

It's a good time of year for many house hunters, F1

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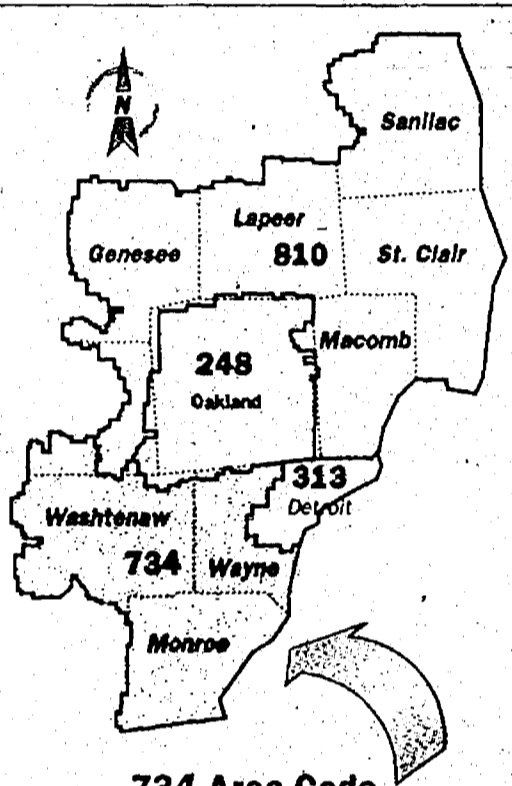
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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

COUNTY NEWS

Information, please: Area code change is coming to western Wayne County this Saturday. There will be a seven-month transitional time before the new area code, 734, must be used in certain exchanges. /A7



734 Area Code

- Optional Dialing Period begins Dec. 13, 1997
- Required Dialing Period begins July 25, 1998

COMMUNITY LIFE

Deck the halls: The Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn is decked out in Christmas finery, thanks to the work of such local florists as Bruce Weber of Weber's Floral and Gifts in Livonia. /B1

AT HOME

Waxing creative: Candles are illuminating ways to decorate. /D6

SPECIAL SECTION

Ho-ho-holiday time: It's getting down to crunch time for holiday shopping and our gift guide offers help with some gift-giving ideas.

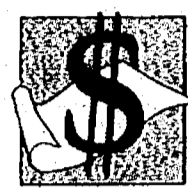
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Projected budget surplus rises



Wayne-Westland school officials are now projecting a \$5.9 million budget surplus for the fiscal year ending next June 30. The board also decided unanimously to place a \$108 million bond proposal on a special Feb. 17 ballot.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials are now projecting a \$5.9 million budget surplus for the fiscal year ending next June 30 — more than double an earlier estimate of \$2.4 million.

The rosier financial picture follows higher-than-expected state foundation dollars, a student enrollment increase

and new revenues from property sales, among other budget-boosting measures.

The latest financial outlook followed state aid legislation approved Nov. 19, and Wayne-Westland school officials reflected the changes Monday night by approving a budget amendment.

The changes came one month after Wayne-Westland school officials learned that the district also will

receive a \$14 million state settlement from the Durant special education lawsuit.

However, Superintendent Greg Baracy has said the bulk of the \$14 million will be spread over 10 years and shouldn't be viewed as a windfall. The district won't see any of the money for a year, at least.

The board's vote Monday to amend the 1997-98 budget came on the same night that the seven-member board decided unanimously to place a \$108 million bond proposal on a special Feb. 17 ballot.

The vote was a formality, culminating recent school board discussions

SCHOOLS

that stemmed from a building-by-building study conducted by a bond committee.

Baracy has said the 4-mill, 22-year bond issue would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$200 a year in additional taxes.

Despite the district's elevated financial situation, Baracy has said the bond issue is "desperately" needed to pay for school building repairs and to improve classroom technology.

Please see BUDGET, A2

McCusker: Remarks still stand

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Wayne-Westland school board member is refusing to apologize for statements he made about Westland senior citizen programs, despite warnings that his remarks could hurt a \$108 million school bond proposal.

Board vice president Mathew McCusker stood by his statements that Westland city officials spend an inordinate amount of money on senior programs at the expense of youth services. What's more, McCusker challenged his critics.

"Prove that I'm wrong," he said during a Monday night school board meeting.

His remarks followed criticism from Westland resident Jerry Mercier, who warned that school officials "need seniors" to pass a \$108 million bond issue that school board members decided Monday to place on a Feb. 17 ballot.

School officials want the money for building repairs and classroom technology.

"All it takes is one statement and everything you've done here tonight is thrown out," Mercier said.

Please see McCUSKER, A2



On the jobs



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Career day: Joe Chopko from the Department of Agriculture demonstrates for Marshall Middle School students how Buddy, a beagle, would sniff for fruit coming through customs. Top left, Scott Lucas, from the Westland Fire Department, suits up student Bernard Tarver with an air pack. Top right, Congresswoman Lynn Rivers speaks to students.

Students learn about work world

They're on the career track. Students at Westland's Marshall Middle School got the benefit of hearing about career opportunities from the horses' mouths — so to speak.

During a recent career day at the school, professionals in all types of jobs talked to students about careers and what it takes to make one, according to Jan Tomlinson, counselor at Marshall.

The third annual career day featured presenters in careers ranging

from auto technician to mayor. "The great thing about it as the years go on is that the students become a more and more integrated part of the program," Tomlinson said.

The school is moving toward more career education and the career day is a part of it, she said.

As the students prepare to head into high school, teachers tell them what they will need to enter certain careers, but hearing from people in those jobs really brings it home to

students. "There's quite a bit more impact," she said.

Presenters included: Tim Paul, a graphic artist at Crown Design Company; Steve Johnson, an attorney; Sgt. G. Bellingier of the U.S. Army; Mark Batko, auto technician at the Ford Career/Technical Center; Clarence Wright Jr., superintendent of the Detroit Building Authority; Darline Schultz, ultrasound techni-

Please see WORK, A4

Birds get set up to a good feed

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Winter is for the birds — literally. If you're one who takes care of our fine feathered friends during the winter, nowadays you aren't alone. Area stores report that business in the winter booms as more and more people are setting up feeders and baths in their backyards to help those birds who don't head south for the winter.

"Interest is definitely growing in bird feeding," said Marj Ferguson, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Farmington Hills. "We are more urbanized, but many people want to get closer to nature."

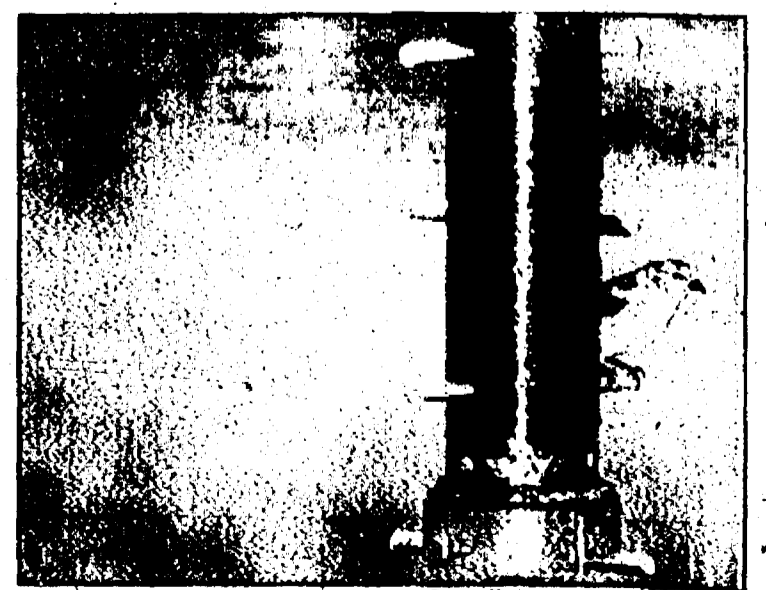
That theory is echoed by Terri Bennett, owner of Specialty Pet Supplies in Plymouth Township.

"From the first time we opened our doors 18 years ago, people have been asking for birdseed and bird feeders," said Bennett.

For all ages

At one time, bird feeders were thought to be for retired people who had nothing better to do than watch the birds. However, it has become big business because young and old, and those in-between, are making it a hobby.

"A lot of children who have science in school are studying full units on birds and their habits," said Ferguson. "Kids are becoming more interested at a younger age."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Meal time: A feathered friend dines.

Please see BIRDS, A4

Gay student threatens suit against district

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A gay student who said he dropped out of Wayne Memorial High School because he was harassed by educators threatened Monday to file a lawsuit against the Wayne-Westland district.

Michael Stachowski, 18, said he would consult this week with attorneys who already have pledged to challenge Wayne-Westland officials for failing to protect him from discrimination and harassment.

His remarks indicate that a bitter, months-long policy dispute between gay activists and school officials may be headed for a courtroom showdown.

Stachowski and other gay rights activists say Wayne-Westland should reinstate "sexual orientation" to non-discrimination policies.

School board members added the term in January and then deleted it in August, heeding an attorney's advice and declaring that other policies already protect all students and employees.

After Stachowski and other activists addressed the board Monday, school trustee Ed Turner suggested eliminating public discussion of an issue that he said has become "a form of harassment" against the board.

He warned that gay activists are "doing more damage than good" to their cause.

Some activists seemed appalled by statements from board member David James, who questioned whether sexual orientation policies could provide protection for pedophilia, incest and bestiality.

"Where does it ...?" James asked as his voice trailed off.

Board president Debra

Fowlkes repeated earlier assertions that the policy won't be reconsidered, despite protests that have dominated the public discussion portion of board meetings for several months.

"We will not change the policy," she said.

One resident charged that out-of-district activists are hurting Westland's image and that they shouldn't be allowed to continue to address the policy.

"They're running Westland down," Frankie Middleton said.

But Stachowski said school officials should consider what happened to him as a Wayne Memorial 11th-grader last school year. Rather than protecting him, he said, educators publicly humiliated him for being gay.

Stachowski said the incident started when he confided his sexual orientation to a school counselor because he was afraid

of talking to his parents. He said the counselor referred him to a psychologist and that his father was contacted.

"They told my father I was gay after I specifically told them not to," he said.

Stachowski said school employees refused to let him return to classes the following day until he brought a note from a psychologist. He also said a teacher mentioned that he was gay in front of an entire class of students.

"What policy protected me?" he asked.

"I never felt so cheap in my life, like I was a terrible person because I was gay," he said later.

Stachowski said the incident caused him transfer to another district, although he said after Monday's meeting that he isn't currently attending school.

"I was too ashamed to go back

to Wayne Memorial High School," he told the board.

Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy said his administration conducted an investigation of how school employees handled Stachowski's situation. Baracy said he is "satisfied" that the school "made the appropriate referral."

Another student, Amanda Reames, also told the board Monday that she transferred from Wayne Memorial after she saw the treatment her friend Stachowski received.

Fowlkes halted former students as they pressed Baracy for his position on Stachowski's situation. "We will not discuss Michael's problem anymore," she said, adding that students "are not going to use Wayne-Westland school board meetings as a forum to come out."

District resident Michael

Donovan supported the board's actions.

"This situation should be put to an end," he said, "and I hope that the school board will not change their opinion."

Board member David Cox said a sexual orientation policy won't prevent bigotry.

"These aren't issues a public school system can solve," he said, adding later, "I don't want anybody mistreated, but we can't solve every social ill."

Cox and others pledged again that they will protect all students from harassment.

But Stachowski said his treatment proves otherwise.

"I will press charges," he said after Monday's meeting. "I will go ahead with the lawsuit. It wasn't until tonight that I thought it was necessary. But the board wasn't even willing to listen."

McCusker from page A1

Mercier was upset by comments McCusker made in November, when McCusker said he wishes Westland city officials would spend as much money on youth programs "as they do on the temple on Newburgh Road."

McCusker was referring to the senior citizen Friendship Center on Newburgh Road, which provides a wide range of programs and services for thousands of senior citizens.

"I take that very personally," Mercier said Monday, "because my mother- and father-in-law go there."

McCusker, 61, said he is "upset" that critics are accusing him of attacking senior citizens. He noted that he will be eligible for Social Security benefits in six months.

"I am a senior citizen," he said. "I will probably use those (senior) services myself when I retire."

But he stood by his statements that youth programs don't

'Rather than condemn me for saying it, prove me wrong.'

Mathew McCusker
-school board vice president

receive their fair share of city dollars.

"Rather than condemn me for saying it, prove me wrong," he told Mercier.

Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy said Monday that school officials want good relations with the city and its senior citizens.

Some of McCusker's board colleagues have privately voiced concern about his remarks, although they haven't challenged him publicly on the issue.

Mercier warned that McCusker, alone, can damage the board's credibility with senior citizens.

"All it takes is one bad apple to spoil the whole bushel," he said.

Churchill collects 26,000 cans of food

The Livonia Goodfellows and all of the families that they help were the winners this week, as the group hosted its annual Goodfellows Newspaper Drive and students in Livonia-area schools wrapped up their canned food drives.

Students and members of the Churchill community did an exceptional job this year, according to students activities director Bill Halvangis. More than 26,000 cans of food were brought into the school and picked up for distribution this week.

"People just dug in and they went crazy," Halvangis said. "It became apparent that we weren't going to meet our goal and they weren't going to let that happen."

The school collected 18,000 cans last year, and had a goal of 20,000 for this year's effort. Goodfellows representatives told school officials the 26,000-plus cans collected this year amount to about two thirds of the total collected by all groups.

"Churchill is essentially taking care of its own," Halvangis added. The event at Churchill was spearheaded by the Spirit Committee and Churchill Student Council.

Ken Ray, president of the



Successful drive: Churchill High School food drive organizers Amelia Skwier and Valerie White with the fruits of their work.

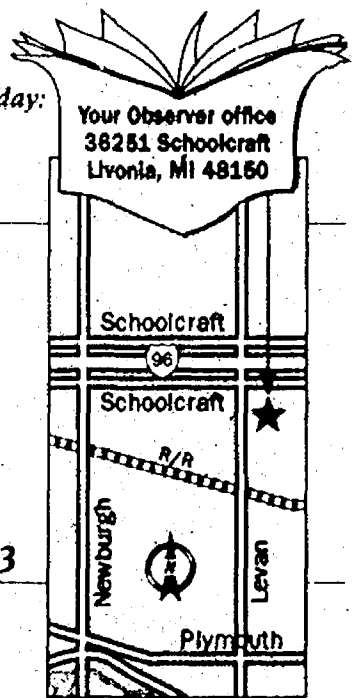
Livonia Goodfellows, said the canned goods were shared with the Westland Goodfellow group, since the school serves students and families from both communities.

"Everything always goes back into the community," he said.

The school was one of several contributing to this year's canned food effort, which is used to create baskets for needy families and distributed by Goodfellows volunteers.

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Budget from page A1

Moreover, school officials say the latest budget-boosting measures are simply a Band-Aid to deeper financial problems that local educators blame on the state.

Board member Mathew McCusker said Monday the district has a difficult time budgeting because of state-level "voodoo economics."

Despite earlier projections of a \$5 million budget deficit, school officials expect to finish the 1997-98 fiscal year with a \$5.9 million surplus.

The surplus is projected even though the board is expecting to spend about \$3.3 million more than it receives in revenues for

the year, said Patricia Brand, assistant superintendent of business.

Although the board's spending will outpace its revenues, officials still expect the \$5.9 million surplus because of better-than-expected budget figures for the last fiscal year, which ended June 30.

Brand, in a Dec. 1 memo to Baracy and board members, noted that a \$9.2 million fund balance last June 30 has helped the district predict a \$5.9 million surplus for next June 30.

In discussions Monday, Brand cited several reasons why revenues have increased. Among the highlights:

- Student enrollment was above projections for the 1997-98 school year.
- State aid was higher than anticipated.
- The sale of vacant property, such as land next to Adams Middle School, has brought in extra money.
- The state's decision to purchase the development rights to the heavily wooded Sassafras Trails meant \$520,000 for the district.
- The district has received some rental income by leasing the former Cherry Hill alternative education center.
- The district has seen savings in Medicaid.
- Retirement costs are lower than expected.

Still, school officials tempered the good news by saying the district could face a budget deficit the following year, in 1998-99.

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Shooting from page A1

charged with assault with intent to commit murder and Edward Boldon of Detroit, 19, was charged with assault with intent to murder and felony firearm use.

Esch and his friend, Patrick McVeigh, 20, met the two Canton girls through the Internet and were going to their home at Holiday Estates on Geddes, west of Canton Center Road, said Canton Police spokesman Leonard Shemanske.

One of the girls allegedly told McVeigh that a dark-colored Ford Ranger or Thunderbird would be outside her mobile home, police reported.

According to what McVeigh told police, he saw a dark-colored Thunderbird at Hemlock and Orchard and circled around the trailer park. As he neared the car again, McVeigh saw the passenger step out of the car, then he heard the gunshot. Esch said he was hit.

McVeigh sped off, calling 911 on his cellular phone.

The two suspects, Scott and Boldon, were friends of the two girls, said Shemanske.

Police officers on a domestic violence call at Sherwood Village

spotted the fleeing Thunderbird as it headed east on Michigan Avenue. The men were apprehended at the I-275 entrance ramp.

Officers found a 12-gauge shotgun on eastbound Michigan Avenue, west of Haggerty. The gun was in two pieces after apparently being thrown from the car window, police said.

Henry Moore, president of the Northwest Homeowners Association, said he heard the shot at neighboring Holiday Estates Sunday morning.

"There's a lot of crime in there. We've had problems with B & Es and theft. It's the same thing at Sherwood Village and Westpointe Manor," he said.

Moore would like to see police put a substation for an anti-crime task force in the trailer parks.

At Canton Commons, a subsidized housing complex, a full-time police officer is assigned to the complex through a federal grant.

Correctional officer David Martell, 21, was killed in an ambush at Sherwood Village on Nov. 19.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

For the birds: Gary Phillips, owner of Backyard Birds in Plymouth, stands among the many bird feeders in his store.

Work from page A1

cian at Garden City Hospital; Joseph T. Chopko of the Department of Agriculture; Connie Moore of Hegira Prevention; Kristen Morrow, engineer at Ford Motor Co.; Diane Fouchia, public relations director at Barizon Modeling; Gordy Cantwell, of the Ford Career Technical Center; Cheryl Ackley, director of education at Fantastic Sam's; Linda Pratt, owner-operator of Baker's Acre; Richard Steenburg, photography manager at Lifetouch; Christina Rearick, veterinarian at Westland Veterinary Hospital; Andrew Makar, systems analyst at Ford Motor Co.; Geri Taylor, nurse at Pediatric Healthcare Associates; Robert J. Thomas, mayor of Westland; Mary A. Hauk, owner-operator of Hauk Farms; Sgt.

Walton of the U.S. Marine Corps; Jamie Platt, clinical coordinator of the radiography program at Garden City Hospital; Terry A. Booth, special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Ken Judkins, operator of C.F. Braun Farms; Candy Vinnay of the Westland Police Department; Congresswoman Lynn Rivers, U.S. representative; Lucille Smith, vice president-branch manager of NBD; Laura Leshok, admission recruiter at Schoolcraft College; and Scott Lucas, EMT at the Westland-Fire Department.

Marshall's program was coordinated by Tomlinson, Dennis Chall, counseling department head; Mike Downs, eighth-grade counselor; and Bianca Woods, student coordinator.

Birds from page A1

"Every age is into bird feeding," said Bennett. "Some people think along environmental lines, but for most of us it's for enjoyment. It's nice to hear them in the morning, and it catches on."

Gary Phillips, who owns Backyard Birds in downtown Plymouth, believes interest in birds never waned.

"There has always been a love for birds and nature," said Phillips. "I think what has happened is that people have noticed."

No matter what the reason, bird feeding in winter has increased. And, that means more money for area feed stores and pet shops.

"Bird feeding is 15-20 percent of my business in the winter-time," said Craig Eardley, owner of Chaps Feed Store in Livonia. "We carry a lot of different mixes of bird seed, and this time of year we keep a big supply of bird feeders on hand."

Big business

And if you don't think bird feeding is big business, consider this.

Phillips' Backyard Birds and Ferguson's Wild Birds Unlimited are mainly dedicated to birds and bird supplies. Phillips carries more than 150 different mixes of bird feeders, and Ferguson says her count reaches more than 100.



Team homes: Bird houses made out of your favorite sports team's logo are popular.

"We not only cater to function, but also to aesthetics as people have different tastes," said Ferguson.

"If somebody wants something slick and sophisticated, I've got it," said Phillips. "If they want an old country look, I've got that too. And, if they want a high-tech look, I have that as well."

If you're just getting started, bird feeders can range from

about \$15 to more than \$200. The top-of-the-line feeder includes a monitor, much like a baby room monitor, so you can hear the birds chirping while feeding.

Food, for one feeder, will cost approximately \$25-\$40 a month.

"There are a lot of different mixes of bird seeds out there as manufacturers see more of a market for it," said Eardley. "We sell a dozen different suet cakes, which contain the fat and energy birds need for the winter. They can be made with berries, hot peppers, peanuts, cherries and apples."

Seed mix is key

"However, it's not as simple as just saying 'I want to feed the birds,'" said Phillips. "Anyone can throw seed on the ground and attract a lot of birds, but you won't like what you see. You have to know what kinds of birds are attracted by a particular seed mix. And it has to be fresh. The birds will know if it is just filler."

"You can have the greatest bird feeder in the world, but if you don't have the proper bird feed, it won't matter," Phillips added. "Good food, good feeder, good location... it's not rocket science."

Store owners also report an increased interest in bird baths, fountains and ponds.

'We not only cater to function, but also to aesthetics as people have different tastes.'

*Marj Ferguson
owner of Wild Birds Unlimited
in Farmington Hills*

"There are not a lot of sources in the winter for birds to get water," said Ferguson. "They can't drink the cold snow or bathe in it, so bird bath heaters and pond heaters are selling well."

A good heater can cost \$30-\$60.

"Bird feeding is more popular because people are really getting into it, and it's enjoyable," said Bennett. "And, once you start, you can't stop because you feel guilty."

Donna McGurk lives on 10 acres in Salem Township, and spends a few dollars at keeping birds coming back.

"I've been doing it ever since I can remember," said McGurk. "I spend about \$25 a month on food. My bird feeders get replaced every other year, at about \$65 each. I probably spend \$600 a year on the birds, but you don't know how much enjoyment we get out of it."

McGurk attracts gold finches, full redheaded woodpeckers, orioles (which are rare), and hummingbirds (she recognizes the same family) every summer. In the winter, she sets up her feeders for cardinals and blue jays.

Besides bird supplies, there are some related sales that can be attributed to the increase in bird watching.

"We're selling more cat bells," quipped Bennett. "People who have cats still want to feed the birds, without hurting them. I've sold some pretty big cat bells recently."

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Local middle school honor rolls listed

Adams Middle School

The Adams Middle School honor roll for the first marking period includes: BRADLY ALLEN, BRITTANY AMANN, STEVEN ANTONCHIK, BRAD AVIS, ROBERT BAILEY, JERRY BALL, COREY BALZER, ROYCE BANKHEAD, JULIE BARBER, TABATHA BARNETTE, JAMES BARTER, JOSEPH BARTER, HEATHER BATSON, JOSHUA BAUDER, SARA BAUGHMAN, ROBERT BEAN, CINDEL BEAVER, AMANDA BEAVERS, TABITHA BEAVERS, DANIEL BELLEW, KELLI BEITL, JESSICA BICKLEY, ERIC BINGHAM, PHILLIP BINGHAM, SAMANTHA BLAKE, PHILLIP BLIVEN, CHARLES BLOOMFIELD, MELANIE BLOOMFIELD, KRISTY BOHM, ROBERT BOLISH, SARAH BOLISH, JESSICA BONE, JESSICA BORDER, JEREMY BOWLING, EMILY BOWYER, CHAD BRADLEY, ASHLEY BRITTON, LESLIE BROWN, KRISTAL BRYANT, WILLIAM BURTON, JASON BUTCHART, SHEENA BYRD, MARY CACCIAPALLE, CRYSTAL CAMPBELL, JACQUELINE CAMPBELL, ROBIN CAMPBELL, ALICIA CARY, NICHOLAS CETLINSKI, JOSHUA CHAPMAN, MICHELLE CHATTERTON, SABRINA CHAVARRIA, WAI CHOI, CHRISTOPHER CHRISTIAN, DANIELLE CHURCH, ROXANNE CLARKE, NEVETTA CLAYBORNE, RITA COLEMAN, AVIVA COLLINS, DANIEL CONRAD, KEITH COOK, WILLIAM CORGNELL, JONATHAN CRADDOCK, ASHLEY CROASDELL, STEVEN CRONENWETT, THOMAS CRONENWETT, FRANCES CUNNINGHAM, KIMBERLY CURTIS, RAYMOND DAHLKA, DANNY DAILEY, CHARLES DANIELS III, JENNIFER DAVIDSON, NATALIE DAVIS, TERRY DAVIS, VERONICA

DAVIS, NICOLE DAWSON, JENNIFER DAY, BRANDI DECOURCY, NICOLE DENNIS, SCOTT DESTRAMPE, AMANDA DEWYER, ROXANNE DEWYER, SHAWN DINEEN, KRISTAL DRIALO, MEGAN DROPTINY, RYAN DUNN, CRYSTAL DURHAM, ALLYN EDWARDS, CHANTEL EDWARDS, SARAH ELLISON, SHANNON ENGEL, NICHOLAS EVANS, AMANDA EVERETT, ARMANI EVERETTE, AMANDA FENN, JASON FLATT, STEPHANIE FLOYD, MATTHEW FOCHLER, VERONICA FOUNTAIN, STACEY FREY, RYAN FROST, JEREMY FRY, KRISTINA FUCIARELLI, NICHOLE FULLER, JONATHAN GABRIELLI, JAMES GALINDO, NICHOLAS GALLION, BRIDGETTE GALVIN, JASON GARDNER, TAMARA GARZA, SARAH GILLIS, PAUL GIORDANO, CHRISTOPHER GIROLAMO, NICHOLAS GIROUARD, ADAM GLANDER, CINDY GRACE, ALANA GREEN, JULIE GREGG, KATIE GROCHOWICZ, AMBER GROTE, ERICA GRYSBAN, GREGORY GUCWA, HOLLI GUENTHER, JAMIE GUENTHER, MATTHEW HAINES, DONALD HALL, JENNIFER HALL, KIMBERLY HAMMOND, MISHA HARAT, CRISTINA HARGROVE, BRYAN HARRIS, RICHARD HARRIS, TEDDY HAYWARD, CRYSTAL HEAD, ANGELA HEIM, STEPHANIE HENDERSHOTT, AMBER HENN, ERIN HERBST, MELISSA HOLLUM, KEVIN HOLT, GLENN HORTON, BROOKE HOUCK, NATHAN HUBER, MAILAN HUDSON, COREY INGRAM, JUSTIN JACKSON, JESSE JARVIS, JENNIFER JENNINGS, AMANDA JOHNSON, CANDICE JOHNSON, MELISSA JOHNSON, TRISHA JOHNSON, CHARLSIE JONES, MARK KARASINSKI, MILIS-

SA KARASINSKI, ASHLEY KARNS, SHEILA KING, BRUCE KINSEY, CHRISTOPHER KINSEY, SHELLY KINSEY, MAHOGANY KIZER, SAVANNAH KNOWLES, BRANDY KUHLMAN, HEATHER LABATE, TIMOTHY LABEAN, PIA LACROIX, KEITH LANDSKROENER, JUSTIN LARAWAY, MEGHAN LAROQUE, BJ LAWLER, AMY LEWIS, ANDREW LEWIS, ELIZABETH LEWIS, JOHN LEWIS, MARQUITA LEWIS, JESSICA MACDOUGALL, KATRINA MACH, MICHAEL MANUEL, ALICIA MARTIN, NICOLE MARTIN, LEON MATHEW, AMANDA MCCARTY, TIMOTHY MCCOSH, MICHELLE MCCULLOCH, KRISTY MCCULLOUGH, SARA MCGEE, AMBER MCGINNIS, JASON MCMILLIN, CELIA MCMULLEN, KRISTI MCNAUGHTON, MERISSA MEYERS, SABRIE MILLER, BRIAN MINFIELD, SHEENA MITCHELL, TIFFANY MORGAN, TIMOTHY MOYER, SHAUNA MULLINS, KRISTA NEALEY, NISA NELSON, BRENT NEWSTED, NICOLE NOLAN, HEATHER O'ROURKE, ANALEE OCHOA, DARRELL OLDS, THOMAS PADEN, SHANNON PALMER, AMIE PAPO, GREGORY PARKER, JUSTIN PATRICK, JOSEPH PATTERSON, STEPHANIE PELOW, STEVEN PHILLIPS, COREY PIERCE, BRITTANY PITTS, JENNIFER POPLIN, JENNIFER POSTER, LEAH POTVIN, ASHLEY POWERS, LAURIE PRATT, ROBYN PRATT, JASON PRICE, JACQUELYN PRIESTLEY, SHAWN PROIETTY, TYLER PYNE, HEATHER QUINN, NICOLE QUINN, SHANNON RAMIREZ, JULIETTE RATLIFF, JOSHUA RAUB, SERENA RAY, CASSANDRA REED, ERIC REID, KIMBERLY REINSMITH, ANA RHODES, MICHELLE RICHARDS, KIMBERLY RIEBE, JACOB RIVERA,

DANIELLE ROBINSON, LUKE ROBINSON, SUZANNE ROBINSON, JAMES ROULO, JOSEPH RUTKOWSKI, LEEANN RUTKOWSKI, HARESH SAJNANI, JENNIFER SAYLORS, CHRISTOPHER SCHAMBERS, WAYNE SCHULZ, DEREK SEXTON, JESSICA SHADDAWVINE, ANDREW SHANK, STACI SHANK, JANA SHAW, ANGELA SHIEMKE, ERICK SHIEMKE, JESSICA SHODA, BRIAN SINNOTT, KRISTIN SMALL, MIRANDA SMITH, MONICA SMITH, STEPHANIE SMITH, MATTHEW SMITHERMAN, JOSEPH SNYCERSKI, TINA SPEAR, JESSICA SPEIGHTS, CHRISTOPHER STACY, CHRISTOPHER STAFFORD, LINDSAY STARR, DOMINIQUE STEWARD, DAVID STRAUSS, JESSICA STRICKLER, BRADLEY SUCHAN, CENA SULLINS, KRISTLE SUMMERS, STEVEN SWITZER, JOSHUA SYNON, NICKOLAUS TALAGA, JESSICA TANK, TIFFANY TATMAN, CRYSTAL TAYLOR, JOSEPH TAYLOR, BRIAN TERRANCE, LATIA THOMAS, AMANDA THOMASON, LYNDIA THOMPSON, ASHLEY THORNTON, AMANDA TONNA, JOSEPH TONNA, JUSTIN TRUDELL, ANGELA TURNER, SAMANTHA TURNER, JENNIFER TURNQUIST, BRADLEY TYKOSKI, DENNEY VALENTIN, JUSTIN VENEGONI, HOLLIE VERNON, JENNIFER VONBRAUNSBURG, STEPHEN WAETJEN, BRITTANY WAITE, DONNIE WALKER, PHYLCIA WALKER, STEVEN WALLACE, LISA WARD, CRYSTAL WATERS, ERICA WATERS, REBECCA WEATHERFORD, MATTHEW WEIAND, AMANDA WELLS, LEE WELLS, JENNIFER WEST, HEATHER WHITE, NICOLE WILKIE, ALICIA WILLINGHAM, CHRISTA WILLINGHAM, AMANDA WILSON, BRADLEY WIL-

SON, AMBER WITEK, CRYSTAL WRIGHT, ADAM WROBLEWSKI, JENNIFER WROBLEWSKI, JEFFREY WYLER, RYAN YBARRA, CHRISTIAN YOUNG.

