate to see him go."

Rainville also commended Perkowski, who had been in his Wayne-Westland job about eight years.

"Rich Perkowski performed one outstanding job at the Wayne-Westland YMCA," Rainville said. "He was there for eight years, and he was stellar in his performance. We are going to miss him."

Rainville will not be stepping into Perkowski's position. Rather, he will oversee the facility while

hiring a branch operations director to handle daily duties.

"My primary job right now is to find new staff leadership for the Wayne-Westland YMCA," Rainville said. "That person will oversee day-to-day operations at that branch but will get support through my position."

Rainville had worked as the Livonia YMCA's executive director for 2 1/2 years before he was tapped for his new team operations leader job.

Turner said officials hope to hire Wayne-Westland's branch director soon.

"We'd like to get it done before the first of the year," he said.

Yuletide from page A1

in an extension group which did some sewing. "We made our own stuff. They taught us to sew and make dresses. I did more sewing than I did anything else."

The residents saw a lot of their neighbors at Christmas. Mildred Vicary would stay at her grandmother's "so that we would be there Christmas morning." Later, she told her own children the real Santa was at downtown Hudson's.

Some funny stories emerge as the residents tell their memories. Margaret Ramsdell's brother-in-law decorated a Christmas tree in the basement, for a surprise. Unfortunately, the narrow staircase damaged some bulbs. The tree was still nice, she recalled.

Don Newell lived on an 80-acre farm, some 30 acres of it wooded. "That was an event," he said of cutting down the family Christmas tree. They also tapped maples for syrup.

"We had a happy childhood," said Newell, who worked at the Ford Rotunda when it burned.

Jeanette Snider and others recalled buying Christmas trees late, to get the best price, during the Depression. When World War II came, many items weren't available. Margaret Ramsdell remembered being unable to buy metal for garlands, and using crepe paper for decorations.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Memories: Mildred Vicary remembers Christmases past.

Mildred Vicary remembered getting a Christmas tree, drilling holes in the trunk and putting branches in "to fill up the tree real nice."

She also remembered plenty of holiday baking, including the family fruitcake. "Oh, that was luscious cake." Her children didn't like it, however.

Many of the residents' memories touch on food, ranging from homebrew to apple cider to fried mush. "We had lots of fried mush," said Newell, adding it's still on the menu at Bob Evans.

Richard Blue recalled going to Noble School on Middlebelt, where the teacher would have them sing Christmas carols. He remembers California navel oranges as presents, and candle

decorations on the tree; those candles had to be watched carefully.

"Today, everybody has to have turkey," Blue remembered duck or goose being served.

The residents saw many changes in their lives. Newell, born west of Toledo, remembers most people having names like Smith. "Then we come to the big city and it's a polyglot."

Other residents sharing holiday memories include Christine Sandel, Ellen Mills, Helen Owen and Sonia Weiner. They enjoy Christmas, and Christmas food, today, but still look back.

"Nothing tastes like mother, nothing tastes like grandmother," Vicary said.

Wounded from page A1

right chest and was found in an apartment wall. Burns, 42, was treated at Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis in Wayne but refused to stay for observation. Stobbe said.

Police investigating the incident learned that Burns had let a friend use his apartment while he was out of town - and the friend in turn allowed a third man to use it.

Burns and the third man,

accused in the shooting, didn't know one another.

"The original renter (Burns) came home and found this guy in his apartment, and they had a confrontation because neither one knew each other," Stobbe said. "The visitor had a .40-caliber automatic handgun. He pulled it out and aimed it at Burns. He fired one shot and then (Burns) disarmed him and took the gun away from him."

Accused shooter Theodore Marcum, 39, was arraigned Tuesday morning in Westland 18th District Court on a charge of felonious assault.

Marcum, described as an electrical worker from Kansas, could face a four-year prison term if convicted as charged.

A not-guilty plea has been placed on record for him, and he is scheduled to return to court Dec. 22 for a preliminary hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial.

He was jailed Tuesday in lieu of a \$50,000/10 percent bond.

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WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL

SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES

MTG NO 23-12/8/99

Presiding: Council President Cicirelli

Present: Anderson, Barna, Cox, Griffin, LeBlanc, Scott

256: Adopted joint resolution proclaiming 12/6/99 as 127th Anniversary Celebration of Arbor Day

257: Approved minutes of regular mtg held 11/15/99

Change order for the purchase of additional 800 MHz equipment for HFMS, amt \$27,140.80 to Motorola

Contract between City & Michigan Department of Transportation for resurfacing of Ford Road from Wayne to Venoy

Introduced budget amendment 2000-09: Ford Road Resurfacing Project, amt \$31,500

Introduced budget amendment 2000-10: City Hall emergency electrical repair work, amt \$12,000

Request to go into closed study session following Council Meeting to discuss tentative agreement with Westland Supervisory UAW Local 157

258: Denied the request of S Kavanagh to rezone from vehicle service & single family residential to commercial business, NE corner of Wayne Road & Cherry Hill with reasons

259: Denied request from S Kavanagh for special land use approval for proposed Walgreen's Drug Store with drive-thru pharmacy, NE corner of Wayne Road & Cherry Hill as proposed use does not meet special land use standards of Zoning Ordinance

260: Denied site plan approval for proposed Walgreen's Drug Store with drive-thru pharmacy, NE corner of Wayne Road & Cherry Hill

261: Confirmed reappointment of B-Hopkins to Westland Canvassing Board for a 4 yr term, expires 12/31/2003

262: Confirmed reappointment of T Worden to Westland Canvassing Board for a 4 yr term, expires 12/31/2003

263: Confirmed reappointment of T Dunigan to Westland Board of Review for 3 yr term, expires 12/3/2002

264: Confirmed reappointment of J Molesky to Westland Board of Review for 3 yr term, expires 12/3/2002

265: Introduced resolution reorganizing current DPS Water & Sewer Superintendent's position to Water & Sewer Construction & Maintenance Superintendent & create a position General Foreman of DPS Operations

266: Introduced Ordinance granting consent to transfer by MediaOne of control of its Cable Television System & Cable Television Franchise with Westland to AT&T Corporation

267: Withdrawal approval of bid of original bidder MPR Management, due to failure of original bidder to fulfill the requirements of the contract

268: Denied bid from D Walker, Jr for parcel #008-01-0044-008, amt \$36,000 due to his request for 24-month land contract

269: Approved Check List-338,164.04 & Prepaid-\$2,025,917.90

Mtg adjourned at 8:40 pm

Minutes available in City Clerk's Office

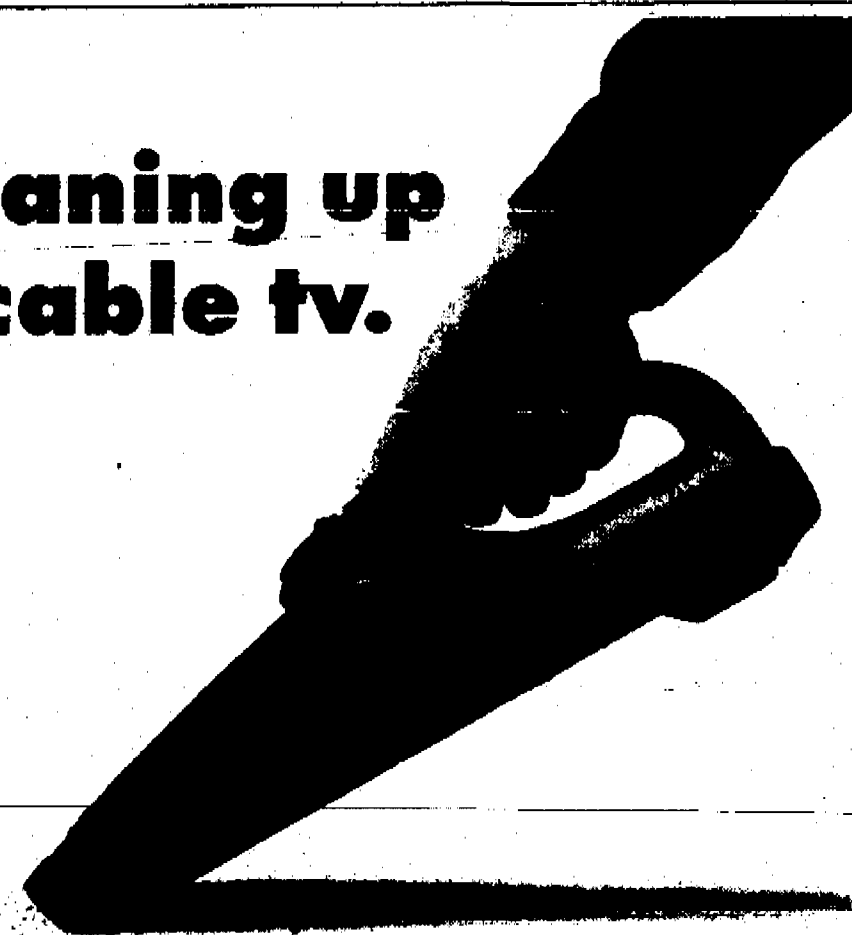
SANDRA A. CICIRELLI
Council President

PATRICIA A. GIBBONS
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Published: December 16, 1999

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or event purchases; and (ii) any additional outlets beyond the first one. New customers who subscribe on or after 11/15/99 may be eligible to earn up to \$100 on an extramoney™ GiftCard over a one year period. Offer expires 1/15/2000. GiftCard offer not valid for localcast only customers (401) and may not be used for cash withdrawals at any cash dispensing location (401) and not redeemable for cash. Other terms and restrictions apply. Please call for more details.

Slamming complaints decline after state crack down

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

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

customers," commission Chairman John Strand said.

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

Slamming is a practice in

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

The acts give the commission authority to assess severe penal-

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

- strict standards to verify requests to change telephone service providers;
- local telephone carriers to offer carrier freeze protection programs to all customers who want the protection;
- telephone service-provider

registration with the commission; ■ prompt customer notification of any changes in the customer's service provider.

The commission continues to encourage customers who have documented proof that they have been slammed to pursue lawful remedies with the commission. "While we have clearly turned the corner, there are still far too many instances of slamming in Michigan," Strand said.

MPSC staff continue to work

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

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

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Poles • Scott Alpine
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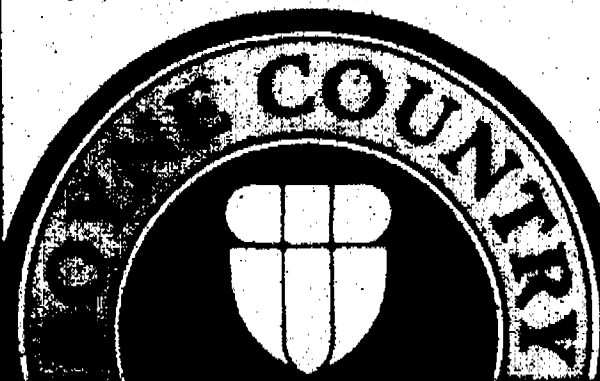
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Keely Wygonik named assistant managing editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wygonik said she's looking forward to the challenge.

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

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

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

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

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

Wygonik and her husband, David, live in Dearborn.

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



Keely Wygonik

PSC warns to be ready for Y2K

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

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

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

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

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

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

■ Keeping a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.

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

When power is lost:

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

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

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

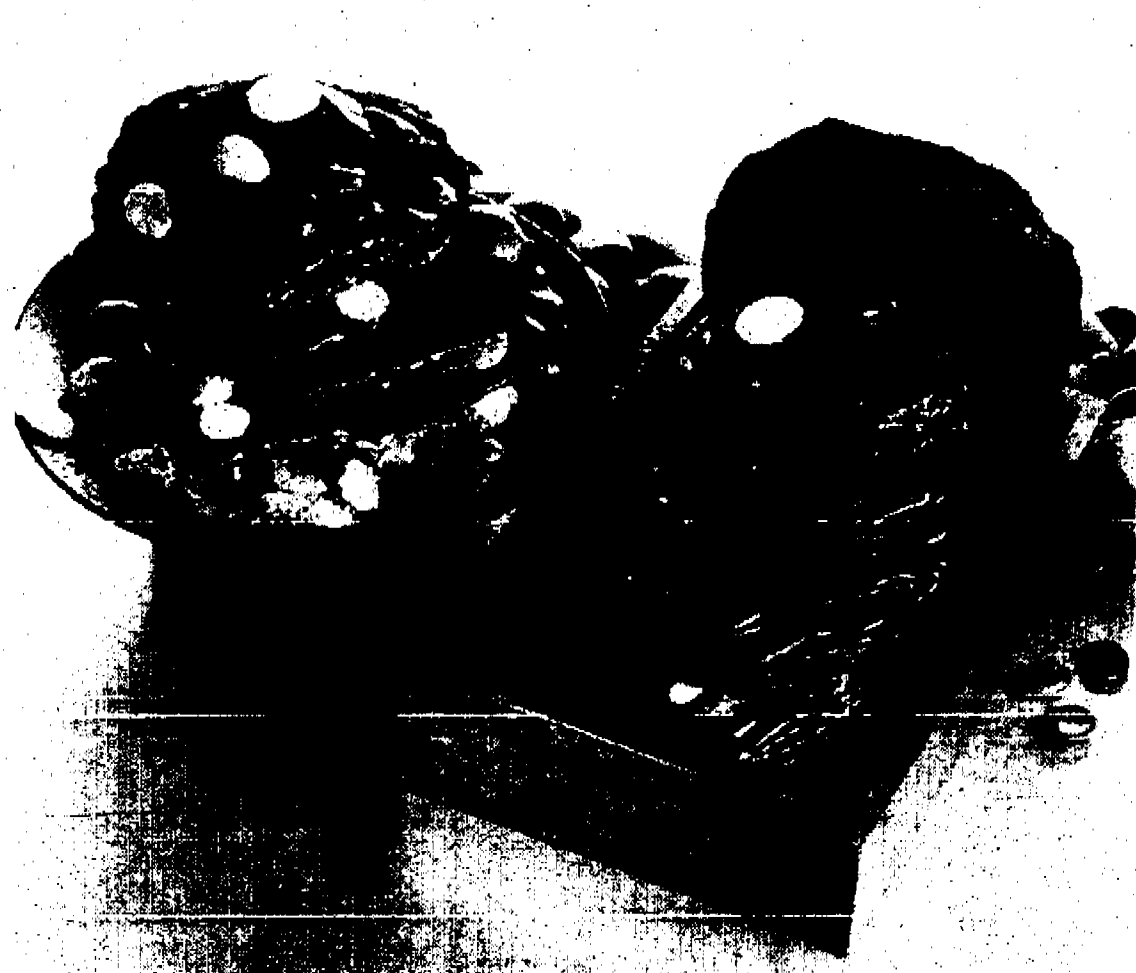
■ Keep the refrigerator door closed as much as possible. Move milk, cheese, meats, etc. into the freezer compartment of the refrigerator. If the freezer is only partially full, group packages together so they form an igloo to keep each other cold. Purchase dry ice and place in freezer - it will help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

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

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

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

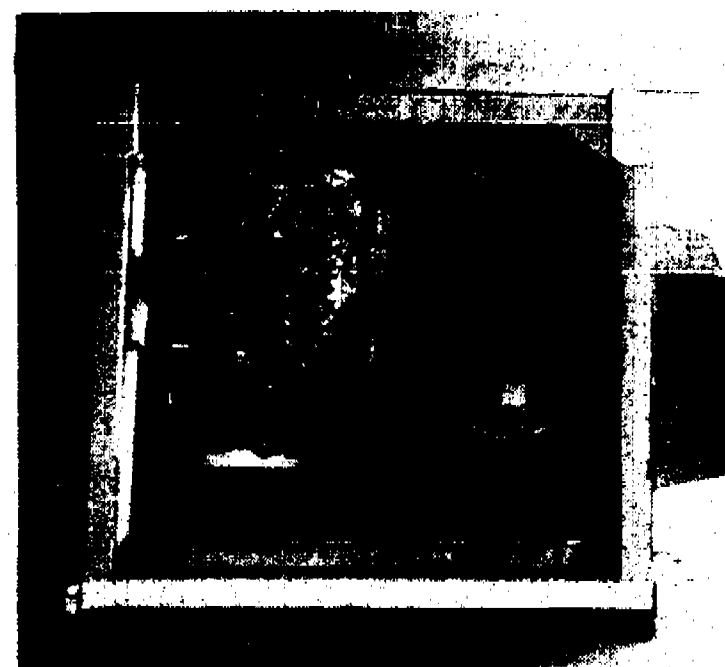
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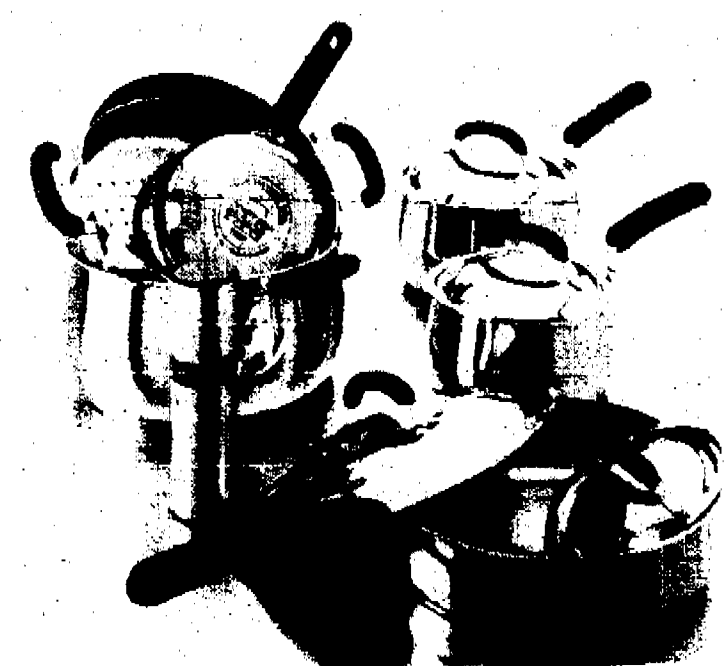
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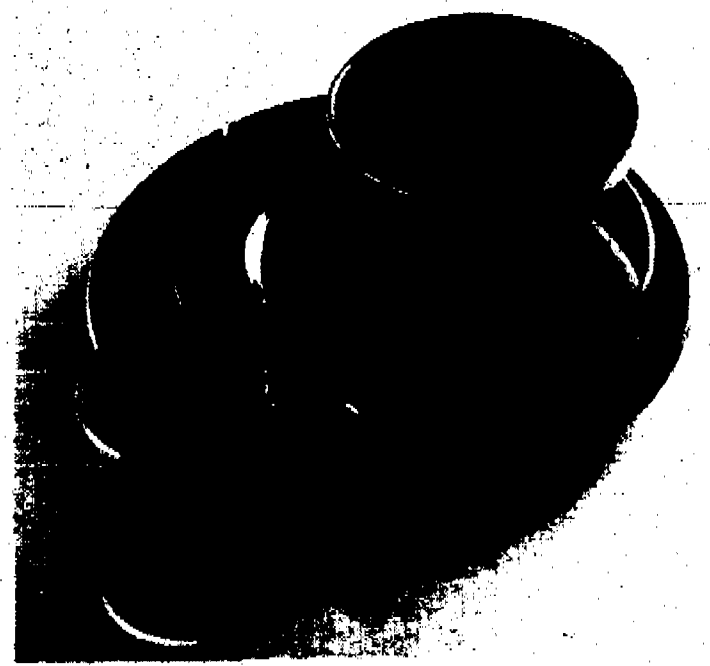
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Gift: Rodger Caldwell, president of UAW Local 845, accepts a certificate for a donation of \$5,000 to the Sheldon Plant Community Service Committee. Attending were (left to right) Carol Clements of Wayne County Parks, Denise Johnson, president of Friends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

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

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

opens next fall.

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

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

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

The Interpretive Center will tell the Ford Story, along with those of the settlers and Native Americans who lived here, and of the Rouge River that still influences our communities.

For information on the Interpretive Center, call Carol Clements, Wayne County Parks, at (734) 261-1850.

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As the holiday season moves into full swing, Wayne County LightFest is bringing together the sights and the sounds of the season.

Every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m., area choirs will perform at LightFest as part of the event's "Light Up the Night with Song" series. Choirs will offer songs to celebrate the season at the Warrendale site.

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, the Renaissance Choir from Detroit's Renaissance High School will add their voices to the night at

"Light Up the Night with Song." Under the direction of Nina Scott, this choir will sing classical and contemporary holiday music.

The sixth annual Wayne County LightFest is located along scenic Middle Rouge Parkway in Westland (enter at Merriam Road and Hines Drive.) LightFest is open now through Dec. 30, 7-10 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. (Closed Mondays, Tuesdays and Christmas Day.) Donation is \$5 per car.

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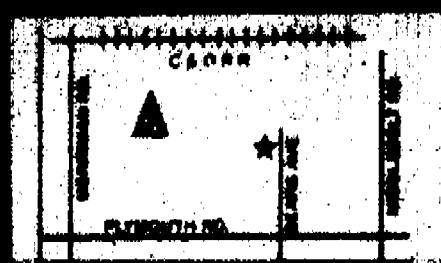
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Legislature makes a deal on residency

BY KEN ABRAHAM
STAFF WRITER
kabravery@ecce.com

Wayne County governments will no longer be able to require their employees to live in town, under a settlement reached last week by Michigan lawmakers.