Franklin Middle School

Franklin Middle School honor roll students for the first marking period include:

CARRIE ADAMS, KELLEY ADKINS, KEVIN ARCHEY, ANTOINE AUSTIN, DAVID AUSTIN, JOSHUA AUSTIN, REBECCA BAETZ, APRIL BAKER, SAMANTHA BALDWIN, ELISABETH BANKS, WHITNEY BATES, STEPHEN BAXENDALE, PAMELA BEAN, JESSICA BEARD, LARISSA BEARD, NICOLE BEGUHN, ANNE BERTHET, ERNEST BERTHET, LANCE BESSENT, NICOLE BILKOVIC, SHERRY BLANCHFIELD, JESSICA BOOTH, AMBER BOROWIAK, ASHLEY BOWLES, KAREN BRAYMAN, ALAN BROTHERS, JIMMY BRUCKER, JAMIE BUCHANAN, SARAH BURKETT, COREE BURTON, LISA BURZAWA, JANELLE BUTNER, RYAN CAKSACKAR, CHRISTIANE CANFIELD, ANTHONY CARRICO, MICHELLE CARRIER, PAUL CAVANAUGH, JEFFREY CHARBON, BRADLEY CHIASSON, DAVID CICOtte, MARIE CIERPIAL, CANDACE CLARK, KERRI CLEVINGER, BRENT COLAIANNE, ARTHUR COLE JR., ROSEMARY COLLINGS, THOMAS COLLOP, JODY COMMAND, WILLIAM CRAWFORD, TIMOTHY CZYZAK, CHRISTINA DAMRON, KAMMIE DANIC, KAITLYN DARRAGH, JESSICA DAVENPORT, BRUCE DAVIS, CHRISTOPHER DEMITER, JENNIFER DEST, JEREMIAH DIAZ, WILLIAM DICK, DANIELLE DOYEN, BRITNEY DUSON, CHILORA EJARQUE, MAR-

LEJA FOREY, TROY FOREY, LEAH FOX, SAMANTHA FRANKLIN, AMANDA FREEMAN, MATTHEW FREY, TIFFANY FRIGO, LANCE FUCHS, REX FUGABAN, DANIEL GILBERT, MARK GOBLE, JESSICA GOINS, MATTHEW GRZEBIENIK, MATTHEW GUYTON, JENNIFER HARDY, JEREMY HARDY, KENNETH HARVILLE, BRANDON HATFIELD, JUSTIN HAYES, LAUREN HENRIKSON, JAMES HESTER, STEPHANIE HILTON, JESTIN HIRZEL, SAMANTHA HOPKINS, TIMOTHY HUDSON, MARY HUFF, CHRISTOPHER JABLONICKY, JOSEPH JACOBS, JAMIE JOHANSON, ANDREA JOHNSON, KRISTAL JOHNSON, MELISSA JOHNSON, JOHN JONES, SCOTT JONES, JOSHUA JOSEPH, AMY JOZEFOWICZ, CHRISTOPHER JUDD, NICOLE KAMINSKI, JENNIFER KANNI-AINEN, SARA KELLOW, AMJAD KHOURY, ELIZABETH KOFAHL, ROBERT KOZUP, SARA LABRIE, ERIC LANG, NASTASSIA LANGSTON, KRISTIN LARABEE, ASHLEE LEHMAN, AARON LINDON, ASHLEY LINDON, JUSTIN LISTMAN, SARA LISTMAN, CRYSTAL LITTLE, BRYAN LONGTON, MICHELE LONGTON, SHAWN LOONEY, NICOLE LUNA, JENNIFER MANAKIS, DAVID MARKOS, JUSTIN MARLER, BRYAN MARSH, CARRIE MARTIN, DARREN MASSEY, KELEIGH MAYLONE, JASON MCFALLS, ASHLEY MCGOWAN, SHANNON MCINTYRE, JAMES MCLEOD-SESSOM, JAMES METTERT, ERIC MILLS, STEPHEN MILZ, SEAN MONIT, LORRAINE MOORE, LAUREN MOSHER, KRISTLE MROZ, ZACHARY MULLINS, CATHLEEN MUMMERT, NICOLE NIBERT, LYNZAY O'CHEL, BRIAN ODOM, KATIE OSBORNE, JESSICA PADDOCK, MARK PALMER, MELISSA PARKER, ANDREA PARNELL, TIFFANY PATTENAUDE, RONNIE PAYNE, MICHAEL PENROD, RAYMOND PERUSSE, ANNIE PHILLIPS, BENJAMIN PONIATOWSKI, NICHOLAS PONIATOWSKI, ANDREA POTTER, STEPHANIE POWERS, AARON PRESSON, MOLLY PREVO, SHELLAINE PRIVATTE, SAMANTHA PURDY, ANTHONY RAGLAND, MATTHEW REAMES, AMANDA REMPERT, HEATHER REMPERT, ERICA RICH, NICOLLE RIFFLE, SAMANTHA RINGEL, ANNA RIZKALLAH, TAKARA ROQUEMORE, HEATHER ROSS, JESSICA ROWLAND, MEGAN SANDS, KIMBERLY SCHUCH, DOMINIQUE SCOTT, MATTHEW SCOTT, JOSEPH SHENKEL, ROBERT SHENKEL, KRISTIN SKELLY, CASANDRA SKOLNIK, ANGELA SMITH, JESSICA SOMOGYI, JENNIFER SPARKMAN, JACKIE ST ANDREW, CHRISTINA STALEY, MARTIN STANO, JAIMIE SZOSTEK, ANGELA TALO, BRANDY TENNANT, JONATHAN THOMAS, KYLE THOMAS, LANCE THOMASON, SCOTT TIMMER, SHANE TOBEN, BRENT TONEY, RACHEL TORRES, MARC TOWNSEND, LISA TSVETKOFF, JACOB TURNBULL, EMILY URSEM, JOSEPH VELLA, SUNNIE VIAR, STACY VOJTKOSKY, KHELLI WADE, DREW WALLS, MARSHALL WALLS, ANDREW WALTON, AMANDA WEBB, TONYA WENSKO, TWANSI WHITE, AMY WILCOX, TERESA WILCOX, MEGAN WILKINSON, DAVID WILLIAMS, DAVID WILSON, CHRISTINA YOUNG, NICOLE ZIELINSKI, AMANDA ZIMMER, ADAM ZMUDCZYNSKI, RYAN ZUC-CARO

Marshall Middle School

Marshall Middle School's first marking period honor roll includes: DEVON ABRAMSKI, ANGELA ADAMS, BROOKE ALBERY, BRUCE ALLEN, HOLLY ALLEN, STEPHANIE ALLEN, NATHAN ALLMOND, KELLY ANGELL, JEFFREY ANSMAN, RYAN ARCHER, JACLYN ARMSTRONG, ADAM ARSENAULT, BRIAN BACHMAN, ANDREA BAGGS, MALCOLM BARRETT, ASHLEY BASCOM, ERIC BATES, SHIANNA BATTLE, DEREK BELL, ERIKA BENKO, ROBIN BENNETT, JUSTYNA BENOIT, JENNIFER BERNARD, AMANDA BEVEL, STEPHANIE BIGLOW, CATHI BISHOP, DARYL BLACKBURN, DAVID BLAUSYL, BRIAN BODLE, TRACY BOROWIAK, SARA BOURGOIN, ABIGAIL BRENNAN, ALAN BRENT

JESSICA BRENT, JUSTIN BRIGHT, RYAN BRIGHT, BRITTANY BROKENSHIRE, NICHOLAS BROZEK, TIMOTHY BROZEK, KELLY BUCHANAN, ASHLEY BUEHRLE, NATHAN BUELOW, JESSICA BUTLER, BETH BYRAM, SARAH BYRAM, PETER CABELL, RYAN CABILDO, MATTHEW CAMILL, KEYRION CAMPBELL, CHRISTINA CANALES, DAWN CANALES, CHRISTOPHER CANASI, ROBERTO CANTU, BRITTANY CARLTON, KRISTEN CARLTON, SARAH CARTER, CHRISTOPHER CASEY, JESSICA CAVENDER, DANIEL CEBULSKI, BRIAN CECK-

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Area code changes to 734 for most of western Wayne County

See phone numbers, page A9

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

It's time to reach out and touch ... another area code.

Starting Saturday, part of the 313 area code will change to 734, which will affect thousands of telephone customers in western Wayne County, and Washtenaw and Monroe counties.

Wayne County communities affected include Canton Township, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Westland.

Greater Detroit will retain the 313 area code, including Redford and portions of Westland. This area includes Hamtramck, Highland Park, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, the city of Detroit, Melvindale, Allen Park, Lincoln Park, Ecorse, River Rouge, Harper Woods, the Grosse Pointes and portions of Inkster, Taylor and Romulus.

With hopes of minimizing confusion, Ameritech will initiate a seven-month optional dialing period in which the new and old area codes will work. Starting July 25, 1998, the 734 area code must be used to complete calls.

Seven-digit numbers will not change as a result of the new 734 area code. Ameritech officials said Ameritech's rates will not be affected by the area code change.

More numbers needed

The area code was changed because southeastern Michigan has experienced what Ameritech calls an "explosive" demand for telephone numbers for several telecommunication services, including fax machines, cellular phones, pagers, voice mail, computer modems and additional phone lines.

The region would literally run out of phone numbers, if the change were not made, Ameritech officials said.

"We understand that changes in area codes are no fun, but that's why we've been talking about this for two years," said Sara Snyder, spokeswoman for Ameritech.

313 to leave Livonia

Most of Livonia switches from

the 313 to 734 area code, but the 248 area code remains in an area of the city roughly north of Curtis. The northeast corner of Livonia will switch from 313 to 248 next March.

Everything south of Curtis will be within the 734 area code. In Westland, the 313 area code will remain in the southeast corner of the city in an area bounded by Annapolis, Harrison, Inkster and Van Born. The remainder changes to 734.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, who opposed the area code changes for Livonia and fought the changes, remains unhappy with the change.

"The public had little or no choice," Kirksey said. "Now they have to change stationery, business cards and computers."

Add up the 5,000 businesses and 38,000 homes with homeowners who use stationery and the \$500-\$1,000 costs for businesses, and that is a large expense, Kirksey said.

But officials from the local Chambers of Commerce in western Wayne County have not received that many complaints about the change.

A business expense

Linda Shapona, executive director of the Westland Chamber of Commerce, said she had not received any complaints. "It's just the inconvenience of having to change," Shapona said. "We haven't received anything concrete (in complaints), but I wish it was easier to remember."

Shapona hopes Ameritech would work to ease the transition for business owners and residents.

Fran Toney, executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, said the change should not be a surprise for people since it was announced more than a year ago.

"I don't know anyone who is delighted with it, but certainly with the demand for cell phones

and fax machines, we have created a need for additional numbers," Toney said.

The Canton Chamber of Commerce has not received any complaints from its members on the number change, said Carleigh Flaharty, the chamber's executive director.

"Ameritech has been good in getting releases out and letting people know about the changes they need to make in business cards and advertising," Flaharty said. The businesses can use their old stationery because the old number will work for another seven months.

"It's obviously a headache, but it's good for the printing business," Flaharty said.

If printers expect more business, it may take a while.

George King, a printer and owner of Graphic Communications in Plymouth, has not yet noticed any increase in business orders for stationery or business cards because of the change.

"People just aren't rushing in because they know (the old area code) is good until next year," King said.

"We understand that changes in area codes are no fun, but that's why we've been talking about this for two years."

Sara Snyder
—Ameritech spokeswoman

Jack Kirksey
—Livonia mayor

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Sara Snyder
—Ameritech spokeswoman

Jack Kirksey
—Livonia mayor

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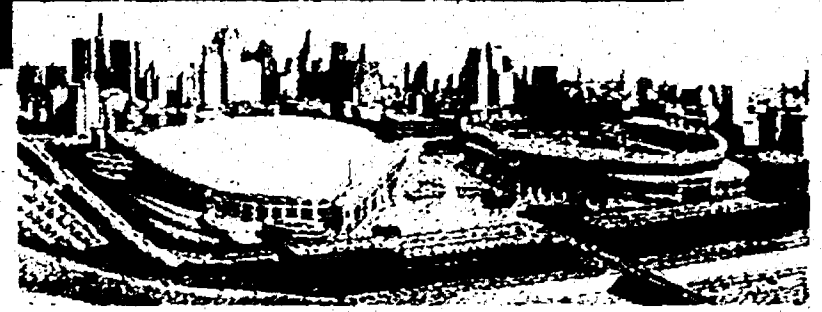
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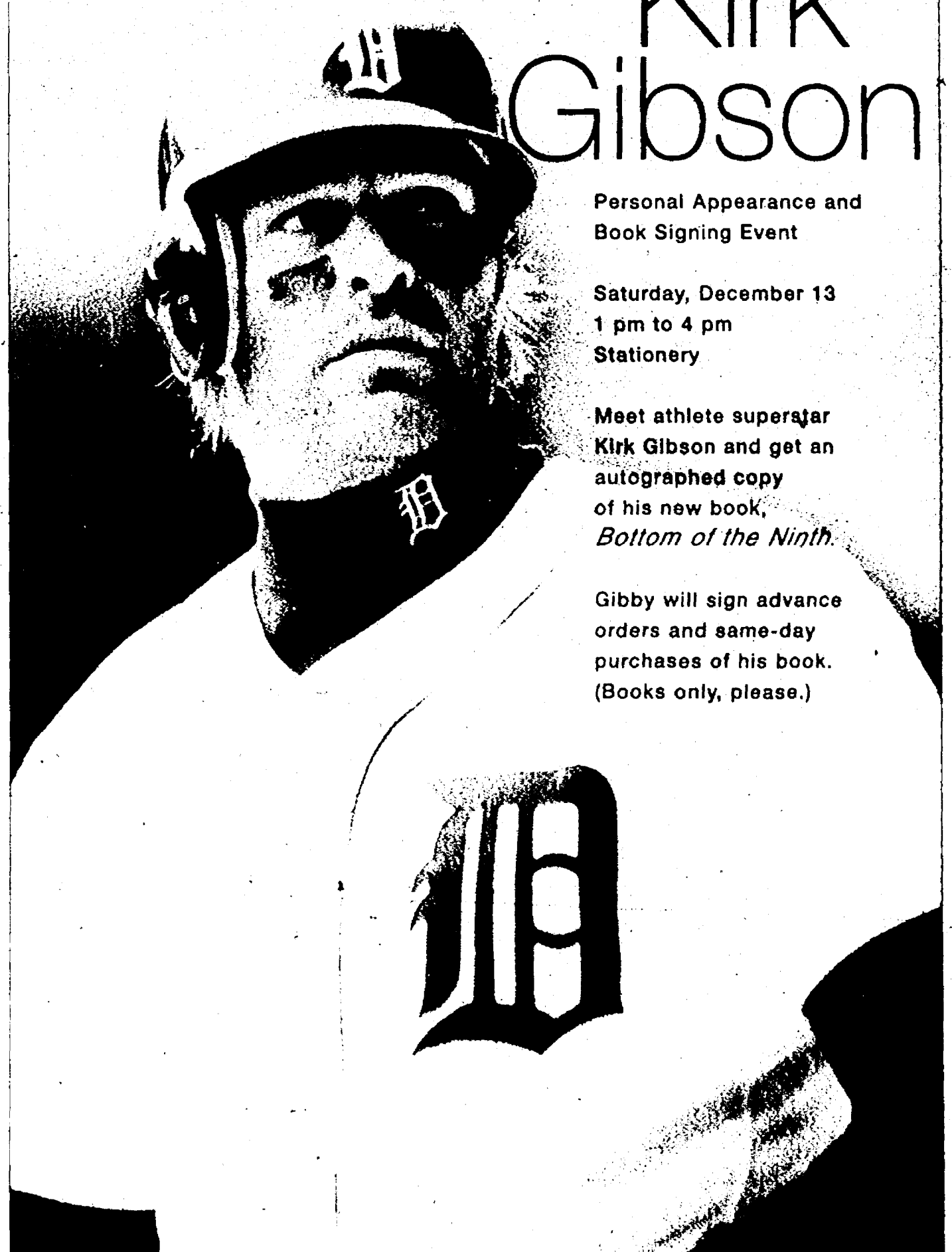


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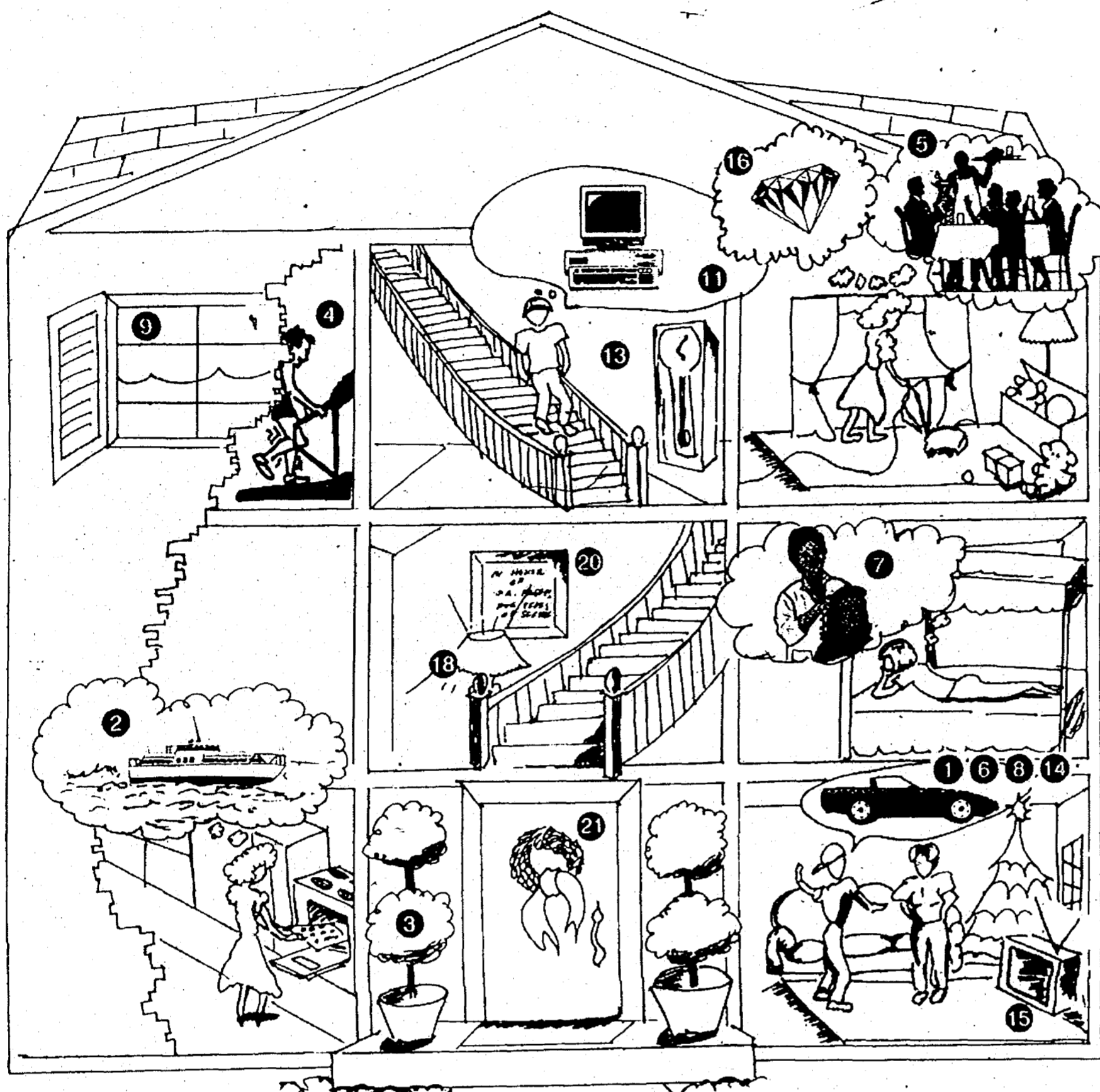
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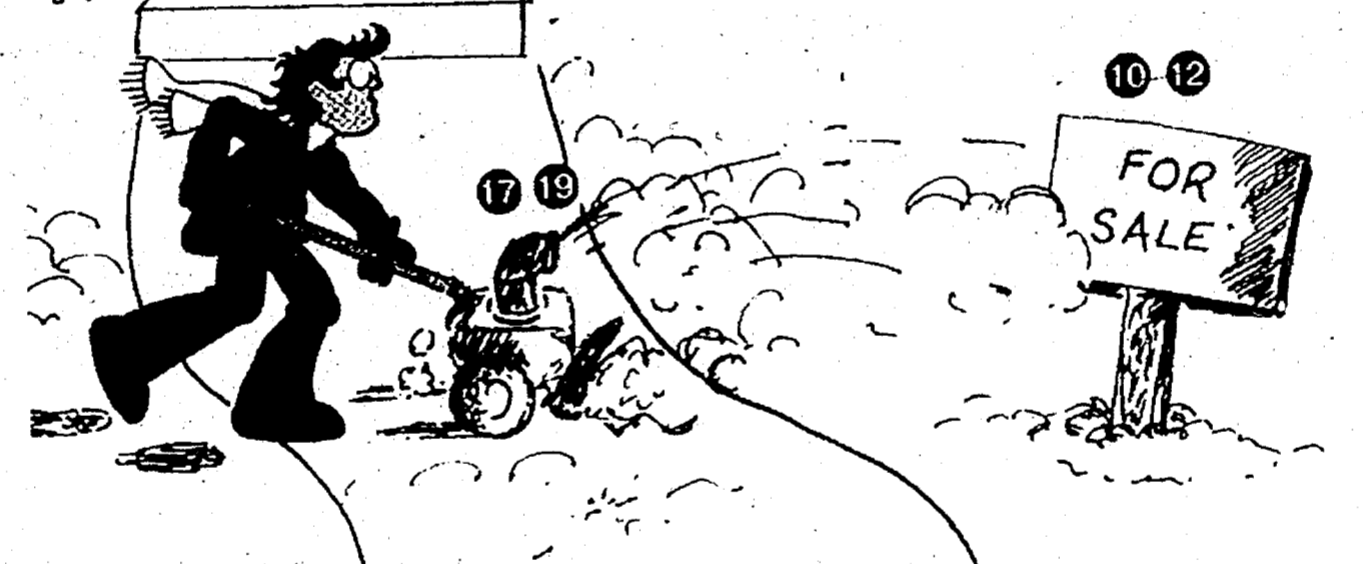
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Here's a list of phone numbers affected by the area code change

Effective Saturday, many telephone number prefixes will change from 313 to a 734 area code.

Some prefixes will have more than one area code. Those having 313 and 734 area codes include: 221, 311, 750 and 950. Those with 248 and 734 are 998 numbers, while those in all three area codes are numbers with the 472, 490 and 959 prefixes.

The old area code can be dialed until July 25, 1998.

The former 313 numbers changing to 734 include:

- The 200 prefix numbers of 205, 207, 213, 214, 221, 241, 242, 243, 244, 246, 247, 254, 258, 261, 264, 265, 266, 269, 279, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288 and 289.

- The 300 prefix numbers of 311, 324, 326, 327, 329, 332, 334, 362, 374, 379, 384, 394, 397 and 398.

- The 400 prefix numbers of 414, 416, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 432, 433, 434, 439, 448, 449, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 461, 462, 464, 466, 467, 468, 469, 472, 475, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 487, 490, 495, 497 and 498.

- The 500 prefix numbers of 502, 509, 513, 516, 518, 522, 523, 524, 525, 528, 529, 542, 544, 572, 585, 586, 587, 591 and 595.

- The 600 prefix numbers of 604, 612, 629, 632, 641, 647, 654, 655, 661, 662, 663, 665, 668, 669, 671, 672, 675, 676, 677, 692, 697 and 699.

- The 700 prefix numbers of 712, 721, 722, 723, 728, 729, 738,

- 741, 747, 750, 753, 758, 761, 762, 763, 764, 769, 782, 783, 784 and 789.

- The 800 prefix numbers of 844, 847, 848, 850, 853, 854, 856, 857, 858, 878, 879, 887 and 888.

- The 900 prefix numbers of 913, 930, 936, 939, 941, 942, 944, 946, 947, 950, 953, 955, 957, 959, 971, 973, 975, 981, 985, 994, 995, 996, 997 and 998.

Elections from page A5

al ballots. Steil added that the change "would free schools to focus on educating our children."

- Limit school elections to three dates each year: one in April, one in August and the November general election.

- Require the school district seeking approval of a bond issue to include on a ballot proposal the estimated annual tax cost.

- Require the ballot language to include the per-pupil and per-classroom costs for the facilities

for which the bonds are issued.

- Hike the cost of special elections by requiring the school district to pay the city and/or township 105 percent of the actual cost of conducting a special election.

Conducting special elections is a virtual science among school districts. For example, March is considered a good time to run a money proposal. Tactics include phone banks that target "school people" such as parents and school employees.

The House has worked on a different set of ideas but produced no bills for floor action.

House members have talked of reducing the number of total elections to three or four a year and requiring schools to use one of those elections for money questions.

Historically, Michigan has run school elections mostly in May and June, so that newly elected members could vote on the budget before the fiscal year starts on July 1.

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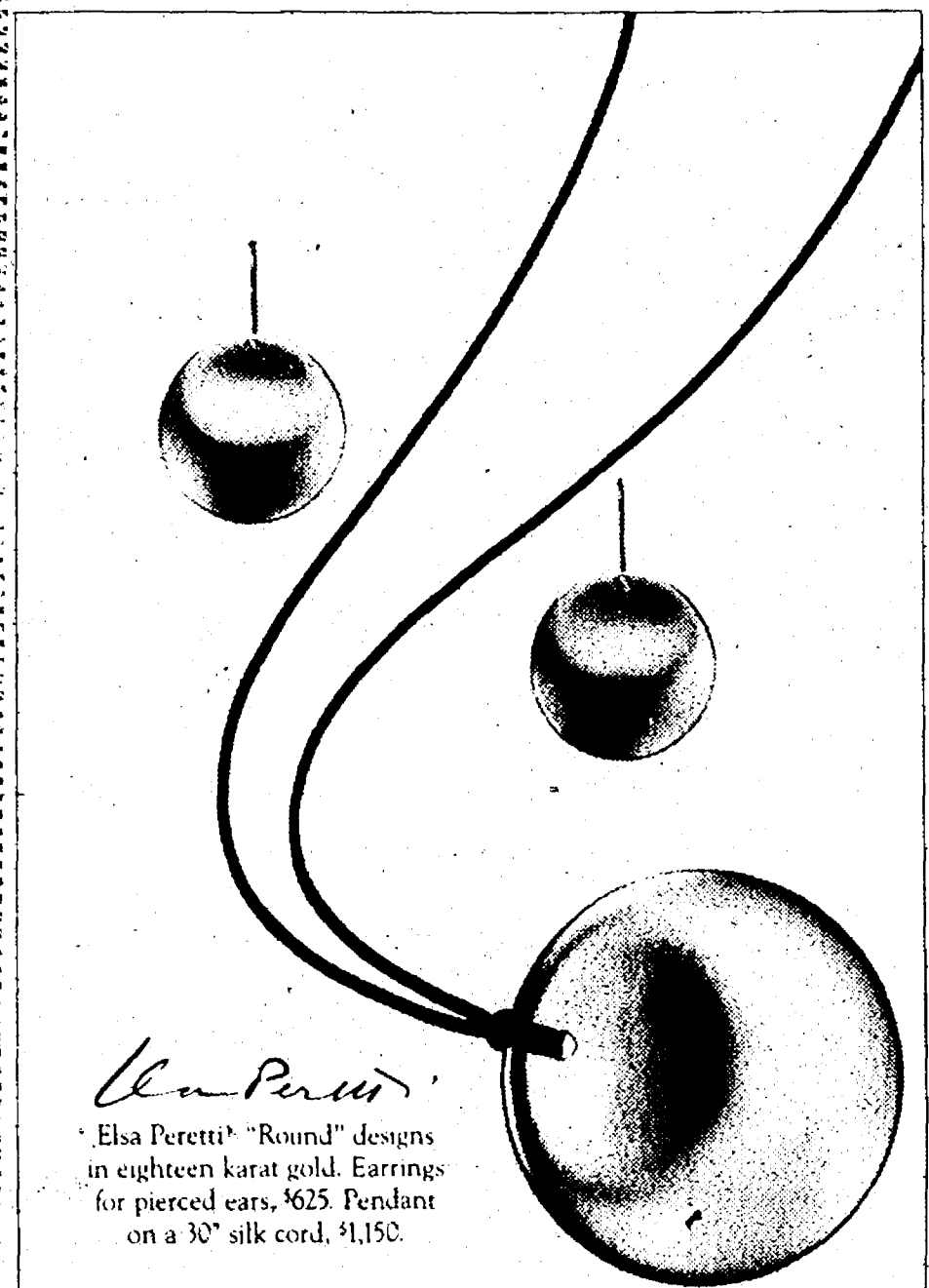
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from page A6

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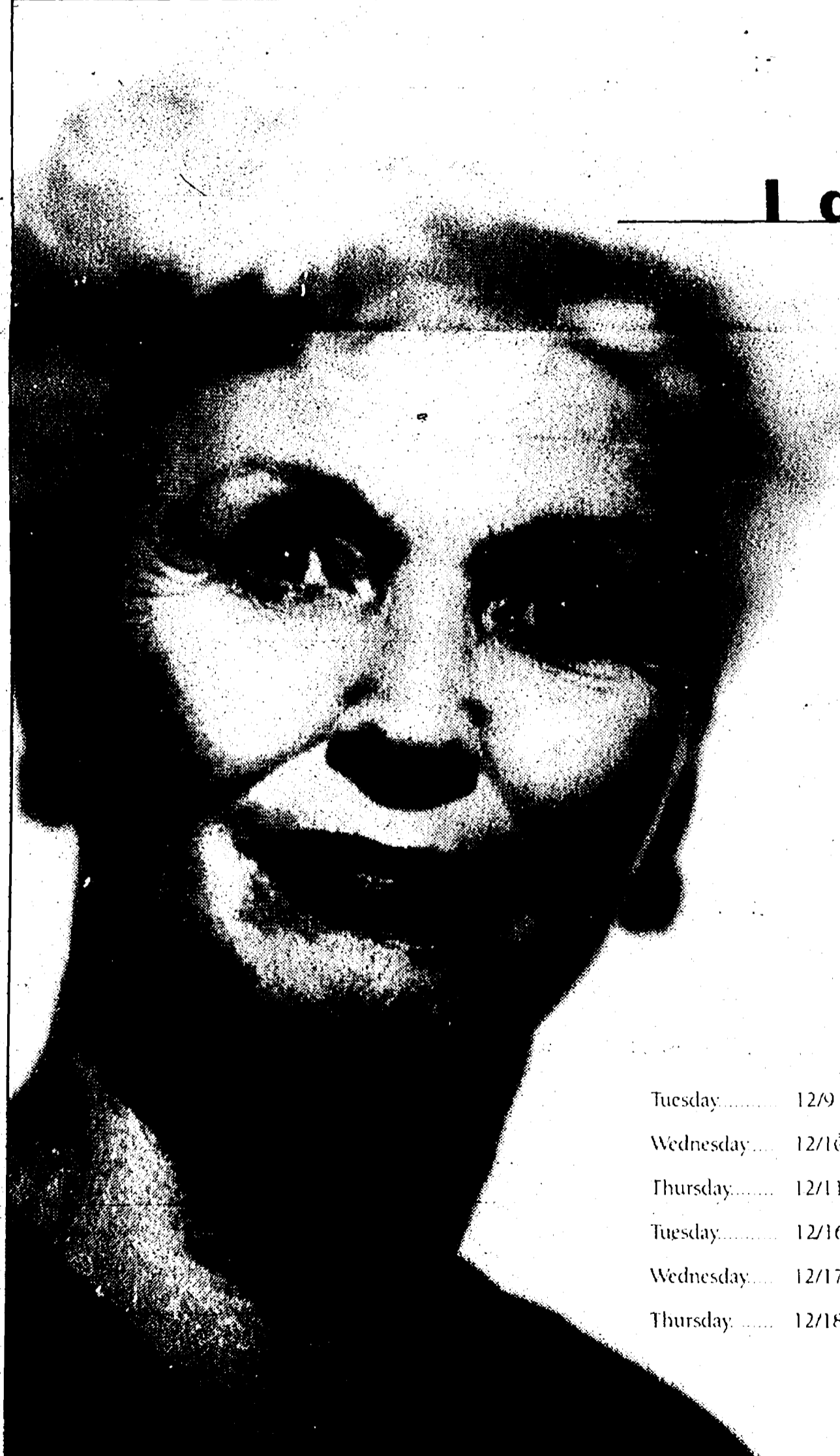
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Senate actions stall efforts of assisted suicide supporters

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Merian's Friends, the Northville-based group seeking a statewide vote on regulating assisted suicide, will have an uphill battle in the wake of two state Senate votes.

It will have to conduct a 260,000-signature petition drive to place its proposal before voters in November of 1998 — "which is a monumental job unless you have a lot of money," said Sen. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township.

"It's not like you had casino money supporting the drive. The track record (for volunteer-run petition drives) is never very good," he said.

Peters and Bob Moreillon, spokesman for Merian's Friends, said polls show 57 to 60 percent of voters would favor a law regulating physician-assisted suicide. The group is named for Merian

Fredricks, a client of Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

During the Dec. 4 Senate debate, Peters proposed a shortcut to a petition drive: putting on the ballot both Senate Bill 200, to outlaw assisted suicide, and SB 653, Peters' regulatory bill that is similar to the Merian's Friend proposal.

His amendment, which required a two-thirds vote, fell 7-24. Local senators voting yes were Peters, and Alma Wheeler Smith, D-Salem, and five other Democrats. There was no record roll call.

How they voted

Instead, the Senate approved SB 200 by a vote of 28 to 7. Here is how area senators voted:

Yes — Loren Bennett, R-Canton, Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham, John Cherry, D-Clio, Mat Dunaskiss, R-

Lake Orion, Robert Geake, R-Northville, George Z. Hart, D-Dearborn, Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek.

No — Peters and Alma Smith.
Absent — Bill Bullard Jr., R-Milford.

SB 200 declares:
■ Assisting in a suicide is punishable by up to four years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,000.

■ "A person who knowingly or intentionally by force or coercion causes an individual to commit suicide is guilty of murder."

■ Exempts "withholding or withdrawing medical treatment."

■ Exempts administration of painkillers, "even if the medication may hasten or increase the risk of death," if certain medical requirements are met.

Bouchard praised this provision.

Euthanasia feared

Sponsor is Sen. William VanRegenmorter, R-Jenison, who held extensive public hearings during fall.

Speaking of Kevorkian, who has assisted in an estimated 71 suicides in Michigan, VanRegenmorter said, "Most were not immediately dying. Many were not even terminally ill. Four young women weren't ill at all."

SB 200 is the Legislature's second attempt to outlaw assisted suicide. An earlier law was "sunsetting" after four years and no convictions.

Backers pointed to the Netherlands, saying 1,000 people a year are euthanized (subjected to mercy killing). They fear assisted suicide will evolve into euthanasia.

Elderly people's fear is so great, said VanRegenmorter, that groups are giving senior citizens cards saying, "If I'm

hospitalized, don't kill me."

VanRegenmorter scoffed at the polls cited by Peters and Merian's Friends. "It (favorable view of assisted suicide) depends on how you ask the question. But the numbers drop dramatically when you talk about hospice care and pain relief."

"At our public hearings, people were 2-1 in support of SB 200." Opposing Peters' amendment to put SB 200 on the ballot, VanRegenmorter said, "We're not elected to put our fingers in the wind and look at polls."

"If someone wants to take his own life, they can find ways to do it," said Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, the Senate's only physician. "The question is getting someone to help. It's tantamount to murder."

"The physician should be allowed to

Please see SUICIDE, A14

State economy still relies on auto industry

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

"Diversity" is the word they use not only in university admissions but in the economy. For two generations, politicians and economists have said Michigan is too dependent on the auto industry and needs economic diversity.

After 20 years of downsizing, however, the auto industry still is the mainstay of Michigan's economy, according to a first-of-its-kind report from the state Senate Fiscal Agency.

One of every 15 employees in 1996 worked directly in the motor vehicle and equipment industry — 6.5 percent versus a high of 12.2 percent in 1973. That was 280,000 auto-related

jobs out of 4.3 million in the state.

In wages, the auto industry is doubly important, paying \$1 of every \$8 earned by all workers. Auto, light truck and automotive equipment workers were paid \$140 million or 13 percent of all wages. Top year was 1977 when the industry generated 18.4 percent of all wages.

The SFA report was compiled by Rebecca Ross, economist and fiscal analyst, with charts prepared by Karen Hendrick. SFA serves the Senate Appropriations Committee with help on budget bills, analyses of all Senate bills and rules, and economic forecasting.

The market is nearing saturation.

Please see ECONOMY, A12

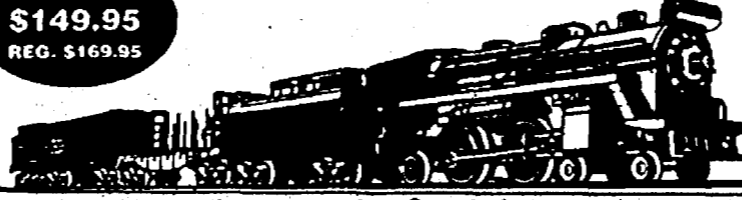
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Sculpting minds: A sculpture of "Ring Around the Rosey" will highlight the Children's Garden Project at Schoolcraft College. It will symbolize a mixture of nature, education and art in front of the Children's Center. People who wish to contribute toward the project can purchase a personalized brick.

Sculpture, garden symbolize education, art and nature

By KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Ring Around the Rosey is a whimsical and playful child's game.

That game — in the form of a sculpture — is expected to symbolize a serious mix of nature, education and art at the Children's Garden Project at Schoolcraft College.

Organizers hope that garden grows through a fund-raising program in which the general public can purchase a personalized brick.

The sculpture is expected to be installed in front of the Children's Center next fall, according to Dorothy Whitten, director of child care and development at Schoolcraft College.

"We're pretty excited about the sculpture," Whitten said. The life-sized bronze sculpture will be created by Bernadette Zachara of Farmington Hills. The idea of using the theme of playing children was Whitten's.

"We wanted to show the joy of active play, kids getting together, enjoying themselves and life in general," Whitten said.

Children will learn about nature by working in the raised beds of the garden, Whitten said. Raised-bed gardens, walking paths and nature trails will extend from the Center's entrance to the natural areas west and south of the building.

The children learn about art at the center through the use of water, clay and sand, and the sculpture will help promote that theme.

"The arts are very important to children and they're fascinated by that," said Whitten.

The surrounding brickscape and paths will include laser-inscribed bricks with the names of donors or loved ones who donors have chosen to honor, such as a child or grandchild.

Persons making a \$100 or more contribution may have a personalized brick installed in

the brickscape and adjacent paths, with their name or the name of a loved one or organization inscribed on the brick.

A \$100 contribution entitles the donor to a 4-by-8 inch brick with two lines of 14 characters each. A \$200 contribution earns an 8-by-8 inch brick with five lines of 14 characters each. Buying a brick also counts as a contribution to the Schoolcraft College Foundation Annual Campaign.

The fund-raising drive has raised \$5,000 towards its \$20,000 goal.

The Child Care Center houses 110 children. Students, faculty, staff and community parents use the facility, which operates five days a week from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The center is open on the same days as the college.

The project is supported by a combination of grants, donations and volunteer labor.

For information call the Child Care Center at (313) 462-4442.

Economy from page A11

tion. In 15 years, the number of vehicles per capita in use has inched up from 0.82 per person to 0.97 with little increase in the 1990s.

Other highlights, as of 1996:
■ Imports as a percentage of total U.S. auto sales rose from 15 percent in 1970 to a high of 31 percent in 1987. By the early 1990s, however, imports shrank

below the 15 percent mark.

■ Reason: "Transplants" — foreign-owned car companies operating in the U.S. — grew from zero in 1970 to 1984 to more than 26 percent of the current market.

■ Auto sales by domestic manufacturers (both transplants and the Big Three Michigan-based firms) have topped 85 percent of

the market with imports sliding below 15 percent.

■ Michigan's share of total U.S. auto production peaked at 35.8 percent in 1988. In 1996, Michigan accounted for 30.5 percent of total U.S. output.

■ Analysts no longer think of "autos" and "trucks" separately. They think of autos and "light trucks" as one type of consumer

vehicle. "Light trucks" includes pickups, minivans and sport-utility vehicles.

■ Light trucks have leaped to 45 percent of the market — 6.5 million of a total domestic "light motor vehicle" sales of 15 million — from less than 20 percent in the early 1970s.

■ Leasing is growing popular. In 1984, just 1.4 percent of sales

were leases; currently, 21.2 percent.

■ Luxury cars are most frequently leased — 64 percent. Budget car owners used leases for less than 14 percent of their acquisitions.

■ Average price of a domestic new car was a shade below \$17,000; of an import, more than \$27,400; of total cars, \$18,565.

■ Cars are getting older on average. In 1970, average age was 5.6 years; since 1991 the age has risen from 8.1 to 8.5 years currently. Average age of trucks was more stable — 7.3 years in 1970, 8 to 8.4 years throughout the 1990s.

Businesses can obtain health insurance

Blue Care, Inc., a nonprofit corporation affiliated with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, and St. John Health System have teamed up to provide Wayne County small business owners affordable health coverage for their employees.

Through HealthChoice, Wayne County's program aimed at helping businesses retain workers, the two health care providers are offering the HealthChoice Partners program.

"Affordable health care motivates employees to stay in the area and on the job," said David B. Siegel, M.D., senior vice president of managed care for Blue Cross Blue Shield.

"We see the HealthChoice program as an important linchpin in the strengthening of access to health care services within Wayne County and we are very excited to be part of that effort," Blue Care Inc.'s HealthChoice Partners program offers:

■ A wide choice of doctors affiliated with St. John Health System through eight hospitals and more than 50 medical and specialty centers

■ No or low copays on most benefits

■ No paperwork or claims to file

■ Prescription services at 2,000 Blue Cross Blue Shield participating pharmacies throughout Michigan

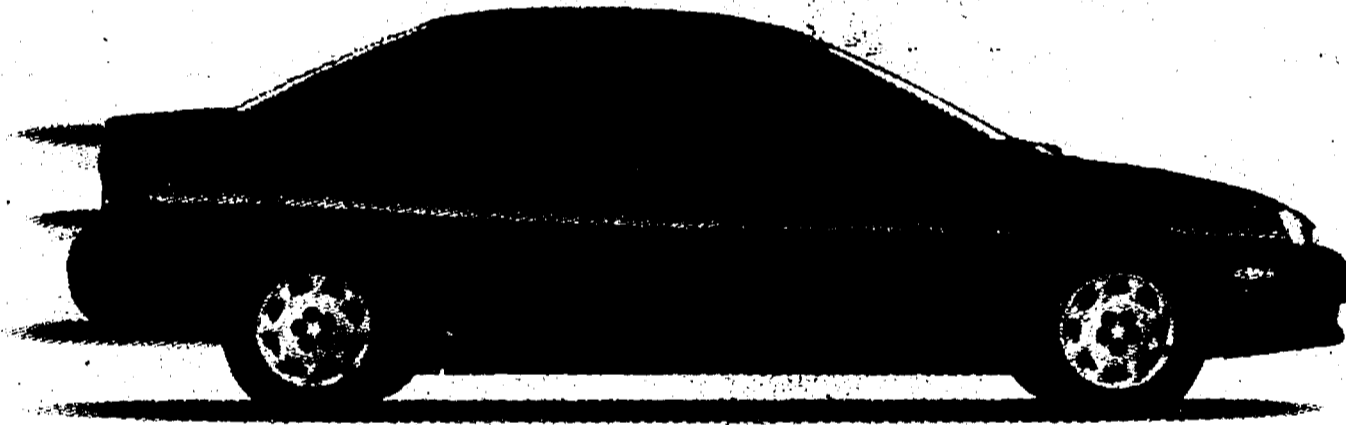
Since 1994, Wayne County's HealthChoice has collaborated with health care providers to offer health care services to Wayne County businesses that don't have health coverage.

Eligible business owners include those with five or more employees, with at least 50 percent of their workforce being paid \$10 an hour or less.

The county pays one-third of the cost, while the employer and employee split the remaining two-thirds.

Employers also have the option to offer their employees expanded coverage by purchasing riders for vision, dental, outpatient physical therapy, durable medical equipment, unlimited inpatient hospital days, and in-patient drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.

Blue Care, Inc., is a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan affiliated company. St. John Health System is a growing network of community-based health care services, offering comprehensive prevention, primary care and treatment programs.



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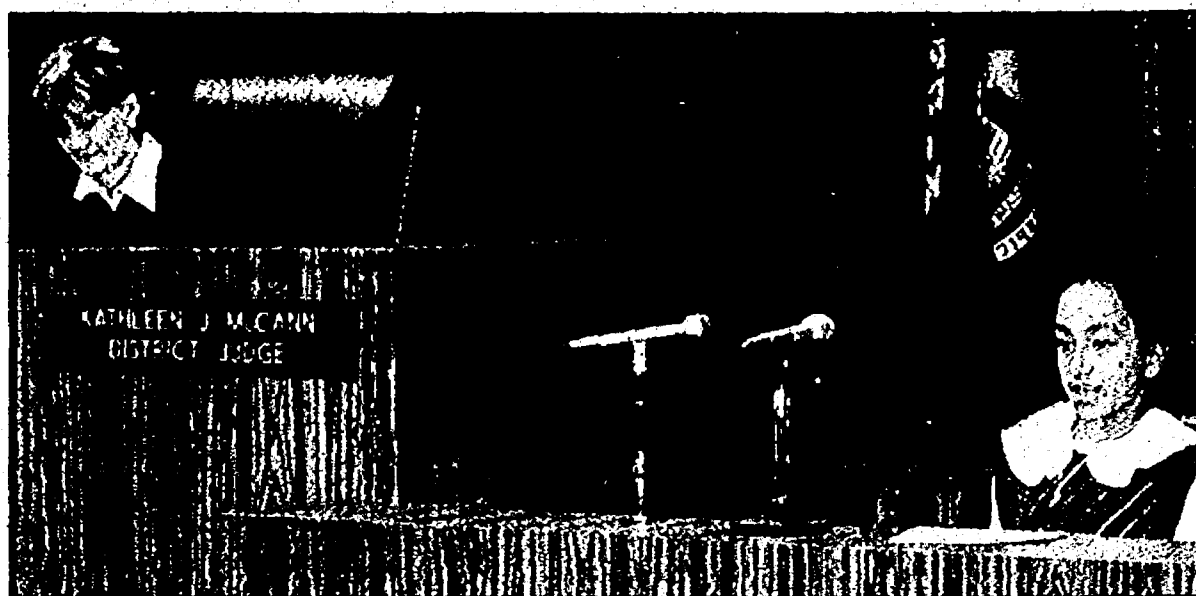
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Under oath: Bailiff Michael Robertson swears in defendant Derek Myers of Westland (left photo), while role playing at the 16th District Court. Plaintiff Nisha Asher testifies (upper right photo) as Circuit Judge Jeanne Stempien takes notes in a seat normally held by District Judge Kathleen McCann.

STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY



Holding court

Students learn about law, play roles with legal ease

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

A career in law may be in store for at least some of the dozen elementary students who participated Saturday in a mock trial, the culmination of an eight-week law course taught on weekends at Schoolcraft College.

The students, ranging in age from 8 to 12, participated in a Junior Lawyer class, part of Schoolcraft's Continuing Education Services.

"Most of these students are part of the (Talented and Gifted) programs at their respective schools, and they really took a keen interest in the class," said Margaret Lourdes, a first-year Westland attorney who taught the course. "I was really surprised, some of the questions the students asked were questions I heard in law school. Some even told me they were thinking about becoming lawyers."

The course taught students all facets of law.

"We talked about criminal law, tort law, wills and estates," said Lourdes. "I had the students write wills, and the last day we held a mock trial."

Lourdes said in their wills, students were asked to describe what they would do with the things in their bedrooms.

"Some of the wills were a mile long," said Lourdes. "However, they were very sophisticated. Many wanted to donate books to their local libraries, and give other items to charity and their parents. The strangest will was from a boy who wanted to have his head put in a jar to give to his dad."

Last Saturday, the group held a mock trial in the 16th District courtroom of Judge Kathleen McCann in Livonia.



Judgment day: Circuit Judge Jeanne Stempien gives the young jurors instructions.

nia. The presiding judge was Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Jeanne Stempien from Northville.

"We put on a mock negligence trial, a slip and fall case at a used car lot," Lourdes said. "I gave the students a script to look at a week before the trial so they wouldn't get overwhelmed, and they grasped their roles very well. The jury deliberated and found the property owner 50-percent liable, and the victim 50-percent liable. They did a wonderful job."

Stempien was impressed, also.

"I thought the kids did a great job," said Stempien. "I was totally impressed at how hard they worked, and how they understood the basic rules of law. They were so enthusiastic."

Stempien took the students and their parents on a tour of 16th District Court, and answered questions afterwards.

"Anytime you can take the mystery out of the court system and bring it down to

earth, it's a good thing," Stempien said.

That's the same sentiment expressed by Danielle Frimenko of Northville, whose 8-year-old daughter, Hilary, was a defense lawyer.

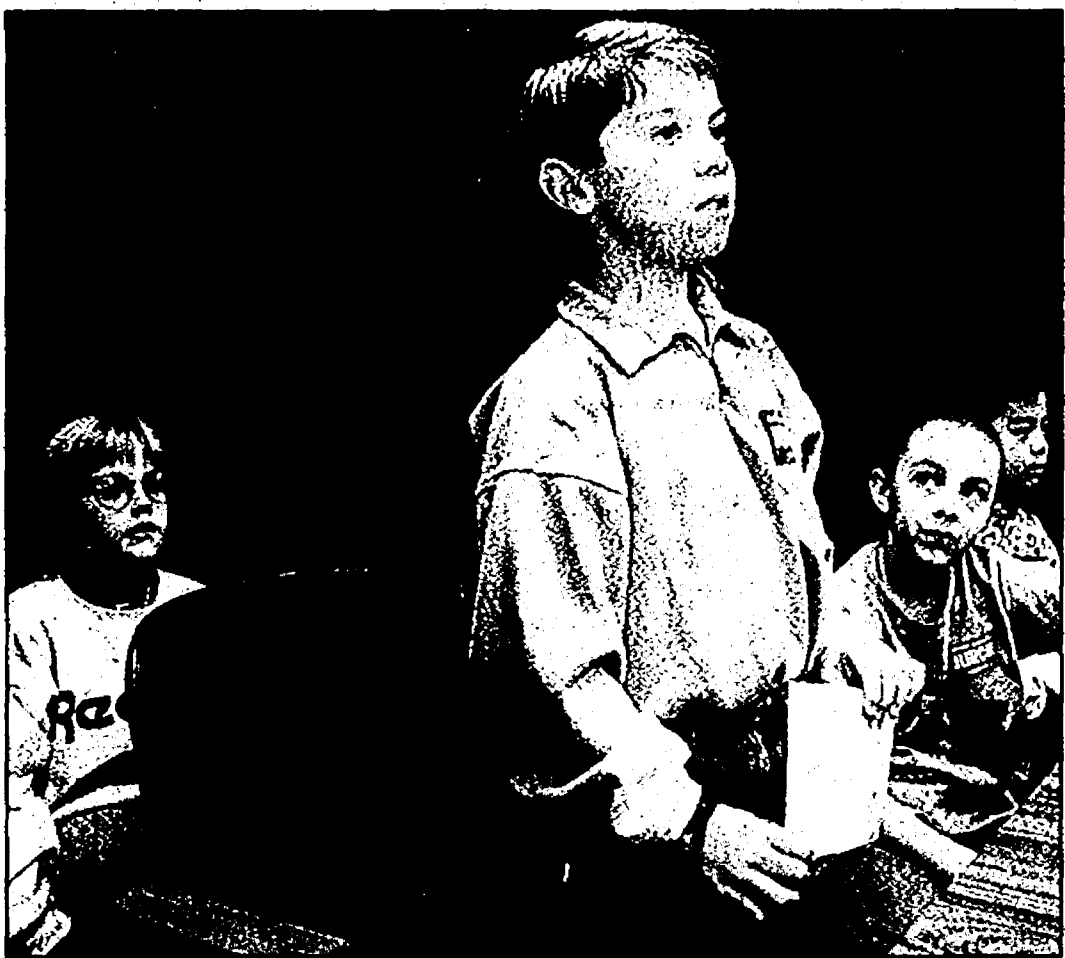
"The program was excellent, and provided the students with a unique courtroom experience," said Frimenko. "And, with Judge Stempien there, it made the students understand the decorum in a courtroom. They took it quite seriously."

Hilary said she really learned a lot from the class.

"I learned a lot about law, which could help me if I become a lawyer," said Hilary. "I've wanted to become a lawyer since I was 3 years old."

When asked about the trial, Hilary noted the hardest part "was trying to think of a way to win."

Of the verdict, Hilary noted "it probably ended the way it would have turned out, anyway (in a real court)."