But municipalities can limit the distance workers reside from their city of employment to no more than 20 miles.

State lawmakers accepted the 20-mile-radius compromise Wednesday, Dec. 8, in a 66-44 vote in the House and a 26-9 vote in the Senate.

The bill was presented to the governor Friday, Dec. 10. Gov. John Engler has said he will sign the bill.

But debate over the issue may not be over. Democrats who oppose the bill have promised to launch a petition drive to overturn it. Rep. Mike Hanley (D-Saginaw) and Sen. Virgil Smith (D-Detroit) said they'll work with groups like the Michigan Municipal League to reverse the new law.

Smith, who argued the state ban on residency rules will cause further deterioration of the city of Detroit as employees there seek to leave town, said the bill would result in a \$20 million loss for that community in the coming census count.

Noting that 90 communities throughout the state have some type of residency rule for employees, Smith promised to put the issue on the ballot next fall.

"This is about civil liberties in the state of Michigan," Sen. Loren Bennett (R-Canton), pri-

mary sponsor of the bill, said. "This is about the rights of individuals to live where they want to live. It's about putting the interests of people ahead of the interests of government, as our founding fathers said they should be."

Senate Bill 198 initially was written to ban residency rules altogether, but when the House watered the bill down to make residency requirements a subject of collective bargaining, the legislation was thrown into conference committee.

The version produced by the committee would block cities from having rules about residency other than requiring that employees live within a 20-mile radius of the city limits. A special residency rule would apply to married couples when both spouses work in cities which have residency rules. The couple would be required to live within 20 miles of only one of those two towns.

In the House, representatives voted 66-44 for the conference report.

Here's how local legislators voted: Reps. Bob Brown (D-Dearborn Heights), Eileen DeHart (D-Westland), Gerald Law (R-Plymouth), Bruce Patterson (R-Canton), Andrew Raczkowski (R-Farmington Hills) and Laura Toy (R-Livonia) voted yes.

Rep. Tom Kelly (D-Wayne) voted no.

Sens. Loren Bennett (R-Canton), and Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) voted yes.

Sen. George Z. Hart (D-Dearborn) did not vote.

Chief cautious on local alternative plan

BY KEN ABRAHAM
STAFF WRITER
kabravery@ecce.com

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

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

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

Buren.

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

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

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

Curran highlighted the following items from the ordinance:

■ The county may collect fees from communities for ordinance violators who are in programs that are alternatives to incarceration.

■ The cost shall be determined by the lesser of the fees for incarceration or the alternative program's actual costs.

■ The county's chief financial officer shall annually certify to the county commission the cost of each program.

■ The court may collect a fee from the ordinance violator for participation in the program.

"The Department of Community Justice is working to identify programs that can assist ordinance violators, particularly chronic violators, in breaking their cycle of criminal behavior," Curran stated in a letter to the CWW.

"The services we are attempting to identify are both residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment, education, life skill and employment services. To date we have positive feedback from the Salvation Army

and we are waiting to hear from others."


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

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

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

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

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Rivers' coffee klatch draws a wide range of questions

By RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER
rskoglund@oe.homedcomm.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers

D-Ann Arbor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Many of those demonstrators were anarchists, replied Rivers.

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

Joyce Harrington of Plymouth, the former president of the

See RIVERS, A12



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

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

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A12

Rivers opposes banking bill, says it may threaten privacy

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

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

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

- The bill requires financial institutions to "clearly and conspicuously" tell consumers their practices and policies regarding the disclosure of non-public personal information to affiliates and non-affiliated third parties.

- Consumers may "opt out" of sharing their personal information with non-affiliated third parties. The provision prohibits banks from releasing information only if the consumer has specifically instructed the institution not to share information.

Customers cannot opt out of sharing their information with third parties contracted to perform services on behalf of the financial institution. Once customers decide not to opt out of sharing their personal information, however, they cannot

change their minds, only switch financial institutions.

- Non-affiliated third parties given access to customers' personal information may not pass this information on to any other non-affiliated third parties.

- Unless the firm is contracted by the financial institution, financial institutions may not disclose customers' account numbers or similar access numbers to non-affiliated third parties for use in telemarketing, direct mail marketing, or e-mail marketing.

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

Rivers from page A10

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

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

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

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

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

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

County parks ready for winter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grants available for county schools

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

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

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

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

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



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Senate passes bills to make 'dangerous animals' illegal

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sen. David Jaye
R-Macomb

"A wolf tracks in a straight line," he said. "Hardly any dogs

do that. Is the tail curled or straight?" Dogs' tails are curled.

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

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

Both bills now move to the House for approval.

All local senators voted for the measures.

Judge denies motion to stop deer hunting

BY TRAN LONGMOORE
HomeTown Communications
Network

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We've explored the other options and they just aren't plausible," Moilanen said. "Spotting, catching and sterilizing our deer can take 90 minutes. We don't have the time, money or people to attempt something for 100

deer."

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

TRAN LONGMOORE can be reached at tlongmoore@homecomm.net

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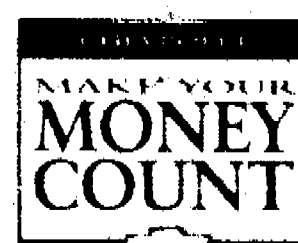
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In good taste

Chamber gala winner for all

It wasn't a holiday event, but "Taste of the Arts" certainly had a festive air.

The Nov. 30 gala at the Hellenic Cultural Center featured a silent auction of student artwork. Tasty food, courtesy of area food vendors, was in abundant supply. The first-ever event drew some 600 revelers, who enjoyed good company, good food and a good time.

It wasn't all for fun, however, as proceeds supported the Family Resource Center and the chamber of commerce. The Lincoln Elementary-based Family Resource Center, which depends on grants and donations for its survival, will benefit from the program.

A total of \$5,000 is going to the Family Resource Center, which helps families cope with such problems ranging from substance abuse to truant students.

The Family Resource Center donation will be made during a Jan. 11 chamber luncheon that will feature Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy's State of the Schools address.

"We're very grateful, not only for the chamber's support but the community's support and the restaurateurs," Baracy said.

Lori Brist, chamber executive director, had anticipated the Nov. 30 event would result in about \$1,000 for the Family Resource Center. She and other organizers were thrilled with

■ The holiday season social calendar is crowded, but 'Taste of the Arts' preceded all that with an ample supply of class. Many present that night commented on the elegant feel of the event, which featured student artwork from Wayne-Westland and Livonia.

the event's success and plan to follow up next year.

The holiday season social calendar is crowded, but "Taste of the Arts" preceded all that with an ample supply of class. Many present that night commented on the elegant feel of the event, which featured student artwork from Wayne-Westland and Livonia.

Congratulations are in order for all who worked on "Taste of the Arts," for student artists who participated and for those who showed support with their presence. The Family Resource Center, which finds itself more in demand than ever, is the beneficiary of all that hard work.

Families who use center services will benefit, too. May "Taste of the Arts" continue and thrive!

Regional approach boosts arts

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

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

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

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

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

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

Several Wayne County arts groups and cultural institutions were among the 59 participating organizations, including Canton Project Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, Detroit Institute of Arts, Henry Ford Museum/Greenfield Village and Michigan Opera Theatre.

Since for-profit venues were not considered in the research, experts contend that audi-

■ Basically, the cultural tax would be a half-mill assessment on a homeowner's property with revenue earmarked to fund the operating budgets of the region's cultural institutions and provide county grants.

ences at cultural and entertainment events are even larger than reported.

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

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

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

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

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

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

GEOFF 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.hometown.com.

Don't expand charters

The League of Women Voters recently completed a three-year study on charter schools in Michigan. We believe the Legislature should not lift its ban on the number of schools chartered by universities. The 150 charter schools already authorized are still an experiment and have not proven themselves to be beneficial to the public school system.

Collecting data to measure the effectiveness of the charter schools in Michigan has been extremely difficult. The public should have access to test scores, student and teacher turnover, evidence of teacher certification and the role of management companies.

The management companies hired by the chartering institutions are generally not community-based and have a standard curriculum and organization for all of their schools, which could lead to a lessening of teacher and parental influence. In addition, compliance with policies and procedures set by our state Board of Education that other public schools must follow is not being monitored.

Should charter schools not have the same measures of accountability that other public schools adhere to?

We must give this experiment in education some additional time before we permit an expansion of the charter school program which has simply not proven itself to be the panacea so many were hoping it would be.

Paula E. Bowman
president, League of Women Voters-
Livonia

DIA ban supported

Regarding the decision by the Detroit Institute of Arts director to not show the art(?) of Jeff Bourgeois, I fully support him.

I grew up with the understanding that art, whether in music, books or paintings, was generally used to inspire, uplift and encourage people to do more to improve life and our relationships with others. The trash was there if you chose to buy it, but it was generally looked down upon and not considered to be worthy of being called art.

How things have changed, which only shows the moral decadence of our society.

Now we have pictures such as of Jesus Christ in a jar of urine, we have people pouring various colors of paint on a canvas and

then driving their car back and forth across it, we have monkeys smearing paint all over a canvas, we have shows which feature a naked woman covered with chocolate and inviting men to come up and lick it off and another in which a man opens the show by defecating on the floor in full view, and this is being panned off on us as "art" - and we are accepting it.

Shame on us. We used to be more discriminating.

If these types of "artists" want to show their works unopposed and unrestricted, then I strongly suggest they all get together and build their own museum and theater, perhaps naming it The Filth and Trash Art Center and then all the connoisseurs(?) of art can go see all the junk they want to see.

However, I, and millions like me, do NOT want our tax dollars being spent on so-called art that insults and ridicules those we love and, by extension, us, such as paintings of Jesus in a jar of urine. We also want our children, grandchildren and all future generations to grow up having better goals and reaching for loftier heights inspired onward and upward by the various types of art that improve society rather than what degrades it and tears it down to the lowest gutter.

Charles K. Benton
Garden City

Upset by toys

As a law enforcer retired, I feel that the Agames kids today play where killings and shootings take place on malls and videos has had a larger effect on the killings of our children than gun errors.

Do I hear anything from the Brady bunch about taking such items from the hands of our children?

Heck, no. I wonder if maybe they are part of the problem, that they know of our government leaders who own the companies that make these items and the profit that they receive from such sales.

Sorry, I am upset against the people who profit on such items and plan on this election to do everything I can to change things.

John A. Dickinson
Williamston, Mich.

COMMUNITY VOICE

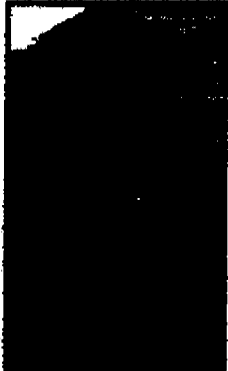
QUESTION:

What would be your ideal winter vacation getaway?

We asked this question at the Westland public library.



"I'd go to either England or Australia."
Dana Killean



"Canada."
Valerie Brown



"Probably Hawaii."
Sheldon Beck



"Dominica."
Linda Glazier

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— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Hello, sports fans!

Love of athletics develops slowly, with some help

It started out slowly.

I wasn't much of a sports fan, I must confess, although I did enjoy a good game of baseball. The other major team sports didn't do much for me; in fact, I'd only been to one Red Wings game in my life, and had never seen hockey at Olympia. (My late grandmother did take us to see the Ice Capades there.)

Anyway, time went by and in September of 1989 I married Mark Rembecki, a super sports fan. Mark was shocked that I didn't have cable and had only a small black and white television. Things had to change, and they did.

Before too long, we had a substantial color TV and cable service. ESPN brought us the latest in sports. Cable

TV sports coverage grew over time. After awhile, we had ESPN Classic, bringing us games from days gone by, along with interviews with top athletes recalling their glory days.

A trip to Cooperstown seemed in order, so we made the trek through Ontario to New York to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame. It was great, and we've now been four times. It's fun to pick out the Tigers, ranging from Ty Cobb to Al Kaline, and other baseball greats, and to learn of their exploits.

A trip to Canton, Ohio, for the Pro Football Hall of Fame wasn't quite as exciting for me, as I'm not much of a football fan. We went with friends from England, one of whom loves what the British call "American foot-



JULIE BROWN

■ A trip to Canton, Ohio, for the Pro Football Hall of Fame wasn't quite as exciting.

ball." Seeing his excitement made the trip worthwhile.

During their visit, we went to the

Silverdome to see the Chicago Bears take on the Lions. Our friend liked the game and all the hoopla. I'd been worried about boorish fans, but the crowd was well-behaved.

Recently, the Canadian Football League's Calgary and Hamilton competed in the Grey Cup, a must-watch event in our house. It's good to know I even have a little knowledge about sports north of the border.

I still like to curl up with a good book now and then, or to watch TV with something other than sports. It's nice, though, to know more of what people are talking about at work when they discuss sports.

I've been to an additional Wings game and also one of the Plymouth Whalers. We took our final trip to

Tiger Stadium this past season, seeing the Tigers and Milwaukee Brewers. We'll probably go to the new park next year, and certainly will head back to Cooperstown.

I'm not ready to become a sports-writer or to coach a youth team, but learning about sports has enriched my life in many ways. There's more to learn. I'll never learn it all, but it's fun.

Julie Brown is editor of the Westland Observer. She may be reached at (734) 953-2126, by e-mail at jbrown@oe.homecomm.net or by mail at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150.

Tree brings forth visions of vanished children

BY ANGELA FRANCES TODD
GUEST COLUMNIST

It was the tree ... that haunted me. At Christmas in the Park in downtown San Jose, Santa Clara County, Calif., in the Year of Our Lord, 1993 ... amongst all of the Christmas displays, there was a tree ... one particular tree that stood out from all the rest. I now feel compelled to relate to you my findings.

"Honorable Mention" was the title given to this entry in the tree-decorating contest decorated by the Notre Dame High School Associated Student Body. Crowning the tree was a large golden angel, complete with a shiny golden dress, golden wings, and a sparkling golden halo ... very gold! Many miniature angels also adorned the rest of the tree, as well as the usual red bows, candy canes and rein-

deer.

But the most striking of all of the decorations on this tree were photos which showed the faces of the children ... the missing children ... surrounded by the angels. I have dubbed this tree "The Tree of the Vanished Children."

To the left of the tree was a large white sign - trimmed in red - with matching bows on each of the four corners. All was set upon four wooden stakes, hammered into the ground. Yet another miniature angel was attached to the bottom right corner of the sign itself.

The sign began with the caption, "One School, One Spirit," under which the following message appeared: "Let us pray that the angels of God will protect the souls of the missing children ... and that the families of

friends of the children will not lose sight of hope. Though they are missing, they are not forgotten from our hearts and minds."

Under the message was seen the name and phone number of an organization called Vanished Children's Alliance.

As I stood there, bundled up in the cold of the night, transfixed upon this tree of awareness - a tree of sorts of knowledge and truth - thoughts began to form. That is, after the shock of seeing all of the faces on the tree began to subside.

"Where ARE these children during the holidays?" I wondered. What tortures are they enduring this very minute ... while we stand here delighting at these beautiful displays?

As my eyes filled with tears, I felt a sense of bonding with these children

GUEST COLUMN

... and for just a moment, I began to feel as if they were all my own children. My own missing children.

"Who still lives ... and who does not?"

I began to feel almost as if the tree itself were alive ... and talking to me, pleading with me to pray for the children.

This was no ordinary tree. That was a fact. This was a tree with a very hypnotic personality! A tree with a message ... and a prayer. A tree of deep meaning, and thought. A tree of kindness, compassion and caring ...

A sacred tree ... full of impact ... and all who gazed upon it viewed it in silence and wore the expression of sadness ... as they walked away.

I just wanted to share with you this whole very emotional experience of "The Tree of the Vanished Children," and to tell you of the golden angels ... and of all the new faces of all of the children who want to come home for Christmas.

Of all of the trees that were, don't ever forget this one. And take time to pray ... pray for the children ... until all of the lost are lost no more.

Westland resident Angela Frances Todd wrote this over two Christmas seasons, 1993-94. She received a warm response from Gail Wood of the Vanished Children's Alliance, and continues to hear from the organization at Christmas.

Hubris strikes John Engler

The big political news last week was the Legislature's failure to authorize more charter schools, despite weeks of intensive arm twisting by Gov. John Engler.

Amazingly, the defeat was bipartisan. House Democrats have never been enthused by the charter school movement, though some reps from Detroit find them a better alternative than the public schools. Although most Republicans are ideologically pro-charter, the governor's key failure was to win over a handful of moderate GOP legislators, some of whom had been endorsed by the very anti-charter teachers' union, the Michigan Education Association.

Engler's spinmeisters tried to put on a brave face. But this defeat, so unexpected, got me to musing about this governor, now in his third term in office.

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

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

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

Second was the governor's attempt to persuade Secretary of State Candice Miller to be a team player and run against popular U.S. Rep. David Bonior, the Democratic minority leader in the House of Representatives and a favorite GOP target. A component in the calculation was that such a campaign likely would have derailed Miller's interest in running for governor against Engler's hand-picked candidate, Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus. Miller eventually said "thanks, but no thanks." Recently, she's been talking about her interest in running for governor.

Third is the still unresolved spat over a constitutional amendment to allow direct public support for private and religious schools. Headed by billionaire Dick DeVos, the husband of state Republican Party Chairwoman Betsy DeVos, a bunch of hard-line GOP stalwarts are hellbent on collecting enough signatures to put the measure on the ballot next November. Engler has been trying his damndest to kill the



PHILIP POWER

drive because he's afraid passions ignited by the measure might increase turnout next November and thus jeopardize U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham's campaign for re-election.

It's not a pretty sight for any colossus, least of all John Engler. All of which brings to my mind the Iron Rule of Michigan Politics: No governor in his/her right mind should run for a third term.

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

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

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

History endorses the "no third term under any circumstances" doctrine. Engler himself talked grandly about "two terms and out" at the start of his governorship. Well, he's a year into his third term. I wonder if he worries about how the next couple of years are going to turn out. Or is his heavy involvement in the presidential campaign of Texas Gov. George W. Bush his strategy for an early exit from third term woes?

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He is a former state representative, either by voice mail at (313) 953-2947, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@homecomm.net.

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COMMON SENSORS



JACQUE MARTIN-DOWNS

Nifty gifts that cost nothing

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

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

Wives may do cartwheels when their husbands empty the dishwasher.

Husbands love having their car filled up with gasoline.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jacquie Martin-Downs is the coordinator of the Family Resource Center in Westland and has a private counseling practice. If you have a question or comment, write her at the Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or at her e-mail address: downsaj@mail.road.net.

Stitchers' bears help break ice in emergencies

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

The Love Stitchers, a group of women ranging in age from "30-something" to "50-something" at Timothy Lutheran Church on Wayne Road in Livonia, want to make sure that other children are comforted by a teddy bear in their times of need.

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

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

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

On the table

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

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

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

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

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

In two months, the Livonia church

Please see BEARS, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

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

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 Meet the
Ellie
Kwasnik's
children and
grandchildren
delighting in
seeing Santa
Claus during their
annual tree
trimming
weekend in
Ohio.

Tree trimming weekends provide lasting memories

 BY ELLIE KWASNIK
SPECIAL TO THE OBSERVER

Our tree trimming tradition started the first week of December 17 years ago, when I had two granddaughters, age 4, and two grandsons under 1-year-old.

The family has increased to 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, along with my six children, their spouses and four animals.

We all travel to my daughter and son-in-law's large home in Shaker Heights, Ohio, where they accommodate our group of 25 plus the animals.

To attend the tree trimming, everyone must make a papier-mâché ornament to place on the tree. The 15-foot Douglas fir becomes a tree of memories, decorated with handmade ornaments from a pacifier, first pulled tooth, hallet alippers, lollipops, butter-

flies, pizza, sports replicas, bugs, animals, and the bright star that tops the tree.

As the boxes are opened by grandma, each child wants to hang up their own ornament, reminding them of previous years.

After the tree is decorated, we quickly eat dinner, get dressed in our finery and listen to carols from a lovely antique music box. Suddenly, we hear the familiar bells, the dogs start barking, the children's eyes widen as the special visitor arrives.

We've had the same Santa for 17 years who looks like a tall version of Edmund Owen from "Miracle on 34th Street" with his own white hair, whiskers, mustache, eyebrows and such a kind face.

He has seen the children grow up from toddlers to adults in college. We all get to sit on Santa's lap, telling him

what is on our wish list and he has a bag of surprises for all, including the pets.

Later, he has dessert with us, taking some home for Mrs. Claus, while the children serenade him with Christmas carols.

Santa bids us good-bye with a reminder he will see us next year, if God's willing and compassionate. Young and old alike are delighted with Santa's visit.

No one is ready to retire, so we all go to the studio on the top floor where the children dress up in estate sales clothes and put on skits for the adults.

Needless to say, the weekend speeds by much too quickly, however, we have another year's wonderful tree trimming memory to store for another year.

Ellie Kwasnik lives in Livonia.

Bears from page B1

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

"We have people who sew and people who don't," said Coleman,

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

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

show compassion to our less fortunate neighbors."

First-hand stories

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since its inception last summer, the stitching group has done other charitable sewing projects, like making palm pads for people who have suffered stroke. They were donated to Lutheran Social Services which gave them to area nursing homes.

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

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

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

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

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1901D, Proposed Split of Lot #26 of Tomquish Industrial Park Subdivision No. 2, Parcel #027-02-0027-304, Northeast Corner of Webb Drive at Webb Court, South of Warren Road, SW-7, Walter D'Aloisio

Case #1909B, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Industrial Building, Parcel #025-00-0027-702, -0028-702 and -0005-706, North Side of Executive Drive, East of Hix Road, NE-7, Doug Shaw (Glen Shaw)

Case #2023A, Tentative Preliminary Plat Approval for Proposed Covington Estates Subdivision, (39 Lots), Parcel #078-00-0021-000, -0022, -0023 and -0024, North Side of Glenwood, West of Newburgh, NE-30, Randall Orley (Orco Dev.)

Case #2023, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Addition to Nankin De-It Center, 35101 Ford Road, Parcel #043-00-416-305, South Side of Ford Road, East of Wayne Road, NW-16, Scott Sherman (Gary L. Wrigley)

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

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

ROBERT C. BOWERS, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission

Published: December 16, 1999

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Tuesday, Dec. 21, 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.
1991	Dodge	Conv/2 Dr	Red	J83CU1A2MU061526
1998	Ford	Tempo/4 Dr	Black	2FAPP27XJB247366
1990	Mercury	Sable/Wagon	Brown	1MECM66U1A613229

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.
1994	Ford	Tempo/2 Dr	White	2FABF20R5EB170078
1990	Ford	Escort/2 Dr	White	1FAPP919XLT188921
1985	Cadillac	Fleetwood/2 Dr	White	1GMDW4780F9701536
1993	Ford	Escort/Station Wagon	Green	1FAPP16J7PW179187
1997	Buick	Skylark/4 Dr	White	1G4NC64U0H6M979757
1995	Chrysler	Laborer/2 Dr	Blue	1C3BC61D90Q163897
1995	Ford	Tempra/Station Wagon	Black	1FAPF66UJG126763

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 January 15, 1999, unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time.

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
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Published: December 16, 1999

Santa's helpers: Shutterbugs capture spirit of season



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

By STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@ec.econline.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It gets you in the holiday

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

Dana Hill
Santa's helper

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

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

Personality a plus

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

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

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

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

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

the photograph had to be retaken.

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

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

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

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

Keeping 'em happy

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

If the line gets too long and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holiday toy shopping: tips for making better choices

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

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

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

Among the points that should be considered before buying are:

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

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

■ Is the toy durable and well built?

■ Will it survive typical child use?

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

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

■ Is the toy safe?

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

stand use and abuse.

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

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

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

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

toys that can't be easily swallowed.

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

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

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

■ Toys that allow a preschool child

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

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

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

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1999 Christmas Tree Guide

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- Location: 796 Warren Rd. Between Pontiac Trail and Whitmore Lake Rd. in Ann Arbor Twp.
- Tuesday-Thursday 9-5:30, or by appt. (734) 663-2717

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• Tuesday-Thursday 9-5:30, or by appt. (734) 663-2717

For information about advertising in this unique section please call

Rich at 734-953-2069

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

HELPING HANDS

Seniors at Marquette House assisted living, across from John Glenn High School in Westland, are collecting new children's books for St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills. Santa will deliver books Christmas Eve. If you would like to donate, drop off a new gift-wrapped book at Marquette House. For information, call Kathleen Waldo, (734) 326-6685.

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

Westland Walkers meets 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 in 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) 584-6496.

VETERAN'S HAVEN

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

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 located at 36100 Ann Arbor Trail in Livonia. For information, call Esther or Diana in the Activity Department, (734) 522-1444, Ext. 27.

PET-A-PET

The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program provides pet therapy with the help of volunteers. Pets should be friendly, well-behaved, and must have current vaccinations. There is a \$5 membership fee. Volunteer opportunities are available at Hope Nursing Care Center, Margaret Martin, (734) 721-2821, 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month, and Marquette House, Lorna Johnson, (734) 425-1681, 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month. There are also openings at Garden City Hospital, Stacy Suida, (734) 458-4392, 3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month.

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 Stottemyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a pre-primary impaired program and Sparky Preschool. Registration is 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 596-2660.

LIVONIA COOPERATIVE

The Livonia Cooperative Nursery, a preschool for children ages 3-4, is located at 9601 W. Chicago. Parents learn with their children. Enrollment is limited. For information, call Karin 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 located 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 located at 26279 Michigan in Inkster. Call (313) 561-4110.

CHARTER SCHOOL

The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves



Helpers
Making a difference: Students from Grant Elementary School show off their own pajamas (and slippers) and a collection of more than 300 donated pairs of pajamas gathered by the students through the Youth Making A Difference-sponsored effort. The donations will go to the Livonia Clothing Depot, an organization that provides clothing for needy families or those who have experienced tragedies, such as fire, flood or financial emergencies. In the front row (from left) are Brooks Frost, Jennifer Reban, Amberly Perz, Christa Smutek and Hillary Sarniak.

children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The school emphasizes basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills. The school offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

LITTLE PEOPLES

Livonia Little Peoples Co-op Preschool is now enrolling 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 located 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, MI 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, 4:50 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.

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 age 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 a month. Call (734) 422-0149.

HISTORIC

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 734-581-7279. 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

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 offers 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

JAYCEES CELEBRATE

The Westland Jaycees 41st President Party Celebration will be held 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 2000, at Joy Manor, on Joy east of Middlebelt in Westland. Dinner, beverages and dancing will be included. Participants are looking for past Westland Jaycee members to attend. Price is \$15 before Dec. 29, \$20 after. For information, call (734) 480-4984.

WESTLAND NOTARY

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) 439-3099.

T.O.P.S.

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

T.O.P.S.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M153 meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Opti-mEyes, 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. Call John Elbe at (734) 326-5419.

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.

SCREENINGS

Free breast and Pap screenings are available at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, on Annapolis west of Venoy in Wayne. Appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Call (734) 467-5555 for early registration.

AIM

Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobias In Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. Call (248) 547-0400.

RATIONAL RECOVERY

Rational Recovery is a nonprofit, self-help organization for people experiencing problems caused by alcohol and/or substance abuse or other self-defeating behaviors. The group meets at 12:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Garden City Hospital Community Health Center, on Harrison north of Maplewood in Garden City. Call (248) 476-2657.

CHILD BIRTH CLASSES

Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a "refresher" childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. For information on programs, call (734) 458-4330.

CHILD BIRTH ASSOCIATION

Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean preparation are also offered. Call (734) 458-7477.

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Park-Zielinski

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

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

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

An August wedding is planned.



Kavanaugh-LaGrow

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

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

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

Her fiancé is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He is employed at Johnson Controls Inc.



Little-Word

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

No wedding date has been set.



Quesada-Collins

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

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

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

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

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

The groom asked Jason Quesada to serve as best man with



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

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

Schettler-Starkey

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

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

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

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



ANNIVERSARIES

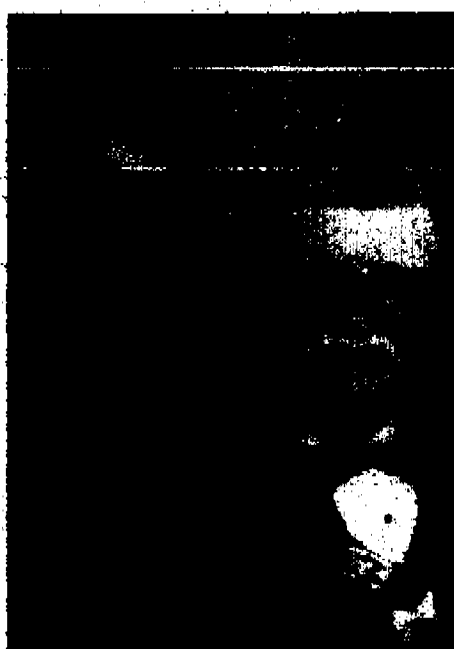
Brennan

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

The couple exchanged vows Nov. 26, 1949, in Detroit. She is the former Dolores Trullard.

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

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



Sirkle

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

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

They also have four grandchildren.

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



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

Horst

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

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

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

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

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

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

Announcement forms available

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

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

birth at our offices at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, or 794 S. Main St., Plymouth.

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

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Direct advertising in this section please call Rich (734) 953-2069

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Saturday, December 25

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IRISH ROSE FLORIST 33608 Seven Mile W. of Farmington Rd. 248-478-5144 <small>TELEPHONE</small>	Kristi's Flowers 25816 Joy Rd Dearborn 313-937-3680 <small>AT MAJOR CENTER LOCUS ALABAMA • BIRMINGHAM • OKLAHOMA • TEXAS</small>	Cardwell Florist 32109 Plymouth Rd W. 12 Mile W. of Farmington 734-421-3567 <small>TELEPHONE</small>
Plaza Florist & Gifts 37287 W. Six Mile Located in the New Plaza in Newburgh Plaza 734-464-7272 <small>FLA</small>	Floyd's Flowers, Inc. 25096 5 Mile Rd W. of Farmington Rd. Sunday 10am-6pm 313-535-4934 <small>TELEPHONE</small>	Hearts and Roses, Inc. 33238 W. 12 Mile 248-553-7899 <small>S. MAJOR • BIRMINGHAM • ALABAMA</small>
French's Flowers & Gifts 33885 Five Mile W. of Farmington Rd. 1-800-860-0972 <small>FLA • AL • MAJOR • BIRMINGHAM • OKLAHOMA</small>	Livonia Florist Main Five Plaza Main St. & 12 Mile W. of Farmington Rd. 734-422-1313 <small>MAJOR • BIRMINGHAM • ALABAMA • OKLAHOMA • TEXAS</small>	

A stylized illustration of a hand holding a glowing cube, with a globe in the background. The hand is positioned at the bottom, holding the cube. The cube is glowing with a bright light, and there are rays emanating from it. In the background, there is a globe with a face, and a large, stylized 'X' shape is visible behind it. The overall style is reminiscent of a comic book or a graphic novel.

Church gives away offering and gets even more in return

According to the word of Jesus, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." While most churches focus on receiving an offering each week, such was not the case at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Plymouth earlier this year.

Dr. William C. Moore, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian, was speaking on the "parable of the talents" and to emphasize its point asked the ushers to come forward for the offering.

The parable is about a businessman who in going abroad, hands over capital sums of money to three men in his employment so they can trade for profit in his absence. The amount of money given to each

man varied according to his proven business ability.

When the businessman returned, he took an accounting. The two who had increased the initial investment were commended. The third, who had hidden his investment so that it remained unused and untouched, was criticized.

The point of the parable was that people use their God-given capabilities and resources to benefit His Kingdom.

Instead of asking the congregation to give an offering, Moore asked each one to take an envelope from the plate as they were passed around. Each envelope contained \$5, a resource to be

invested in God's kingdom in whatever way the individual wanted.

Each person was asked to make an accounting of how the money was used four months later.

The church gave out envelopes containing \$720 and received \$1,400 back, but the results far exceeded the monetary return.

"We combined our money to send a child to 'Joy for Jesus' camp. The newspaper matched our donation, so two children could attend," said one church member.

Another donated \$5 to his god-child to help pay for her trip to South Dakota where she worked

as a youth missionary, and another's children, ages 7 and 10, had a lemonade stand and made \$10 for the Christian's Children Fund.

"My husband gave a trucker the two \$5 bills entrusted to us so he could have a meal on his way back home to Kentucky," said one member.

"We combined our family's money for a young couple working in the inner city of Chicago," added another.

One teenager wrote: "I was sitting in the car when I saw a man with all of his belongings hanging off the handles of his bike. I got out of the car, walked up to him and he looked very sur-

prised. I handed him the envelope and said, 'This is for you.'"

So what accounts for the income of \$1,400, if much of the money was given away for donations?

"My husband and I put our \$5 together, bought \$1 and \$2 garage sale items, sold them on eBay and our ultimate profit was \$390.21."

"With the money, I picked strawberries and made jam that was given away for donations."

"I bought two flats of flowers, planted them for others and asked for a donation, repeated the process and turned the original \$5 into \$92.50."

"I found an antique doll be-

at a garage sale for \$5 and after painting it, sold it for \$75. This was reinvested in antiques and the profit came to \$250."

"We hosted and ice cream social and our \$10 blessing became \$70."

One person wrote of a different experience.

"Pastor Moore, I am returning the \$5," the member wrote. "With sad regret, I must report that I did not apply this gift in a manner that would please God. No excuses, I just simply forgot. However, I believe I have learned a valuable lesson. No gift is too small for God to use in His work."

RELIGIOUS NEWS

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

AWARD WINNER

Marvin Moser of Livonia will receive the Christus Primus Award during the winter commencement ceremony at Concordia College in Ann Arbor. The service award is presented to clergy, educators or laypeople of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, based on distinguished service to the church and community.

Moser is being honored for his tireless and dedicated labors in the church and furthering the church's mission of higher education. He served as a member of the college's Board of Regents from 1993 to 1996, was honored as Lutheran Layman of the Year and Historic Trinity Lutheran Layman.

He also has served three Lutheran churches, including Christ Our Savior Lutheran in Livonia where he is a founding member.

LIVING TREE

Plymouth Church of the Nazarene will have its 18th annual presentation of the living Christmas tree and live Nativity Friday-Sunday, Dec. 17-19, at the church, 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

The presentation is being done as a present to the community and features a 25-foot high tree, decorated with thousands of lights and filled with 60-plus singers. Performances will take place at 7 and 8 p.m. each night. The live Nativity will presented 6:30-8:30 p.m. each night.

The teens of Fair Haven Baptist Church in Westland will present at live Nativity at 7 and 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 17-18, at the church, 34850 Marquette, Westland. The presentation is free of charge.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Organist Tony O'Brien is giving a Christmas concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, west of Inkster Road, Livonia. There's a suggested donation of \$7.50 at the door. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

The Adult Choir of Memorial Church of Christ will present its cantata, "A Light Still Shines," celebrating the light that shone from Bethlehem that is still shining today, at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 35475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

The Jesus Jammers (children in grades one through six) will perform "A Star Is Born" at 6:30 p.m. that evening. Set in Memorial's musical studio, the Jammers plan to convince the main "star," Sophia, that the one and only "star" is Jesus. For more information, call (734) 464-8216.

The Riverside Park Church of God Sanctuary Choir will present its Christmas musical, "Joy in This Place," at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 11771 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

The musical will feature familiar carols and a biblically-based narration of the Christmas story. Pastor Ralph Anderson has extended an invitation to the community to attend. A time of food and fellowship will follow the performance.

The Sunday School and weekday school children of Faith Lutheran Church are explaining the symbolism of Christmas in their Advent pageant, "Christmas Is Coming," at 9:40 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 30000 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The program includes music, bell ringing, singing and more. For more information, call (734) 421-7249.

The children and youth of

Newburg United Methodist Church are acting out the story of Jesus's birth as seen through the eyes of the stable animals, in their Christmas pageant, "The Mouse's Tale."

Performance times are the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. For more information, call (734)

422-0149

The children of the Sunday school are participating in the St. Andrew Episcopal Church annual Christmas pageant at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 16360 Hubbard, between Five and Six Mile roads, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 421-8451.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Why do people light luminaries at Christmas? The children of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church will explore the question when they present "The Christmas Path" at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

The pageant relates the cherished tradition of lighting candle

lanterns, called luminaries, to the biblical Christmas story. It is based on the children's book, "The Christmas Path" by Sue Wright.

Spanish missionaries introduced the custom of lighting luminaries along walkways and around homes more than 400 years ago.

The children also will present

"Star of Wonder" during the 11 a.m. worship service. A staffed nursery will be available for children up to age 3. For more information, call the church at (734) 522-6830.

ADVENT SERVICE

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has Advent Bible study at 7 p.m.

Please see RELIGION, B8

Providence
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When you've found the right place to care, you know it. That's why St. Joseph's and Providence Hospital and Medical Centers joined together to create a new center for heart care.

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- 175 medical centers

Together, we're creating a new center for heart care.

ASC

LHM programs offer holiday messages Religion from page B7

Lutheran Hour Ministries will offer a series of messages on radio and television this week to help people handle the holidays.

For decades, audiences have delighted in the inspiring story of a family faced with the threat of the Nazi regime in the classic movie, "The Sound of Music."

In the "Woman to Woman" Christmas special, "The Sound of Music: A Melody of Faith," host Phyllis Wallace will talk with Maria von Trapp, who will recount her family's escape from

Nazi-controlled Austria prior to World War II and God's intervention in their lives.

Produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries, the special will air at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, on WAAM-AM (1600 on the radio dial).

"The courageous story of the von Trapps is a testament to the hope that can be found in Jesus Christ in even the bleakest of times," said Wallace. "It is a delight to provide Maria von Trapp with a forum through

which to embellish the beloved story and inspire others to trust in Christ."

The Lutheran Hour will air at 6:05 a.m. on WOMC-FM and 10 a.m. on WMUZ-AM on Sunday, Dec. 19. Dr. Dale Meyer will share his message of "The World at Peace."

On television, "Red Boots for Christmas," the story of a bitter shoemaker who is visited by an angel on Christmas Eve, will air at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, on cable's Fox Family Channel.

In addition to the television special, the characters will appear in full color in cyberspace at www.redboots.org, offering free storybooks and background information.

Lutheran Hour Ministries with headquarters in St. Louis, Mo., is a service of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, a volunteer organization of 150,000 members. The league is an auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Lutheran Church-Canada.

Monday, Dec. 20, and 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, following Advent vespers at 6:30 p.m., at the church, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia. For more information, call the church at (734) 464-0211.

TLC STORYTIME

Timothy Lutheran Church will have a TLC Storytime for children 3-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at the church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia. Kids are invited to bring their parents to hear Christian stories and snacks.

The books chosen are for ages 3-10. For more information, call the church at (734) 427-2290.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St. James Presbyterian Church will have a candlelight service with Communion at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at the church, 25350 W. Six Mile Road, Redford.

On New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, there will be a worship service and celebration at 10:30 p.m. For more information, call (313) 534-7730.

There will be a family celebration with carols and candlelighting at 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The Cherub, Children's and choristers choirs will perform and child care will be provided.

At 8:30 p.m., there will be carols, candlelighting and communion, with the Rev. Melanie Lee Carey preaching. The youth choir and Cantabile Bells will perform and the youth will present the drama, "After the Pageant."

The 11 p.m. service, "A Time to Ponder," will have candlelighting and Holy Communion. The Rev. Thomas Badley will preach and the Chancel Choir will perform. Badley also will preach at the 10 a.m. worship service, "A Perfect Time to Lose Our Baggage," on Christmas Sunday, Dec. 26.

The family-oriented service will feature the drama, "A String of Blue Beads." Child care for children up to age 3 will be available. For more information, call (734) 422-0149.

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church will have Christmas Eve Festival worship at 7 p.m. at the church, 26212 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. Christmas Sunday service will be at 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve worship will be at 6 p.m., will New Year's Sunday worship will be at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (313) 537-3778.

Christmas Eve services at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile Road, Livonia, will be at 7 and 11 p.m. There will be no services Christmas Day and services at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. For more information, call (734) 421-7249.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Christmas Eve Festival worship service, "Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him," will be at 7 p.m. at the church, 26212 W. Six Mile Road at Kinloch, Redford. The service will include Holy Communion and candlelighting.

The church also will have a New Year's Eve worship service at 6 p.m. For more information, call (313) 537-3778.

The 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Memorial Church of Christ will feature the singing of Christmas carols and a program offering perspectives on Christmas to provide a spiritual foundation for the family celebration. The church is at 35485 Five Mile Road, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 464-6722.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will have a Family Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. at the church, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia. There also will be scripture readings, caroling and candlelighting at 7 p.m. and a Eucharist service with candlelight at 11 p.m.

There also will be a worship service with Communion at 10 Christmas Day and Christmas Communion Service at 10 a.m. Dec. 26.

On New Year's Eve, there will be a service with Holy Communion at 6 p.m. For more information, call (734) 464-0211.

Timothy Lutheran Church will have a Christmas Eve service with Communion and a special children's message at 7 p.m. at the church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia. Nursery care will be provided for children under age 5, if desired.

The candlelight Christmas Eve service with Communion will be at 11 p.m. Hear the Christmas story and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas at the service. For more information, call (734) 427-2290 or visit the Web site at www.timothy.lutheran.com.