Argumentative: Defense attorney Hilary Frimenko (above photo, right) and Matthew Kownacki of Plymouth argue their legal points. Jury foreman Stephen Roberts reads the verdict. These 8- to 12-year-old students played various courtroom roles for a class taught by Westland attorney Margaret Lourdes at Schoolcraft College.

Anger directed at U-M's admission policy

State Capitol capsules:

U-M blistered

There's a mood of anger in the state Legislature, and it's directed at the University of Michigan's racial quota practices.

Sen. Bill Bullard Jr., R-Milford, has introduced a constitutional amendment based on California Proposition 209. It would prohibit preferential treatment based on race or gender in public contracting, public employment and university admissions.

"The (U.S.) Supreme Court upheld what the people in California voted for and want," said Bullard. The high court refused to hear an appeal, affirming the lower courts' rulings that Prop 209 is valid.

Bullard's resolution would have to be approved on two-thirds votes of the Senate and House to be placed on the ballot, then approved by voters.

In the House, Reps. Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills, and Deborah Whyman, R-Canton, were on the short end of a 98-3 vote on a bill allowing forfeiture of properties for violation of copyrights, sought by U-M.

"U-M should not be rewarded at a time when their administrators are flagrantly in violation of federal law for their use of reverse discrimination in admissions," said Kaza in a formal protest.

■ A lawsuit alleging the U-M practices reverse discrimination was assigned to U.S. District Judge Patrick Duggan.

"U-M routinely admits students from politically-correct groups who have lower grade point averages and college admissions scores than non-minority student-applicants to the university. U-M stopped maintaining internal documents confirming their use of reverse discrimination after we announced our probe," he said.

Kaza and Whyman were among four legislators who held public hearings to recruit plaintiffs for a suit against U-M. The case has been assigned to U.S. District Judge Patrick Duggan, a Livonia resident. The students charge U-M with violating the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution (equal protection of the laws) and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"We will end reverse discrimination at U-M," said Kaza, referring to administrators there as "New Class mandarins who have made a mockery of the principles of equal opportunity."

Mail vote nearer

The House Local Government Com-

STATE

mittee has approved a bill to create a system of voting by mail in Michigan.

"It will increase voter participation," said panel chair Agnes Dobronski, D-DeARBorn.

After Jan. 1, 2004, the Secretary of State could conduct a vote-by-mail election for the August primary, November general election, statewide special elections and any election for which a candidate for statewide office, the Court of Appeals or federal office is nominated and elected.

Voters would have to return their ballots by 8 p.m. on election day, either by mail or by dropping them in a designated place.

Christian callers

The Christian Coalition, a heavy-weight in Michigan Republican politics, has a method for supporters to help it through long-distance telephone bills.

Glenn Clark, state director of the Troy-based group, says the MCC will receive 10 percent of a subscriber's domestic long-distance billing by signing up with AmeriVision Communications' "LifeLine" service. The company

■ 'The (U.S.) Supreme Court upheld what the people in California voted for and want.'

Bill Bullard
—state senator—

is based in Oklahoma City.

"You will no longer risk subsidizing the homosexual or abortion movements through your telephone bill," said Clark's solicitation letter.

More road waits

Michigan must still wait for a long-term solution to its shortage of federal road money, says the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Gov. John Engler wants \$200 million more per year in federal aid.

"U.S. House and Senate leaders agreed to a compromise that results in a short-term extension of ISTE, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act," says SEMCOG's Nov. 24 bulletin. It's only a six-month extension, but better than nothing, SEMCOG says.

The extension provides federal highway funding through next March 3. It includes \$5.5 billion in additional contract authority and \$9.8 billion in obli-

gation authority. And it's more flexible in allowing states to transfer money from one highway category to another.

Adds Carmine Palombo, SEMCOG transportation program director: "If the economy continues to do as well as it has, it may be possible to significantly increase the total amount of funds for transportation and to improve Michigan's share of these funds. Michigan's congressional delegation has worked well in a united, bipartisan effort to improve the state's position."

New House bills

■ Rep. Patricia Godchaux, R-Birmingham - House Bill 5323, which changes the wording on Michigan marriage licenses to say: "This is a license to marry - not to abuse." The freshman lawmaker says it will "raise awareness." Last year the 45 state-funded domestic violence shelters received nearly 76,000 crisis calls on their state hotline (1-800-996-6228).

■ Rep. Frank Fitzgerald, R-Grand Ledge - a bill to make it a felony to use the Internet to promote sexual abuse of children. "On-line chat rooms are used on a daily basis by pedophiles for trading and distributing child pornography," said Fitzgerald. Penalties for conviction: two years in prison, \$2,000 fine for a first offense; five years and \$5,000 for subsequent offenses.

Judge wants report in 14 months on Rouge

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

U.S. District Judge John Feikens will allow three counties and 43 communities 14 months to report back to him on progress made on the Rouge River before he decides whether a management authority should take over the cleanup project.

Feikens decided on Nov. 13 to allow the time extension after a conference was held in his courtroom. Several community representatives, Oakland and Washtenaw county drain commissioners and representatives from the state Department of Environmental Quality attended the conference.

Feikens appointed a committee, chaired by court monitor Jonathan Bulkley, to discuss over the next 14 months the communities' requirements and how they should be addressed in general stormwater permits. The committee also includes George Kuhn, Oakland County drain commissioner; Janis Bobrin, Washtenaw County drain commissioner, and Jim Murray, director of Wayne County's Department of Environment and

■ 'We believe there are about 5,000 (illegal storm drain connections), but we don't know where they're at.'

Jim Murray
—director of Wayne County Department of Environment

state officials.

Murray expects the discussions will focus on what communities will need to do with septic tanks, illicit downspout connections and public education and how these issues will be outlined on general permits issued by the DEQ to Rouge River basin communities.

Murray also believes dialogue will continue with the state DEQ on the 2002 deadline to build retention basins to control combined sewer overflows. CSOs are combined sanitary and storm sewers that overflow into the Rouge after heavy rainfalls and empties sewage into the Rouge.

Murray and local community leaders are concerned that any mandate to build retention basins could cost communities millions in bonds and higher sewer rates.

Murray would prefer that those communities have an

opportunity to "spread these costs out" over several years. "I think some of the communities, namely Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Inkster and Redford, need more time to build them."

Septic tanks and illicit connections are two issues that need to be addressed before evaluating the effectiveness of the program, Murray said. Surveys have shown some Rouge basin communities have high septic failure rates.

"The city of Southfield did a survey, and found a 40 to 60 percent failure rate," Murray said. "Other communities that have newer systems have 5 to 10 percent failure rate."

Wayne County and communities do not have a septic tank program in place, but Murray expects that issue will be discussed with communities.

"This is an issue that has to be addressed," Murray said. "These

septic tanks should be pumped out every three to five years. Nobody is doing that right now."

Murray also estimates that about 5,000 illegal storm drain connections into combined sewer overflows also add runoff to the river. "There are 900 that we know of," Murray said. "Based on that we believe there are about 5,000, but we don't know where they're at."

On the retention basins, Murray believes communities need more time to allow communities to fund the facilities and give them the ability to construct these facilities.

The committee will also discuss the use of a geographic information system and who will manage it.

The committee is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 at Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile Road. The meetings are open to the public and community leaders are encouraged to attend.

Anyone who wishes to get on the mailing list to be notified about these informational meetings can call the Rouge Program office at 961-0700.

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The holiday extravaganza includes a visit from Santa Claus. Santa will be available for

pictures for a \$5 donation.

In addition, visitors can complete their holiday shopping at the gift shop where Christmas ornaments, wreaths and stocking stuffer items can be purchased.

To warm up before going

home, visitors can purchase hot chocolate, hot dogs, nachos and other food and beverages at the concession stand.


Motorists can drive through 7 to 10 p.m. through Jan. 1, except Christmas Day. They can enter at Hines Drive and Merriman. A

minimum donation of \$5 per car keeps LightFest operating.

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Suicide from page A11

administer an opiate and morphine. As the doses become closer, one depresses the respiratory effort," he said, with the result being death.

Peters' bill nixed

Opposed was Sen. Jim Berryman, D-Adrian. "People will find a way (to end life). No one should have to go into the basement with a gun. No one should have to find his father hanging in the garage."

Two days earlier, VanRegenmorter's Senate Judiciary Committee rejected Peters' SB 653, which is similar to the Merian's Friends initiative. It would:

- Limit the option of assisted suicide to Michigan residents who are terminally ill and have six months or less to live.
- Require patients to get two doctors' opinions state the illness is terminal.
- Require patients to undergo psychological counseling.
- Limit methods to doctor-prescribed medication.
- Require voter approval of the bill.

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Madonna University adds full-time faculty members

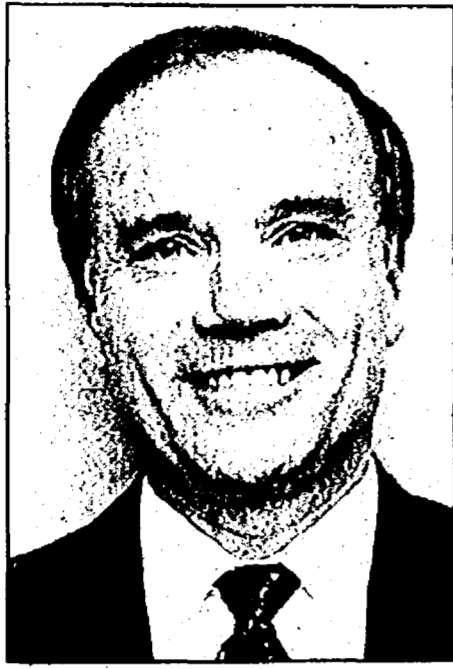
Madonna University officials have added several new full-time instructors to the faculty.

Sister Victoria Marie Indyk has joined the faculty of Madonna as a full-time instructor in the nursing department.

Prior to joining the faculty, Indyk worked at Saint Joseph/Angela Hall from 1993-97 in the Felician Sisters Infirmary as the director for nursing services. She is a member of the Healthcare and Retirement Committee and serves as a volunteer at St. Frances Cabrini Clinic for Poor in Detroit.

She received both her bachelor's in 1975 and her master's in 1993 in nursing from Madonna University. Indyk took her vows to become a Felician sister in 1969 and is a Livonia resident.

Sister Mary Francis Lewandowski has joined the Madonna faculty as a part-time adjunct lecturer in the art department. A Livonia resident, she also taught at St. Florian and Ladywood high schools. An alumna of Madonna University, she received her bachelor's degree in art in 1991. In 1997, she graduated from Wayne State



Roger Crownover

University with a master's degree in printmaking.

Roger Crownover has joined the faculty of Madonna University as a full-time assistant professor in the history department, where he has worked part time since 1991. Crownover has taught at Oakland Community College and Schoolcraft College.

He is a graduate of Union Institute's doctoral program in



Sister Victoria Marie Indyk

Cincinnati, where he studied military history. In 1990 he received his master's degree in history from Eastern Michigan University and is a 1989 alumnus of Madonna University where he received his bachelor's degree in history.

Marvin Weingarden also joined the Madonna faculty as a full-time assistant professor in the mathematics department.



Sister Mary Francis Lewandowski

Weingarden worked for the Detroit Public Schools where he began his career in mathematics in 1961. He also taught at Wayne State University, the University of Detroit-Mercy and Oakland Community College.

A past president of the Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics, currently Weingarden serves on the board of



Marvin Weingarden

directors. He received the honor of Mathematics Educator of the Year for the 1997-97 academic year from the Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

He has published several books, his most recent titled "Algebra I and II - Explorations and Applications."

Bernard Travnikar has joined

the faculty as a full-time associate professor in the education department.

Travnikar, a 1992 graduate of Wayne State's education leadership/administration doctoral program, has taught at Oakland University, Northern Michigan University and Western Michigan University. His offices include chair for the Special Education Advisory Committee and president of the Michigan Chapter of the Council for Children with Behavior Disorders.

Travnikar received his bachelor's degree in English in 1975 and his master's degree in special education in 1976 from Oakland University.

Laurie Kaufman also has joined the faculty as a full-time assistant professor in the education department. Previously she taught at Oakland University as a visiting professor.

In 1968, she graduated with her bachelor's degree and teaching certification in Spanish from Wayne State University. She received both her master's degree in 1982 and her doctorate in 1997 from Oakland University.

Business leaders want tougher standards

The Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence is urging the state House and State Senate to strengthen the High School Proficiency Test (HSPT) and to maintain the state-endorsed diploma.

"The Michigan Legislature must continue to raise academic standards for all Michigan children and the time for action is now," said MBLEE Chairman Dave Whitwam, chairman and CEO of Whirlpool Corp.

Specifically, MBLEE wants to strengthen the HSPT by retaining a high standard in cut scores, with clear definitions as to what each level means.

Quick action on the Senate floor is needed to ensure that a complete HSPT process is in place for testing this year and that past problems with administering the test are avoided.

"The business group said the HSPT is a major step to restoring the value and integrity of the high school diploma, to fairly measure a student's ability to apply the knowledge they have gained and raise the standard of education in Michigan's schools."

"While we are pleased that the Senate Committee moved a majority of the House bills quickly, we remain concerned that policy makers may be backing away from high standards and the power the HSPT has in improving curriculum," said Whitwam.

Not to be overlooked is the importance of maintaining the endorsed diploma, noted MBLEE Director Jim Sandy. "For years, we assumed that any child completing 13 years of schooling would be equipped with the necessary skills to enter the workforce or go on to college."

"Unfortunately, we were wrong, but the endorsed diploma will send the message that these skills are necessary and important."

MBLEE has been engaged in a campaign to raise the awareness of Michigan employers about how the endorsed diploma can be a useful tool in their hiring practices.

Jim Barrett, president and CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, said, "It is up to the employers to include the endorsed diploma as part of the employment process. This will send a strong message to schools and students that a quality education is a prerequisite to procuring a quality job."

MBLEE is an education reform initiative formed in 1991. It represents a collaborative effort between the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan Business Roundtable, corporate sponsors and key policy makers.

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Proposal allows sheriffs secondary employment

Wayne County Commissioner George Cushingberry Jr. introduced an ordinance recently that would grant greater freedoms to Wayne County Sheriff officers.

The proposed ordinance would allow Sheriff Department officers to obtain secondary employment and to wear Sheriff uniforms while on that secondary job. The jobs would be limited to avoid conflicts, said Cushingberry.

The Wayne County Commission heard the proposed ordinance and then referred it to the Committee on Public Safety and Judiciary and the Ways and Means Committee for review. The issue could return before the County Commission as early as the Thursday, Dec. 4 meeting.

Cushingberry, who represents the 6th District in Detroit, currently serves as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and is a member of the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary.

Should the ordinance be adopted, the decision of whether an officer can hold a secondary job — not to exceed 20 hours per week — would be left up to the Wayne County Sheriff for approval.

"It will make the community safer because they'll have trained people in place to offer services such as security," Cushingberry said. Security jobs are not the only options, he added.

Cushingberry got the idea while attending a National Association of County Officials

(NACo) and heard that others, such as Atlanta, already similar programs.

Cushingberry worked with the Wayne County Sheriff Department, particularly Sheriff Robert Ficano and Commander Eric Smith, in drafting the legislation.

"This is something we've been looking at for a long time," Ficano said. "We're trying to enhance the opportunities for our officers. We'll work with them if they want to explore outside employment."

If the outside employment is "the right fit" and doesn't present any liability for the Sheriff's Department, Ficano said he didn't object to his deputies having other jobs. At this point, he isn't

sure how many deputies would take advantage of the secondary employment avenue.

The secondary job cannot make the officer unavailable for duty during an emergency, special consideration for the Sheriff officer's schedule; constitute a threat to the status or dignity of the department or Wayne County; and cannot be within the interior of lounges, clubs or bars where the principal business is selling alcoholic beverages or nude entertainment.

Approval would be granted on an annual basis. The only deputies who would be eligible are those who have passed their probationary periods and are in good standing with the department. The secondary employment privilege can be revoked if the deputy receives disciplinary action or is found to be "double dipping," working the secondary job when scheduled to work as a Sheriff deputy.

Diplomas from page A15

The membership of MBLEE includes executives from Chrysler Corporation; Comerica, Incorporated; Consumers Energy; Dow Chemical Company; Ford Motor Company; General Motors Corporation; Kmart Corpora-

tion; Mead Paper Company; Pharmacia & Upjohn; Whirlpool Corporation; University of Michigan; and Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

HEAT offers advice on holiday safety

The holiday season is the busiest shopping season of the year.

It is also a prime season for criminals to prey on the hordes of holiday shoppers burdened by packages and often too preoccupied to pay attention to the all-important parking lot safety precautions.

Topping the holiday shopping list should be safety, says the director of Help Eliminate Auto Thefts, a statewide auto theft prevention program which operates a confidential toll free tip reward line at 1-800-242-HEAT.

"People have lot on their minds during the holidays and often do things for the sake of expediency they might not otherwise do, like leaving their car running or open to make a quick stop for some item or leaving packages in plain view," said Bill Liddane, director of HEAT. "Unfortunately, this carelessness is precisely what criminals are counting on during the holiday season."

To help holiday shoppers stay safe, HEAT has compiled the following list of hints for safe holiday shopping:

• Park in well-lighted areas near sidewalks or walkways. Avoid parking near Dumpsters or large vans or trucks. These obstacles decrease ability to see the space around your vehicle, where carjackers could be hiding.

• Consider using the valet service if you are out shopping alone at night at a mall. Leave only the ignition key with no identification. (Keep registration and proof of insurance in your

wallet.)

• If you are shopping late at night and your car is parked in the lot, ask the store clerk if it is possible for store security to escort you to your car.

• If you leave purchases or wrapped gifts in the car, place them into the trunk and out of view.

• Even if burdened down with packages, try to keep one hand free with ignition key in hand. Look around and inside car before getting in.

• If threatened by a carjacker with a gun or other weapon, give up the car. Don't argue. A life is more important than any car.

• If you are carjacked or witness a carjacking, try to remember what the carjacker looked like — sex, height, build, race, age, hair and eye color. Once you are in a safe location, report the crime by dialing 911 or the police. Also report your information to HEAT's toll-free tip reward line at 1-800-242-HEAT. Your confidential information could be worth up to \$10,000.

HEAT rewards tip line callers up to \$1,000 if their tip leads to the arrest and binding over for trial of suspected theft ring members and/or chop shop operators. HEAT also rewards \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect.

Since its inception in 1985, HEAT has recovered 2,375 vehicles at \$26.8 million. HEAT has received 5,246 calls leading to the arrest of 1,960 suspects. HEAT has awarded more than \$1.7 million.



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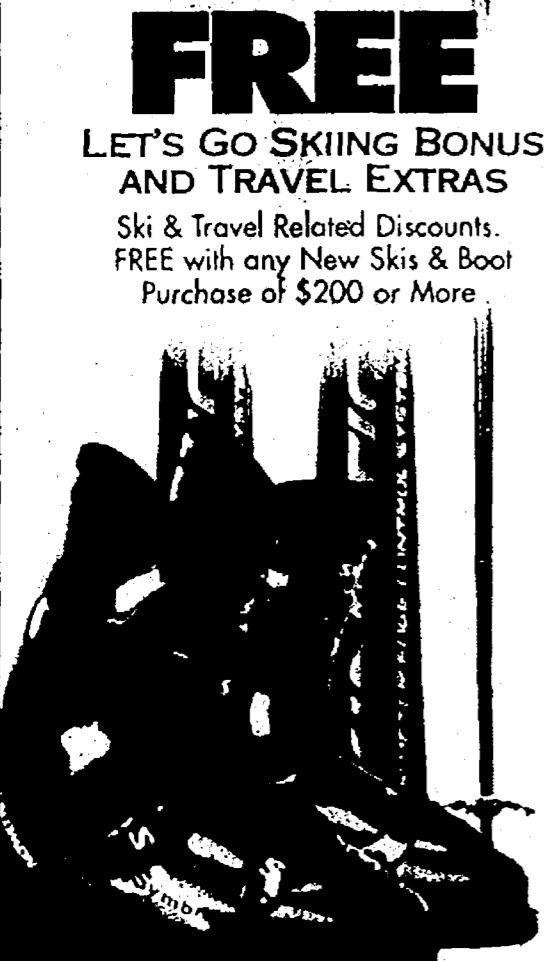
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Plymouth company relocates to expand

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

For Robert Bloch Jr., the move is about two blocks away.

But for his company, PMC Machinery Sales of Plymouth, it means more room — about 47,000 more square feet — in which he can expand his machine tool sales and distribution business at a 7.75 acre site in Northville Township.

The Northville site is located in the research and development area of county-owned property along Five Mile Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads. It is located just east of Optical Imaging Systems Inc.

Robert Bloch, Jr. purchased the property for \$1,012,770 from Wayne County's Economic Development Corporation, which will transfer the money to the county's general fund. County commissioners unanimously approved the land sale Nov. 20.

Bloch will lease the property to his company, PMC Machinery Sales of Plymouth Township. Bloch will lease his old building, which is zoned light industrial. PMC has been located in Plymouth since 1989.

"I moved to expand," Bloch said. "I would have stayed (in Plymouth), but I was landlocked." Bloch plans to build a headquarters building, a customer showroom and demonstration center.

Archie Clark, who represented the Wayne County Jobs and Economic Development Department, told commissioners at a study session on Nov. 18 he expected the project will result in a \$3.5 million in investment, retain 50 jobs and create 50 new ones.

Bloch told commissioners he planned on starting with 28,000 square feet, which would take care of the company's space needs for two years. Bloch expects to enlarge the building then to 75,000 square feet.

Commissioner Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, wondered if the \$130,680-an-acre price was comparable for western Wayne County. Bill Eisenberg, vice chairman of the Farbman Group, told Patterson it compared well to property along M-14.

About 32 acres remain for research and development at the Northville site.

Bloch will need site plan approval from Northville Township officials before he breaks ground on the new facility.

Bloch started PMC in 1983. It has been located in Farmington Hills, Livonia and Plymouth.

Residents can help, 'adopt' families

W4 Country (106.7 FM) is helping families with the W4 Country Adopt a Family Program, in conjunction with Volunteers of America.

W4 listeners and members of the public can call 1-888-6W4-1067, a toll-free number, to adopt a family this holiday season.

Volunteers of America hopes to adopt 500 families this year. Adopting families will receive a profile and wish list from the family they adopt. Sponsors are asked to provide one new toy, one new article of clothing per child and a food basket for the family's Christmas dinner. A gift certificate can replace the food basket. Volunteers of America accepts donations to be used to adopt families and assist with program costs.

In 1996 Volunteers of America helped 368 families and 42 senior citizens. Over 1,160 senior citizens were given a special Christmas thanks to the warm hearts of W4 Country's listeners.

Bill to repeal helmet law denounced by medical groups

House passage of a bill repealing the motorcycle helmet law is being denounced by medical interests.

"Absolutely unbelievable," said Dennis Rzakowski, chair of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan, headquartered in Brighton.

It's "ridiculous" that the bill exempted persons over 21 but kept the rule for those under 21, he said. "When the brain is

'As physicians we treat the victims of serious injuries from motorcycle accidents, and this bill could only create more injuries.'

Peter Duhamel
—surgeon

injured, it is permanent, regardless of a person's age."

The Michigan State Medical Society vowed to fight the bill in the Senate. Dr. Peter A.

Duhamel, Rochester Hills surgeon and MSMS president, said, "As physicians we treat the victims of serious injuries from motorcycle accidents, and

this bill could only create more injuries."

House Bill 4284 passed the House on a 58-44 vote and was sent to the Senate.

No rate hike

State officials say Michigan owners of sport-utility vehicles shouldn't be hit by insurance rate hikes occurring elsewhere in the U.S.

Reason: Michigan has a no-fault law. "In most instances, the driver responsible for the accident cannot be sued for medical expenses," said Gov. Engler. "The injured person's own auto insurance policy will pay all necessary medical and rehabilitation expenses as well as three years' replacement services and wage loss benefits."

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With today's grandparents "on the go," just where do grandchildren fit into the picture? Are they a burden or a privilege? Are grandparents functioning like extended parents as they have in the past?

Many parents say that the grandparents appear to be too busy or too distant from their grandchildren to be there for them. But you would be surprised to learn that most of them would like to be close to their grandchildren.

Is there great value in their being

Please see **SENSORS, B2**

Florist deck the halls at Fair Lane

■ The Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn is decked out in Christmas finery, thanks to the work of such local florists as Bruce Weber of Weber's Floral and Gifts in Livonia.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Upon entering the dining room at Fair Lane, the Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn, visitors are welcomed with the sweet smell of lilies of the valley and paper white narcissus.

Teddy bears designed from greenery present each other with gifts for the holiday season.

Bruce Weber, the owner of Weber's Floral and Gifts in Livonia for 20 years, has decorated the dining room for the past three years. This year's display, he said, represents a "sophisticated European-style" Christmas.

"It's a little quieter and a little more sophisticated than displays I've done in the past," said Weber, a Farmington Hills resident.

"It's a challenge to come up with a different look every year. This year, we decided to go with a real natural woodland look without getting 'typical Christmas.'"

The challenges included "how to get it all to come out and be wonderful," and looking for the right clay pots.

"If we were going with red or green, it would have been easy."

The bears, which took Weber and his assistant Robert Miller eight hours to design, stand in urns in front of the windows that overlook the grounds of the estate. In front of the bears, the dining room table is adorned with the delicate white flowers, greenery, candles and twinkling lights. A portrait of Clara Ford also is surrounded with greenery and candles.

"Henry Ford used to grow flowers in his greenhouse," Weber said. "All this is something that he could have forced



PHOTO BY JERRY MENDOZA

Deck the halls: Bruce Weber adjusts the candles set in greenery that decorate the sideboard beneath a portrait of Clara Ford. One of several local florists to help decorate Henry Ford Estate for Christmas, this is the third year he has been responsible for the holiday decor in the estate's dining room.

and brought here for the holidays. I wanted to keep it period with a modern twist."

Weber's decorations are a part of the holiday celebration at the national historic landmark. Tours are held at 10 and 11 a.m. and 1, 2 and 3 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays, and 1-4:30 p.m.

Sundays through Wednesday, Dec. 31. The estate is closed Christmas Day.

Tickets are \$7. Groups of 20 or more who make reservations are charged \$5 per person.

"If your family is going out, you can tour the estate together as opposed to going with a public tour," said Anne

Marie McElroy, special events coordinator at Fair Lane.

Fair Lane is hosting a variety of other events during the holiday season. Visitors are invited to a traditional English Cream Tea break along with a

Please see **DECORATIONS, B2**

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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Hissong-van Reesema

Minta Elizabeth van Reesema and David Cloyd Hissong were married May 31 by the Rev. Dr. Lynn Spitz-Nagel and Rev. Joseph Rinaldo at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Chelsea.

The bride is the daughter of Dr. Frederik and Carole van Reesema of Chelsea. The groom is the son of Jimmie and Anne Hissong of Livonia.

The bride is a 1988 graduate of Chelsea High School, a 1992 graduate of the University of Michigan and a 1995 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is employed as a training consultant at MSX International in Southfield.

The groom is a 1981 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School, a 1991 graduate of the University of Michigan and a 1997 graduate of the Ohio State University College of Law. He is employed as an attorney in the law firm of Cox, Hodgeman and Giarmarco in Troy.

The bride asked Jennifer Hirsch to serve as maid of honor and Martine Blogin as matron of honor. Clara Garcovich, Angela Welch, Christina Hinman and Janet Hissong served as bridesmaids. Lauren van Reesema was



the flower girl.

The groom asked Mark Grenier to serve best man with John Hissong, Tim Hissong, Willem van Reesema, Heath Mielke and Jason Thomas as groomsmen. Kevin Mayburn was the ring-bearer.

A reception was held at the Michigan League Ballroom at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Following a honeymoon in Europe, the couple is living in Farmington Hills.

Medalia-Baumbick

Floyd and Virginia Medalia of Sterling Heights announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Marie, to James Michael Baumbick, the son of James and JoAnn Baumbick of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor of arts degree and Notre Dame University with a master's degree in business administration and finance. She is employed as a financial analyst in product development at the Ford Motor Co.

Her fiancé is a graduate of the University of Michigan is graduating from Michigan State University this month with a master of business administration degree. He is a planning



supervisor at Ford Credit.

A February wedding is planned at St. Rene Goupil Church Sterling Heights.