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church will have two services on Christmas Eve at the church, 30900 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia. The 11 p.m. service will be a formal service, while the 7:30 p.m. will be a special Christmas pageant, "Christmas Magic," presented by the Cherub and Crusader choirs and fifth and sixth grade LOGOS youth. For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

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

ALL SAINTS
Class of 1950
Is planning a "Millennium Reunion" for November 2000.
(248) 437-9735

BIRMINGHAM GROVES
Class of 1965
Aug. 12 at The Community House in Birmingham.
(248) 433-2362 or by e-mail at JCRich47@aol.com

BIRMINGHAM SEAMOLM
Class of 1970
A reunion is planned for July 1.
(510) 523-0906 or by e-mail at HubSpauld@aol.com

BLOOMFIELD HILLS LAMSER
Class of 1979
March 4 at the Somerset Inn in Troy.
(248) 366-9493, press #2 or by e-mail at reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

CRESTWOOD
Class of 1970
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 277-1316 or (248) 426-6888

DETROIT CENTRAL
Class of 1960
A reunion is planned for April.
(734) 464-1692

DETROIT COOLEY
Class of 1960
A reunion is planned for April.
(734) 464-1692

DETROIT DENBY
Class of 1950
A reunion is planned for June.
(810) 773-4253, (248) 585-2083 or (810) 773-3286

DETROIT FINNEY
Classes of 1970-72
A reunion is planned for April 1.
(313) 837-5880

DETROIT IVES ELEMENTARY
Classes of 1953-55
A reunion is tentatively planned for May.
(810) 644-4106, (810) 791-6998, (906) 847-3535 or (810) 728-4875 after 6 p.m.

DETROIT MACKENZIE
Class of 1949-51
July 29 at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland.
(734) 453-7561

DETROIT PERSHING
Class of 1960
A reunion is planned for Sept. 9.
(313) 835-9642, (810) 773-3952, (248) 547-0664 or (734) 595-7508 or at the Web site.
www.jmctech.com/~bjustice/ind ex.htm

DETROIT REDFORD
Class of 1965
A reunion is planned for July 8.
(313) 937-3077 OR (734) 427-6047

DETROIT WESTERN
Class of 1966
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 280-0053 or (517) 546-8874

FARMINGTON
Class of 1950
Sept. 15-17, with a dinner at Vladimir's on Sept. 16.
(248) 474-7822

FERRDALE
Classes of 1929-1958
Oct. 14 at Ferndale High School, 726 Pinecrest, Ferndale.
(248) 589-2609 or (248) 541-2476

HENRY FORD TRADE
Class of 1950
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 616-9665

HIGHLAND PARK
January-June classes of 1950-51
Are planning a reunion.
Send name, address and telephone number to Fred Kashouty, 81528 Raymond, St. Clair Shores 48082 or call (810) 294-7512 or (313) 881-2023

JANUARY CLASS OF 1950
June 4 at the San Marino Club, house.
(313) 345-9104 or (810) 263-8179

LINCOLN PARK
June Class of 1965
A reunion is planned for August.
(734) 878-9178 or (734) 763-5098

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Class of 1990
Is planning a reunion
Send name, address, telephone number and e-mail address to CHC Class of '90 Reunion, 6609 Salem Road, Plymouth 48170 or by e-mail to hallen72@hotmail.com

MERCY
Class of 1950
Is planning a reunion for June
(810) 851-7620

NOVI
Class of 1980
June 24 at the Holiday Inn West-Livonia

(248) 366-9493, press #1

PLYMOUTH CANTON
Class of 1980
Aug. 12 at the Double Tree Guest Suites in Southfield.
(248) 366-9493, press #6 or by e-mail at reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

PONTIAC
January and June classes of 1940
Sept. 8-9 at the Holiday Inn in Auburn Hills.
(248) 682-3719

ST. HEDWIG
Class of 1955
A reunion is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 16.
(734) 675-8244 or (313) 295-2373

ST. JUDE ELEMENTARY
Class of 1965
Is planning a reunion.
(810) 254-3498

TAYLOR CENTER
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TRENTON
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(248) 366-9493, press #3

WAYNE
Class of 1950
Is looking for classmates for its 50th class reunion.
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Hospice's tree honors loved ones

During the holiday season, thoughts of family, friends and loved ones abound.

One way to remember those who have touched our lives is with a golden angel ornament on the Community Hospice and Home Care Services Inc.'s Tree of Memories.

For a donation, people can write the name of a loved one on the back of the angel and have it hang on the tree through Dec. 27. The tree is on display at Borders Books and Music on Mercury Drive off Ford Road in Dearborn.

Several area credit unions also are participating with their own on-site trees. Members can donate and have an angel ornament hung on those Tree of Memories.

The credit unions include:

■ Crestwood Credit Union in Garden City.

■ Co-Op Services Credit Union in Livonia, Westland, Dearborn, Wyandotte and Walled Lake.

■ Community Choice Credit Union in Redford and Livonia.

■ Associated Metro Credit Union and Contrak Credit Union, both in Dearborn.

■ Warrendale Community Credit Union, Communicative Arts Credit Union and Detroit Edison Credit Union, all in Detroit.

■ Public Service Credit Union



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Helping out: Volunteer Gerald Dahlen spent his time talking to people at Co-Op Services Credit Union in Westland about the Community Hospice and Home Care Services Inc.'s Remembrance Tree.

in Romulus and Detroit (two locations on Woodward and Clifford).

■ Municipal and Public Health Service Credit Union in Pontiac.

Proceeds from the tree directly benefit patient care, and all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable.

"In past years, there have been such touching notes written on

the back of the angels," said Maureen Butrico, CHHCS executive director. "It makes people feel very good to reconnect with their loved ones in some meaningful way during the holiday season and can have a healing effect on survivors trying to get through the holidays."

"When people walk by and see the name of a loved one, they,

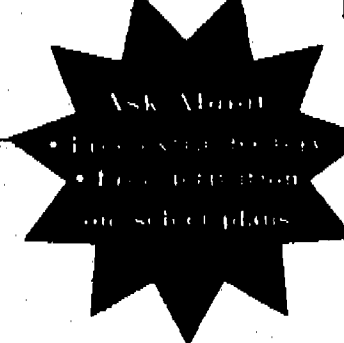
too, share in the memory."

Community Hospice and Home Care Services is a fully licensed, not-for-profit agency serving the needs of terminally ill people and their families in Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw and Monroe Counties.

For more information about the Tree of Memories, call (734) 522-4244.

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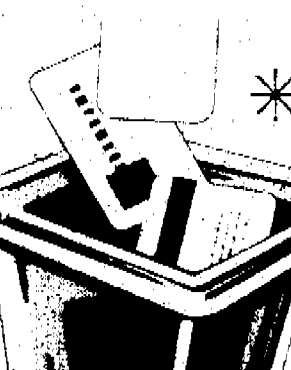
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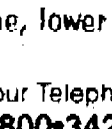
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


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Pats runner-up to state champ

Livonia Franklin gave area girls volleyball teams something to think about after finishing runner-up Saturday in the 16-team Portage Northern Invitational.

The Patriots also had the distinction of taking a game off the host team and 10-time state Class A champions, losing 2-15, 15-13, 3-15 in the finals.

"There were a lot of top-ranked teams in this tournament and I think a huge mental barrier was broken for us," said Franklin coach Mary Helen Diegel, whose team finished 5-2 on the day (both losses to defending state champion Northern).

The Patriots reached the final going without 6-foot-1 middle blocker Kerstin Marshall, who sprained an ankle in a second-round pool-play victory over Allegan (15-13, 15-10).

Franklin also defeated Bay City Central (15-13, 15-9) and Flushing (15-6, 15-10), while losing to Northern in pool play (7-15, 4-15).

In the elimination round of eight, Franklin knocked off Livonia Ladywood (15-9, 15-8).

In the semifinals, Diegel beat her alma mater, Birmingham Marian (16-14, 15-10), coached by former Mustang teammate Stephanie Storen.

Setter Lyndsay Sopko made good on 256 of 261 sets on the day with 95 assists, while middle hitter Andrea Kmet had a team-high 54 kills (99 of 113 good hits).

Right-side hitter Tera Morrill added 43 kills (109 of 115 good hits). She also had eight service aces along with left-side hitter Rachel Bramlett (60 of 64 good hits).

Left-side hitter Alexis Bowman came up with 15 kills on 58 of 70 successful hits.

Franklin also got sterling play from middle-hitter Kelly Ann Zawacki and defensive specialist Monica Little.

Franklin among area's best bets

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Like a snowball getting rolled around the yard after a late spring storm, volleyball keeps getting bigger and better.

Five of the 12 All-Area first-team volleyball selections from last season return to grace area gymnasiums this winter, including Andrea Kmet, Tera Morrill and Lyndsay Sopko — all of Livonia Franklin.

Franklin's volleyball program kind of encapsulates the way volleyball has exploded over the past few seasons.

Under the guidance of Ann Hutchins, the Patriots' program moved to the forefront of the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division teams, winning two division crowns in a row.

Hutchins, who wanted to watch her daughter, Kelley, perform for Livonia Stevenson, resigned and turned things over to Mary Helen Diegel last season.

Diegel took Franklin to another Western Division championship, then the Patriots' first district title ever in a field which included Stevenson and Livonia Ladywood.

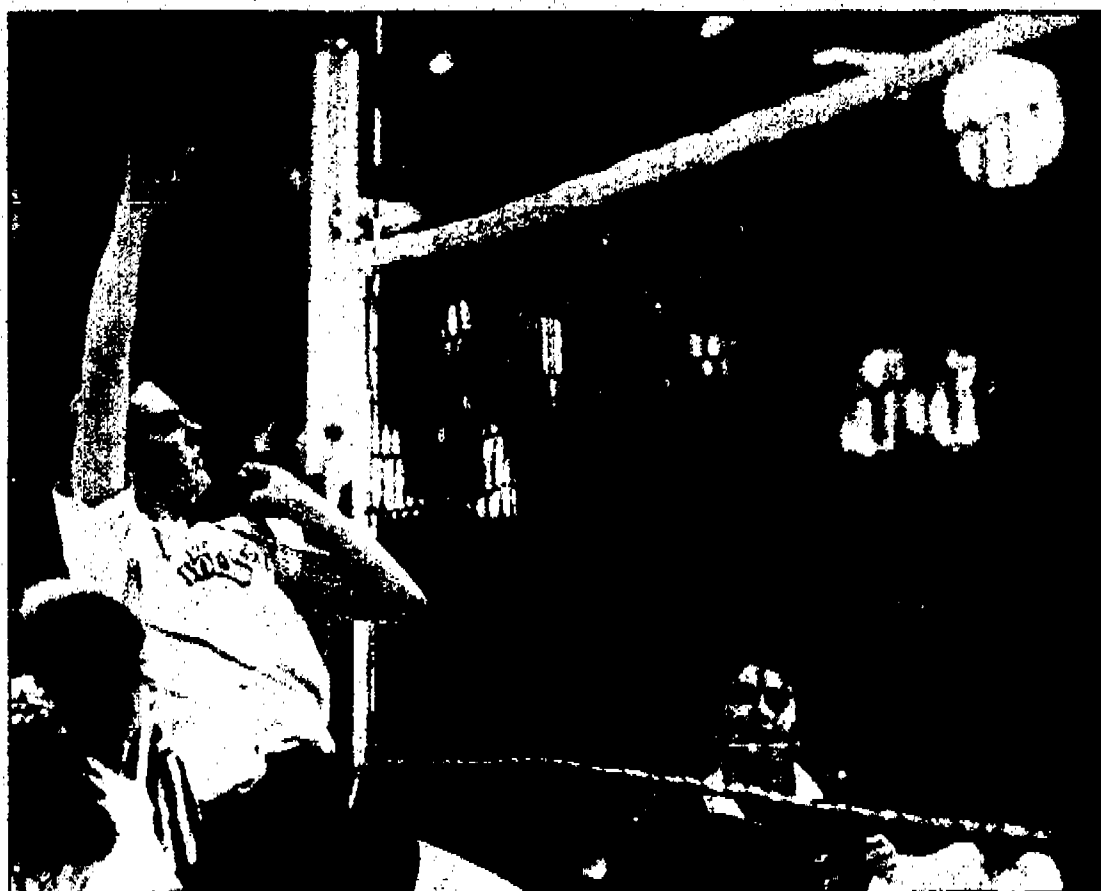
The Patriots lost in the regional final to Plymouth Salem, but Diegel was the Observerland's Coach of the Year.

Now her team is wearing the crown and Diegel isn't at all uneasy about it.

She feels Franklin is just as good as its 37-14-1 record of a year ago and should be quite comfortable about being a WLAA power.

"A lot of teams have been preparing very well," Diegel said. "There are a lot of good programs in our league. A good indicator of that will come when the districts roll around."

"Our league is probably one of the top two in the east side of the state. It's



STAFF PHOTO BY LIZ CARNEGIE

Net worth: Kate LeBlanc (left, top) returns as Stevenson's top hitter along with Kelley Hutchins (left, bottom). Meanwhile, Churchill setter Colleen Guardiola (right) await the dig.

difficult to compare to the west side since the majority of the state championships are from the west side. However I believe we can compete with those teams."

"Volleyball is becoming more of a competitive sport in the state of Michigan," Livonia Stevenson's Kelly Graham observes. "A lot of girls are getting involved in the summer with AAU programs, which is a plus for high school teams. Thus we're getting better volleyball players."

To stay solid, the Patriots have to replace Nicole Boyd, second-team All-Area, and Lyndsay Duprey, All-Area honorable mention, from last year's team but are fortunate to have a wealth of experienced stars to do so.

Diegel directs three first-team All-

Area returnees in setter Sopko and right outside hitter Morrill and middle blocker Kmet.

Morrill is a left-handed outside hitter with exceptional all-around volleyball skills. She hits, sets, digs and serves extremely well and does it with mobility. She was All-Western Lakes and All-Region.

Morrill put down her kills with a 426 success rate last year, served 76 aces and was 92 percent successful on digs.

Sopko also made All-WLAA and All-Region. Nearly 42 percent of her 2,012 sets ended up as points or sideouts for Franklin last season. She also served 38 aces and had 59 block-assists.

Kmet, a middle hitter, turned nearly 40 percent of her kill attempts into

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



Andrea Kmet
Livonia Franklin



Tera Morrill
Livonia Franklin

non-returnables. She also had 32 solo blocks and 85 assists along with 229 digs.

In addition to those three, Diegel has All-Area honorable mentions Alexis Bowman and 6-1 junior Kerstin Marshall plus outside hitter Rachel Bramlett and defender Monica Little.

Challenging Franklin in the Western Division will be Livonia Churchill, who Mike Hughes says will be stronger this year.

"I'm looking forward to a good year," said Hughes, a 25-year veteran who guided the Chargers to the 1990 state Class A title. "But there's some tough competition in our conference."

"What's really going to make a difference for us is whether we play good defense. And how our sophomores develop. We're going to block better than we have in 10 years."

Honorable mention honor winner Shannon Munn, a middle hitter, is the leading returning starter but Hughes has experience in Kristin Leszczynski, setter Colleen Guardiola plus outside hitters Amy Cadovich and Megan Sheehan.

Hughes gushes over his trio of sophomores: outside hitter Sarah Phillips, middle hitter Sheila Gillies and outside hitter Beth Bushey.

He's trusting they are talented

Please see VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW, C3

Quick start, foul shooting lift Chargers by Franklin

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemonsoe@homecomm.net

The free throw line proved to be comfortable spot Tuesday night for the Livonia Churchill boys basketball team.

The Chargers, led by Brad Bescoe's 15 of 17 charity shooting, held off a second-half run by host Livonia Franklin to earn a 65-59 victory.

Churchill is now 2-1, while Franklin dips to 0-3 overall. The game did not count in the Western Lakes Activities Association standings.

Churchill, 27 of 38 overall from the line (73 percent), including 15 of 20 in the final quarter.

"After you create a lead like we did you have a tendency to play less aggressive," Churchill coach Rick Austin said. "We were aggressive the first half,

BOYS HOOPS

much higher tuned than the third quarter."

Churchill took just 14 shots from the floor in the second half.

"You can't stop the clock with ticky-tack fouls," Austin said. "A lot of teams struggle with that. In the fourth quarter we tried to up-tempo and get up the floor. We were able to do that about four possessions."

Bescoe, a 6-foot-1 senior guard, finished with 19 points to pace the Chargers.

Senior forward John Bennett added 18 for Churchill, which led by as many as 21 points in the third quarter after enjoying a 35-16 halftime lead.

Franklin junior forward Joe Ruggiero, who finished with a game-high 23 points, paced a 26-

9 Franklin during a 10-minute stretch between the third and fourth quarters.

Ruggiero's two free throws with 3:14 left cut the deficit to 52-46, but Churchill never let the Patriots get any closer as Randall Boboige hit a key hoop with 2:17 remaining to give his team a 10-point cushion. Bescoe followed by hitting eight of 10 free throws.

"That was a good job by Brad tonight," Austin said. "He's been really consistent."

Franklin had problems in the opening half, turning the ball over 15 times against Churchill's three-quarter court zone press.

The Patriots, however, only turned it over four times during the final 16 minutes.

"We have to show we can consistently handle the ball under

Please see BOYS HOOPS, C2



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Lefty leaner:
Livonia Churchill's Brad Bescoe (right) knifes inside against Livonia Franklin's Michael Copeland during Tuesday night's intra-city battle. Bescoe had a team-high 19 points, while Copeland scored eight.

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NO BOUNDARIES

Preview from page C1

enough to overcome their lack of experience.

Griffin, in her seventh season, believes Stevenson will make noise in the WLA's Lakes Division.

Third-team pick Kate LaBina, a middle blocker plus junior setter Hutchins, Carly Wadsworth and Cassie Ehlendt — all honorable mentions — are back to spearhead the Spartans.

Westland John Glenn is in its sixth season with coach Stacy Carey, who feels she has the Rockets pointed in the right direction.

"I think we're a little more versatile," she said. "Having the freshman program last year is really going to help."

Among the Glenn returnees are Noelle Swartz, who missed all year with a knee injury, Nicole Panyard, Jamie McLeod, Jessica Sanchez, Sarah Paek, Lacey Catarino, Samantha Dean, Holly Doodler and Lindsay Beard.

Outside the WLAA, coach Larry Wyatt enters his second season at always tough Livonia Ladywood.

Wyatt must replace Jenny Young, stellar outside hitter to lead Ladywood to its eighth straight Catholic League championship. She is now at Central Michigan.

He feels depth will do it, with hitters Patty Horal, Jenni Gregor, Cameron Koppertowicz, Jessica Tilson, Kelly Carey, Kelly Predmesky, Erin Bartee, Desirée Betts and Carolyn Whalen are the players who will form the front row combinations for the Blazers.

At Wayne Memorial, Laura Oliver enters her fourth sea-

son. The Blazers will be led by setter Amy Pailing. They will be loaded with underclassmen this season.

Here's all you need to know about the Livonia Clarenceville program, under the direction of nine-year veteran coach Alisha Love: her graduates come back to help her players on the fundamentals.

The Trojans lost first-team All-Area selection Danielle Sleds and also must replace Kristina Skrela, but fortunately have plenty of veterans coming back.

Included are Rachael Koerke, sophomore Faye Croteau, Nicole Kasparian, Vera Skrela, junior Marjeta Prekelesaj, junior Michelle Moore, junior Ashley Pearson, junior Sarah McNeilly and sophomore Laura Mail.

Coach Joan Ollinger at Lutheran High School Westland has a shot at defending the Metro Conference title shared with Livonia Clarenceville last season. The Trojans will be in the hunt again, too.

Key returnees include powerful hitter Sarah Marody plus Amanda Dales, Heather Haller, Jen Dash, Liz Unger, Rene O'Brien and Anna Rolf.

Westland Huron Valley Lutheran's volleyball team has a new coach, Kris Springstroh, who just finished up her first season as basketball coach.

Stacie Graves and Rachel Zahn head the list of returnees.

See capsule outlook of area volleyball teams.

CAPSULE OUTLOOK OF LIVONIA-WESTLAND VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Mike Hughes, 25th season
League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division)
Last year's overall record: 29-12-3
Titles won last year: Macomb Invitational
Notable losses to graduation: Lauren Ruprecht (All-Area first team), Courtney Lim (All-Area third team), Luba Steca, Becky Weber, Jessica Mackay, Fernando Lette

Leading returnees: Shannon Munn, Sr. MH, 5-9; Kristin Leaczynski, Sr. setter, 5-7; Colleen Guardiola, Sr. setter, 5-2; Amy Cadovich, Sr. OH, 5-7; Megan Sheehan, Sr. OH, 5-4; Carey Ziomke, Sr. def. specialist, 5-4; Corey Mack, Jr. MH, 5-10; Katie Hopp, Jr. OH, 5-5; Michelle Esparza, Jr. def. specialist, 5-5; Kelly Wright, Jr. OH, 5-8

Promising newcomers: Sarah Phillips, Soph. OH, 5-10; Sheila Gillies, Soph. MH, 6-0; Beth Bushey, Soph. OH, 5-8

Hughes' '99-00 outlook: "We have some good solid senior experience, especially at the setting positions."

"We should get some good offensive power from Cadovich and Munn in the middle. Sheehan has a chance to help us as an outside hitter, she's small but she really jumps. And we'll get some defense from Ziomke."

"I'm ecstatic with our sophomores. Gillies is going to start for us in the middle. She's got a lot of desire. Phillips played junior varsity as a freshman and has turned out to be an excellent blocker and made steady progress. She's pushed her way into the starting lineup on the right side."