Jenkins-Buck

George and Lois Janisse of South Rockwood and Robert and Kelly Jenkins of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter Lynn Ann Jenkins to Kevin Andrew Buck, the son of Gordon and Rosemary Buck of Novi.

The bride-to-be is a 1992 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School and is a student at Oakland University in Rochester. She is employed by Garden City Hospital.

Her fiancé is a 1988 graduate of Novi High School and a 1992 graduate of the University of Michigan. He is employed by ICI Polyurethanes.

A January wedding is planned at Holy Family Church in Novi.



Jenvey-Ellis

Alan and Donna Jenvey of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen Anne, to Dr. Donald Ray Ellis III, the son of Donald and Alana Ellis of Novi.

The bride-to-be is a 1996 graduate of Madonna University with a bachelor of science degree in psychology. She is employed by Barnes and Noble Book-sellers in Northville.

Her fiancé is a 1997 graduate of the Michigan State University School of Medicine. He is in his residency in family practice at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids.

An August wedding is planned at Holy Family Church in Novi.



Safranski-Plaisted

John and Susan Safranski of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jeanne Marie, to Jeffrey Carl Plaisted, the son of Phil Plaisted of Grosse Ile and Dee Unger of Brooklyn, Mich.

The bride-to-be is a 1989 graduate of Ladywood High School and a 1993 graduate of Michigan State University. She

is employed as a marketing manager for Einstein Bagels-Great Lakes Region.

Her fiancé is a 1986 graduate of Grosse Ile High School and a 1991 graduate of Michigan State University. He is employed as a senior account representative for Ameritech Inc.

An October wedding is planned at the Marygrove College Chapel in Detroit.

Schewe-Earle

Joseph and Marilyn Schewe of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Hoyt, to Michael James Earle, the son of James and Anne Earle of Orchard Lake.

The bride-to-be is a 1992 graduate of Ladywood High School and a 1996 graduate of the University of Michigan. She is employed by Tascor in Dallas, Texas.

Her fiancé is a 1992 graduate of Birmingham Brother Rice and a 1996 graduate of the University of Michigan. He is employed by I.B.M. in Dallas, Texas.

A May 1998 wedding is planned in St. Edith's Catholic Church in Livonia.



Grulikowski-Nielsen

Gregory Grulikowski and Krista Lee Nielsen were married Sept. 20 at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit by the Rev. Bernard Backie.

The bride is the daughter of Gary and Linda Nielsen of Northville. The groom is the son of Ted and Barbara Grulikowski of Brighton.

The bride is a 1986 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and a 1990 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in political science and economics. She is employed by Ford Motor Co.'s marketing and sales division as an operations manager for the New York Regional Sales Office.

The groom is a 1985 graduate of Edsel Ford High School and a 1989 graduate of Purdue University with a bachelor of science degree in management in 1989 and a master's degree in 1991. He is employed by Ford Motor Co.'s marketing and sales division as an operations manager for the Philadelphia Regional Sales Office.

The bride asked Shawn Lounsbury, Jean Nielsen, Kate



Nielsen and Amy Vorhees to serve as her attendants.

Dr. John Richard served as the groom's best man with Kirk Avila, Troy Frazer, Ted Grulikowski, Mark Linkmeyer, Kenneth Nielsen, Michael Nielsen and David Nielsen serving as groomsmen.

The couple greeted guests at The Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Following a honeymoon trip to Maui, Hawaii, they are making their home in New Jersey.

Open orientation will focus on Polish adoptions

Families interested in adopting children from Poland can find out more at an open orientation 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, at

the International Business Center, 43000 Nine Mile Road, between Meadowbrook and Novi roads, Novi.

The orientation is sponsored by Forever Families Inc., a non-profit licensed adoption agency providing one of the largest

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STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Ready for business: Anne Hyrila holds a plate full of Russian Kifli cookies that will be sold at the Christmas cookie walk at the Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia on Saturday, Dec. 13. Hyrila made more than 1,500 Kiflis for the walk.

Hospice holds nut sale

The holidays mean lots of parties with plenty of snacks. And Community Hospice and Home Care Services Inc. of Westland and Plymouth has just the snack for serving - nuts.

Sixteen-ounce packages of nuts are available for \$10 each with a portion of the sales funding the bereavement programs offered by CHHCS.

For nut lovers, there are cashews or a variety pack containing pistachios, German almonds, cashews and assorted nuts, party givers. The nuts are available at the CHHCS offices at 32932 Warren Road, Westland, and 127 S. Main St., Plymouth, through year's end.

The nuts also are for sale at

Decker's Florist, 8214 Merriman Road, Westland; Peoples Home Medical, 1646 Eureka Road, Southgate, and 1147 Wayne Road, Westland; The Flower Shop, 7787 Middlebelt Road, Westland; Remerica Realtors, 42875 Five Mile Road, Plymouth; Mind, Body and Spirit Institute, 38405 Joy Road, Westland; Catholic Social Services, 17332 Farmington Road, Livonia; Heide's Flowers and Gifts, 995 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth; Atkins Chiropractic Center, 33595 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia; Livonia Italian Bakery and Cafe, 33615 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, and Century 21 Today Realtors, 19500 Victor Parkway, Suite 190, Livonia.

Bakers' dozens

Church members ready for cookie walk

BY CHRISTINA FUCOCO
STAFF WRITER

When Anne Hyrila of Plymouth has company, store-bought snacks aren't good enough. She'll bake any one of a number of her favorite Russian treats.

Get-togethers for her church, Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia, are no exception.

Hyrila, who is of Ukrainian descent, has made 1,500 Russian Kifli cookies for the church's annual cookie walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. The church is at 36075 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. For more information, call (248) 476-3432.

Hyrila's project took two days. One day to make the dough, another to bake the cookies. She made eight recipes of Kifli which yield 192 cookies each. Half of the batch is filled with nuts, the other half has apricot filling.

"I made a half recipe yesterday, and it took me almost three hours to bake them," Hyrila said with a smile.

To make the sweet, flaky pastry, which is similar to Kolachy or Kolache, the dough is rolled out and cut into squares; a spoonful of filling is placed in the center of a square of pastry dough. Then the two opposite corners of the square are folded over the center and pressed down to cover some of the filling.

Hyrila's treats won't be the only ones available. Stuffed cabbage, sweet bread and nut, apricot and poppy seed rolls also will be available.

"There will be more than 40 varieties," said Anne Jury of Plymouth. "We have nut rolls, pretzel sticks that we drizzle chocolate on, zucchini bread, diabetic or low-sugar dessert bread. One of our girls is diabetic and she made 50 loaves."

Elaine Petouhoff of Livonia made 7,500 pierogis from January through November for the event.

Last year, cookie-lovers began lining up at 7:30 a.m. By noon, the church was sold out of cookies.

"The workers didn't even get

any," said Anne Jury, who along with Arlene Sudia and Evelyn Olszewskichaired the fourth annual event. "We have a mailing list of people who attended last year.

"We've already had people call-


ing to see if we're having a cookie walk again this year."

For this cookie walk, the women of the congregation have coaxed men into helping out with the baking.

All the treat-making partici-


pants donate their time and the ingredients for the cookie walk. Hyrila said that the camaraderie between the women makes it all worthwhile.

"It's nice working with the girls and just being together."



Children's '97 Directory

Children have many special needs... and because parents don't always have a lot of time, the Observer & Eccentric has created this unique directory to make life just a little easier.



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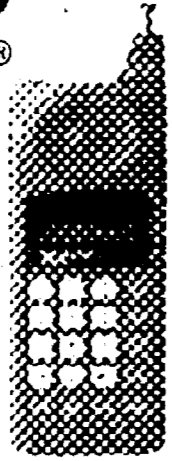
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ANNIVERSARIES

Stedman

Elmer (Gene) and Virginia Stedman of Plymouth celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by gathering with family and friends at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland and at her sister and brother-in-law's home for anniversary cake, refreshments and opening of gifts.

The couple met at Romulus High School in 1944 and have been together ever since. They were married at a high Mass at St. Stephen's Church in New Boston on Sept. 13, 1946. She is the former Virginia Zbikowski.

The couple has four children - daughters Susan Erbes of Iowa, Rebecca Schulte and husband Earl of Wayne, Laurie Smidt and husband Carsten of Utah and son David and his wife Konni of Wisconsin.

They also have seven grandchildren - Melissa, Michael, Shannon, Eric, Elizabeth, Kevin and Alexander - and a great-granddaughter, Taryn.

He retired in 1992 from Associated Spring Corp. in Saline and is a one-year survivor of lung cancer.



Major

Donald and Bernice Major of Zephyr Hills, Fla., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a dinner party, given by their children at Portofino Restaurant in Wyandotte.

The couple lived in Garden City for 33 years and in Ontario, Canada, before moving to Florida. They were married on May 3, 1947, in Tilbury, Ont. She is the former Bernice Lauzon.

They have six children - Gary and wife Kathe and Larry and

wife Sandy, all of Canton, Valerie O'Connor and husband John of Southgate, Douglas of Clearwater, Fla., Brian and wife Michelle of Romulus, and Janet Rice and the late Kevin Rice.

They also have 10 grandchildren - Joshua, Andrea, Michael, Matthew, Allison and Erin Major, Jeremy and Eric O'Connor and Adam and Nolan Rice - and one great-granddaughter, Rachel Dieter.

He is retired from General Motors-Cadillac.



Brown

F. Jerry and Nita Brown of Venice, Fla., formerly of Plymouth, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a family reunion held during the summer in Venice, and at a dinner with family and friends in November.

Fourteen-year residents of Plymouth, the Browns were married Nov. 1, 1947, in Detroit. She is the former Nita Lorraine Everson.

They have four children - Patrick of Wilton, Conn., Timothy of McLean, Va., Kevin of Melbourne, Australia, and Cynthia of Memphis, Tenn. - and four grandchildren.

He has been retired from advertising sales for 12 years.

They are active members of the University of Michigan Alumni Association of Sarasota, Venice Presbyterian Church and Jacaranda West Country Club.

Auction features Di bear

The owner of The Susan B. Ashlee Co. of Livonia is facing a bit of a dilemma.

Known for its gourmet gift baskets that contain Beanie Babies, the company has received hundreds of calls for the highly prized Princess Di Beanie Baby, but will only receive a dozen from the Ty Co.

"I sell so many Beanie Babies a day that I could not imagine trying to control the shoppers searching for Princess Di," said Susan.

Her solution is a silent auction for the Princess Di bear or a crystal "Princess" ring - one her best sellers this Christmas season. Proceeds will benefit Children's Hospital of Southeast Michigan and Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Individuals or business interested in placing a bid for either item can send their bid (indicate which item the bid is for) with your name, address and telephone number to the Susan B. Ashlee Co., P.O. Box 51743, Livonia 48151 or call (313) 422-8700.

Children and adults who would like to help out on a smaller scale can send a \$5 check, payable to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, with their name, address and telephone number for a Beanie Baby giveaway. Five lucky people will receive a retired Beanie Baby. Winners will be notified on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

Susan selected the two charities for very special reasons. Her five-year-old son was born with a congenital heart problem and is alive today, thanks to extensive surgery at Children's Hospital, while she was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at age 12 and has lived with the disease for 25 years.

Individual donations for the two charities also are welcome and will be forwarded to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and Children's Hospital.

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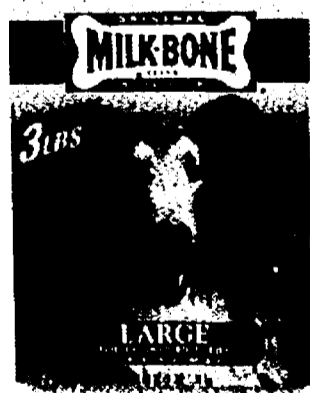
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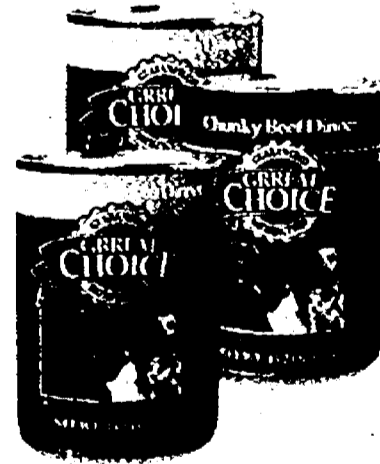


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GIRLS BASKETBALL

No sweat!

Borgess runs by Hancock, 54-21, to win 'C' crown

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Make that three Class C state championships in the last five years for the Redford Bishop Borgess girls basketball team.

Borgess made its fifth-straight trip to the Final Four a memorable one, rolling over Hancock, 54-21, in the championship game Saturday night at Central Michigan University's Rose Arena.

The feeling is twice as nice for senior guard Christina "Peaches" Anderson, and not just because this is the second medal she's won, being a member of the Spartans' last title team in 1994.

Anderson was one of three Spartans in double figures with 12 points on six of 10 shooting from the floor.

"My freshman year we had Maxann (Reese) and Adrienne (Bryant) and I contibuted but not as much as in this game," Anderson said. "This is real big being my senior year. I've got two gold medals and I'm fine with it."

Senior forward Koren Merchant and senior center Aiysha Smith joined Anderson in double figures with 16 and 10 points, respectively. They each tied for a team-high 10 rebounds as well, helping the Spartans enjoy a commanding 37-14 edge on the glass.

It was the end of a memorable week for Smith, who received the Miss Basketball award five days earlier.

Could Borgess be cornering the market on Class C titles? The school's boys basketball team won its first-ever state crown last winter and is favored to repeat.

"They supported us and we supported them," Smith said. "The principal (Sister Joan Charnley) is very happy for us, too."

The margin of victory was the largest ever for a girls state championship game. The win and Borgess' final record of 27-1 also creates some controversy as to who the state's mythical champion is.

The Spartans beat Class A semifinalist Flint Northern earlier in the year. Class A finalist Birmingham Marian handed Borgess its only loss in the Catholic League championship, but the Spartans won two regular-season meetings with the Mustangs.

Grand Rapids Christian won the Class A championship, finishing an undefeated season with a 58-56 win over Marian, earlier Saturday.

"We feel we can play with anyone," Mann said. "I don't know who the mythical champion is but I think Grand Rapids Christian can make the first claim."

As public pressure mounts to have the Spartans move up to Class B, where the competition is better, will the school oblige? The Spartans won Class C crowns in '93 and '94, were runnersup in '95 and semifinalists in '96.

"No, but thanks for asking," Mann said. "This is the second one in four years but we've been very disappointed the last two years. These kids (Anderson, Merchant and Smith) were able to go out the way they wanted."

Borgess led 10-5 after one quarter before outscoring Hancock 19-3 in the second quarter for a 29-8 halftime lead. The lead grew to 47-10 after the Spartans outscored the Bulldogs, 18-2, in the third quarter.

Hancock, which finished 24-3 overall, made six of 34 shots from the floor for an 18 percent clip. The Bulldogs didn't make a field goal in the third quarter and went 16 minutes and 50 seconds without a made shot, which was the time elapsed between early in the second quarter and early in the fourth quarter.

When Hancock beat Shelby in a semifinal game on Friday, Bulldogs coach Mike Williams knew his team won the battle for second place.

Senior guard Elizabeth Pietila, who made three of 17 shots, led Hancock with eight points.

"I felt looking at them yesterday they were 30 or 40 points better and I think the scoreboard showed that," Williams said. "We had one very good player (Elizabeth Pietaela) and the rest are marginal. For us, this was a tremendous season."

Please see CHAMPS, C9

Pats take care of business, 61-51

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

Aggressiveness and intensity are two things a coach likes to see from his basketball team.

Livonia Franklin demonstrated both characteristics early in Tuesday's 61-51 road win over Garden City.

But it actually got the Patriots in trouble.

Ahead 15-11 late in the first quarter, Franklin surrendered several easy drives to the basket by the Cougars' Mike Wrobel.

Garden City took a four-point lead at the end of the quarter as a result.

Patriots coach Dan Robinson said his team was being too aggressive.

"We were a little overzealous and not making smart plays," he commented.

Robinson told his team to settle down.

"I wanted them to play hard," he said, "but play smart."

Franklin did just that in the second quarter. A solid zone defense and balanced scoring attack allowed the Patriots to outscore Garden City 18-9 and take a five-point halftime lead.

Cougars coach Greg Williamson said his team had a bit of a let down late in the quarter.

"We got a little tired and a little tentative," he said. "They stepped up their pressure and we didn't handle it too well."

Livonia withstood a third quarter rally by Garden City and then pulled away in the fourth to win by 10.

"It was a good way to start the year," Robinson said. "We played a good brand of basketball tonight."

Eddie Wallace, a senior guard, led Franklin with 22 points, including 11 of 13 free throws. Back court partner Nick Mongeau added 18 points and seven steals.

"Mongeau is a heck of a player," Robinson said. "Defensively he understands the game. Offensively he understands the game. You've heard of players that are like coaches on the floor, that's what he is. He's like an extension of the coach on the floor."

Wrobel finished with 21 for Garden City (0-1). Brad Schroeder added nine points.

The Cougars appeared on their way to opening night success early in the second quarter. A basket by Schroeder made it 21-15 Garden City at 7:30.

But Franklin then came charging back.

An 8-0 run put the Patriots up 23-21 with 4:01 to go before halftime. Jacob Goedde completed a three-point play to put his team ahead.

The teams then traded baskets and the contest was tied at 28 with 40 seconds left in the half.

A Jay Fontaine basket and a three-point play by Wallace made it 33-28 Franklin at halftime.

The Patriots led by as many as eight in the third quarter, but Garden City rallied with the help of a Dan Fairchild three-pointer and baskets by Chris Barnier and Wrobel.

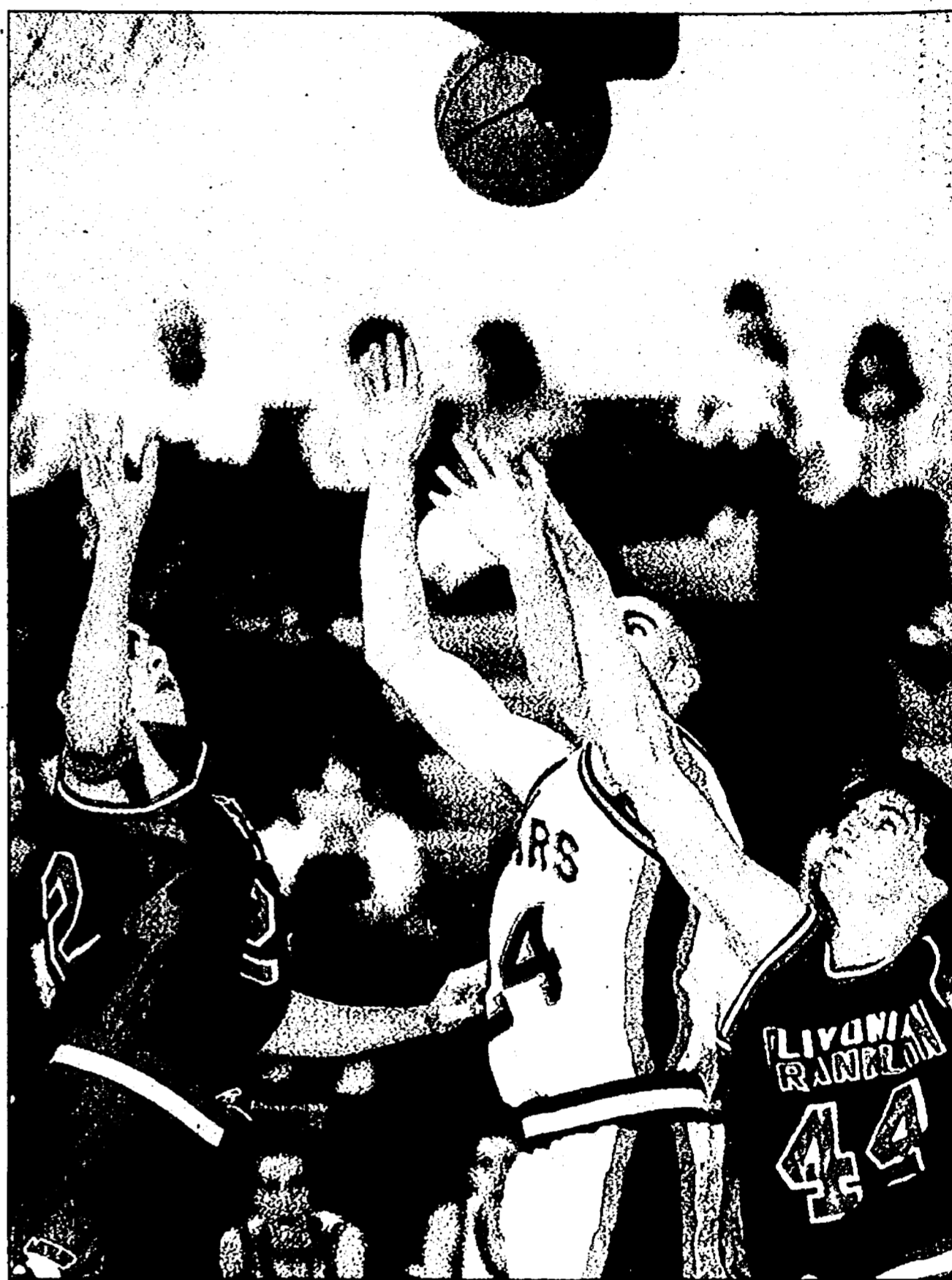
Wrobel's hoop, which was a follow of his own miss, came at 1:19 of the quarter and cut Franklin's lead to 43-42.

Nick Miller ended the rally with a basket for the Patriots and Wallace added a pair of free throws to give his team a five-point advantage heading into the fourth.

Garden City didn't get closer than four in the final frame.

Williamson felt his team was just a break or two from pulling the game out.

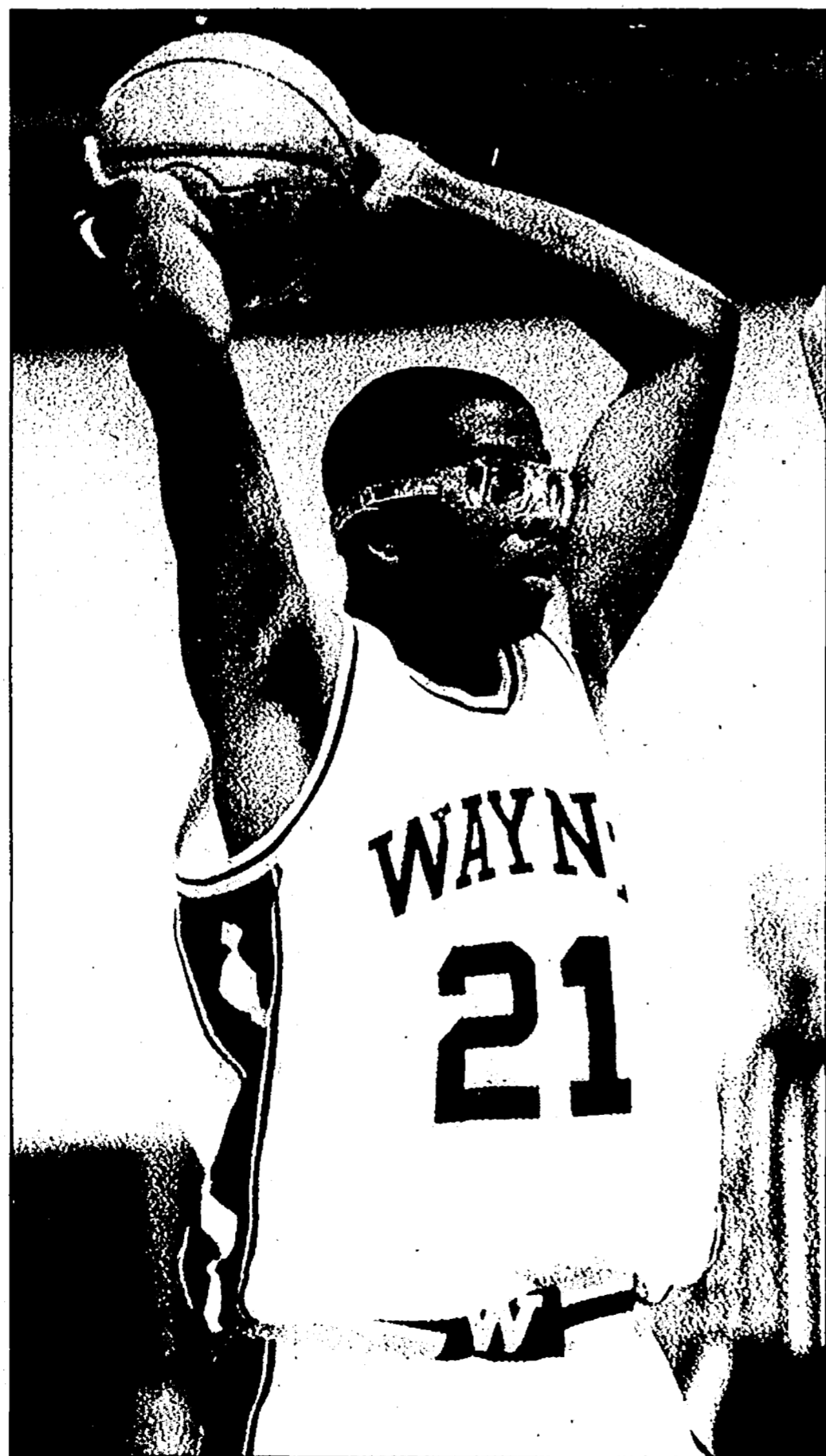
"I felt we had a chance the whole game," he said, "until the last 20 seconds."



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Inside action: Garden City's Mike Wrobel (center) tries for the rebound as Livonia Franklin's Brent Accurso (left) and Jay Fontaine (right) contest.

Wayne 60, Canton 49



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

Passing fancy: Wayne Memorial's Alf Williams looks for an open teammate during Tuesday's non-league game with Plymouth Canton. For a complete roundup of area games, turn to page C2.

Dearborn wipes out Churchill in opener

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The boys basketball season officially started Tuesday night with Livonia Churchill suffering from a bad case of the flu.

The host Chargers needed something to sooth their opening night jitters, coughing up the ball 39 times in a 78-54 loss to Dearborn.

Robitussin or Vick's Vapo Rub, however, couldn't sooth the turnover bug which started in the first quarter.

Dearborn, a Class A regional finalist with four of seven starters returning from last year's 14-11 squad, roared out to a 27-9 advantage after eight minutes and coasted the rest of the way.

"Right now we're in the middle of growing pains," Churchill second-year coach Rick Austin said. "We were playing with two starters, a freshman (Michael Copeland) and a junior (Justin Jakes), who were playing their first varsity game."

"I attribute part of it to inexperience and the other part to the fact that we haven't had enough time yet in the season to let them mesh."

"When our best players our together on the floor, we'll be competitive."

Austin held out two players for portions of the game because of an internal team matter, but it was unlikely the Chargers were going to stay with Dearborn anyway.

The Pioneers, who upset Detroit Cass Tech in the regional semifinal last March before losing in the next round to state runner-up Detroit Redford, ran roughshod over Churchill with a suffocating defense and fast-break.

"We've always been a pressing and running team," said Dearborn coach Dave Mifsud, who lost in his debut as head coach to Churchill in 1995. "We play hard man-to-man defense and we've got some good athletes."

"After we lost in the regional last year, we felt that in order to get to the next level, we had to improve our half-court defense. And tonight I thought we played great from that standpoint."

Churchill turned it over 12 times in the first quarter while the Pioneers quickly converted the mistakes into baskets.

The Chargers led 7-5 early as Jakes scored all seven points, including a three, but it was all Dearborn from that point on as the Pioneers went on a 20-0 run.

The surge was highlighted by a running slam dunk by 6-5 senior Jason Herrick, who finished with 10 points, and a three-pointer by 6-1 junior guard Colin Wilkinson, who led all scorers with 19.

All told, 10 different Dearborn players scored with Colin O'Donnell adding 12.

But to Churchill's credit, the Chargers didn't quit.

They were only outscored by just six, 51-46, over the final three quarters. But the damage had been done during the opening period.

"Dearborn traditionally plays an up-tempo offensive style and an in-your-face defensive style," said Austin, former Dearborn assistant. "We didn't use our pressure because we felt they'd thrive off that kind of tempo. But we didn't recover back defensively and that's what really hurt us."

Senior Corey Cook scored 11 to pace Churchill, while Jakes contributed 10 and senior George Kithas added nine.