"They're going to make some mistakes. But they're going to be good."

"Our four juniors are going to be solid, especially defensively. Mack is coming along in the middle."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Mary Helen Dege, second season
League affiliation: WLAA (Western Division)
Last year's overall record: 37-14-1

Titles won last year: WLAA Western Division, Class A district champions
Notable losses to graduation: Nicole Boyd (All-Area second team), Lindsay Duprey

Leading returnees: Lindsay Sopko, Sr. setter, 5-10 (All-Area first team); Tera Morrill, Sr. OH, 5-11 (All-Area first team); Andre Kmet, Sr. MB, 5-10 (All-Area first team); Alexis Bowman, Sr. OH, 5-7; Rachel Bramlett, Sr. OH, 5-9; Kerstin Marshall, Jr. MH, 6-2; Monica Little, Sr. def. specialist, 5-7

Promising newcomers: Kelly Ann Zawacki, Jr. MH, 5-10; Kara Wisniewski, Soph. def. specialist, 5-5; Cassie Bentley, Jr. setter, 5-8; Sarah Baxter, Jr. OH, 5-8; Kendra Andrews, Soph. MH, 5-5

Diagala's '99-00 outlook: "I think we're a true contender this year. We're experienced and we're athletic."

"We're a close team. I think we understand

where we need to improve and where we can capitalize."

"I think this year will be, again, another highly competitive year. The senior class throughout the league is very strong. It's going to be a very difficult year."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Kelly Graham, seventh season
League affiliation: WLAA (Lakes Division)
Last year's overall record: 34-15-2

Notable losses to graduation: Stephanie Duiz (All-Area first team), Kristi Copp, Brenda Pedersen

Leading returnees: Kate LaBina, Sr. MB, 5-11 (All-Area third team), Carly Wadsworth, Sr. OH, 5-9; Cassie Ehlendt, Sr. OH, 5-10; Kelly Hutchins, Jr. setter, 5-7; Megan Urbats, Sr. OH, 5-8; Julie Pfeiffer, Sr. def. specialist, 5-4

Promising newcomers: Katie Drews, Jr. MB, 6-0; Christine Matheson, Jr. def. specialist, 5-3; Dana White, Jr. setter, 5-6; Abbey Schrader, Jr. OH, 5-8; Abbey Larsen, Jr. MH, 5-10

Graham's '99-00 outlook: "Compared to last year we're just about equal — but we have a few more assets we didn't have last year."

"We have a few more hitters and we're bigger."

"The conference is going to be just as competitive as last year, with Livonia Franklin, Walled Lake Central and Plymouth Salem."

"Our goal is to be in the top four again this year, then see where we fall."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Stacy Carey, sixth season
League affiliation: WLAA (Lakes Division)
Last year's overall record: 8-21-8

Notable losses to graduation: Kristen Krohn, Amanda Bell (All-Area honorable mentions), Melanie Panyard, Jessica LeTourneau (All-Area honorable mentions)

Leading returnees: Noelle Swartz, Sr. MH, 5-11; Nicole Panyard, Sr. MB, 5-10; Jamie McLeod, Sr. RSH, 5-10; Jessica Sanchez, Jr. setter, 5-6; Sarah Paek, Jr. OH, 5-7; Lacey Catarino, Jr. OH, 5-7; Samantha Dean, Sr. OH, 5-6; Holly Deodier, Jr. OH, 5-7; Lindsay Beard, Jr. def. specialist, 5-7

Promising newcomers: Jennifer Lach, Jr. OH, 5-6; Shelly Heim, Jr. MH, 5-9; Anne Machowicz, Jr. def. specialist, 5-5; Angie Peterson, Jr. def. specialist

Carey's '99-00 outlook: "Noelle is coming back from a knee injury from soccer. At first she was frustrated because she hadn't played in awhile, but now she's coming back strong. She's a definite asset in the middle. Now we can move Jamie (McLeod) to the outside where she is a strong hitter."

"We're going to be running a quicker offense. It's the first time we're using that. Key is serve receive and setting."

"This year we have a lot of returning starters, so we're more experienced and have more depth."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Laura Oliver, fourth season
League affiliation: Michigan Mega Conference (White Division)
Last year's overall record: 18-22-3

Titles won last year: Class A district champions
Notable losses to graduation: Kristin Kerner (All-Area honorable mentions), Jennifer Wojcie, Bethany Monitor (All-Area honorable mentions)

Leading returnees: April Coats, Sr. MH, 5-10; Amy Pailing, Jr. setter, 5-6 (All-Area honorable mentions); Melissa Jones, Sr. def. specialist, 5-5

Promising newcomers: Heather Spyr, Jr. MH, 5-10; Nancy Bednarz, Jr. OH, 5-7; Kristin Zilka, Jr. OH, 5-6; Toni Watson, Jr. OH, 5-7; Crystal Little, Sr. OH, 5-6; Christina Kelly, Jr. OH, 5-7; Connie Craig, Sr. def. specialist, 5-4; Jennifer Kieton, Jr. setter, 5-4

Oliver's '99-00 outlook: "Amy Pailing and Melissa Jones are returning starters from last year."

"Basically this is a rebuilding year. We have a lot of work to do, but it looks promising. I think we'll be competitive in the Mega White."

"Our strength is that we have very honest players. We also have leadership and a lot of dedication on their part."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD

Head coach: Larry Wyatt, second season
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division)
Last year's overall record: 30-17-2

Titles won last year: Catholic League Central and A-B Division champions
Notable losses to graduation: Jenny Young (All-Area first team), Tracey DeWitt (All-Area honorable mentions), Rebekah Thornton

Leading returnees: Patty Horal, Sr. OH, 5-8; Jenni Gregor, Sr. OH, 6-0; Cameron Koppertowicz, Sr. MH, 5-10; Jessica Tilson, Sr. MH, 5-11; Kelly Carey, Sr. OH, 5-5; Kelly Predmesky, Sr. OH, 5-5; Erin Bartee, Jr. OH, 5-9 (All-Area honorable mentions); Desirée Betts, Jr. OH, 5-4; Carolyn Whalen, Jr. MH, 5-11; Melissa Buckshaw, Jr. setter, 5-5; Megan Lantto, Jr. setter, 5-5

Promising newcomers: Kristen Bachor, Fr. OH, 5-9

Wyatt's '99-00 outlook: "You don't replace Jenny Young. Last year we were a young team, but now we have experience."

"I think we'll be competitive."

"Our two strengths are ball control, defense and balance. We have four five-foot kids who can put the ball down and keep teams honest."

"We need to sustain a high level of play. It really comes down to our setting."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Alisha Love, ninth season
League affiliation: Metro Conference
Last year's overall record: 33-14-3

Titles won last year: Metro Conference co-champions

Notable losses to graduation: Danielle Sleds (All-Area first team), Kristina Skrela
Leading returnees: Rachael Koerke, Sr. OH, 5-4; Faye Croteau, Soph. MH/OH, 5-8; Nicole Kasparian, Sr. setter/OH, 5-5; Vera Skrela, Sr. OH, 5-6; Marjeta Prekelesaj, Jr. MH, 5-8; Michelle Moore, Jr. def. specialist, 5-4; Ashley Pearson, Jr. OH, 5-5; Sarah McNeilly, Jr. MH, 5-8; Laura Mail, Soph. MH/OH, 5-6

Promising newcomers: Felicia Hernandez, Jr. defensive specialist, 5-4; Jessica Kennedy, Jr. setter, 5-4; Jenny Haapala, Jr. def. specialist, 5-3; Sarah Badcock, Sr. OH, 5-6; Leah Shapardian, Sr. MH, 5-9

Love's '99-00 outlook: "Something we have a lot of this year is height."

"We don't have a lot of height. But we do have a lot of heart."

"We don't have an older team, so I think heart, along with tough serving, will make us competitive in our league again."

"Our leaders will be Koerke, Skrela, Kasparian, Croteau and Pearson."

LUTHERAN WESTLAND

Head coach: Joan Ollinger, fifth season
League affiliation: Metro Conference
Last year's overall record: 18-12-1

Titles won last year: Class C district champions and Metro Conference co-champions
Notable losses to graduation: Anna Schwede (All-Area third team), Stephanie Lynch, Bekah Hoffmeier

Leading returnees: Amanda Sales, Sr. OH, 5-8; Heather Haller, Jr. setter, 5-4; Sarah Marody, Sr. MH, 5-11; Jen Dash, Sr. OH, 5-10; Liz Unger, Sr. def. specialist, 5-6; Rene O'Brien, Sr. setter, 5-2; Anna Rolf, Sr. OH, 5-8

Promising newcomers: Kelly Pruchnik, Jr. OH, 5-9; Krissy Rose, Jr. S, 5-4; Emily Renke, Jr. OH, 5-7; Alicia Martin, Jr. OH, 5-10; Laurie Rush, Jr. OH, 5-7 (transfer from Lakeland)

Ollinger's '99-00 outlook: "I think we're going to be okay this year. One of our goals is to duplicate our success of last season."

"We've got some good hitters. Our new players are eager to learn."

"Put all of that together and I think things will turn out pretty well."

HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN

Head coach: Kris Springstroh, first season
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference
Last year's overall record: 11-10

Notable losses to graduation: Anna Dail, Stephanie Graves, Katie Olandson

Leading returnees: Stacie Graves, Sr. setter, 5-4; Rachel Zahn, Jr. OH, 5-7; Gennifer Grounke, Sr. OH, 5-9; Jessica Whitaker, Sr. OH, 5-8; Danielle Joly, Sr. utility, 5-4

Promising newcomers: Samantha Pellegrino, Jr. UT, 5-5; Lauren Merier, Fr. OH, 5-8

Springstroh's '99-00 outlook: "We've got a good core of upper class leadership."

"They should be able to improve on last season, when they finished second. They've got really strong arms and good fundamental skills."

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Stevenson holds off Churchill bid

Kharbush MVP as Spartans win Livonia meet

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

Livonia Stevenson will keep the city wrestling trophy for another year, but the Spartans had to earn every point in their championship quest Monday night.

Host Stevenson, winning six weight classes, held off a strong challenge from Churchill to win the coveted team title, 169 to 152. Livonia Clarenceville was third with 118, while Franklin took fourth with 106.

Among the individual champions for the Spartans were defending 103-pound state champion Josh Gunterman (112), Bill Bullock (119), Zack Yaffai (130), Mike Falzon (152), tournament MVP Imad Kharbush (171) and John MacFarland (189).

"Churchill is doing a nice job with their program," Stevenson first-year coach Joel Smith said. "They have a nice group of freshman."

"And Clarenceville was tough in the upper weights, Franklin, with their new coach, Tony Venturini, is also doing some nice things. Tony brings a lot of skill and some good technique. I look for them to turn things around."

Bullock, a sophomore, was coming off a sixth-place finish in the Garden City Invitational. He held off Churchill's Steve Lenhardt in the finals, 15-10.

"Billy is really starting to blossom," Smith said. "Last year he

wrestled varsity about 50 percent of the time and took some lumps.

"That was a key weight class for us."

Kharbush, who won the 160 division Saturday at Garden City, scored an impressive 9-0 over a formidable opponent, Franklin's Eric Toska.

"Imad is really hungry," Smith said. "He's tougher on himself than the coaches at times. Sometimes too tough on himself, but he's an extremely hard-working kid."

Churchill went without its top performer, 162-pounder Mike Carter, who was 33-1 a year ago. Carter was held out for precautionary reasons after injuring his shoulder in a 7-4 championship win Saturday over Falzon at Garden City.

"He wanted to wrestle, but I didn't want him to get hurt and not be there the rest of the season," Altounian said.

Churchill individual winners included Kyle Malo (103), Lev Mergian (135), Steve Abar (145) and Bryan Jones (160). Abar's father Bob won a city title in 1972.

"I was proud of the way our young kids came through," Altounian said. "We stuck (pinned) quite a bit early and that kept us close. We pretty much did what we thought. It was also a great effort by Stevenson."

The Chargers, who have eight underclassmen (grades 9-10) in

the starting lineup, will only get better as the season goes on.

"If they stick together this will be a tough bunch of kids," Altounian said. "The kids are not selfish. They put in the time. On Sunday, 25 of our 28 kids showed up and ran voluntarily to get ready for this."

Clarenceville individual winners included heavyweight Josh Rose and 140-pounder George Gostias.

"Josh has really improved and George is a three-year varsity wrestler," Clarenceville first-year coach Clint Kraft said. "The success of our team depends on the young guys and how much they learn. We have a long ways to go, but we hope to improve every single match throughout the year."

Franklin came away with one individual title from an unexpected source.

John Mervyn, who recently transferred from Plymouth Salem, won his final against Churchill's Nick Smith with a pin in 54 seconds.

Mervyn was 45-7 last year at Salem, finishing seventh in the 112-pound class (Division I). He is 121-27 in his career.

"John brings leadership to the team," Franklin first-year coach Tony Venturini said. "I knew of him. He's an excellent wrestler with excellent technique."

"The rest of our kids basically did what I expected. We have a few bumps and bruises and we're still developing as a team."

10

100 pounds: 1. Aaron Dandinos (Wayne Memorial); 2. Patrick Carroll; 3. Plymouth Salem; 4. Farmington; 5. Garden City.

120 pounds: 1. Josh Henderson (Lyon's Stevenson); 2. Kyle Pitt (Canton); 3. Kyle Malo (Churchill); 4. Scott Mowsey (GC); 5. Chad Bennett (Lyon's Franklin).

145: 1. Dan Tompkins (Lyon's Clarendonville); 2. Steve Lemhardt (Lyon's Churchill); 3. Brian Clement (Churchill); 4. Chris Smith (Westland John Glenn); 5. Carlos Cammons (Redford Union).

170: 1. Ron Thompson (Plymouth Salem); 2. Pat Sain (GC); 3. Jesse Purdon (John Glenn); 4. Jon Simmons (Farmington); 5. David Teets (John Glenn).

220: 1. John Mervyn (Franklin); 2. Rob Ash (Plymouth Salem); 3. Jon Gregg (Wayne Memorial); 4. Vinnie Zecchi (Garden City); 5. Zack Yaffai (Stevenson).

285: 1. Greg Musser (Canton); 2. Jeff Albrecht (John Glenn); 3. Brian Marsh (Wayne); 4. Brian Reed (Garden City).

350: 1. Josh Henderson (Salem); 2. Jon Pocock (Canton); 3. Brandon Templeton (GC); 4. Allen Waddell (John Glenn); 5. Jamie Blair (RU).

440: 1. Josh Fee (Garden City); 2. Jeff Wheeler (Redford CC); 3. Steve Dandinos (Salem); 4. Ernie Guerra (John Glenn); 5. Tom Mahon (Farmington).

540: 1. Jeff Usher (Redford Thurston); 2. Jay Abshire (Redford

CC); 3. Steve Abar (145); 4. Kyle Malo (103); 5. Lev Mergian (135); 6. Steve Abar (145); 7. Bryan Jones (160); 8. Kyle Malo (103); 9. Lev Mergian (135); 10. Steve Abar (145); 11. Bryan Jones (160); 12. Kyle Malo (103); 13. Lev Mergian (135); 14. Steve Abar (145); 15. Bryan Jones (160); 16. Kyle Malo (103); 17. Lev Mergian (135); 18. Steve Abar (145); 19. Bryan Jones (160); 20. Kyle Malo (103); 21. Lev Mergian (135); 22. Steve Abar (145); 23. Bryan Jones (160); 24. Kyle Malo (103); 25. Lev Mergian (135); 26. Steve Abar (145); 27. Bryan Jones (160); 28. Kyle Malo (103); 29. Lev Mergian (135); 30. Steve Abar (145); 31. Bryan Jones (160); 32. Kyle Malo (103); 33. Lev Mergian (135); 34. Steve Abar (145); 35. Bryan Jones (160); 36. Kyle Malo (103); 37. Lev Mergian (135); 38. Steve Abar (145); 39. Bryan Jones (160); 40. Kyle Malo (103); 41. Lev Mergian (135); 42. Steve Abar (145); 43. Bryan Jones (160); 44. Kyle Malo (103); 45. Lev Mergian (135); 46. Steve Abar (145); 47. Bryan Jones (160); 48. Kyle Malo (103); 49. Lev Mergian (135); 50. Steve Abar (145); 51. Bryan Jones (160); 52. Kyle Malo (103); 53. Lev Mergian (135); 54. Steve Abar (145); 55. Bryan Jones (160); 56. Kyle Malo (103); 57. Lev Mergian (135); 58. Steve Abar (145); 59. Bryan Jones (160); 60. Kyle Malo (103); 61. Lev Mergian (135); 62. Steve Abar (145); 63. Bryan Jones (160); 64. Kyle Malo (103); 65. Lev Mergian (135); 66. Steve Abar (145); 67. Bryan Jones (160); 68. Kyle Malo (103); 69. Lev Mergian (135); 70. Steve Abar (145); 71. Bryan Jones (160); 72. Kyle Malo (103); 73. Lev Mergian (135); 74. Steve Abar (145); 75. Bryan Jones (160); 76. Kyle Malo (103); 77. Lev Mergian (135); 78. Steve Abar (145); 79. Bryan Jones (160); 80. Kyle Malo (103); 81. Lev Mergian (135); 82. Steve Abar (145); 83. Bryan Jones (160); 84. Kyle Malo (103); 85. Lev Mergian (135); 86. Steve Abar (145); 87. Bryan Jones (160); 88. Kyle Malo (103); 89. Lev Mergian (135); 90. Steve Abar (145); 91. 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Observer's best tops in state

State runner-up Farmington Hills Mercy again dominates the All-Observer girls swimming and diving team along with another area power, Livonia Stevenson, which finished eighth in the state.

Mercy has all three first-team relays, Stevenson three second-place teams. Those two schools also filled 12 of the 19 individual positions.

The 1999 All-Observer team serves as a farewell to several seniors who were four-year standouts — Mercy's Elizabeth Posvar, Kelly Carlin and Erin Downs, Stevenson's Katy Ballantine and Farmington Harrison's Lindsay Fetter.

All four are repeat, first-team selections along with Mercy's Amy McCullough and North Farmington's Lindsay McErean.

Mercy's Elizabeth MacDonald and Kristin Loidas, Stevenson's Katie Clark and Livonia Ladywood's Christina Mocer were second-team swimmers a year ago.

Jim Downs, who guided Mercy to a second-place finish in the Class A state finals, was named Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

The Marlins also won their third consecutive Oakland County championship and yet another Catholic League title.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

200 medley relay, Mercy (Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Garlow, Erin Downs, Elizabeth Posvar): The Marlins won the state championship with a record time of 1:46.95, breaking the record of 1:47.23 by the 1992 Birmingham Seaholm team.

With Kelly Carlin on the team in place of Garlow, Mercy won the Oakland County and Catholic League titles, too. The Marlins set a league record of 1:52.41.

Kelly Carlin, 200 freestyle, Mercy: Carlin finished seventh in the state in the 200 free while swimming her best time (1:55.08). She also was fifth in the state in the 100 free (53.22).

"Carlin is the Oakland County champion in the 100 free and was third in the backstroke. She is the Catholic League champion in the 50 free and helped the Marlins set a league record in winning the 400 free relay."

"Kelly was a senior co-captain who had a great work ethic for four years," coach Jim Downs said. "She earned eight all-state honors, and she's a six-time All-America with one more pending."

Lindsay Fetter, 200 IM, Harrison: Fetter was all-state three times in the IM and four times in the breaststroke. In this year's state meet, she placed fourth in the IM and had the area's best time (2:08.26). She was fifth in the breaststroke, accounting for Harrison's 15th place team finish.

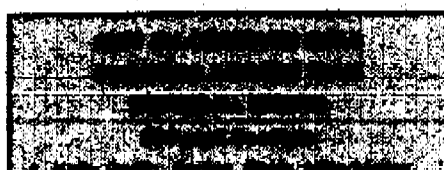
Fetter, who will swim at Michigan State University, is the Oakland County champion in the breaststroke. She was WLA champion twice in the IM and three times in the breaststroke. Fetter holds three individual school records and had a part in all three school-record relay teams.

"Lindsay is focused and shows good leadership qualities in all aspects of her life," coach Ross Bandy said. "She's an outstanding student and a genuine quality person."

Amy McCullough, 500 freestyle, Mercy: McCullough was second in the state in the 500 free (24:01) and third in the 500 free (4:57.51).

She set a Catholic League record in winning the 200 free and also was first in the 500 free. McCullough won both events in the MISCA and Oakland County meets, too. She has been all-state in four events.

"As a junior, Amy qualified in all open events except the breaststroke and estab-



Elizabeth Garlow, Farmington Mercy.

1. Elizabeth Garlow, senior, Farmington Mercy
2. Elizabeth Garlow, senior, Farmington Mercy

1. Amy McCullough, junior, Mercy
2. Monica Glowski, senior, Plymouth Salem

1. Kelly Carlin, senior, Livonia Stevenson
2. Michele Kain, junior, Livonia Stevenson

1. Erin Downs, senior, Farmington Mercy
2. Katie Clark, senior, Livonia Stevenson

1. Elizabeth Posvar, senior, F.H. Mercy
2. Jeni Blacklock, senior, F.H. Mercy

1. Elizabeth MacDonald, junior, Mercy
2. Angela Simetkosky, senior, Churchill

1. Lindsay Fetter, senior, N. Farmington
2. Lindsay Dolin, junior, Liv. Stevenson

1. Karl Foust, junior, Plymouth Salem
2. Kristin Loidas, senior, Farmington Mercy

1. Andrea Hurn, sophomore, Liv. Stevenson
2. Elizabeth Garlow, senior, F.H. Mercy

1. Amy McCullough, senior, F.H. Mercy
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2. Angela Simetkosky, senior, Churchill

tials do not come by wishing — multi-event state qualifier over four years, 14 league championships, four pool records and five varsity records at Mercy, 12 all-state honors and eight All-America swims with two more pending." Downs said.

"They come from commitment to the sport. Elizabeth was our most valuable swimmer, our go-to person."

Elizabeth MacDonald, 500 freestyle, Mercy: MacDonald finished fourth in the state (5:05.56) in the 500 free and was eighth in the 200 free (1:55.55). She also qualified in the 100 free.

In the Catholic League, MacDonald was second in the 200 free and third in the butterfly. In the Oakland County meet, she was second in the 500 free and third in the 200 free.

"Elizabeth seeks out a pain threshold and pushes beyond it," Downs said. "She has a keen focus for training and race competition. She had three outstanding performances at state by an outstanding student-athlete."

200 freestyle relay, Mercy (Jeni Blacklock, Kristin Loidas, Elizabeth MacDonald, Kelly Carlin): The Marlins had the best finish by an area team at the state meet, taking sixth place (1:39.47).

With senior Elizabeth Posvar on the team in place of Loidas, Mercy also won the Oakland County championship (1:40.79). The Marlins were second in the Catholic League.

Lindsay McErean, backstroke, North Farmington: McErean placed fifth in the backstroke (5:59.55) and the IM (2:09.78) at the state meet, earning all-state and All-America consideration in both.

Her best time in the IM was 2:08.91. Her backstroke time was the best in the area. McErean holds the school record in the backstroke and has the second-fastest time in the IM.

McErean is the WLA champion in both events. She was a state qualifier in the 100 free and the breaststroke, too.

"Lindsay is a very talented and versatile swimmer," coach Pat Duthie said. "She's a hard worker and is dedicated to the team."

Andrea Hurn, 100 breaststroke, Stevenson: Just a freshman, Hurn made an immediate impact by finishing second in the 100 breaststroke at the state Class A meet with a time of 1:06.1, also best in Observant and good enough to earn a spot on the High School All-America honor roll.

She was also a WLA champion in her event and swam the breaststroke on Stevenson's 200 medley relay where she posted the fastest split in the state meet. Hurn also anchored Stevenson's 400 freestyle relay.

Not surprisingly, Hurn was named Stevenson's 1999 Rookie of the Year.

400 freestyle relay, Mercy (Kelly Carlin, Kristin Loidas, Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Posvar): The Marlins were second in the state meet behind Gross Pointe North despite swimming a better time than they did a year ago when they won the state title.

The Marlins had a 3:30.44 time this year as opposed to 3:31.25 last year. GPN won the race this year with a 3:29.37 swim.

The team of Loidas, MacDonald, Blacklock and McCullough won the Oakland County championship. With MacDonald in place of Loidas, Mercy won the Catholic League title.

ALL-AREA SECOND TEAM

200 medley relay, Stevenson (Lindsay Dolin, Andrea Hurn, Katie Clark and Jessica Makowski): This Spartan quartet finished first in the WLA meet and finished tied for third with Zealand in the state Class A finals with a time of 1:49.28.

Both Clark and Makowski are both seniors, while Hurn is a freshman. Dolin is a junior.

Kristin Loidas, 200 freestyle, Mercy: Loidas finished 10th in the state in the 200 free (1:56.54) and 11th in the 500 free (5:15.43). She also qualified in the 100 free and butterfly.

Loidas is the Catholic League champion in the 500 free. In the Oakland County meet, she was third in the 500 free and fifth in the 200 free.

"Her value to this team can be calculated using any multiple you want — points scored, attitude, commitment to training, performance under pressure, personality — and it comes up big every time," Downs said.

Christina Mocer, 200 IM, Ladywood: The junior enjoyed a fruitful season despite a painful shoulder injury suffered in July.

She was a state qualifier in the 200 IM (2:15.32) and 100 backstroke (1:01.83) where she placed second and third, respectively, in the Catholic League meet.

Mocer also had season best of 55.35 in the 100 freestyle and 5:32.0 in the 500 freestyle.

"Christina showed tremendous spirit this season," Ladywood coach Doug Shade said. "She made a remarkable recovery fighting through her injury."

Monica Glowski, 80 freestyle, Plymouth Salem: A sophomore, Glowski nosed out Stevenson's Jessica Makowski for second place at the WLA finals in the 50 free, 25.37 to 25.41. It earned Glowski a state qualifying berth in the 50.

In the WLA's 100 free final, it was Glowski who was edged, placing second to Northville's Stephanie Sabo, 55.96 to 56.01.

Michele Kain, diving, Stevenson: A consistent performer all year long, the junior finished fourth in the WLA meet (310.80 points for 12 dives) and 13th at the regional, just missing a state qualifying berth by one place.

Katie Clark, 100 butterfly, Stevenson: For the first time in four seasons Clark enjoyed an injury-free year and she showed what she could accomplish by placing first in the WLA meet and fifth in Class A (58.51).

Clark was named MVP of the Stevenson swim team.

Jeni Blacklock, 100 freestyle, Mercy: Blacklock had the fifth-best time in the 100 free (55.21) after Mercy teammates Posvar, Carlin, McCullough and MacDonald and one of the area's best in the 50 free as well (25.02). She was second in the 50 free in the Oakland County meet.

"She gave us her best efforts of the season at the state meet with a great leadoff leg in the 200 free relay, setting us up for sixth place, all-state and All-America consideration," Downs said.

Angela Simetkosky, 500 freestyle, Churchill: The senior took eighth place at the state Class A meet (5:07.65) after setting school records at the WLA meet in both the 200 freestyle (1:57.05) and 500 freestyle (5:08.88).

Simetkosky was named Churchill's team MVP.

The Churchill captain is a three-year Scholar-Athlete award winner.

"Angela has high goals," Churchill coach Ken Stark said. "She is one of the hardest working and fastest swimmers in Churchill history."

"She is getting stronger and faster and I can't wait to see her accomplishments in college swimming. She has been a good example to her teammates. She has been a pleasure to coach."

200 freestyle relay, Stevenson (Jessica Makowski, Michele Aristeo, Katie Clark, Amanda Polkwoski): Despite swimming only twice together as a group this season, early in the year and at the state meet, this Stevenson foursome managed to post Observant's second best time at 1:42.94.

Three members of the group are seniors with the exception of Aristeo, who is just a freshman.

Lindsay Dolin, 100 backstroke, Stevenson: The junior was steady all season in the backstroke with a personal best of 1:01.59, which was good enough for a second place finish in the WLA meet.

She also led off Stevenson's third place 200 medley relay team.

Karl Foust, 100 backstroke, Plymouth Salem: Foust, a junior, finished fourth at the WLA finals in the 100 back, which was one of the fastest events at the meet. The top four placers all bettered the state qualifying standard. Foust, who had qualified earlier in the season at 1:01.59, was fourth in 1:02.36.

At state, Foust placed 18th in the 100 back in 1:01.66. At the WLA finals, she also took an 11th in the 200 IM (2:25.11).

Elizabeth Garlow, 100 breaststroke, Mercy: Garlow, as a freshman in her first state meet, was sixth in the breaststroke with her best time (1:07.32), which received All-America consideration. She is the Catholic League champion and was second in Oakland County.

"She brought the crowd to its feet at the state finals with a 30.02 split in the breaststroke in the medley relay on the way to a state record," Downs said. "Ms. Pac Man is a competitor head-to-toe. Her future is so bright she needs shades."

400 freestyle relay, Stevenson (Katie Clark, Jessica Makowski, Michele Aristeo and Andrea Hurn): The foursome were sec-



Mercy's 200-yard medley relay: (from left) Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Garlow, Erin Downs and Elizabeth Posvar.



Mercy's 200-yard freestyle relay: (clockwise from top) Jeni Blacklock, Elizabeth MacDonald, Kelly Carlin and Kristin Loidas.



Mercy's 400-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Kelly Carlin, Kristin Loidas, Amy McCullough and Elizabeth Posvar.



Stevenson's 200-yard medley relay: (clockwise from top) Lindsay Dolin, Katie Clark, Jessica Makowski and Andrea Hurn.



Stevenson's 200-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Jessica Makowski, Michele Aristeo, Katie Clark and Amanda Polkwoski.



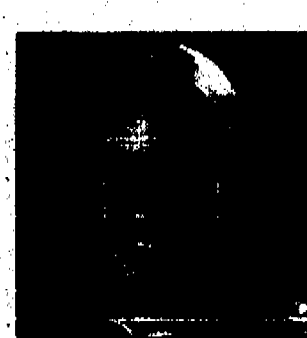
Stevenson's 400-yard freestyle relay: (clockwise from top) Katie Clark, Michele Aristeo, Andrea Hurn and Jessica Makowski.



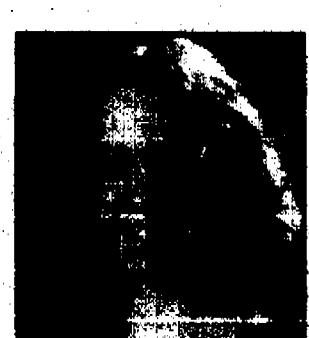
Elizabeth Garlow, Farmington Mercy



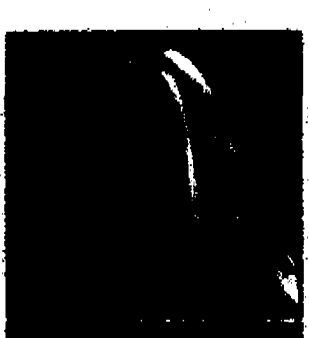
Jim Downs, Coach of the Year



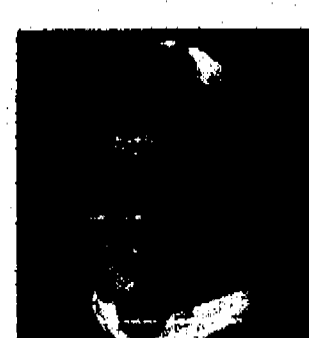
Kelly Carlin, Farmington Mercy



Lindsay Fetter, Farmington Harrison



Amy McCullough, Farmington Mercy



Erin Downs, Farmington Mercy



Katy Ballantine, Livonia Stevenson



Elizabeth Posvar, Farmington Mercy



Elizabeth MacDonald, Farmington Mercy



Lindsay McErean, North Farmington



Andrea Hurn, Livonia Stevenson



Karl Foust, Plymouth Salem



Lindsay Dolin, Livonia Stevenson



Angela Simetkosky, Livonia Churchill



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New Year from page E1

■ Dennis Miller brings his brilliant wit and social commentary to Detroit on the first day of 2000, and he aims straight for the funny bone. Miller has found success on both network and cable television and in film. Using his unforgettable years on

Saturday Night Live as a career springboard, Miller hosts the Cable Ace-award winning show "Dennis Miller Live" on HBO. Despite his comedy specials and live performances, Miller can be seen in such movies as "Murder at 1600" and "Disclosure." See

him at his comedic best 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1st the Fox Theatre in Detroit.

Tickets are \$42.50-\$60. Charge by phone at (248) 645-6666 or on the Web at www.ticketmaster.com.

Casino from page E1

full of ideas and books full of stuff I always wanted to do; now I can. My staff is great, they're so hungry for knowledge."

Covering a space of approximately 20 acres bound by Grand River and the Lodge service drive, Trumbull and on the west, the Motor City Casino is not far from Tiger Stadium.

Except for Carl's Chophouse there's not a whole lot happening in this area. Continental Baking Co., which owned the former Wonder Bread factory, closed the 75-year-old facility on July 20, 1985.

MotorCity Casino is a joint venture between the Mandalay Resort Group, formerly Circus Circus Enterprises, and 114 local investors.

Terry Dougall of Dougall Design of California, Klai-Jupa of Las Vegas and BEI Associates of Detroit turned the former factory into a glamorous gaming area they describe as having a "sense of Las Vegas with a Detroit twist."

Architects visited homes in Detroit's New Center area to get ideas. Slot machine signage was

custom designed out of old gears valves, gauges and other parts found in attics and basements. Signs beckons gamblers to try their luck "Detroit Dollars \$1," "Fabulous Fins \$5." Slot machines range from 5 cents to \$100.

This casino is very open; the ceilings on the second floor are 26 feet high. MotorCity Casino is handicap accessible, and no smoking is allowed on the third floor. On the fourth floor, high rollers can take a rest from gambling in their very own lounge where they're served by butlers. Equipment such as the continuous shuffling machines at gambling tables are state-of-the-art.

Edward Avila of Dougall Design worked on converting the factory into a casino.

"We've done well with what we had to work with," he said. Artists in California did the Detroit themed murals, which include a photo of Henry Ford. Different patterns of carpeting and motifs define gaming areas.

Avila described the fourth floor as being very elegant and upscale. The third floor has a

1950s feel. The second floor is very "Motor City," with an automotive theme, and the first floor is more industrial. Copper is predominantly used on the first floor, gold on the second, and their third floor is a mixture of both.

"We want you to walk in and be surprised at every turn," said Avila.

When you visit the MotorCity Casino, you might want to consider signing up for a free Player's Card. The credit-card-like device plugs into slot machines and into the rail at gambling tables. The card tracks how long you play and where you're playing. As you play, you earn "comps" such as tickets to a concert, sporting event, or dinner.

If you visit the Motor City Casino, let me know what you thought about it. Send me an e-mail, fax (734) 591-7279, or note with your comments, attention: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

AT THE GALLERIES

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COMMUNITY ARTS GALLERY

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28 5400 Gullen Mall, Wayne State University, Detroit. (313) 577-2423.

CPOP GALLERY

Through Jan. 14 - Glenn Barr: Underbelly. 4160 Woodward, Detroit. (313) 833-9901.

DETROIT CONTEMPORARY

Through Jan. 9 - "364 Days" featuring Paul Snyder, James Stephens and Robert Berry. 5141 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit. (313) 898-4278.

GALERIA CASA DE UNIDAD

Through Dec. 17 - Day of the Dead-Ofrenda exhibit. 1920 Scotten, Detroit. (313) 843-9598.

JELANE JACOB GALLERY

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Country music's Joseph James poised for stardom



STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

In Europe he's featured along side country mega-stars like Shania Twain and Faith Hill.

He gets e-mail messages from all over the world requesting autographed pictures and CDs. He's even interviewed the likes of Garth Brooks on his own radio show.

And yet country singer-songwriter Joseph James lives a quiet, unassuming life amid the quaint charm of Rochester Hills — just as he has for the past 21 years.

Born Joseph James Giordano, he took to singing at age 5, around a campfire at his grandmother's cottage. He picked up the guitar just four years later and prepared his solo act in the years that followed.

The Harper Woods native had a natural affinity for making

music. Some of his favorite musicians growing up ran the gamut from Johnny Cash to James Taylor, but James claims he's remained a little bit country all along.

"(Country music) is music for people, about people," said James. "It tells a story about people. Also, there is a realness about country music and I think it'll always continue to be the everyday person's music."

His latest single "One Track Mind" has topped European record charts since its release last July. Poring over letters, e-mails and playlists from all over the country and the globe, he blushes a bit when speaking about his burgeoning success.

"I had the best musicians in Nashville," he said of those who played on his new, self-titled album. "The list is a who's who in country music."

That list includes bassist Mike Chapman and drummer Terry McMillan who worked with Garth Brooks. They're both part

of James' self-proclaimed "dream team."

While he'd had his fill of playing the local club scene years ago with his former band Cold Water, James hasn't lost a bit of passion toward live performance. "What I like about (performing) is the tension release," said James, sitting in his comfortable Rochester Hills office. "I really love interacting with people. I'm a people person."

Taking it to the next level

He's simply trying to take his music to the next level. That means signing to a record label. While the buzz is strong in Nashville, no deals have been

made just yet.

But James said the outlook is good. With so many women gaining accolades in country music, there's room for more male performers in the genre. If someone has to follow in the golden footsteps of the Dixie Chicks, James is ready and waiting.

Currently working on a new release early in 2000, James seems poised for success. "One Track Mind" has all the elements of a hit — it's a catchy, cross-over country song with a universal theme, attempting to get back a lost love. It doesn't get more country than that.

While James has a voice for

song and a heart for touching lyrics, he's also been blessed with a head for business.

Please See COUNTRY, E7

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THEATER

CENTURY THEATRE

"Forbidden Hollywood," through Dec. 31, 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Fridays, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 5:30 p.m. Sundays, at the Century Theatre, 333 Madison Avenue, Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE

"Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church," through Dec. 31, at the theater, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. \$15. (313) 868-1347

FISHER THEATRE

"Martin Guerre," continues through Sunday, Dec. 19, at the theater, Detroit. (248) 645-6666

GEM THEATRE

"Escanaba in da Moonlight," a comedy by Jeff Daniels, through March 26, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays, at the theater, 33 Madison Ave., Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800

JET THEATRE

"Prisoner of Second Avenue," previews Wednesday-Sunday, Dec. 22-26; show dates Dec. 29-Jan. 2, Jan. 5-9, Jan. 12-16, Jan. 19-23, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday and Sunday, 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday and Wednesday, in the Aaron DeRoy Theatre, lower level of Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road at Drake, W. Bloomfield. \$15-\$25. (248) 788-2900

COLLEGE

WSU MILBERRY

"Some Americans Abroad," through Feb. 5, at the theater 4743 Cass, Detroit. \$11-\$18. (313) 577-2972

COMMUNITY THEATER

AMAJL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

The Friends of the Opera of Michigan and Conlen Productions present this tender, Christmas season musical-drama for the entire family 4 p.m.-Sunday, Dec. 19, at St. Martha's Church, 18200 Oakwood Blvd., across from Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn. \$10. (313) 582-0997

"MY THREE ANGELS"

Classic off-beat holiday production by Sam and Bella Spewacks, 8 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 17-19, at The Trumbull, 4210 Trumbull Avenue, Detroit. (313) 365-8185

PLANET ANT THEATRE

"Sexual Perversity in Chicago," through Sunday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday, at the theater, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. \$10, \$35 season tickets available until Dec. 19. (313) 365-4948

DINNER THEATER

BACH 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," 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sundays, at 40 W. Pike, Pontiac. (248) 745-8668/(248) 645-6666

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

ANNE JR.

Runs 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16, 23, 30 and 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 22, 29. Scottish Rite Cathedral Theatre, Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, Detroit. (313) 535-8962

MARQUAN THEATRE

"Jack in the Beanstalk," through Sunday, Jan. 16, at the theater, 135 E. Main, Northville. \$7. (248) 349-8110

THEATRE GUILD OF LIVONIA

REDFORD

Magic show for the young and young at heart, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 27-28, at the theater, 15138 Beech Daly, Redford. \$5, \$2.50 children. (313) 531-0554

YOUTHMAFEE

"Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day," 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at Music Hall, Detroit. \$8 advance, \$9. (313) 963-2306



Toy show: The World's Largest Mobile Model Railroad is a highlight of the Toy & Hobby Expo 5-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the Novi Expo Center, I-96 and Novi Road. Admission \$6 adults, \$3 ages 4-12. Barbie dolls, toys, bears, Pokemon and other collectibles will be offered for sale. Parking \$5. Call (734) 455-2110 for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOURS

Experience an old-fashioned Christmas in a Candlelight glow, 6-8 p.m. Sunday-Monday, Dec. 26-27, Greenmead's Historic Village Buildings. Tickets \$7/person and family tickets \$20 in advance. (248) 477-7375

CHRISTMAS EVE CHORAL SERVICES

7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, at Mariner's Church, 170 E. Jefferson, Detroit. (313) 259-2206

HOLIDAY CONCERT & SING-A-LONG

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. \$8. (248) 541-6430

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION

Complete with sit-down dinner, premium bar, comedian and dancing, Friday, Dec. 31, Pine Knob Carriage House, Clarkston. \$125 per person. Call (248) 673-4932

TOY & HOBBY EXPO

And model railroad display 5-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the Novi Expo Center, I-96 and Novi Road. \$6, \$3 ages 4-12. (734) 455-2110

RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

Starring the Rockettes Friday, through Friday, Dec. 30, at the Fox Theatre, Detroit. \$20-\$55. (248) 645-6666/(248) 433-1515
"WILD LIGHTS"
 Continues through Sunday, Jan. 2, 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, until 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, at the Detroit Zoo, Woodward and I-696, Royal Oak. \$3 members (\$2 ages 2-12), \$4 non-members (\$3 ages 2-12). (248) 541-5835

FAMILY EVENTS

MEIKEN PUPPETS

"Holiday Carnival of Stars," noon, 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, in the Food Court at Wonderland Mall, Plymouth and Middlebelt, Livonia. Free. (734) 522-4100 or www.newwonderlandmail.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE

AMERICAN POLISH CULTURAL CENTER

7 p.m. to 3 a.m., at 2975 E. Maple at Dequindre, Troy. \$70. Includes dinner and dancing to Ray Adams Orchestra. (248) 690-3636

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE

8 p.m. dinner follow by 8 p.m. performance of the folk comedy, "Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church," at the theater, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. \$60. (313) 868-1347

GAELIC LEAGUE/IRISH-AMERICAN CLUB

8 p.m. catered dinner, 9 p.m. dancing, with entertainment by Irish Coel, Black Brimmer and Walter Walsh, 2068 Michigan Ave., Detroit. \$25. (313) 964-8700

GALLAGHER II

at the Fisher Theatre, Detroit. (313) 872-1000

NORTHVILLE MANOR

8 p.m. dinner (7 p.m. hors d'oeuvres), Haggerty between Five and Six Mile, Northville. \$100. (734) 420-0144

SOKOL DETROIT

8 p.m. dinner followed by dancing to the Joe Tones Band, at the Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren, Dearborn Heights. \$50. (248) 437-8976/(248) 478-8151

"STROLLING THROUGH THE CENTURY"

Evening begins with 7:30 p.m. performances of "Escanaba in da Moonlight" and "Forbidden Christmas," followed by food, live music and dancing to Ed Wells and Gem Jazz Ensemble, at the Gem Theatre and Century Club, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (\$225). (313) 963-9800; also an Early-to-Bed celebration 2-6 p.m., \$95, includes performance and dinner.