The Chargers shot 22 of 56 from the floor (39 percent), while Dearborn was 27 of 62 (43 percent).

"It's back to the drawing board tomorrow," Austin said. "We'll work hard on fundamentals and coming together better as a team. You'll definitely see a better game Friday versus (White Lake) Lakeland."

Dearborn, meanwhile, has a date Friday at Livonia Franklin.

"We have some high goals this year," said Mifsud, who also doubles as the school's head football coach. "We want to work hard to where we got last year, and go a step further."

"Our halfcourt offense is the other major area where we hope to improve. We've made some progress, but we're not anywhere near where we want to be. We forced a lot of turnovers and we were running a lot, but we really didn't get into a set offense that many times."

Apparently turnovers were contagious because the Pioneers committed 26 themselves for a grand total of 66 between the two teams on the night.

Clarenceville tandem could be ticket to wins

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

If you're looking for one of Observerland's best one-two punches in boys basketball, then try out Livonia Clarenceville's co-captains — Justin Villanueva and Albert Deljosevic.

Coach Rick Larson, whose team opens its season Friday at Redford St. Agatha, returns a strong nucleus from last year's 10-11 squad.

Villanueva, a first-team All-Observer pick in football, is entering his third year on the varsity. Last season, en route to third-team All-Area honors, the 6-foot-4 senior center averaged 18 points and 11 rebounds per game.

Joining him will be Deljosevic, a 6-1 junior guard who has started on the varsity since his freshman year. Last season, Deljosevic averaged 15 points and four assists per game.

"I'm excited about this year because for the first time we have a good big man and guard combination," Larson said. "And it's no secret who we're going to go to."

Villanueva, whose first love is basketball, continues to improve.

"He works very hard," Larson said of his standout center. "We're going to get him on the wing and let him face the basket and play. And he should make us tough if get we can get him to finish on the break."

Deljosevic is also making strides in all departments of

PREVIEW

his game.

"Al's starting to mature," Larson said. "He understands the game more than he ever did before."

"He shows good creativity in the open floor, but right now he's a lot more team-oriented."

Clarenceville will run the break, but whether the Trojans can contend for the Metro Conference championship will depend on Larson's seven other players.

Slated to start Friday are two junior returnees from the varsity — 6-foot wingman Rick Murphy and 5-4 point-guard John Wallace.

Newcomer Rick Burack, a 6-3 sophomore forward, will also get the call.

Other promising newcomers include Corey McKendry, a 5-10 sophomore guard; Joe Lucas, a 5-11 junior forward; Adam King, a 5-10 junior guard; and Tim Riedl, a 6-1 sophomore forward.

Ben Sterling, a talented 5-11 junior guard and transfer from Alabama, could be the missing link if he becomes eligible during second semester.

"We'll see how our new players react at the varsity level," said Larson, who lost starters Jason Merritt and Donahue Fulton to graduation a year ago. "Right now I'd say University-Liggett (Grosse Pointe Woods) is the favorite in our conference. They have three good players returning."

Wayne stops Canton Chiefs

Apparently it's Brian Williams' turn to carry the torch for the Wayne Memorial boys basketball team.

The senior guard, one of the few holdovers from last year's 24-2 state Class A semifinal team, came up with a game-high 22 points Tuesday to lead the host Zebras to a 60-49 season-opening victory over Plymouth Canton.

Williams, who was Wayne's third guard last year behind Lorenzo and LaVelle Guess, got help from teammate Reddick Borkins, also a member of last year's squad.

Borkins, a senior guard, contributed 13. The Zebras jumped out to a 21-11 first-quarter advantage and extended that lead to 50-37 after three quarters.

"They had one run, but from there on it was a pretty even game," said Canton coach Dan Young, whose team was 16-7 a year ago. "We hung in there pretty well and handled their pressure fairly well. We rebounded fairly well, but we needed to get a little more balanced scoring. I was pleased with the effort. I was pleased with the fact that we hung in there."

Canton, which made 21 of 37 free throws on the night, got a team-high 21 points from junior guard Joe Cortellini.

Senior forward Eric Larsen and sophomore forward Dan McLean each added 10.

Wayne was seven of nine from the free throw line.

A.A. HURON 67, JOHN GLENN 58: Ramal Hunter scored 21 of his game-high 27 points in the opening half Tuesday to lead host Ann Arbor Huron to the season-opening victory over Westland John Glenn.

Huron led 34-23 at intermission before Glenn closed the deficit to 44-39 after three quarters.

The River Rats held on by outscoring the Rockets 23-19 in the decisive fourth quarter.

Senior Rotolu Adebisi added 13 points for

BOYS HOOP WRAP

Huron.

Stephan Lawson paced Glenn with 12, while Devin White and Yaku Moton each added 10.

Glenn was 13 of 18 from the free throw line, while Huron was 11 of 16.

WYANDOTTE 58, STEVENSON 43: An 18-0 run to start the game proved to be all Wyandotte Roosevelt needed Tuesday to turn back host Livonia Stevenson in the season debut for both teams.

Four Wyandotte players scored in double figures led by Ben Wojcik's game-high 15 points. Dwayne Justice chipped in with 13, while Matt Morrison and Kevin Lekity each had 10.

But it was point-guard Eric Salta who gave Stevenson fits.

"He was like lightning and we had a hard time matching up with him," Stevenson coach Tim Newman said. "He's the reason the other kids had all the points."

Matt Freeborn led Stevenson with eight points. Three others scored six.

Stevenson was only two of four from the free throw line, while Wyandotte was nine of 16.

HURON VALLEY 63, LIGHT & LIFE 56: Bill Ohlsson won in his debut as head coach Tuesday as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran, 1-18 a year ago, downed visiting Taylor Light & Life in a game played at Marshall Junior High.

Jeremy Zahn led the winners with 19 points.

Three others scored in double figures for the victorious Hawks including Jason Bytner and Nick Wisniske, 11 each; and Tom Husby, 10.

Huron Valley outscored Light & Life 15-10 to take control in the third quarter.

"We're in a different style game, more aggressive," Ohlsson said. "All nine played in the rotation. It was pretty much the effort level that won it for us tonight. It was a complete team effort."

Huron Valley was 17 of 41 from the line, while

Light & Life was 11 of 18.

ST. ALPHONSUS 58, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 57: Mark Russ scored on an offensive rebound while being fouled and converted the game-winning free throw with just 25 seconds remaining to give Dearborn St. Alphonsus the victory Tuesday over host Lutheran High Westland.

Russ finished with 15 points, while teammates Travis Spencer and Anthony-Ferrara each netted 10.

Jake Hatten scored a game-high 23 points for Lutheran Westland, scoring 12 in the third quarter as the Warriors rallied from a 32-24 halftime deficit to pull within one after three quarters, 41-40.

Tom Habitz contributed 15 points, while Brad Woelke had six points and eight rebounds in a losing cause.

REDFORD CC 87, GALLAGHER 50: Senior center Chris Young had career highs in points (32) and rebounds (19) on Tuesday night, leading the Redford Catholic Central to a lopsided victory over host Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher.

The Shamrocks also received solid contributions from three players off the CC football team, which recently finished a Class AA state championship season.

Junior guard Nick Moore had 14 points and nine assists and senior guard Joe Jonna, an All-Observer football player, had 12 points on four three-point baskets.

Maybe he's too sore still to take the ball to the basket.

"I thought we ran well," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "Three of our top six players only practiced one week (because of the extended football season). In light of that, I thought we played fairly well. Nick Moore did a nice job of getting the ball to different people and Chris Young did a great job of controlling the boards."

Calvin House had 22 points for Gallagher, which trailed 21-7 after one quarter and 46-24 at halftime.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Okonkwo spurs Ocelots' victory

Schoolcraft College got an outstanding all-around performance from Emeka Okonkwo in route to a 103-83 men's basketball victory Saturday over the host Siena Heights JV squad, 103-83. Okonkwo, a 6-foot-2 swingman from Ann Arbor Pioneer, scored 25 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, passed for eight assists and made six steals.

"It was Emeka's best-game of the year," Schoolcraft first-year coach Carlos Briggs said.

Derek McKelvey added 24 for Schoolcraft (7-2) and Kevin Melson contributed 21. Second-year point-guard Pete Males (Garden City) had 13 points and five assists.

George King led the Siena JV with 22 points.

The JV squad tried to press Schoolcraft, which is averaging better than 100 points this season, without much luck.

"We attacked their pressure and got a lot of layups," said Briggs, whose team outscored Siena Heights 60-34 in the second half.

The Ocelots shot 57 percent from the floor, but shot only 15 of 30 from the free throw line.

MARYVILLE (MO.) 88, MADONNA 72: Cold second half shooting led to defeat for the Fighting Crusaders (1-9 overall) in Saturday's consolation game of the Illinois Benedictine Tournament.

ROUNDUP

Madonna trailed Maryville 44-40 at the half. But the Crusaders shot just 35 percent from the field in the second half and wound up losing by 16 in Lisle, Ill.

John-Mark Branch played well in defeat for Madonna by scoring 19 points, grabbing five rebounds and making five assists. Mark Hayes scored 16 points and Nick Hurley notched 15 for the Crusaders.

Maryville was led by Henry Shannon's 33 points.

In Friday's first-round game Friday, Madonna fell to Mount Mercy 100-90.

The Crusaders again had a halftime deficit of four, but couldn't comeback. Hayes, a swingman from Birmingham Seaholm, did his best to keep Madonna in the game by scoring 36 points.

He connected on 15 of 31 shots from two-point range and also made 3 of 10 from behind the three-point arc. Hayes hit three of four free throws, too.

Hurley, a Plymouth-Canton product, finished with 22 points and five assists.

Mount Mercy (Ia.) was paced by Mike Conrad's 26 points.

COLLEGIATE NOTES

■ Three ex-Observerland players are seeing considerable action for the University of Michigan: Dearborn men's basketball team, which fell Tuesday to host Oakland University, 67-59.

Rudy Hatfield, who played at Livonia Churchill and Schoolcraft College, shared team-high scoring honors with teammate Charles Johnson with 18 points. Hatfield also grabbed eight rebounds.

Chris Tiernan (Lutheran Westland) added eight points, while Tom Laco (Redford

Catholic Central) had five as the Wolves dropped to 1-12 on the year.

OU, which moves into the NCAA Division I ranks next season, is 5-6.

■ Olivet College, ranked No. 25 in the latest NCAA Division III wrestling poll, recently extended its dual meet record to 10-0 after capturing the Lawrence University Tournament as Robert Fowler (Livonia Churchill) took fourth in the heavyweight division.

■ The University of Michigan women's volleyball team was

eliminated in the second round of the NCAA Tournament Friday by host Texas A&M.

Michigan finished the year 21-12 as middle hitter Anne Poglits finished the regular season with a 1.86 kill and 0.4 block averages. She had a career-high 13 kills Sept. 19 against Duke and added 12 kills each against No. 16 ranked Michigan State (Oct. 3) and No. 10 Wisconsin (Oct. 10).

Poglits, a computer engineering major, is a two-time Academic All-Big Ten selection.

■ Livonian Jenny McDevitt (Farmington Hills Mercy) appeared in eight games as a first-year member of the Kenyon (Ohio) women's field hockey team which finished 14-6 overall.

WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 11

PCA Eagle semifinal, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12

Dearborn at Franklin, 7 p.m.

Stevenson at Fordson, 7 p.m.

John Glenn at Wayne, 7 p.m.

Salem at A.A. Huron, 7 p.m.

Luth. Westland at Ann Arbor, 7 p.m.

Taylor Truman at Thurston, 7 p.m.

Crestwood at Garden City, 7 p.m.

Lakeland at Churchill, 7:30 p.m.

Monroe at Canton, 7:30 p.m.

Clarenceville at St. Agatha, 7:30 p.m.

N. Farm at Lapeer West, 7:30 p.m.

PCA Eagle semifinal, 7:30 p.m.

Huron Valley at MLHS Tourney, TBA.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Andover at Farmington, 2 p.m.

PCA Eagle championship, 7 p.m.

Huron Valley at MLHS Tourney, TBA.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 12

OCC at K'zoo Valley Tourney, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13

OCC at K'zoo Valley, 2 or 4 p.m.

Grand Rapids at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 11

Wayne State at Madonna, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Madonna at Lake Superior, 5:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Friday, Dec. 12

Stevenson vs. W.L. Central at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Redford Union vs. W.L. Western at Lakeland Ice Arena, 2:20 p.m.

Stevenson at Royal Oak, 8 p.m.

Redford CC vs. Wyandotte at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Thursday, Dec. 11

Ply. Whalers at North Bay, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12

Ply. Whalers at Sudbury, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14

Ply. Whalers at Toronto, 1:35 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Saturday, Dec. 13

Madonna Invitational, 8:30 a.m.

Allen Park Invitational, 8:30 p.m.

South Lyon Invitational, 9 a.m.

Huron Invitational, TBA.

TBA — time to be announced.

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SKIING

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING PREVIEWS

Trojans optimistic about contending for Metro crown

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Todd Skinner joined Grant Gordon as co-coach at Livonia Clarenceville last year and things are starting to look up for the Trojans' wrestling program.

"Along with a lot of experience coming back, we have a lot of newcomers," Skinner said. "But we're looking at the first .500 season we've had in a long time at Clarenceville and we're definitely looking at a shot at winning the Metro Conference."

"Last year we ended up finishing third at the end of the conference tournament. We're looking to redeem ourselves and bring home a possible conference championship."

Helping Gordon and Skinner will be Dan Boynton, former state qualifier John Rose, Clint Kraft, the just-graduated Chris Lakner and Bob Sade.

Lakner was a Metro Conference champion last year. The other key loss for the Trojans was Eric Ledda, a regional qualifier.

Clarenceville's top returnee is Craig Rose, a two-time state qualifier who made All-Observer last year at 152 pounds and will wrestle at 152 and 160.

Rose, a tri-captain, was 40-7 a year ago, but missed the state

meet because of a knee injury. "He's back 100 percent," Gordon said of Rose, who has an 80-37 career record. "He's effective because of his ability and know-how on the mat. He's always in control. He's a very hard worker in the room."

Other returnees along with Rose include Kris Krolczyk (145) and Eric Tondreau, who placed second in the conference at 125 pounds and will stay there or move up to 130.

Another key returnee comes off the football team, where he gained more than 1,500 yards rushing in Walter Ragland (189), who was a Metro champion with a 28-9 record a year ago.

Three-year starter Dave Lemmon (125 or 130) returns with Josh Rose (215 or heavyweight), Tony Rachoza (160 again) and Danny Tondreau (103).

"We have eight returning starters plus Kevin Silye (160 or 171), who got a lot of junior varsity experience," Skinner said.

In addition, Clarenceville has a slew of promising newcomers: Dan LeClerc (135), Brian Kennedy (145 or 140), Matt Wehl (171), Mike Hudson (130), Jesse Gierak (119 or 125), George Gostias (140), Steve Morris (140), Matt Agar (140), Jeff Potter (145), Steve Rotenheber (171), Adam Marcum (171),

Mark Schuler (215), Chris Katrib (215 or heavyweight) and Mike Manning (215), a transfer from Mayville.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND

Maybe this is the year that Lutheran High School Westland's string of Metro Conference championships comes to an end. Then again, maybe it isn't.

"We've got a young team again," veteran Coach Dennis Tuomi of Lutheran Westland said. "We always start off slow. We're hoping these people develop."

"We've had three consecutive titles or portions of titles. We like to think that we have a chance at another. But the league is stronger, so I don't know if we're going to make it or not."

Tuomi's key loss from last season is Matt Meyer, who placed fourth in the state in Class C at 275 pounds last year.

The Warriors do return some regional qualifiers, however.

Eric Falkenberg will compete at 119 or 125 pounds this year while Andrew Ebendick will wrestle at 130 and Scott Archer at 171.

Another key returnee is Ryan Moser at 145, plus Chris Sprow-Ferntz at 140, Josh Meyer at 189 and Kyle Difatta at 215.

Sophomores Ben Brown (103) and Brian Clark could play key roles while Tuomi has eight freshmen, some of whom will emerge. They are Adam

Haller, Jason Tobkin, Drew Gerds, Brenton Dion, Jonathan Burke, Paul Ellis, James Molnar and Kevin Packard.

"We hope to grow," Tuomi said. "We hope to make growing a tradition."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Another coach hoping his young grapplers learn quickly is Wayne Memorial's Dave Davis.

"We've got a lot of new faces," Davis said. "It's difficult to say who's going to be in the starting lineup."

"At the beginning of the season we might want to call it rebuilding, but at the end we hope to call it reloading."

"If they learn quick, we could be all right. We've learned quick before. If we can do it again, we might surprise some people."

Key losses for the Zebras include George Buckner, who finished second in the state in his weight class (215), and Rich Watson (130), who was third in his class in the state.

Also gone are John Nichols, who was seventh (119), Pat Grzecki (189), who was eighth, and regional qualifier Jim Siwula.

"That's five tough guys who are gone," Davis said. "But we do have a

few standouts."

They include William Laramee at heavyweight, Nate Wensko at 119 or 125 and Keith Britt, who will wrestle at 145 or 152 pounds.

"We have a lot of other guys who wrestled that should fill in the gaps," Davis said, "but I'm still looking at a lot of new people."

"Our practices have been good. This will be a good test for them."

Wayne Memorial, a regional semifinalist, was 19-6 a year ago.

Matching that, however, will be a feat.

"Obviously, we're not going to have quite the same team as we did last year," Davis said. "I would like to think we can stand in there and wrestle against other teams, though."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

John Fedulchak and Jake Tharp took individual wrestling titles Saturday to highlight Westland John Glenn's performance in the Ypsilanti Tournament.

Fedulchak was tops in the 152-pound division while Tharp won all of his matches at 215. Coach Dave Hill said both had outstanding tournaments.

He thinks Fedulchak will go a long

way this winter.

"He'll be difficult to beat," Hill said. "He was a regional qualifier last year. I don't believe he'll have difficulty qualifying for the state finals this year."

As a team, the Rockets didn't meet with as much success. Westland finished sixth out of eight schools.

Northville ran away with the Ypsilanti Tournament, said Hill. Belleville was second and Saine finished third.

John Glenn's other top performer Saturday was Matt Biddinger. The senior captain placed second at 160 pounds.

Tharp, a sophomore, is off to a fast start this year. He's 5-0 with five pins to his credit.

"He's a powerful young man," said Hill.

The coach added that Tharp is an excellent student. He carries close to a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

"He's a highly intelligent, motivated athlete," said Hill.

The rest of the Rockets' squad is young this season.

Hill said the team is dominated by sophomores.

"We hope to continue to build," he added. "We're hoping to have a good team in a couple of years."

See weekend mat results below

Rose, Ragland individual champs

Livonia Clarenceville is off to a strong start in boys wrestling.

The Trojans took a pair of firsts Saturday en route to a second-place finish in the nine-team River Rouge Invitational Tournament.

St. Clair Shores Lakeview took the team title with 160 points, while Clarenceville was second with 134.

Co-coach Todd Skinner said it was Clarenceville's best invitational finish since 1988.

"We have a very positive atmosphere in the room and expectations are very high," said Skinner. "And I believe it's the best team we've had around here in 10 years."

Skinner also went as far to say that Clarenceville boasts "the best team in Livonia."

Clarenceville senior Craig Rose, an All-Observer first-team pick a year ago, repeated his Rouge title at 160 pounds. He won his first two matches by pin before scoring a 7-2 victory in the final over Livonia Churchill's Brian Panczyzyn.

Junior Walter Ragland (189) also took first in his weight class.

Runner-up finishers for the Trojans included Eric Tondreau (135), Danny Tondreau (103) and

Dave Lemmon (130).

Thirds went to Tony Rachoza (171), Dan LeClerc (140) and Mike Manning (215).

Sophomore Josh Rose (heavyweight) added a fourth, while Kris Krolczyk (145) finished sixth, giving Clarenceville 10 placers on the day.

Zebras win twice

Wayne Memorial jumped to a 2-0 start with dual-meet wins last week over Westland John Glenn and Mayville.

The Zebras beat host Westland in the opener, 53-21, then took care of Mayville in the second match by 53-20.

Coach Dave Davis said his team should be competitive all season.

"We're not as strong as last year," he added. "But we're hoping to challenge the (contending) teams."

If last week's matches with the rival Rockets and Mayville, a Division III school from the thumb area, is an indication, Davis may be in for a pleasant surprise.

The Zebras dominated John Glenn, leading 32-0 before surrendering a match to the Rockets.

"It was not an easy time,"

Davis said in noting the score. "We had a lot of matches that could've gone either way."

Superior conditioning was key, he commented.

"At the end of periods," Hill commented, "we started to go ahead. Conditioning was in our favor. That made the difference."

Zebras' winners included: Paul Goyt, void (103); Mike Kasabni, pin (112); Nate Wensko, decision (125); Jason Sienko, decision (135); Keith Britt, pin (145); Kirk Spann, void (152); Dave Bell, decision (171); Kevin McLaughlin, decision (189); James Wallace, pin (215) and Will Laramie, decision (heavyweight).

Wayne didn't have as much luck Saturday at the Trenton Invitational. The Zebras placed eighth out of 17 schools.

Laramie was Wayne's lone champion as he took the heavyweight title by winning two matches and taking a third by injury default.

Wensko finished third at 119 pounds. Britt also took third in the 145-pound division.

"We never seem to wrestle well at Trenton," Davis said. "My team wrestled sluggishly."

FINAL BEST GIRLS SWIM LISTING

Following are the best girls swim times and diving scores by Observerland athletes.

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Livonia Stevenson 1:48.54
Farmington Hills Mercy 1:51.76
North Farmington 1:52.19
Plymouth Salem 1:54.04
Farmington Harrison 1:56.30

200 FREESTYLE

Amy McCullough (Mercy) 1:54.03
Julie Kern (Stevenson) 1:54.14
Elizabeth MacDonald (Mercy) 1:56.20
Betsy Lambert (Mercy) 1:56.94
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy) 1:58.78
Meghan Mocerri (Ladywood) 1:58.98
Kelly Carlin (Mercy) 1:59.92
Angela Smetkowsky (Churchill) 2:00.13
Lindsay Fetters (Harrison) 2:00.46
Teri Hanson (Canton) 2:00.52

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy) 2:09.50
Lindsay Fetters (Harrison) 2:11.82
Katie Clark (Stevenson) 2:13.55
Kelly Carlin (Mercy) 2:14.55
Julie Kern (Stevenson) 2:15.18
Hannah Pawlewicz (N. Farm.) 2:15.43
Becky Noechel (Stevenson) 2:16.98
Christina Mocerri (Ladywood) 2:17.00
Amy McCullough (Mercy) 2:17.01
Adrienne Turri (Stevenson) 2:18.13

50 FREESTYLE

Hannah Pawlewicz (N. Farm.) 34.38
Jordyn Goddard (Stevenson) 24.89
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy) 25.01
Adrienne Turri (Stevenson) 25.22
Teri Hanson (Canton) 25.27
Jessica Makowski (Stevenson) 25.33
Kelly Carlin (Mercy) 25.40
Christina Mocerri (Ladywood) 25.40
Dana Schwalm (Harrison) 25.43
Amy McCullough (Mercy) 25.45

DIVING

Laurel Dolin (Stevenson) 254.00
Becca Gould (Mercy) 243.15
Katy Ballantine (Stevenson) 226.60
Jennie Marchand (John Glenn) 224.70
Jamee Pullum (Mercy) 218.75
Michelle Wallon (Salem) 211.40
Katie Braine (Mercy) 206.05
Nikki Hagmann (Churchill) 195.50
Elizabeth Stoier (N. Farmington) 190.50
Jennifer Dewaele (Harrison) 189.25

100 BUTTERFLY

Hannah Pawlewicz (N. Farm.) 58.07
Julie Kern (Stevenson) 58.97
Erin Downs (Mercy) 59.71
Julie Kern (Stevenson) 1:00.71
Teri Hanson (Canton) 1:00.90
Katie Clark (Stevenson) 1:00.96
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy) 1:01.28
Jenny MacDonald (Mercy) 1:01.49
Adrienne Turri (Stevenson) 1:02.02
Marla McKenzie (Stevenson) 1:02.71
Kelly Carlin (Mercy) 1:02.94

100 FREESTYLE

Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy) 53.26
Kelly Carlin (Mercy) 54.56
Julie Kern (Stevenson) 54.99
Hannah Pawlewicz (N. Farm.) 55.15
Christina Mocerri (Ladywood) 55.35
Dana Schwalm (Harrison) 55.35
Elizabeth MacDonald (Mercy) 55.60
Jessica Makowski (Stevenson) 55.61
Adrienne Turri (Stevenson) 55.63
Teri Hanson (Canton) 55.84

600 FREESTYLE

Amy McCullough (Mercy) 5:02.07
Julie Kern (Stevenson) 5:03.50
Meghan Mocerri (Stevenson) 5:04.80
Betsy Lambert (Mercy) 5:15.14
Elizabeth MacDonald (Mercy) 5:15.78
Julie Kluka (Harrison) 5:17.78
Christina Mocerri (Ladywood) 5:18.09
Hannah Pawlewicz (N. Farm.) 5:18.41
Adrienne Doyle (Churchill) 5:19.45

Meghan Lesnau (Stevenson) 5:20.00

200 FREESTYLE RELAY

Livonia Stevenson 1:38.03
North Farmington 1:41.50
Farmington Hills Mercy 1:41.52
Plymouth Salem 1:43.65
Livonia Churchill 1:46.80

100 BACKSTROKE

Adrienne Turri (Stevenson) 59.46
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy) 1:00.18
Lindsay Dolin (Stevenson) 1:00.48
Jessica Makowski (Stevenson) 1:00.82
Amy McCullough (Mercy) 1:01.63
Marla McKenzie (Stevenson) 1:02.99
Tara Grider (N. Farmington) 1:03.24
Kelly Carlin (Mercy) 1:03.26
Katie Callan (Mercy) 1:03.37
Cheri Farber (N. Farmington) 1:03.61

100 BREASTSTROKE

Lindsay Fetters (Harrison) 1:07.33
Neva Alver (N. Farmington) 1:08.02
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy) 1:09.03
Marla McKenzie (Stevenson) 1:09.28
Katie Bonner (Salem) 1:11.71
Becky Noechel (Stevenson) 1:12.17
McKenzie Mayne (Mercy) 1:13.09
Jennifer Bendick (N. Farmington) 1:13.15
Tina Cavicchioli (Farmington) 1:13.85

400 FREESTYLE RELAY

Farmington Hills Mercy 3:38.02
Livonia Stevenson 3:39.88
Farmington Harrison 3:44.00
Plymouth Salem 3:48.40
North Farmington 3:54.49

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Whalers move into 2nd-place tie

The Plymouth Whalers got back on the winning track Sunday with a 6-1 home victory over Erie.

Jesse Boulerice scored a pair of goals to lead Plymouth past the Otters. The Whalers moved into a second place tie with Sarnia in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division.

OHL HOCKEY

Plymouth opened scoring in Sunday's game. Harold Druken scored unassisted at 11:27, which was the left winger's 12th goal of the season.

Erie's lone goal came less a

minute later. Geoff Peters scored on an assist from Colin Pepperall.

The Whalers broke the game open in the second period with a pair of goals. David Legwand, who leads OHL rookies in scoring, got his 31st of the season and Boulerice scored his first of the night.

Plymouth tallied three more times in the third. Sergei Fedotov, Yuri Babenko and Boulerice all scored.

Robert Esche played in goal for Plymouth and stopped 25 of 26 shots.

The two teams played Saturday at Compuware Arena as well, but with a much different result. Erie outgunned Plymouth 8-5.

The Whalers fell behind 3-1 after one period and never recovered. Legwand scored a pair of goals while Kevin Holdridge, Eric Gooldy and Andrew Taylor each added a goal.

PLYMOUTH 8, WINDSOR 2: Playing Dec. 4 on the road, Nikos Tselios scored a hat trick to lead the Whalers to an easy victory.

Ahead 5-2 in the third period, Tselios scored three straight goals in less than 10 minutes. The defenseman now has five goals on the season.

His performance upstaged the torrid Legwand. He scored a pair of goals in the game. Taylor (2) and Julian Smith also scored for the Whalers.

Windsor is in last place in the OHL's West Division.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Gaining control: Yuri Babenko of the Plymouth Whalers keeps the puck in front of him during Saturday's 8-5 loss to Erie Otters.

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White's natural hat trick lifts Franklin 3-1 victory

Call Jeremiah White "The Natural."

The junior left winger scored all three Livonia Franklin goals in the second period as his hat trick led the Patriots to a 3-1 win over host Walled Lake Western in a Suburban High School Hockey League game played at the Lakeland Ice Arena.

Franklin improved to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in the South Division. Western, which received a first-period goal from Dan Norris, is 2-3 and 0-3.

Two of White's three goals came off the power-play.

Justin Sawyer assisted on two of the scores, while Tony Saia, Brandon McCullough, Trevor Skocen and Dave Tyler each added one.

Franklin netminder Phil Brady stopped 23 of 24 shots.

"It was a best outing in three years," Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt said of his senior netminder. "He was a very important part of the victory."

Franklin also used a 1-2-2 defensive lock to stymie the Warriors.

"The team came out and played the system very well," Jobbitt said. "It's a pure defensive system. When you work it and when you're disciplined, it works."

"We had only two lines (because four players were out), so playing a 2-1-2 was kind of risky."

In other games played last week:

REDFORD CC 2, A.A. PIONEER 2: Redford Catholic Central and Ann Arbor Pioneer played to a tie on Saturday in a Metro Hockey League game played at Redford Ice Arena.

PREP HOCKEY WRAP

Pioneer scored a power play goal at 10:08 of the second period to erase a 2-1 deficit.

The tie left the Shamrocks with a 2-0-1 record overall and in the Metro.

Greg Berger and Todd Bentley scored the CC goals.

Berger's goal, assisted by Ian Devlin, came with 25 seconds left in the first period and gave CC a 1-0 lead.

Pioneer came back and tied the score with a goal at 3:35 of the second period. The Shamrocks took their second lead when Bentley scored, assisted by Joe Beaudoin.

The Shamrocks outshot the Pioneers, 26-24.

CC senior goaltender Rick Marnon played well in net, according to coach Gordie St. John.

"We didn't handle our defensive zone well, giving up the puck," St. John said. "We had all sorts of turnovers in the wrong zone. Marnon did a very good job and Pioneer played very well, well enough to tie us."

Last Wednesday, CC earned a 6-1 victory over Ann Arbor Huron at the Ice Cube in Ann Arbor.

Erik Hawkins scored two goals and Jason Tardif, Pat O'Dea, Devlin and Bentley had one each.

Tony Keshishian collected three assists while Tardif, Berger and O'Dea earned two each.

Jim Melton and Keith Rowe had one assist apiece.

The goalie was Marnon, who had 10 saves.

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AGE-GROUP SWIMMING RESULTS

Spartan Aquatic team shines in Thanksgiving Classic meet

Amanda Smith and Michael Maul were individual standouts for the Livonia-Novi Spartan Aquatic Club were among the top finishers in the Thanksgiving Classic swim meet Nov. 22-23 at Churchill High School.

In the Girls 11-12 category, Smith earned firsts in the 50- and 100-yard breaststroke; 100 backstroke; 50- and 100 butterfly; 100- and 200 freestyle; 100- and 200 IM.

Maul, competing in the Boys 8-and-under division, finished first in the 25-yard backstroke; second in the 50 breaststroke and 100 individual medley; third, 25-, 50- and 100 freestyle; fourth, 25 breaststroke, 25- and 50 butterfly.

OTHER SPARTAN FINISHERS

Boys open: Robert Cambridge — first place, 100-yard butterfly; second, 100 and 200 backstroke; 400 breaststroke, 200 butterfly; 400 individual medley; fourth, 200 IM; sixth, 50 freestyle; Michael Kruszewski — first, 200 breaststroke; second, 200 IM; third, 400 IM; fourth, 100 freestyle; 200 backstroke, 200 butterfly; fifth, 100 backstroke; Geoffrey Lowes — second, 100 breaststroke, 100 butterfly; third, 100 butterfly, 400 IM; fifth, 100 and 200 backstroke.

Girls open: Michelle Anstee — sixth, 100 breaststroke; Natalie Aristeo — second, 200 butterfly; Elizabeth Cambridge — fifth, 100 breaststroke; sixth, 100 butterfly, 200 IM; Jessica Koch — first, 100 freestyle; second, 200 freestyle, 200 IM; third, 50 freestyle; fourth, 100 butterfly, 400 IM; Deirdre Schwirning — first, 400 IM; third, 100 butterfly; Emily Sondergaard — fifth, 400 IM; Katy Sondergaard — first, 200 IM; second, 100 breaststroke; fifth, 100 butterfly.

Boys 11-12: Robert Lowes — third, 100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke; fourth, 50 backstroke, 50 butterfly, 200 freestyle; fifth, 100 IM; sixth, 100 freestyle; Stephen Taylor — fifth, 100

backstroke, 200 freestyle; sixth, 50 freestyle; Drew Voytal — third, 50 butterfly; fourth, 100 freestyle, 100 breaststroke; fifth, 50 backstroke.

Girls 11-12: Jacqueline Bayliss — first, 50 butterfly, 100 breaststroke; second, 50 breaststroke, 100 IM; third, 200 IM, 20 freestyle; fourth, 50 backstroke; fifth, 100 freestyle, 100 backstroke; Lauren Dickerson — fourth, 50 backstroke, 100 butterfly; sixth, 50 breaststroke, 200 freestyle; Kristine Elrod — fourth, 200 freestyle, 200 IM; sixth, 50 and 100 backstroke; Andrea Giczewski — first, 50 freestyle, 50 backstroke; second, 100 freestyle, 100 butterfly; third, 100 and 200 IM, 200 freestyle; fourth, 50 breaststroke; sixth, 100 breaststroke; Laura Hermann — first, 50 backstroke, 100 freestyle, 100 backstroke, 200 IM; second, 100 breaststroke; third, 100 butterfly; fourth, 50 breaststroke; Tiffany Kelly — third, 100 breaststroke; fourth, 100 butterfly; sixth, 100 backstroke, 200 IM; Amy Kolodsky — second, 50 backstroke; third, 100 backstroke; fifth, 200 IM; sixth, 100 butterfly, 100 IM, 200 freestyle; Cynthia Lebron — third, 50 butterfly; sixth, 200 IM; Lindsey Scypta — fourth, 50 butterfly; Katy Sondergaard — fifth, 100 freestyle.

Boys 10-and-under: Joseph Bashara — first, 100 IM; second, 100 and 200 freestyle; third, 100 backstroke, 100 IM, fourth, 50 freestyle; sixth, 50 breaststroke; eighth, 50 butterfly; ninth, 50 backstroke; Carlos Blanco — 10th, 50 butterfly; Brad Farris — second, 100 butterfly; third, 50 butterfly; fourth, 200 IM; fifth, 50 and 100 breaststroke, 100 IM, seventh, 50 backstroke; eighth, 100 backstroke, 200 freestyle; 10th, 100 freestyle; Matthew Kennedy — sixth, 50 backstroke; eighth, 100 breaststroke; ninth, 100 IM; Lewis Park — seventh, 100 freestyle; Nathan Quay — seventh, 50 backstroke; eighth, 100 IM; Matthew Swift — fourth, 100 backstroke; fifth, 50 and 100 breaststroke; eighth, 50 freestyle; ninth, 50 butterfly, 200 freestyle; 10th, 50 backstroke; Kyle Taylor — 10th, 100 IM.

Girls 10-and-under: Lauren Bair —

third, 50 and 100 freestyle; fifth, 50 backstroke; 200 freestyle seventh, 100 butterfly; Megan Buwalda — 10th, 100 breaststroke; Katie McDonald — first, 200 freestyle; second, 100 breaststroke; Tanya Paolocco — first, 50 and 100 freestyle; second, 50 butterfly; third, 200 IM; fourth, 200 freestyle; fifth, 100 IM; seventh, 50 backstroke; eighth, 100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke; ninth, 50 breaststroke; Stephanie Sawda — first, 100 breaststroke; second, 50 backstroke, 200 IM; third, 50 breaststroke; 100 backstroke, 100 IM; fourth, 100 backstroke, 100 IM; fifth, 50 butterfly; 10th, 50 freestyle; Alyssa Schwirning — fourth, 100 backstroke, 200 IM; sixth, 50 freestyle; ninth, 100 freestyle; Elizabeth Hrivnak — third, 50 breaststroke; sixth, 200 IM; seventh, 100 backstroke; ninth, 50 freestyle.

Boys 8-and-under: Kyle Hermann — first, 50 and 100 freestyle, 100 IM; second, 25 backstroke, 50 breaststroke; fourth, 50 backstroke; fifth, 25 breaststroke, 25 butterfly; sixth, 25 freestyle; Matthew Lee — eighth, 25 breaststroke; Charlie Turlo — second, 25 breaststroke; fifth, 100 freestyle; seventh, 50 backstroke; 10th, 50 freestyle; Scott Wegener — second, 50 butterfly; third, 25 butterfly, 50 breaststroke, 100 freestyle; 100 IM; fourth, 50 backstroke; fifth, 50 freestyle; sixth, 25 breaststroke; seventh, 25 backstroke; eighth, 25 freestyle.

Girls 8-and-under: Kristine Chaklos — fourth, 25 breaststroke; Brittany Eilers — second, 100 freestyle; third, 25 butterfly; fourth, 50 breaststroke, 100 IM; seventh, 25 breaststroke, 50 freestyle; eighth, 25 and 50 backstroke; Katherine Elrod — second, 25 backstroke; fourth, 50 backstroke; sixth, 25 breaststroke; ninth, 50 freestyle, 10th, 25 butterfly; Adrian Turlo — first, 25 breaststroke; second, 50 breaststroke; fifth, 25 butterfly, 50 freestyle; sixth, 100 freestyle, 100 IM; Claire Wick — third, 25 breaststroke; fifth, 50 backstroke; eighth, 25 butterfly, 50 breaststroke, 100 freestyle, 100 IM.

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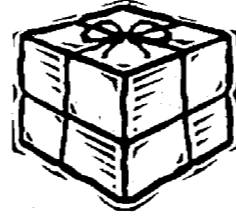


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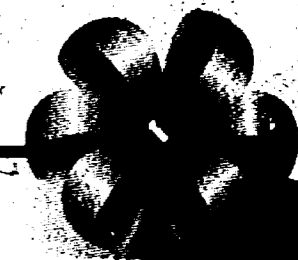
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ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SWIMMING

It's a star-studded team

BY C.J. RISAK STAFF WRITER

Two teams dominated the Observerland area in girls swimming. And there were a handful of swimmers on other teams that also made their mark during the season.

The teams are well known to anyone familiar with swimming — Livonia Stevenson, which finished fourth at the Class A state meet, and Farmington Hills Mercy, which placed sixth.



Greg Phill Coach of the Year

But these two teams did not monopolize the area's talent. In fact, there was such depth that the Observer had to expand its 1997 swim team to accommodate all those who earned it.

Choosing a Coach of the Year was no easy task, either. Two stood out from the crowd: Mercy's Jim Downs and Stevenson's Greg Phill.

Both guided their teams to strong showings at the state finals after winning their respective conference meets. Both are deserving.

The honor this year goes to Stevenson's Phill. The reason is simple enough: His team was best, and for the seventh-straight year the Spartans were best in the Western Lakes Activities Association, too.

Without further ado, here is the 1997 Observerland girls swim team, in order of event.

FIRST TEAM

Livonia Stevenson, 200-yard medley relay: Adrienne Turri, Jordyn Godfroid, Jessica Makowski and Marti McKenzie teamed in this event throughout the season and "this combination worked out really well," according to Phill.

Their best time of 1:48.59 was a school record. They placed second at the state final and were WLAA champions.

"Their great season came about because of the commitment these four girls made to this relay," said Phill.

Julie Kern, Livonia Stevenson, 200-yard freestyle: A junior, Kern's whole season seemed to be built on bests. "Julie spent the whole season swimming best times," said Phill.

Kern won both the 200 and 500 freestyles at the WLAA meet (setting a meet record of 5:05.41 in the latter), was first in the 500 free at the MISCA meet and placed sixth in the 200 free at state (1:57.14).

Her accomplishments earned her Stevenson's most valuable swimmer award.

Elizabeth Posvar, Farmington Mercy, 200-yard individual medley: As the event she specializes in indicates, Posvar did a bit of everything for Mercy this season. And the sophomore did it well.

At the Oakland County meet, she was third in the 200 IM and fourth in the 100 backstroke. At the Catholic League finals, she placed first in both the 50 free (25.01) and 100 breaststroke (1:09.03).

And at the state championships, Posvar finished fourth in the 200 IM (2:09.76) and sixth in the 100 free (53.56). Both her relays scored at state, too.

Posvar qualified for state in every individual event. She was the high-point scorer for Mercy this season.

Jordyn Godfroid, Livonia Stevenson, 50-yard freestyle: Godfroid contributed to the Spartans' success both in and out of the water.

In the water, Godfroid turned in strong performances in the 50 at the WLAA meet (third in 24.96) and at the state final (ninth in 24.89); she was also third at the WLAA meet in the 100 breast (1:10.59). And her relays both scored at state.

Out of the water, the senior served as a team captain, taking the responsibility seriously. "Jordyn really stepped up when needed this year," said Phill. "She showed not only great leadership but a tremendous passion to win."

Katy Ballantine, Livonia Stevenson, diving: A sophomore, Ballantine improved throughout the year, upgrading her degree of difficulty from meet to meet.

Stevenson's most valuable diver, she followed up a fourth at the WLAA meet with a 12th at the state championships (335.20 points for 12 dives).

"Katy showed great poise at all the big meets this year," said Phill, "especially at the state meet."

As her coach described it, it was the best year of her short career, but bigger — and better — things await.

Hannah Pawlewicz, North Farmington, 100-yard butterfly: Like Mercy's Posvar, Pawlewicz was a do-everything, qualifying for state in seven of the eight individual events.

Her best was the 100 fly, an event in which she finished second in at state in 58.07. Pawlewicz was also fifth at state in the 50 free (24.42).

Her competitive nature was evident — the freshman did not lose an individual event race in dual meets all season. She set pool and team records in both the 50 free and 100 fly.

Pawlewicz won the 100 fly at the WLAA meet (59.50) and was second in the 50 free (24.38).

"She is a tremendous all-around swimmer," said North coach Pat Duthie. "She's a hard worker and possesses a very positive attitude and competitive spirit."

Kelly Carlin, Farmington Mercy, 100-yard freestyle: Carlin's performances in the relays, as anchor in the 200 medley and as the lead-off in the 400 free relay, were outstanding. Indeed, she proved to be capable of strong freestyle swimming no matter the distance.

She was second in the 100 free at the Oakland County meet and was a double-winner at the Catholic League finals in the 200

(1:59.92) and 500 (5:21.14) free. Her best time in the 100 free (54.68) came leading off the 400 free relay.

"She swam a super anchor leg in the 200 medley relay at state for a seventh," said Downs. "And she had a great lead-off leg (at state) in the 400 free relay. It provided a big spark for the team."

Amy McCullough, Farmington Mercy, 500-yard freestyle: Perhaps the best thing to note about McCullough, certainly to her coach, is that she's just a freshman.

McCullough finished in the top seven in two individual events at state, placing third in the 200 free (1:54.03) and seventh in the 500 free (5:02.07). She was also a double-winner in individual events at the Catholic League meet, capturing the 200 IM (2:17.01) and the 100 backstroke (1:02.26).

Her clocking in the 500 free broke a 17-year-old Mercy team record. "As a ninth-grader, she's just exploring her talent," said Downs. "But she's already (swimming) with the 'big dogs'."

Livonia Stevenson, 200-yard freestyle relay: You can't do any better than win your last race of the year — particularly if it's in the state finals.

That's what Stevenson's Marti McKenzie, Jordyn Godfroid, Katie Clark and Julie Kern managed to do. In fact, they didn't lose a race all season, winning all their dual-meet competitions, finishing first at the WLAA meet (1:39.8, a meet record) and then collecting a victory at the state championships (1:38.04).

"These four girls got together and just refused to lose," said Phill. "There was never any question that they could win the state meet. They just needed to come together at the right time, and they did."

Adrienne Turri, Livonia Stevenson, 100-yard backstroke: A senior, Turri warmed up for the state finals by finishing second in the 100 back at the WLAA finals (1:00.83).

She bettered that with a lifetime best at the state meet, finishing seventh in 59.26.

Turri qualified for state in five individual events. At the WLAA meet, she was also fourth in the 100 freestyle (55.63).

"Adrienne worked harder this year than ever and reaped the benefits," said Phill. "She's been a great asset to our team. We'll miss her very much."

Lindsay Fetters, Farmington Harrison, 100-yard breaststroke: Fetters matched her state-meet performance of the previous year, scoring in both her individual events. Her best: a fourth-place in the 100 breaststroke (1:07.47). She was also eighth in the 200 IM (2:11.77).

At the WLAA finals, Fetters — a sophomore — placed first in both events, winning the 100 breast in 1:07.36 and the 200 IM in 2:12.15.

Farmington Mercy, 400-yard freestyle relay: Well, if there's anything that should bolster the Marlins' hopes for the future, it's in this relay.

Kelly Carlin, Amy McCullough, Elizabeth MacDonald and Elizabeth Posvar combined to finish fifth at the state final (3:38.02). At the Catholic League finals, only MacDonald was a part of Mercy's first-place finisher (3:46.98).

Of the four that swam on the relay at state, Carlin and Posvar are sophomores and McCullough and MacDonald are freshmen.

SECOND TEAM

Farmington Mercy, 200-yard medley relay: Katie Callan, Elizabeth Posvar, Erin Downs and Kelly Carlin teamed to place seventh at the state meet (1:51.89). Callan is a senior; the other three are sophomores.

Mercy was the Catholic League champ, too (1:55.40), with Callan, Posvar, Jenny MacDonald and Danielle Clayton.

Elizabeth MacDonald, Farmington Mercy, 200-yard freestyle: A freshman, MacDonald placed eighth at the state meet in the 200 free (1:56.77). She was second in the Catholic League in the 100 free (56.34).

Mercy coach Jim Downs called MacDonald "a workaholic with a great future. She's already established herself at state level competition."

Katie Clark, Livonia Stevenson, 200-yard individual medley: A sophomore, Clark was out of action with a shoulder injury until Oct. 16. She still finished second at the WLAA finals in both the 200 IM (2:13.56) and 100 butterfly (1:00.96).

Clark was "probably only at 50 percent at state meet," said Phill. "But with all her problems, she still gave the team the best she had to offer."

Teri Hanson, Plymouth Canton, 50-yard

freestyle: Hanson qualified for state in four events, including the 50 free, in which she was clocked at 25.27. An ear infection kept her out of the WLAA meet and hampered her late-season performance.

"Teri is a very hard worker and dedicated swimmer," said Canton coach Sarah Eubanks. "She excels both in the pool and academically. We look forward to having her back for her senior year."

Laurel Dollin, Livonia Stevenson, diving: Dollin, a junior, qualified for the state finals for the second consecutive year. At the WLAA meet, Dollin placed second (440.5 points).

"Laurel overcame a nagging back injury to give Stevenson another excellent season," said Phill.

Erin Downs, Farmington Mercy, 100-yard butterfly: Her coach could not ask much more from this sophomore, who happens to be his daughter. She improved from 15th in the 100 fly at state a year ago to fifth this season (58.97). She won the same event at the Catholic League meet (1:01.08).

"She trains hard, she competes hard, and she's team-oriented," said her father/coach.

Christina Mocerl, Livonia Ladywood, 100-yard freestyle (tie): Mocerl made her first year competing at Ladywood — she's just a freshman — a memorable one, making the state cut in six individual events, setting team records in seven events and going undefeated in all her individual dual-meet races. Her best time in the 100 free was 55.35.

"Christina is a great morale team-booster, in and out of the water," said Ladywood coach Randy Ferguson. "The things she accomplished as a freshman most swimmers dream about for a lifetime."

Dona Schwalm, Farmington Harrison, 100-yard freestyle (tie): Schwalm's best time in the 100 free — 55.35 — matched Mocerl's. Schwalm, a senior, turned hers in at a good time, finishing first in the event at the WLAA finals.

Schwalm was also fourth at the league meet in the 50 free (25.43), qualifying for state in both.

Meghan Mocerl, Livonia Stevenson, 500-yard freestyle: Mocerl, a sophomore, followed up her second-place finishes in the 200 free and 500 free at the WLAA meet with an 11th at the state final in the 500 free (5:10.66).

"Meghan is a very hard worker and a big-meet performer," said Phill. "When we needed someone to step up, Meghan was always there."

North Farmington, 200-yard freestyle relay: The Raiders' foursome of Tara Grider, Cheri Farber, Kristen Burke and Hannah Pawlewicz started off the season by setting a meet record in winning the 200 free relay at the WLAA Relays.

Eventually, they set a team record and finished third at the WLAA finals (1:41.5). At state, they placed just out of the scoring.

Lindsay Dollin, Livonia Stevenson, 100-yard backstroke: Dollin began her career at Stevenson (she's a freshman) by swimming lifetime bests in all her events. In the 100 back, she placed third at the WLAA meet (1:01.31) and was 11th at state (1:00.6).

"Lindsay was one of only nine freshmen to score at state," said Phill. "She did a wonderful job for us this year, and we're looking forward to the next three."

Neve Alver, North Farmington, 100-yard breaststroke: Just like you're supposed to — Alver saved her best swim for last, clocking 1:08.02 in the 100 breast at the state final to finish sixth. The junior was second at the WLAA meet (1:10.21).

"Neve Alver . . . is a tough and confident competitor," said North coach Pat Duthie. "Neve has a very strong, positive mental attitude and determination which allowed her to overcome injury and less than optimal training to have a great state meet."

Livonia Stevenson, 400-yard freestyle relay: The lineup in this relay changed often during the season, with Julie Kern, Jessica Makowski, Meghan Mocerl and Adrienne Turri combining to win the event at the WLAA meet (3:42.78). Kern, Makowski, Meghan Lesnau and Mocerl teamed to place eighth at state (3:39.78).

"We played with this relay a lot over the year," said Phill. "But these four girls came together huge at the state meet when we needed them."

Jessica Makowski, Livonia Stevenson, at-large: Makowski, a sophomore, earns an individual spot on the all-Observer team by virtue of her scoring performance at state. She finished 12th in the 100-yard backstroke (1:02.01).



Kelly Carlin Farmington Mercy



Katy Ballantine Livonia Stevenson



Lindsay Fetters Farmington Harrison



Jordyn Godfroid Livonia Stevenson



Julie Kern Livonia Stevenson



Amy McCullough Farmington Mercy



Hannah Pawlewicz North Farmington



Elizabeth Posvar Farmington Mercy



Adrienne Turri Livonia Stevenson



Neve Alver North Farmington



Christina Mocerl Livonia Ladywood



Katie Clark Livonia Stevenson



Erin Downs Farmington Mercy



Teri Hanson Plymouth Canton



Laurel Dollin Livonia Stevenson



Lindsay Dollin Livonia Stevenson



Elizabeth MacDonald Farmington Mercy



Meghan Mocerl Livonia Stevenson



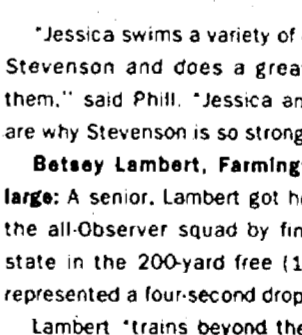
Dona Schwalm Farmington Harrison



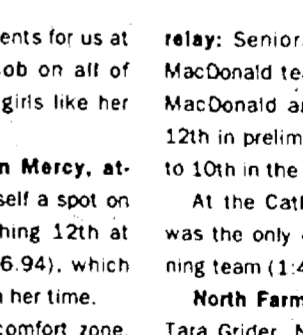
Betsy Lambert Farmington Mercy



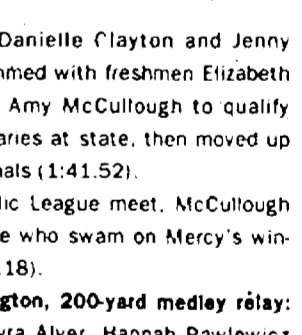
Jessica Makowski Livonia Stevenson



Teri Hanson, Plymouth Canton, 50-yard



Freestyle: Hanson qualified for state in four events, including the 50 free, in which she was clocked at 25.27.



Freestyle: Hanson qualified for state in four events, including the 50 free, in which she was clocked at 25.27.



North Farmington's 200-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Cheri Farber, Tara Grider, Kristen Burke, Hannah Pawlewicz.



Stevenson's 400-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Jessica Makowski, Meghan Mocerl, Meghan Lesnau, Julie Kern.



Mercy's 200-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Elizabeth MacDonald, Danielle Clayton, Jenny MacDonald, Amy McCullough.



North Farmington's 200-yard medley relay: (from left) Tara Grider, Neve Alver, Hannah Pawlewicz, Cheri Farber.



Mercy's 400-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Amy McCullough, Kelly Carlin, Elizabeth Posvar, Elizabeth MacDonald.



Mercy's 200-yard medley relay: (from left) Kelly Carlin, Elizabeth Posvar, Erin Downs, Katie Clark.



Stevenson's 200-yard medley relay: (from left) Adrienne Turri, Jordyn Godfroid, Jessica Makowski, Marti McKenzie.



Stevenson's 200-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Marti McKenzie, Jordyn Godfroid, Katie Clark, Julie Kern.

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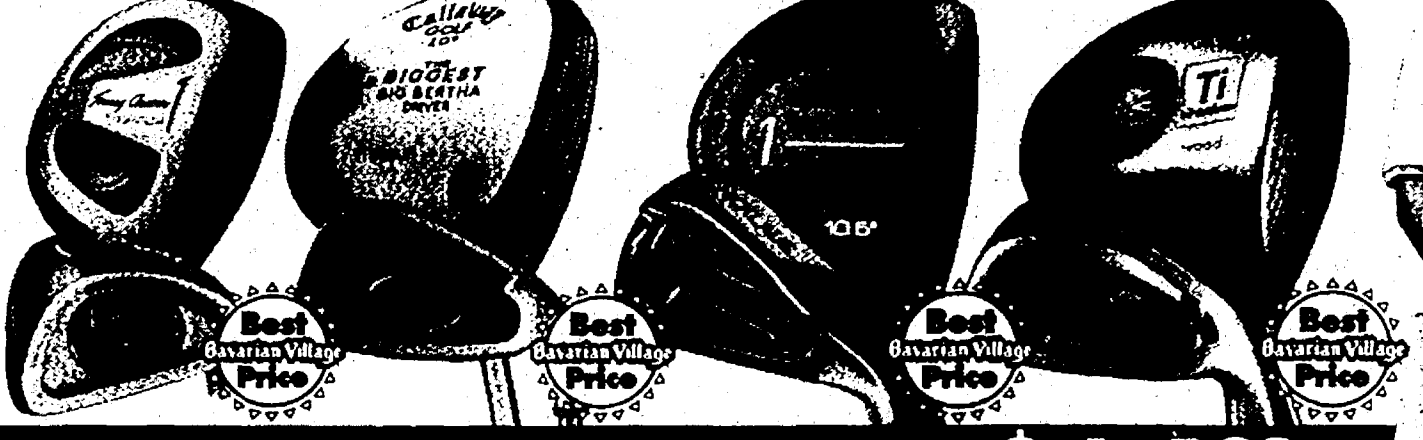
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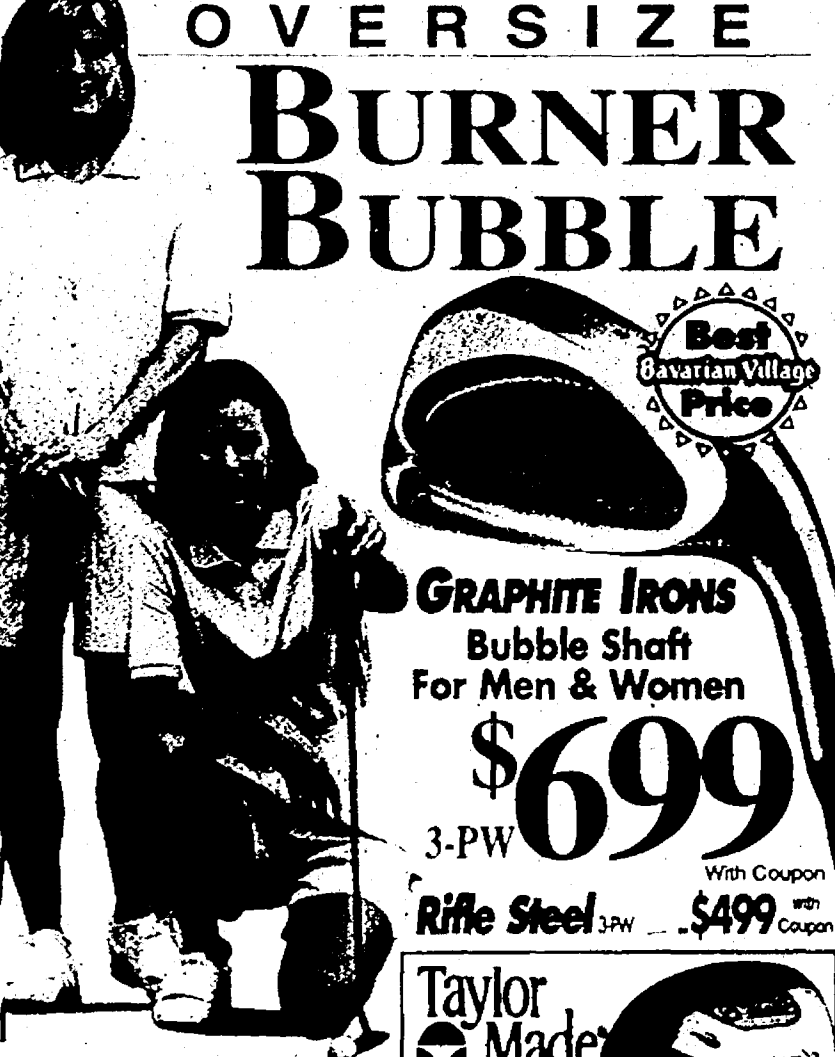


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| • ANN ARBOR 3336 WASHITENAW West of U.S. 23 313-973-9340 | • DEARBORN HEIGHTS 2632 FORD RD. 1/2 mile W of Telegraph 313-562-5560 | |
| • EAST LANSING 246 E. SAGINAW at Abbott 517-337-9696 | • FLINT 4261 MILLER RD. across from Genesee Valley Mall 810-732-5560 | |
| • GRAND RAPIDS 2035 28th Street S.E. bet. Breton & Kalamazoo 616-452-1199 | • TRAVERSE CITY 107 E FRONT ST. (Bayside Entrance) 616-941-1999 | |

DAILY 10-9 • SATURDAY 10-9 • SUNDAY 11-7
AMERICAN EXPRESS • VISA • MASTERCARD • DISCOVER • DINERS

CALENDAR

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND WESTLAND

SPECIAL EVENTS

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
Applications for toys from The Westland Goodfellows for Westland residents only are available at the following locations: Dorsey Center (32715 Dorsey), Westland Chamber of Commerce (36610 Ford Road) and Westland City Hall (36600 Ford Road). Applications must be submitted by 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12.