WEST SIDE SINGLES

7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., appetizers, pizza, fruit and dessert table, dancing, at Burton Manor, Schoolcraft, west of Inkster, Livonia. \$25 advance, \$30. (734) 427-9110/(734) 981-0909

WOLVERINE SILVERSPUR DANCERS

7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31 (doors open 6 p.m.), at the Italian American Cultural Center, 12 Mile, east of Hoover, Warren. \$35. (810) 774-9148 or E-mail Spurdancers@aol.com

CLASSICAL

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Holiday Pops Yuletide Celebration, Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 16-20 (\$18-\$68); "A Century of Song: From Vienna to Broadway to Hollywood" featuring Maureen McGovern, 10:45 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, and 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31 (\$14-\$95), at Orchestra Hall, 8811 Woodward, Detroit. (313) 576-5111

POPS/SWING

JIM PARAMONTES & 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

ALYSSA SHELTON

The musical impressionist sings "A Motown Tribute," voices include Stevie Wonder, Sammie Davis, Jr., Redd Foxx and Nat King Cole, 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, at the Pontchartrain Hotel, Washington Blvd. and Jefferson, Detroit. \$60. (313) 568-1347

Detroit. No cover. (313) 965-0200/(248) 354-1194.

AUDITIONS

CHORUS LINE AUDITIONS

Ages high school and older be prepared to sing and dance for the show. Bring a snapshot of yourself to auditions, 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 3-4. Call backs are set for Wednesday, Jan. 5, all at Scottish Rite Cathedral Theatre in the Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, Detroit. (313) 535-8962. Performances run Feb. 18-27.

HPCC THEATRE

Auditions for "Rumours," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 in the Adray Auditorium in the MacKenzie Fine Arts Building on campus, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. (313) 845-6475

LIVONIA YOUTH PHILHARMONIC

Auditions for the youth orchestra will be held Saturday, Jan. 22. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (734) 591-7649.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHOIR

Auditions for all voice parts, in room 530 of the Forum Building, at the college, 18600 Haggerty, between Six and Seven Mile, Livonia. (313) 937-0975

THEATRE GUILD OF LIVONIA

REDFORD
 Is searching for directors, choreographers, musical directors, and all others interested in musical comedy theater. Call (313) 531-0554 for information, or deliver resumes and letters of interest to the Theatre Guild, 15138 Beech Daly, across from the Township Hall in Redford.

CHORAL

CANTATA ACADEMY

4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale. \$15, \$12 seniors/students. (248) 358-9868

LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS

LCC presents "Once Upon a December" 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at Clariceville High School Auditorium on Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia. Free.

ORGAN

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Music for Advent and Christmas, noon Thursday-Friday, Dec. 16-17, at St. Paul's Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.

JAZZ

PAUL ARLEN

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

TODD GUNTS

Thursdays, at Elie's, 263 Pierce Street, Birmingham. (248) 647-

2420

BILL HEDD

8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

GEM JAZZ TRIO

Performs 7-11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at the Century Club Restaurant, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

RICH K. TRIO

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150; 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at Big Fish, 700 Town Center Dr., Dearborn. (313) 336-6350

MATT MICHAELS TRIO

With saxophonist Larry Nozero 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, with vocalist Barbara Ware 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, at Ron's Fireside Inn, 28937 Warren, east of Middlebelt Road, Garden City. \$5 cover. (734) 762-7756

SHAHIDA NURULLAH

8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

JANET TENAJ TRIO

Featuring Sven Anderson, piano and Kurt Krahnke, bass, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays, at Fishbone's Restaurant, 29244 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. (248) 351-2925

ED WELLS

The pianist performs 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, at the Century Club Restaurant, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

FOLK/BLUEGRASS

SONGWRITERS GOIN' ROUND

Jere Stormer, Judy Insley and Dan Hazlett, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at Xhodos, 240 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. All ages. \$5. (248) 399-3946/(248) 674-4610

POETRY/ SPOKEN WORD

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

Workshop for poets looking for more members, 2-4 p.m. third Tuesday of month, in the Jenkins rooms on the third floor of the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. (734) 762-7586

DANCE

BALLROOM DANCING

9 p.m. Saturdays, at the Dance Scene, 25333 Van Dyke, Centerline. \$6. Also swing and Latin classes. (810) 757-6300

COBBLESTONE FARM DANCERS

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor Saline Road, south of I-94, Ann Arbor. \$7. (734) 665-8863/(734) 426-0241

CONTRA DANCE

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, at Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor Saline Road, south of I-94, Ann Arbor. \$15. (734) 665-8863 or pjb@peterbaker.com

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

"The Nutcracker" with Ballet Internationale through Sunday, Dec. 19, at the Detroit Opera House. (313) 576-5111/(313) 874-SING

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING

7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, at Chapel Hill Condominium Clubhouse, 3350 Green Road, north of Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor. \$5. (734) 662-5158

FREEDOM: DANZ XPRESSIONZ

Open House with performances by Freedom: Ink, The Company, The X Generation, Onyx Dancers, Inner City Dance Scope and vocalists Savannah and SADA, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at 229 Gratiot, Detroit.

HUNGARIAN FOLK DANCE

Language and other lessons. (248) 352-0927/(734) 946-6261

LAKES AREA CIVIC BALLET

"The Nutcracker," 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, at Clarkston High School Auditorium, 6093 Flemings Lake Road, off Clarkston Road. \$14, \$12, \$10. (248) 668-1971/(248) 626-7500

POLISH ALLIANCE DANCERS OF DEARBORN

Dance and language classes for ages 3 to adult have begun Saturday mornings at Prince of Peace Church, on Ahar Road, Dearborn. (313) 581-3181

STANDSTILL BALLROOM

Dance parties 9 p.m. Fridays, lessons also available, at the dance studio, 28651 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. \$8. (248) 356-5678

SWING CLASS

5-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, in the Food Court at Wonderland Mall, Plymouth and Middlebelt, Livonia. Free. (734) 522-4100 or www.newwonderlandmail.com

COMEDY

ELDORADO COUNTRY CLUB

9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, Kirk Noland with Tiffany Jones and Dee Proffitt; 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Bryan McCree with Dan Logan and Rich Higgenbottom, also 2XL band, at 2869 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Township. (248) 624-1050

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

J.R. Brow through Saturday, Dec. 18; Kirk Noland and J.R. Remick Friday, Dec. 31, at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Third Level Improv and new talent nights, 8 p.m. Sundays (\$5). (734) 261-0555

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S

Arturo Shelton, Friday, Dec. 31 and Sunday, Jan. 2, at the club, 5070 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885

MAINSTREET COMEDY SHOWCASE

314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 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

"Phantom Menace to Society" Wednesday-Sunday, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Mainstage comedy acts: \$10 Wednesdays, Thursdays; \$17.50 on Fridays, and \$19.50 on Saturdays. (313) 965-2222

MUSEUMS AND TOURS

ANN ARBOR HANDS-ON MUSEUM

Reopened its door Oct. 19, the celebration continues with more than 250 interactive exhibits intended to make science fun, at the museum, 220 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. \$6, \$4 children/seniors/students. (734) 995-5439

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Christmas in Other Lands Family Workshop 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 (\$5). (313) 833-9720

"Frontiers to Factories: Detroiters at Work 1701-1901," formerly known as "Furs to Factories," with a new Land Office, a "Wheel of Fortune" style land acquisition interactive

8 days a week

Making contact: Please submit popular music items for publication to Stephanie Casola; all others to Linda Chomin, two weeks in advance to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150 or by fax (734) 591-7279

Continued from previous page

\$4, \$1 children. Holiday hours (Sunday-Friday, Dec. 26-31) are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For a schedule of programs, call (313) 833-4249. PuppetArt, Detroit Puppet Theater, presents the Russian version of "The Gingerbread Man" (Kolobok) 2 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 29-31.

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER
IMAX movies include "Tropical Rainforest" at 10 a.m. Mondays-Fridays, "Thrill Ride: The Science of Fun" at 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and "Everest" and "Whales" multiple showings seven days a week, at the center, noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sundays, at 5020 John R. (at Warren), Detroit. Admission to Exhibit Hall is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 3-15 and adults ages 60 and older, free for children ages 2 and younger. IMAX films are additional \$4. (313) 577-8400

DETROIT ZOO
The exhibit, "Inside/Outside: The Art of Caring" continues through Jan. 2, in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile, Royal Oak. \$7.50, \$5.50 seniors/students. \$4.50 ages 2-12. (248) 398-0903

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM
Ford Fleet Festival 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 28-30, retired and active members of the Detroit Lodge of the International Shipmasters Association will be on hand to talk to the public, bring 75 visitors each day receive a copy of "The Christmas Tree Ship," visit the newest exhibition "Folk Art of the Great Lakes" or "Racing on the Wind: Sailing on the Great Lakes," also a temporary exhibit on the construction and launch of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, at 100 Strand Drive on Belle Isle, Detroit. Regular admission \$2, \$1 seniors/children ages 12-18 during the hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. (313) 852-4051

HENRY FORD ESTATE-FAIR LANE
"The Spirit of Christmas" continues through Dec. 31, enjoy guided historic tours of the estate festively decorated for the holidays. Special events include Tea, Tour and Treasure, Monday, Dec. 20; Santa's Workshop Friday, Dec. 17, and Candlelight Tours Sunday-Thursday, Dec. 26-27, at 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. (313) 593-5590 or www.umd.umich.edu/fairlane

HENRY FORD MUSEUM/GREENFIELD VILLAGE
"The Magic of Flight" IMAX film continues through Friday, Dec. 31 on the hour 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday (\$7.50, \$6.50 seniors and children ages 5-12, \$6 members and children under age 4). (313) 271-1570, at the museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, \$12.50, \$11.50 seniors, \$7.50 kids 5-12, members and children under 5 free. (313) 271-1620

MEADOW BROOK HALL
Tours of the 110 room historic mansion built by Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer John Dodge and her second husband Alfred G. Wilson, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester. \$12, \$6 children ages 3-12. (248) 370-3140

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
"I Made This Jar..." the life and works of the enslaved African American potter, Dave continues through Jan. 2, at the museum, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. (313) 494-5800

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
"Celebrate the Century" exhibit continues at the museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth. \$2, \$50 kids, \$5 family. (734) 455-8940

SPIRIT OF FORD
Interactive automotive science and technology experience with exhibits and theaters for all ages. NASCAR Pit Stop Challenge Turbo Tour full motion simulator, 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) 312-7474

POPULAR MUSIC

LORI AMEY
With Under Construction, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, Xhodos Cafe, 240 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. \$6 cover. (248) 399-3946; 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. 21 and over. (248) 642-1135 (folk/pop/rock)

ANN ARBOR FOLK FESTIVAL
Featuring Shawn Colvin, Arlo Guthrie, Great Big Sea, Matt Watroba and more, 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. Tickets \$30, \$25. (248) 645-6666

BARENAKED LADIES
With Tal Bachman, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets \$50 and \$35 reserved. (248) 645-6666

BECK
7:30 Thursday, Feb. 3, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave. in Ann Arbor. All ages. Call (248) 645-6666 or (734) 763-TKTS.

BLUE HAWAIIANS
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

BOY SETS FIRE
With Reach, Jan. 22, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Tickets \$7. (313) 961-MELT

BROTHERS GROOVE
7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

BUMP N' UGLIES CD RELEASE
With Teenage Frames, Gutterpunk, The Outsiders, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. \$5 advance; \$7 day of show. (313) 961-MELT

EDDY CAMPBELL
10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi. No cover. (248) 735-4011 (blues)

ALEX CHILTON
8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Tickets \$13, \$5 advance. (313) 961-MELT

COMPANY OF STRANGERS
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 14-15, Cowley's, Grand River at Farmington Road, Farmington. (248) 474-5941

THE CROMAGS
With All Out War and Shutdown, 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. \$10. (313) 961-MELT

CROSSBY, STILLS, NASH AND YOUNG
8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets \$76, \$51, and \$40.50 reserved. Eight ticket limit per person. (248) 645-6666 or (248) 377-0100

DEEP SPACE 6
9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, Karli's Cabin, 9779 Gotfredson Road, Plymouth. (734) 455-8450

DISCIPLINE
10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. 21 and older. (313) 875-6555

DOMESTIC PROBLEMS
With Pat McGee and FunkIntelligence, Tuesday Dec. 28, Majestic Theater, 4140 Woodward, Detroit. 21 and over. Tickets at the Majestic Cafe, TicketMaster (248) 645-6666

EKOOSTIC HOOKAH
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. \$12 advance. (248) 544-3030

ELECTRIC BOOGALOO
With Clovis Minor and Grant, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$5. (734) 996-8555

WDRQ ELECTRIC KRINGLE JINGLE
Starring Sugar Ray, Blessed Union of Souls, Enrique Iglesias, Lou Bega, Jessica Simpson, LFO, Shaggy, Amber, Len, Mandy Moore. 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, Joe Louis Arena, Detroit. Tickets \$39.31, \$29.31. Call (248) 645-6666

ESHAM AND NATAS
With Workhorse Movement, Friday, Dec. 17, Clutch Cargo, 65 E. Huron at Mill Street, Pontiac. Tickets \$12. (248) 645-6666

FAN TILC
With T.I.C. Christina Aguilera, Cowboy's Child, 7 p.m. Sunday,

Jan. 16, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets \$39.50 and \$29.50 on sale. (248) 645-6666

FINVARRAS WREN
Featuring Jim Perkins, 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 28-29, Cowley's, Grand River at Farmington Road, Farmington. (248) 474-5941

FREED
With I Hate Mars, Red Dye 9, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$4. (734) 996-8555

FULLY LOADED
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Ford Road Bar and Grill, 35505 Ford, Westland. Free. 21 and over. (734) 721-8609 (blues)

FUNKINTELLIGENCE
9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$15. (734) 996-8555; With Paradigm and Muzzie, Inc., 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. \$5 advance. (313) 961-MELT

J. GEL'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. Children 16 and under admitted free with purchase of adult ticket. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

HARRINGTON BROTHERS
7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, 28 Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

ROY HAMILTON JR. & THE GOLDEN BOYS
7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, 30, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

AL HILL AND THE LOVE BUTLERS
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, Arbor Brewing Company, 116 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. (734) 213-1393; 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26, The Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 996-8555

HOWLING DIABLOS
With The Still, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$5. (734) 996-8555; With Face, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. \$20, 21 and over. (248) 544-3030

LISA HUNTER
5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, Live at Laurel Park Place Mall, 6 Mile east of I-275, Livonia. (248) 433-9987; 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, Lonestar Coffee, 207 S. Old Woodward. (248) 642-2233; 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Kraftbrau, Kalamazoo. (616) 384-0288; 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, Xhodos Cafe, 9 Mile west of Woodward, downtown Ferndale. (248) 399-3946

ICP BIG BALLER CHRISTMAS PARTY
With The Psychopathic Rydas, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. Sold Out.

ALAN JACKSON
With Lonestar, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets \$32.50 and \$25.50. (248) 645-6666

JAN RULE AND THE MURDERERS
9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. \$15 advance. (313) 961-MELT

JIMMIE'S CHICKEN SHACK
8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. All ages. \$8 advance. (313) 961-MELT

BETTY JOPLIN AND FRIENDS
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley Street, Ann Arbor. \$5 cover. (734) 662-8310 (jazz)

THE JUDDS
With Jo Dee Messina, 8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 18-19, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets on sale Dec. 11 for \$65, \$32.50 and \$25. (248) 645-6666

KRESCENT 4
With Small Craft Sighting, 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$3. (734) 996-8555

DAVID LAABS
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Borders Books and Music, 3924 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 335-5013 (acoustic folk)

THE LOVEMASTERS
With Killswitch and Agent 189, 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, 313 jac, upstairs from Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street. \$5, 18 and over. (313) 962-7067 (glam)

MACAOBHN
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 21-22, Cowley's, Grand River at Farmington Road, Farmington. (248) 474-5941

STONE MAZAAR AND THE WESTSIDERS
7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. New Years Eve Party. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

MAZINGA
With Sublimation and 12 Angry Steps, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$4. (734) 996-8555

MARY MCGUIRE
3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26, Borders Books and Music, 3924 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 335-5013 (folk rock)

JOHN MELLENCAMP
"Rural Electrification Tour 1999" With Shannon Curfman, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28, The Palace of Auburn Hills. \$45, \$35. (248) 645-6666

MICKEY STRANGE AND THE KINGS OF PAIN
With Face, Thursday, Dec. 23, The Token Lounge, Westland. (734) 513-5030

EDDIE MOWAT
With Stewart Francke, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, The Palace of Auburn Hills. \$15 reserved, \$9.47 general admission. (248) 645-6666 or www.ticketmaster.com

MUZZLE
9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. \$3. (734) 996-8555

JO NAB
With A Couple Fat Guys, 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi. No cover. (248) 735-4011

ODD ENOUGH
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 7-8, Cowley's, Grand River at Farmington Road, Farmington. (248) 474-5941

THE O-JAYS & THE WHISPERS
With Gerald Levert, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, Fox Theatre, Detroit. Tickets \$75, \$62.50. (248) 645-6666

ORIGINAL HITS
7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, 27 Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800

ROBERT PENN
10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main Street, Royal Oak. (248) 543-4300

PILFERS
With The Exceptions and Wristocket, 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$7. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

THE PORTERS
With Driftweed, 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, 313 jac, upstairs from Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street. \$5, 18 and over. (313) 962-7067 (r&b/punk)

THE PRIME MINISTERS
Friday, Dec. 17, Rivertown Saloon, 1977 Woodward, Detroit. 18 and over. (313) 567-6020

RACHEL AND KAPP
7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

RADIUM
Thursday, Dec. 16, New Way Bar, Ferndale.

KENNY RANKIN
8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale. \$15. (248) 544-3030

JAKE REICHART
4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, Borders Books and Music, 3924 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 335-5013 (holiday instrumental)

SOT ROCK
Thursday, Dec. 23, Boney's Bar and Grill, 142 E. Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake. (248) 669-1441

KRISTYN SMYTH
10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi. (248) 735-4011 (rocking blues)

SOUL CLIQUE
With Jazzhead, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, Motor Lounge, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. \$10 admission or \$5 with canned good; warm winter coat. This show benefits Cleaners Food Bank. Cool Papa Ron spins between sets. Or check it out on the Web at www.playground.com

SPINFIST
With Fuzzbox Twins, Friction and Don't Ask, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, Shelter, 431 E. Congress,

Detroit. All ages. \$5. (313) 961-MELT

STATIC X
Saturday, Dec. 18, Harpo's, Detroit. (248) 645-6666

SUICIDE MACHINES
With Bottomedout and The Outsiders, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$9. All ages. (248) 645-6666; With PT's Revenge and Cold as Life, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$9. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

TELEGRAPH
With Moods for Moderns and Capture the Flag, 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26, St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$5. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

JACK WHITE AND THE BRICKS
With Come Ons, 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, 313 jac, upstairs from Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street. \$5, 18 and over. (313) 962-7067 (garage rock)

WORKHORSE MOVEMENT
With Forge and Fringe, Thursday, Dec. 16, Blind Pig, 208 S. First Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 996-8555

YOUNG COUNTRY CHRISTMAS WITH STEVE WARNER
6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, State Theatre, Detroit. Tickets \$27, \$20, \$12.50. (248) 645-6666

20 MILES
Featuring Judah Bauer of Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, and JBX and Bob Log, 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$8. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

2XL
Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, Boney's Bar and Grill, 142 E. Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake. (248) 669-1441

CLUBS

ALVIN'S
The Hush Party with resident DJs Melvin Hill and Cent, 10 p.m. Mondays; and Club Color, featuring funk and disco, 8 p.m. Wednesdays (free before 10 p.m.), at the club, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$5, 18 and older. (313) 832-2355 or www.alvins.atcom.com

ARBOR BREWING COMPANY
Latin dance night, 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tuesdays, 114 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. Free. 21 and older. (734) 213-1393 or www.arbortobrewing.com

BIRD OF PARADISE
The Bird of Paradise Orchestra performs Mondays, cover \$5; Ron Brooks Trio performs Wednesdays and Thursdays, with guitarist Dan Faehne on Dec. 8-9, cover \$5; Paul Klingler's Easy Street Swingtet plays Dixieland 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Friday, cover \$2; Paul Finkbeiner's Jazz Jam can be seen 9 p.m. Sundays; free, all at the club, 207 S. Ashley Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 662-8310 (jazz)

BLIND PIG
"Swing-a-billy" night with dance lessons, dancing, 7 p.m. Sundays at the club, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$3 in advance, \$5 at the door, 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 or www.blindpigmusic.com or www.blindpigmusic.com

BULLFROG BAR AND GRILL
Acoustic night with Pakistani Tambourine Mondays, Karaoke with DJ Eric Tuesdays, Bridge performs Thursday-Sunday. After work party with Joint Venture 6-9 p.m. Fridays, all at the club, 15414 Telegraph, Redford. (313) 533-4477

CLUTCH CARGO'S/MILL STREET
"Flashback" night with "The Planet" WPLT on level two (Clutch Cargo's old school funk on level three, and techno and house on level four, 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, at the club, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Free before 9 p.m. 21 and older; Alternative dance night, 8 p.m. Wednesdays in Clutch Cargo's, 18 and older. (248) 333-2362 or www.961melt.com

FLYING FISH TAVERN
See Larry Arbore live 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, at the tavern, 17600 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills. (248) 647-7747 (acoustic folk)

GOLD DOLLAR
Hip hop and dance hall reggae dance night with DJ Chino, 8 p.m. Wednesdays at the club, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge, 21 and older. (313) 833-6873 or www.golddollar.com

THE GROOVE ROOM
Alternative, underground and club classics with DJ Mike Tuesdays; Goth and industrial with DJ Paul Wednesdays. Free admission with Goth attire. On Wednesday, Dec. 22 the club hosts it Christmas Extravaganza, Funk, hip-hop and top 40 with DJ Mac D, Thursdays. Women admitted free; "Love Factory" alternative mix of 80s and 90s with DJ Matt Fridays; Alternative dance with DJ Matt Saturdays, at the club, 1815 N. Main St. (at 12 Mile), Royal Oak. Free before 10 p.m. nightly. 21 and older. (248) 589-3344 or www.thegrooveroom.com

JD'S KEY CLUB
Singles night with dueling pianos, doors 7:30 p.m., \$2 cover, held the first Tuesday of every month; Working Wednesdays with free food buffet, \$1 off drinks, featuring Matt Safranek, Jimmy Sullivan, Marc Dorian and WIZ, doors at 4:45 p.m. Wednesdays; Ladies Night featuring Rod Norman, Jimmy Sullivan, Gary Mumford and WIZ, doors at 7 p.m. Thursdays; Matt Safranek, WIZ, Rod Norman, Gary Mumford, Marc Dorian and Jimmy Sullivan perform, \$5 cover and doors at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, all at the club, 1 North Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 338-7337 (dueling pianos)

LA BOOM TEEN NIGHTCLUB
Dance night for teens ages 15-19, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the club, 1172 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. Ages 15-19. (248) 926-9960

MAJESTIC THEATRE CENTER
"Good Sounds" with music by The Tonehead Collective and images by Thomas Video, 9 p.m. Fridays at Magic Stick, 18 and older; "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 Delvillereal, 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 DJ's Derek Prasliako, Echo and Deep, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesdays, 18 and older; "Maximum Overload" on Fridays, 10 p.m. to 6 p.m. and older; "Big House," \$6, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturdays, \$6, 21 and older, all at the club, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. (313) 396-0080 or www.motordetroit.com

ST. ANDREW'S/THE SHELTER
"Three Floors of Fun," 9 p.m. Fridays, \$3 before 11 p.m.; \$5 afterward, 18 and older; X2K dance night, 10 p.m. Saturdays, "Incinerator," 9 p.m. Wednesdays in The Shelter, \$6, 21 and older; St. Andrew's and The Shelter are at 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (313) 961-MELT or www.961melt.com

STATE THEATRE
"Ignition" dance night, 10 p.m. Saturdays at the club, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Cover charge, 18 and older. (313) 961-5451 or www.statetheatre.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, two blocks east of Middlebelt, Westland. Cover charge, 21 and older. (734) 513-5030

VELVET LOUNGE
"Viva La Noche Latina" with dance lessons from 9:10 p.m. to 10 p.m. followed

'The Green Mile' long, but awe-inspiring

BY JON KATZ
SPECIAL WRITER

There are two possible reasons why movie audiences leave a theater in total silence. They could be numbed by the movie's plot. Or, they could be numbed by the movie's length.

"The Green Mile" will numb you both ways. The three-hour, seven-minute adaptation of Stephen King's serialized novel must have film editors clawing over each other for the chance to slice it to a more marketable 120-140 minutes. Scenes are overly long to the point of making you want to yell "cut" right

there in the dark. Other scenes could have been lost entirely and not have been missed. It often seems like the projectionist got a rough edit by mistake.

But on to better things. The story is undeniably awe-inspiring. A 7-foot black man condemned to death who can heal the sick and raise the dead? Merry Christmas. Speaking of which, the gentle giant's character name is John Coffey, and the significance of his initials hasn't been lost on anyone either.

"Ole Sparky" is what they call the electric chair in Louisiana's Cold Mountain Penitentiary. It's 1935, and the eight-celled Death

Row is more like an assembly line to the hereafter. Tom Hanks is Paul Edgecomb, head guard of the lime-colored linoleum that leads to Sparky's door. He is desensitized by the routine of execution, although not insensitive to the inmates themselves. And then he meets big John.

Convicted of brutally raping and murdering two young girls, the new prisoner—as mild as he is massive—requests only that a light be left on. "Ah gits skeerd of the dark sometimes, Boss," he explains softly. This is the first of dozens of extreme close-ups on actor Michael Clarke Duncan

("Armageddon"). Be assured you will grow very fond of his sad, sweaty face while Edgecomb grows to question his guilt.

More questions about John surface when it becomes apparent that he possesses spiritual, messianic powers. He cures Edgecomb's painful urinary infection with a touch and literally sucks a tumor out of the warden's wife's brain. Looking up at the stars, he points out the constellation Cassiopeia as if he knows the lady personally. This certainly is no murderer, despite his conviction. But there are courts and then there is a Higher Court, and each has pronounced a sentence that must be carried out to its own purposes.

Hanks is low-key as Edgecomb, and it is fair to wonder how this nice guy fell into such a dead-end job, even in the Depression. But only his character could care about as well as guard men like these, and Hanks is wonderful to watch as always. Fellow guards David Morse, Barry Pepper and Jeffrey DeMunn are a tight team of competent actors. Veteran Dabbs Greer, whom you've seen in thousands of bit parts, gets a meatier turn here as the old Paul Edgecomb, our narrator.

The real villains of "The Green Mile" can add spotlight stealing to their crimes. Sam Rockwell is over-the-top as psychotic mass-murderer "Wild Bill" Wharton, who makes sport out of taunting ultra-sadistic guard Percy Wetmore (Doug Hutchison). Needless to say, justice is meted out to both of them in that long third hour.

Written and directed by Frank Darabont (who did the same for "The Shawshank Redemption," another King prison tale), "The Green Mile" takes a strong stomach to handle. There are graphic electrocutions, eerie special



Drama: Tom Hanks (left) stars as Paul Edgecomb, the Death Row head guard who relates in flashback his time at Cold Mountain Penitentiary where David Morse portrays his chief assistant guard in "The Green Mile."

effects and a curious urination fixation. Ultimately the film belongs to mountainous Michael

Clarke Duncan. Surrounded by death and despair, he fills the screen with life and hope.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

<p>National Amusements Showcase Cinemas</p> <p>Showcase 2150 N. Opdyke Rd. Between University & Walton Blvd 248-375-2660 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat. MP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP DEUCE INCALOW: MALE CICLOLO (R) NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (G) END OF DAYS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) DOGMA (R) POKEMON (G) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) THE BEST MAN (R) THE SIXTH SENSE (PG13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Showcase Downtown 1-6 Michigan & Telegraph 313-561-3449 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun. MP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP DEUCE INCALOW: MALE CICLOLO (R) NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (G) END OF DAYS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) POKEMON (G) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Showcase Pontiac 1-6 Telegraph & Lake Rd. W. Side of Telegraph 810-332-6341 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily MP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP DEUCE INCALOW: MALE CICLOLO (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (G) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Showcase Pontiac 6-32 2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph 810-332-6777 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat. MP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) END OF DAYS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) THE INSIDER (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Showcase Pontiac 6-32 2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph 810-332-6777 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat. MP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) END OF DAYS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) THE INSIDER (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Showcase Pontiac 6-32 2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph 810-332-6777 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat. MP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) END OF DAYS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) THE INSIDER (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>Showcase Westland 1-6 6800 Wayne Rd. One blk. S. of Warren Rd. 313-725-1060 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat. MP DENOTES NO PASS</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (G) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) DOGMA (R) POKEMON (G) DOUBLE EDDY (R) THE SIXTH SENSE (PG13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Star Theatres The World's Best Theatres Bargain Matinee Daily \$5.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00pm Now accepting Visa & MasterCard "MP" Denotes No Pass Engagements</p> <p>Star Grand Lakes Crossing Great Lakes Shopping Center 248-454-8366</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP DEUCE INCALOW: MALE CICLOLO (R) NP PRINCESS MONONOCHE (PG13) END OF DAYS (R) TOY STORY 2 (G) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) POKEMON (G) DOUBLE EDDY (R) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) DOGMA (R) THE BACHELOR (PG13) FLAWLESS (R) THE INSIDER (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Star Lakeside at 14 Mile 32289 John R. Road 248-585-2070</p> <p>No one under 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (G) END OF DAYS (R) FLAWLESS (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) POKEMON (G) DOGMA (R) NIGHTS (PG13) MIND OF THE HEART (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Star Lakeside 2000 Lakeside Circle 810-332-6777 No one under 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (G) END OF DAYS (R) FLAWLESS (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) POKEMON (G) DOGMA (R) NIGHTS (PG13) MIND OF THE HEART (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Star Lakeside 2000 Lakeside Circle 810-332-6777 No one under 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (G) END OF DAYS (R) FLAWLESS (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) POKEMON (G) DOGMA (R) NIGHTS (PG13) MIND OF THE HEART (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>Star Southfield 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off I-696 248-353-5348 No one under 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>FOR SHOWTIMES AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE CALL 248-372-2222 WWW.STAR-SOUTHFIELD.COM</p> <p>NP DEUCE INCALOW: MALE CICLOLO (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (G) NP END OF DAYS (R) NP FLAWLESS (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) DOGMA (R) POKEMON (G) BONE COLLECTOR (R) THE INSIDER (R) DOUBLE EDDY (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Star Winchester 1136 S. Rochester Rd. Winchester Mail 248-456-1160 No one under 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p>NP TOY STORY (G) POKEMON (G) ANYWHERE BUT HERE (PG13) STRAIGHT STORY (G) THE INSIDER (R) SIXTH SENSE (PG13) BEING JOHN MALKOVICH (R) MIND OF THE HEART (PG) THE BACHELOR (PG13) THE MESSENGER: THE STORY OF JOAN OF ARC (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>United Artists Theatres Bargain Matinee Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM Same day advance tickets available. NW - No V.I.P. tickets accepted</p> <p>United Artists Oakland Inside Oak Mall 248-988-0706</p> <p>DEUCE INCALOW (R) NV ANYWHERE BUT HERE (PG13) THE BACHELOR (PG13) AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>United Artists 12 Mile Inside Twelve Oaks Mall 248-340-4311</p> <p>MIND OF THE HEART (PG) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) THE INSIDER (R) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>United Artists 12 Mile 2 blocks West of Midland 248-700-6572</p> <p>DEUCE INCALOW (R) NV THE GREEN MILE (R) NV TOY STORY 2 (G) END OF DAYS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>United Artists 12 Mile 2 blocks West of Midland 248-700-6572</p> <p>DEUCE INCALOW (R) NV THE GREEN MILE (R) NV TOY STORY 2 (G) END OF DAYS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>United Artists Commerce Township 14 Located Adjacent to Home Depot Just North of the intersection of 14 Mile & Haggerty Rd. 248-960-5801 All Stadium seating High-Back Reclining Chair Seats Two-Day Advance Ticketing</p> <p>DEUCE INCALOW (R) NV THE GREEN MILE (R) NV TOY STORY 2 (G) END OF DAYS (R) FLAWLESS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) ANYWHERE BUT HERE (PG13) POKEMON (G) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) THE INSIDER (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Huntingham Theatre 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-444-3456 NP Denotes No Pass Engagements</p> <p>Order Movie tickets by phone! Call 644-3456 and have your VISA or Master Card ready! (A \$1.50 surcharge per transaction will apply to all telephone sales)</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) TOY STORY 2 (G) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) NP END OF DAYS (R) NP SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) DOGMA (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>IMAX Theatres</p> <p>\$1.00 Ford Tel \$1.50 313-561-7200 \$1.00 & 6 pm After 6 pm \$1.50 Ample Parking - Telford Center Free Refill on Drinks & Popcorn Please Call Theatre for Showtimes</p> <p>TARZAN (G) BLIND IN CHOCOLATE (G) BLUE STREAK (PG13) AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Waterford Cinema II 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd. 24 Hours Movie Line (248) 666-7900 CALL 77 FILMS (655) Seating Seating and Digital Sound System for the Best Movie Experience in Oakland County \$12.5 (TWO LITE SHOWS DAILY)</p> <p>NP THE GREEN MILE (R) NP DEUCE INCALOW: MALE CICLOLO (R) NP TOY STORY 2 (G) END OF DAYS (R) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13) SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) ANYWHERE BUT HERE (PG13) POKEMON (G) THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Waterford Cinema II 7501 Highland Rd. 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Maple West of Telegraph Bloomfield Hills 248-855-9090 DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!</p> <p>THE STRAIGHT STORY (G) THE LEGEND OF 1900 (R) TRAIN OF LIFE (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Victory 3 Cinema, L.L.C. Downtown Oxford Lapeer Rd. (M-24) (248) 628-7100 Fax: (248) 628-1300 DETROIT'S LOWEST FIRST RUN PRICES INCLUDING TWILIGHT PRICING \$10.00 & 5 PM</p> <p>CLOSED FOR RENOVATION</p> <p>AMC Livonia 29 Haggerty & 7 Mile 754-542-9909 CALL THEATRE FOR LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>
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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 17

"JUNGLE AND THE KING"
Set in 19th century Thailand, the true story of the relationship between a British schoolteacher and the King of Siam. Based on historical information. Stars Julie Foster and Chow Yun-Fat.

"CHICKEN HOUSE RULES"
Classic story of a young man's extraordinary journey: Leaving home, finding love and finding his place in the world. Based on the best-selling novel by John Irving. Stars Tobey Maguire.

"BICENTENNIAL MAN"
Robin Williams, Embeth Davidtz, Sam Neil and Olive Platt star in this romantic drama that follows the life and times of an android programmed to perform menial tasks. Over time he recognizes that his destiny is become human.

"RIDE WITH THE DEVIL"
Skeet Ulrich and Tobey Maguire team up in this drama that takes place during the Civil War as two young men join a gang of bushwhackers. During this time they find the friendship, loyalty and sense of family needed to survive during such desperate times.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, Dec. 22

"MAN ON THE MOON"
Jim Carrey, Danny DeVito and Paul Giamatti star in this biographical drama based on the life and times of Andy Kaufman, a comedian who made a career out of being irreverent and keeping the audience guessing. Then, in the early 1980s, he started telling people he was dying, but many people thought it was just another hoax.

"ANY GIVEN SUNDAY"
Drama about an aging star quarterback who is induced to play hurt because a gifted and unprincipled young talent is seeking to replace him. The coach who struggles to remain true to the ideals that drew him to his career.

Scheduled to open Saturday, Dec. 25

"MANFIELD PARK"
Exclusively at the Landmark Maple Theatre. Based on the book by Jane Austen, the story of a young woman from a poor family, sent to live with her wealthy cousins at their estate. The plan is to arrange a marriage that will assure her



Comic: Jim Carrey stars as Andy Kaufman, considered to be the most innovative, eccentric and enigmatic comic of his time, in "Man on the Moon," opening Dec. 22 at metro Detroit movie theaters.

and the ambitious young owner of the team. Stars Al Pacino, Dennis Quaid.

"LIBERTY HEIGHTS"
A dramatic look at the life and times of a Baltimore family in the mid 1950s which focuses on issues of religion, race and class distinction written and directed by Barry Levinson. Stars Adrien Brody, Bebe Neuwirth and Joe Mantegna.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, January 12

"NIGHTY FRIDAY"
Ice Cub, Tamala Jones, Justin Pierce, and John Witherspoon star in this sequel to the 1995 urban comedy "Friday" about a laid back sort of guy who enjoys sitting on the porch talking with his friends. This time out he moves into his uncle's place in the suburbs, after beating up another guy who's now after him.

place in society, but her high spirited nature and ideas about love will make it a difficult proposition. Stars Frances O'Connor and Jonny Lee Miller.

Scheduled to open Saturday, Dec. 25

"MANFIELD PARK"
Exclusively at the Landmark Maple Theatre. Based on the book by Jane Austen, the story of a young woman from a poor family, sent to live with her wealthy cousins at their estate. The plan is to arrange a marriage that will assure her

Stay Tuned...

When is a bar more than just a bar? When it aims for a place in Detroit history.

The Attic Bar in Hamtramck, known for its 70-year history of Detroit blues, is extending into a recording studio and record label project which will be known as the Bank Porch Blues Project.

The project will seek to provide emergency funds for blues musicians in need, education on the blues, and other activities which will be overseen by a board of directors from the Detroit blues community.

Hamtramck's own The Butler Twins became the first act

recorded on this new label, from their Nov. 27 performance at the Attic Bar. Clarence and Curtis Butler also serve as president and vice president on the board. Joe Van Bael, co-owner of the Attic Bar, is the project director and Karl Jordan in the secretary and treasurer for this project.

If names like Lee Alan, Tom Clay and Mikekey Shorr ring a bell, you must be conjuring up memories of Detroit Radio.

Those nostalgic thoughts are brought back to life in "Rockin' Down the Dial: The Detroit Sound of Radio," a new book by

Royal Oak native and former deejay David Carson.

Published by Momentum Books, Ltd., in Troy, the book offers 238 pages chronicling radio history in the Motor City, including behind the scenes stories of the record payola scandal that received national attention. It comes complete with a Radio Roundup reference for younger generations — who might've grown up on Casey Kasem. Buy it for \$24.95 at your local bookstore, or call the publisher for a copy at (800) 758-1878.

— STEPHANIE ANGELYN CAROLA

Country from page E3

"Someone once said don't put your eggs in one basket," said James, who graduated from Wayne State University with a degree in finance and economics. When he's not crooning country tunes, James is hard at work as president of Joseph James Financial Services, Inc. in Rochester Hills.

He doesn't have trouble balancing his financial business with his music. Over the years he's become so well-established that his business has allowed him to pursue his dreams in the music industry. It's also afforded him the business sense so crucial to survival in the industry.

His recipe for success? Make music as good as you can, take a realistic look at your

talents, and get a strong understanding of the business side. While the business itself can force an artist to compromise some creativity and artistic freedom, he said, it also has the potential to reach a lot of people and get your music heard.

Taking it to heart

He's seen the effects of the industry already. James wrote a song called "Little Joshua." It detailed the story of a 7-year-old boy who was tragically murdered, and was a story that truly touched the sensitive songwriter. But he knew it wasn't exactly a radio-ready hit.

"I felt so moved by the story when I recorded it," said James. "I thought by talking about it, maybe it won't happen again."

But using his business sense, James decided to release "One Track Mind" instead. He holds "Little Joshua" dear, and hopes to record it on an album or perform it live in the future.

James, who primarily writes his own lyrics and music, is also a man who fulfills his promises. As a young guitar player taking lessons at Novak's Music store, he declared if he ever had the chance he would someday record his own version of "Nice to be with you," which was a hit in 1972 for Detroit's Jim Gold and his band, The Gallery.

James will likely release his own country version of "Nice to be with you" as his next single. A

few words of advice, county music fans — keep an eye out Joseph James.

For more on Joseph James, check out his Web site at www.joseph-james.com. His CD is also available at Harmony House locations.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 863-2130 or e-mail at scasola@oe.homecomm.net. To send a fax, dial (734) 591-7279.



On the rise: Country singer Joseph James has been living in Rochester Hills since he first stumbled upon the town, by getting lost on his way home from Stoney Creek MetroPark.

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SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE
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