TOWN HALL MEETING
U.S. Rep. Lynn N. Rivers will be holding a town hall meeting 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, in the Dorsey Community Center at 32715 Dorsey in Westland. The meeting will be an open forum at which attendees are free to discuss a wide range of subjects with the congresswoman. Rivers will begin the program by discussing recent actions in the 105th Congress. She will then open the floor to questions. The program is designed to provide participants with an opportunity to raise issues, offer concerns and become informed about current congressional activities. For more information, call Michelle Heikka in Rivers' district office at (313) 722-1411.

SURPLUS FOOD PROGRAM
The city of Westland will be having its surplus food program at the Dorsey Community Center on the following dates and times: Palmer, Stieber, Merriman and Wildwood roads, which is known as Norwaye and Oak Village: between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. All other residents excluding Precinct 28: between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers may call their building manager for their day of distribution. For December, applesauce, beef, corn flakes, canned potatoes, grapefruit juice and salmon will be distributed. For questions call the Dorsey Center's hotline at (734) 595-0366.

DECORATING CONTEST
The 11th annual "Christmas Decorating Contest," sponsored by the Westland City Council, is open for nominations, according to the chairwoman of the event, council president Sandra Cicirelli. Residential displays will be judged by members of the city council and plaques will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1998. The council will look at all nominations on Monday, Dec. 22. Anyone wishing to nominate themselves or another resident for this award may call City Clerk Diane J. Fritz at (313) 467-3190 or (313) 467-3191. Deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. Those selected for the awards will be notified by the city clerk.

WHITE CHRISTMAS CONTEST
If you are in kindergarten through fifth grade and live in the city of Westland, you can compete to win a guaranteed white Christmas. Draw a poster of what your house would look like covered in snow on Christmas day. Include your name, address, phone number, the grade you are in and the name of the school you attend on your poster. Entries must be brought or mailed to the Bailey Recreation Center at 36651 Ford Road, behind City Hall in Westland, by Monday, Dec. 15. The winner will be notified by Dec. 21. If there isn't any snow on the ground on Dec. 23, a truckload of snow will be dumped on the winner's front lawn on that date. If

there is snow already covering the ground, another prize will be given.

TREE OF MEMORIES
A Tree of Memories will be on display until Wednesday, Dec. 24, during mall hours at Wonderland Mall in Livonia. For a donation, patrons can buy golden angel ornaments in memory of loved ones and then hang the ornaments on the memory tree. The event, in its eighth year, is run by and all proceeds benefit Community Hospice and Home Care Services Inc.

WINTER CONCERT
A Winter Concert, featuring the Schoolcraft College Wind Ensemble performing seasonal works, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Radcliff Center, 1761 Radcliff Road in Garden City.

CHAMBER EVENTS

BOWLING OUTING
The Westland Chamber will be hosting the Winterfest Bowling Outing from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, as part of Westland Winterfest '98. (313) 326-7222.

RECREATION

RECREATION AND FUN
A recreational get-together for teens and adults who are disabled will be the second Friday of each month at the Westland Bailey Center. (313) 722-7620.

FIGURE SKATING
The Westland Figure Skating Club is forming an Adult Introductory Precision Team. The team is for those who want to have fun with other skating adults and get good exercise. Practices are 6-6:50 a.m. Saturdays. All levels are welcome. For information, call (313) 722-1091.

VOLLEYBALL
Open volleyball is offered for those age 18 and older 6:30-8 p.m. the second and fourth Friday of each month at the Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, Westland. All skill levels play just for fun. There is no charge. Baby-sitting is provided. For information, call (313) 722-3660.

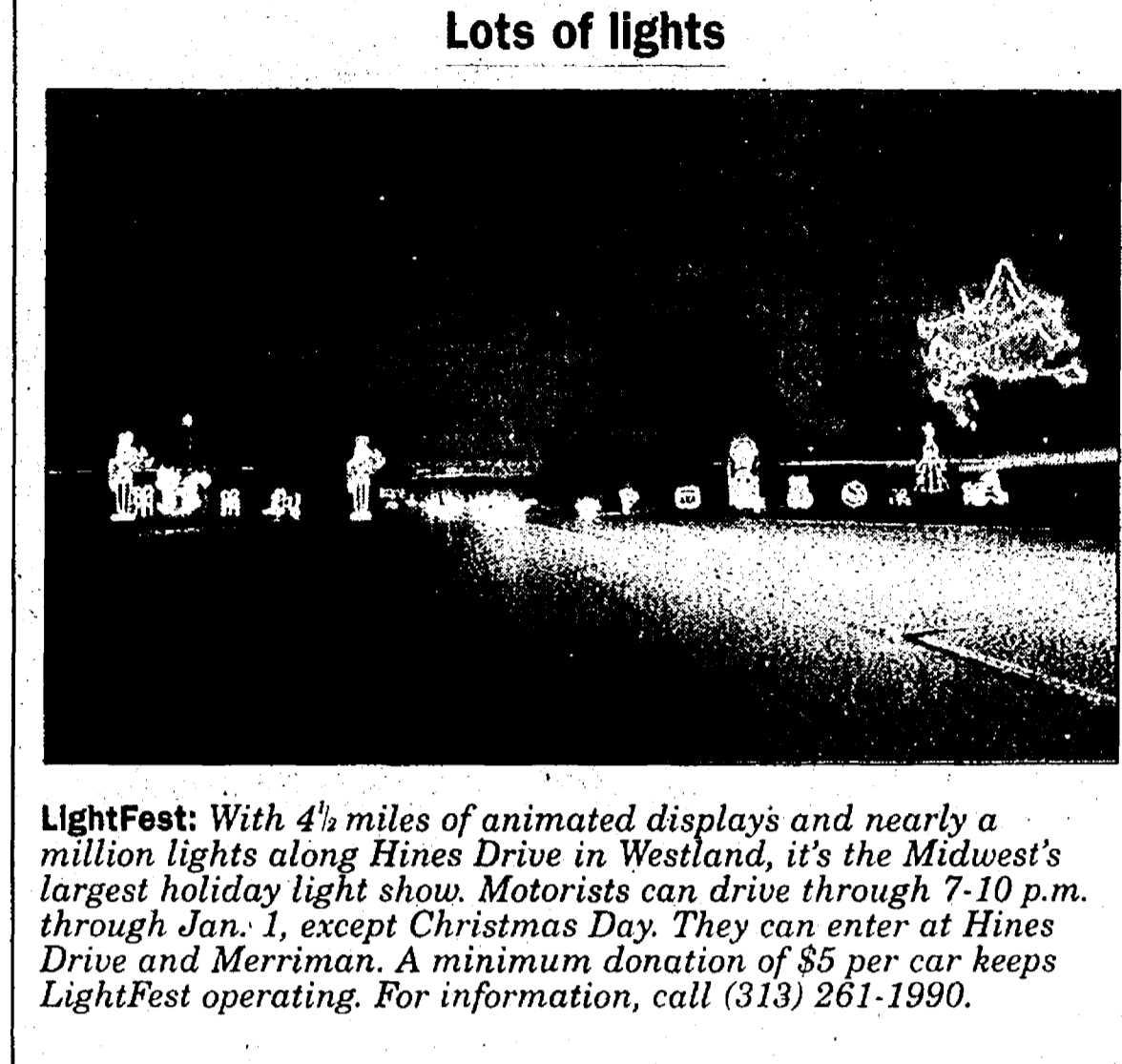
SCHOOLS

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has ongoing registration for the preschool programs at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Programs include an Early Intervention Program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a Pre-Primary Impaired program and Sparky Preschool. Registration is ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (313) 595-2660 for information.

CHURCH PRESCHOOL
The Westland Free Methodist Preschool has openings for 3- and 4-year-olds in the morning and afternoon sessions. The younger pupils attend Tuesdays and Thursdays with the other pupils attending Mondays and Wednesdays. A Friday enrichment class is also available. The preschool is at 1421 S. Venoy, Westland. (313) 728-3559.

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

CHARTER SCHOOL
The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an



LightFest: With 4 1/2 miles of animated displays and nearly a million lights along Hines Drive in Westland, it's the Midwest's largest holiday light show. Motorists can drive through 7-10 p.m. through Jan. 1, except Christmas Day. They can enter at Hines Drive and Merriman. A minimum donation of \$5 per car keeps LightFest operating. For information, call (313) 261-1990.

entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves kindergarten through seventh grade. The school emphasizes a basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills. The school offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with Internet. Call (313) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

LITTLE LAMBS
Little Lambs Preschool, on Farmington Road in Livonia, has openings in the Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoon session for 3- to 5-year-olds. For information, call (248) 471-2077.

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

TUTORIAL PROGRAM
A free tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy, Westland. The program is for students in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. It will meet 3:30-6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. For information on participating or volunteering, call Shabaura Cobb, (313) 722-3660.

HISTORY ON VIEW

WESTLAND MUSEUM
The Westland Historical Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays at 857 N. Wayne Road, between Marquette and Cherry Hill. (313) 326-1110.

FRIENDS MEET
Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet 7

Lots of lights

p.m. on the second Tuesdays of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Westland Meeting House, 37091 Marquette between Newburgh and Wayne roads. Information, president Jim Franklin, (313) 721-0136. Everyone is welcome.

FOR SENIORS

GRANDMA'S ATTIC SALE
Grandma's Attic Sale will be at the Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 Newburgh Road, Westland, daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also included in this sale are hundreds of ceramic molds and hundreds of pieces of greenware and a kiln. For information, call 722-7632.

TRAVEL GROUP
The Travel Group meets 12:45 p.m. every Friday in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, unless a trip or program is planned. Programs include speakers, films, celebration of birthdays and weekly door prizes. There is a \$3 membership fee for residents, \$12.50 for non-residents. (313) 722-7632.

CARD GROUP
The Friday Variety Card Group at the Westland Friendship Center meets at 2 p.m. Players enjoy euchre, pinocle, bridge, Uno, rummy and poker. Light refreshments are served. Call (313) 722-7632 for information or just show up to play cards. The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh Road.

DYER CLUB
The Dyer Seniors' Center Travel Club meets the first and third Thursdays of each month in the center, on Marquette between Wayne Road and Newburgh.

MONTHLY MEAL
The Wayne Ford Civic League schedules its senior meal 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, for people 50 and older. Cost is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. The meal includes beer, beverages, dancing to Big Band music, and door prizes. (313) 728-5010.

DANCE FUN
Westland Shopping Center hosts a senior citizen dance 11 a.m. the first Monday of each month in the lower level auditorium, Wayne and Warren roads. Coffee and refreshments will be served at 12:30 p.m. The dance will end 2 p.m. The dance is held on the first Monday, with the exception of holidays.

SENIOR DANCE
Senior dances will be noon to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of every month at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1651 N. Wayne Road, Westland. There will be dinner, a live band, beer and pop. Members \$5, non-members \$7. (313) 728-5010.

WORK REFERRAL
Information Center Inc. refers workers to seniors who need help. The program is for people interested in providing transportation, yardwork, housework, etc. Workers can specify the type of work they are willing to do and the communities they want to serve. Chore Worker Program, (313) 422-1052.

DYER CENTER
The Wayne-Westland School District's Dyer Senior Adult Center has activities Monday-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 the Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center),

1119 Newburgh, Hall A. Instructor is Kammo Oris. Sign up at the front desk or call (313) 722-7632.

VOLUNTEERS

BOY SCOUTS
A few good young men ages 11-18 are needed to work with Boy Scout Troop No. 865 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays at Hamilton Elementary School, corner of Avondale and Schuman in Westland. Monthly campouts will be featured. For information, call (313) 729-1283.

PET-A-PET
The Pet-A-Pet Club, which offers pet visits to nursing home residents, needs special pets and people. Pets undergo a slight screening and need proof of shots to participate. Local sites include Camelot Hall Convalescent Center (Debbie McDermott, 427-3791, 10 a.m. the second Saturday of the month), Garden City Rehab (Stacy Suida, (313) 422-2438, second Thursday of the month at 3 p.m.) and Roosevelt-McGrath School (Lynn Eichbrecht, (313) 591-3347, the last Wednesday of the month). Information is available from Ruth Curry, (313) 535-0410, or Daisy Doran, (313) 665-1981. There is a \$5 membership charge.

BINGO

DEMS' BINGO
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club sponsors bingo games at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Joy Manor Bingo Hall, on the south side of Joy, east of Middlebelt. Proceeds are used by the club to sponsor Little League baseball teams, the Salvation Army, School for the Blind. (313) 422-5025 or (313) 729-8681.

DEMS' BINGO
The 13th Congressional District Democratic Party sponsors bingo games at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, in the M.J. Hall, 35412 Michigan Ave., next to Farmer Jack, in Wayne. (313) 421-1517.

BINGO AND SNACKS
The VFW Post 3323, Westland, serves snacks and hosts bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday in the post hall, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale. Doors open 9 a.m. (313) 326-3323.

SHAMROCK BINGO
There will be bingo at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road, Wayne. Doors open 9 a.m. Food available. Proceeds go to charity. (313) 728-3020.

SMOKELESS BINGO
"Smokeless" bingo meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday, at Sts. Simon and Jude Parish Hall, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. Offered are three jackpots of \$400, \$300 and \$200.

NO SMOKE
"No smoke" bingo will be 1 p.m. every Tuesday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh Road, Westland. Residents from Westgate Towers, Taylor Towers, Greenwood Towers, Liberty Park, Presbyterian Village and Carolon Condos, etc., are eligible for transportation to bingo if they have a minimum of five players. (313) 722-7632.

JAYCEES
Westland Jaycees host bingo games at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, Westland. Three jackpots paying \$250, \$300 and \$300, progressive. Call the Jaycee Information Hotline at (313) 480-4984.

PUP TENT BINGO
The MOC pup tent 18 bingo will be held 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the VFW Post Hall, 1055 S. Wayne, West-

land. A snack bar is available. Doors open at 2 p.m. (313) 326-3323.

CLUBS IN ACTION

VFW AUXILIARY
Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Ladies Auxiliary Grand River Post 1519, is open. Relationship to a veteran of combat on foreign soil will insure eligibility. Make reservations by calling membership recruiter Dolores M. Griffin; (313) 427-2791. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 27555 Grantland, Livonia. Current Post 1519 Ladies Auxiliary members include individuals from Westland, Livonia, Redford, Detroit and surrounding areas.

WEEKENDERS
The Weekend family campers meet the second Wednesday of the month in Franklin High School, on Joy east of Merriman. (313) 531-2993.

FREE CLASSES
The Showman's Dog Training Organization sponsors free junior showmanship classes for dog owners ages 7-17 at the AMVETS Hall on Merriman near Avondale at 8:30 p.m. the first and second Tuesdays of each month through September. Call (313) 729-7580.

HOST LIONS
The Westland Host Lions Club meets 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in Mary's Family Restaurant. Information, (313) 326-2607.

MOTHERS OF MULTIPLES
For information on a Mothers of Multiples Club in your area, call Shelly Weir, (313) 326-1466.

AT THE LIBRARY

TRAINING
Training sessions are held 10:30 a.m. each Saturday to train library patrons on the use of the public access catalogs. The computers are the modern-day equivalent of the traditional card catalog. These training sessions take about 15-20 minutes. Library staff will teach the fundamentals regarding use of the public access catalogs and will be available for questions. This training is free and no registration is required.

DECK THE HALLS
Deck the halls on Saturdays in December. Each Saturday at 2 p.m. will feature a seasonal craft for children that is sure to light up your house with holiday cheer. In the Children's Activity Room. No registration required. Dec. 13, gingerbread/snow person, Dec. 20, stained glass ornament, Dec. 27, New Year calendar.

WINTER BREAD SPECIAL
Children ages 4 to 10 are invited to make a collective craft project to keep in the Children's Services area of the library. The program will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, in the Children's Activity Room. No registration required.

FREAKY FRIDAY
Friday, Jan. 2, wackiness will take over the Children's Services Area. If you can find 10 things in the department that seem freaky on that day, you'll get a prize. The event goes on all day Jan. 2 in the Children's Services Area.

READ TO YOUR CHILD
Feb. 14 is "Read to Your Child Day." Come to the Children's Services Area and read with your child for 10 minutes. The event goes on all day in the Children's Services Area.

C A L E N D A R F O R M

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 313-591-7279. Deadline for Calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. Call 953-2104 if you have any questions.

Event:

Date and Time:

Location:

Telephone:

Additional Info.:

Use additional sheet if necessary

MISS BASKETBALL AWARD

Smith surprise choice as Michigan's top cager

BY STEVE KOWALSKI STAFF WRITER

Early in her career at Redford Bishop Borgess, Aiysha Smith seemed more likely to win Miss Michigan than Miss Basketball. Prim, proper and attractive off the court, Smith wasn't the most feared player on coach Dave Mann's girls basketball team. People still rave about her qualities as a person, but this week her basketball skills were mentioned first when she was introduced as the state's 17th Miss Basketball winner as voted by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan.

Smith, a surprise winner, received 145 first-place votes and 818 points. The two pre-season favorites, Flint Northern's Tawana McDonald (463 points) and Detroit Dominican's Raina Goodlow (280), finished second and fourth, respectively.

Smith scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds as a freshman in the Spartans' Class C state championship victory in 1994, but basketball was still fairly new to her.

She credits Maxann Reese, a Borgess graduate and the winner of the 1995 Miss Basketball award, for giving her a mean streak and motivation on the court.

"She taught me how to play tougher instead of being timid," said Smith, whose first passion was swimming.

Before enrolling at Borgess she swam in the Junior Olympics as a student at Murphy Middle School near Telegraph and Fenkell roads in Detroit.

"That was one of the things she was disappointed about when she came to Borgess and didn't see a pool," Borgess coach Dave Mann said.

Smith averaged 10.6 points and 11.5 rebounds per game for the Spartans, who are 24-1 and headed to the Class C Final Four for the fifth straight season. Borgess senior guard Christina Anderson played on the Murphy seventh and eighth

grade team with Smith. "Aiysha, we had to force her to play," laughs Anderson. "It was like, 'Come on, you're too tall not to play!'"

During an emotional speech, Smith dedicated the award to her mother, Rica, who passed away 3 1/2 years ago with a brain aneurysm. The two were riding bikes when the horrible problem

took place. Her mother was 31 when she died and Smith wears that number in her honor.

"I was in shock when she died," Smith said. "I think I'm still in shock. I don't really feel it yet."

Smith was joined by her teammates coaches, Borgess administrators, grandparents Floyd and

Mildred Smith and uncle Tim Smith at the announcement at the Detroit Free Press.

Tim Smith said Aiysha's mother wouldn't know how to control her happiness if she was still alive today.

"She'd probably be making all kinds of noise," he said. "At Aiysha's games in middle school, you could hear her on the side-

lines cheering on Aiysha, this frail, skinny girl who just would run up and down the court. They had a real close bond, like sisters."

Mann believes the Spartans' No. 1 ranking for all classes throughout most of the year and a victory over Northern helped Smith.

"That brought a lot of atten-

tion to our program," Mann said. "It's just been steady development all the way through. The first couple years she went from being strictly a post player to being our backup point guard last year and my best defender I've ever had. She's extremely versatile, shoots the three and can guard anyone on the floor."

Sears Outlet Store

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4 Days Only! December 11-14

New Shipments arriving EVERYDAY!

Champs from C1

Hancock lost by only eight points during the regular season to Detroit Country Day, the Class B champion, but the Spartans are far and away a better team than the Yellowjackets, according to Williams.

"We've seen the size before but not a combination of size and quickness," Williams said. "They are extremely athletic. The second half, I sat back and watched. I was in awe."

Mann joked in the post-game press conference that his biggest coaching challenge was yet to come.

"Now we'll go back to the hotel and try to keep them quiet after 11," Mann said. "That's our biggest task."

Monroe stuns Salem, 66-59

Plymouth Salem may have been highly-touted in the pre-season, but performances like Tuesday's 66-59 loss at Monroe won't keep them there for long.

"We played terrible," was Rocks' coach Bob Brodie's direct appraisal. "I can't think of one player who played well."

"We couldn't beat anybody the way we played tonight."

Salem had the early lead, up 16-14 after one quarter and 30-28 at the half. But the Trojans, behind the shooting of Jeremy Griffin (17 second-half points, including eight in the third quarter), outscored the Rocks 20-9 in the third period to take a 48-39 advantage into the fourth.

A final-quarter rally enabled Salem to get to within one, but that was as close as it got. Griffin finished with a game-high 22 points, including four three-pointers. Dan Case added 14 for Monroe.

Salem got 12 points from Jeff McKian and 10 from Matt Maur.

One-of-a-kind, out of carton, discontinued, floor samples, dented, used, scratched and reconditioned merchandise. Items pictured are just a few examples of the hundreds of great values. Merchandise shown is representation only. Actual merchandise varies by store.

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

50% OFF

regular retail prices on side-by-side refrigerators 23 cu. ft. or larger

REFRIGERATORS

Top mounts

As Low As 399⁹⁹

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Electric

As Low As 299⁹⁹

WASHERS

As Low As 279⁹⁹

DRYERS

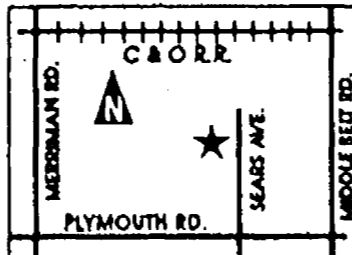
Electric

As Low As 199⁹⁹



Entry form for a chance to Win a 27-in. TV! Drawing held Sunday Dec. 14, 1997 at 5 PM. Name, Address, City, Home phone, Work phone.

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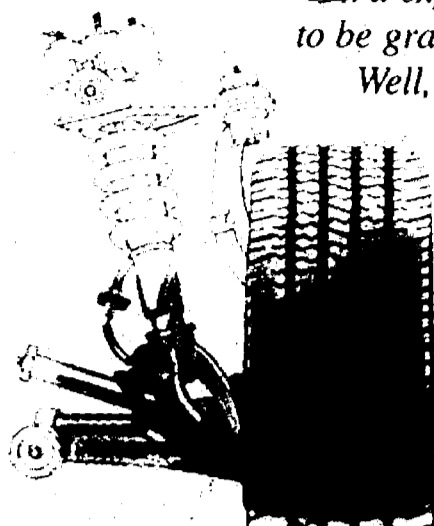
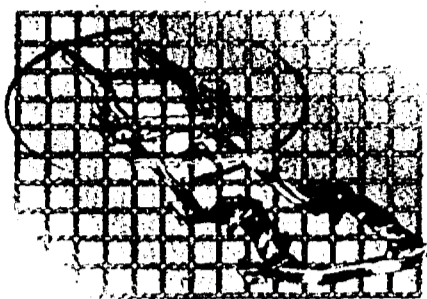
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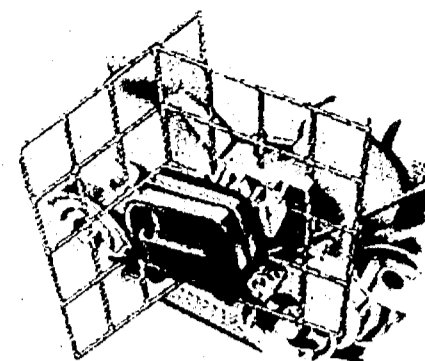
Car chassis have traditionally been built on a "floor pan" design. Can a platform that incorporates a continuous rigid, ladder-type frame improve ride and handling characteristics? Can this help us reach a high level of performance?



You'd expect a race car to be graded on a curve. Well, if race cars inspired us to modify a double-wishbone suspension, can you handle it?

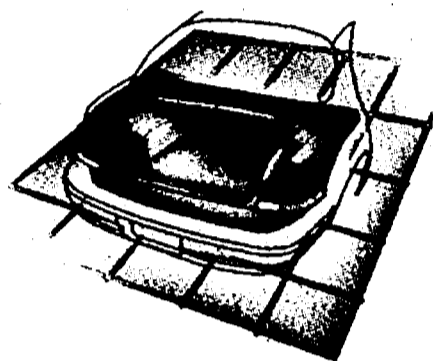


Do you have to choose between the convenience of an automatic transmission and the performance of manual shifting? Or can an available AutoStick® transaxle shift an automatic a little more toward fun?

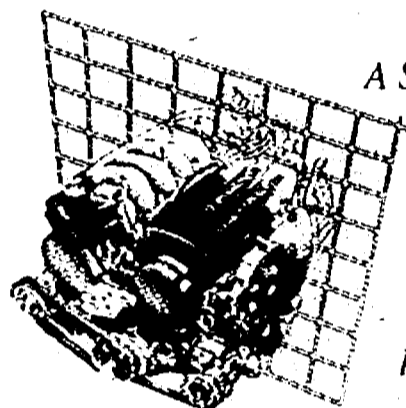


Take something as simple as an engine mount – a combination of steel and rubber that holds the engine to the frame rail. Can we mount a good argument that a device filled with liquid could minimize engine vibration and help make things quieter?

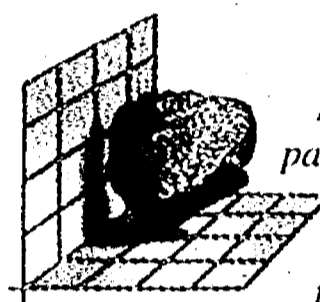
These are the questions.



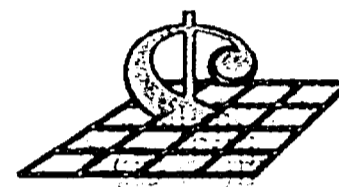
Dodge pioneered the cab-forward design concept – moving the wheels out to the corners and sliding the passenger compartment forward. Can cab-forward roominess create more room even in the trunk?



A Stratus ES has an available 2.5L, 24-valve V-6. Can lightweight aluminum cylinder heads enhance performance?



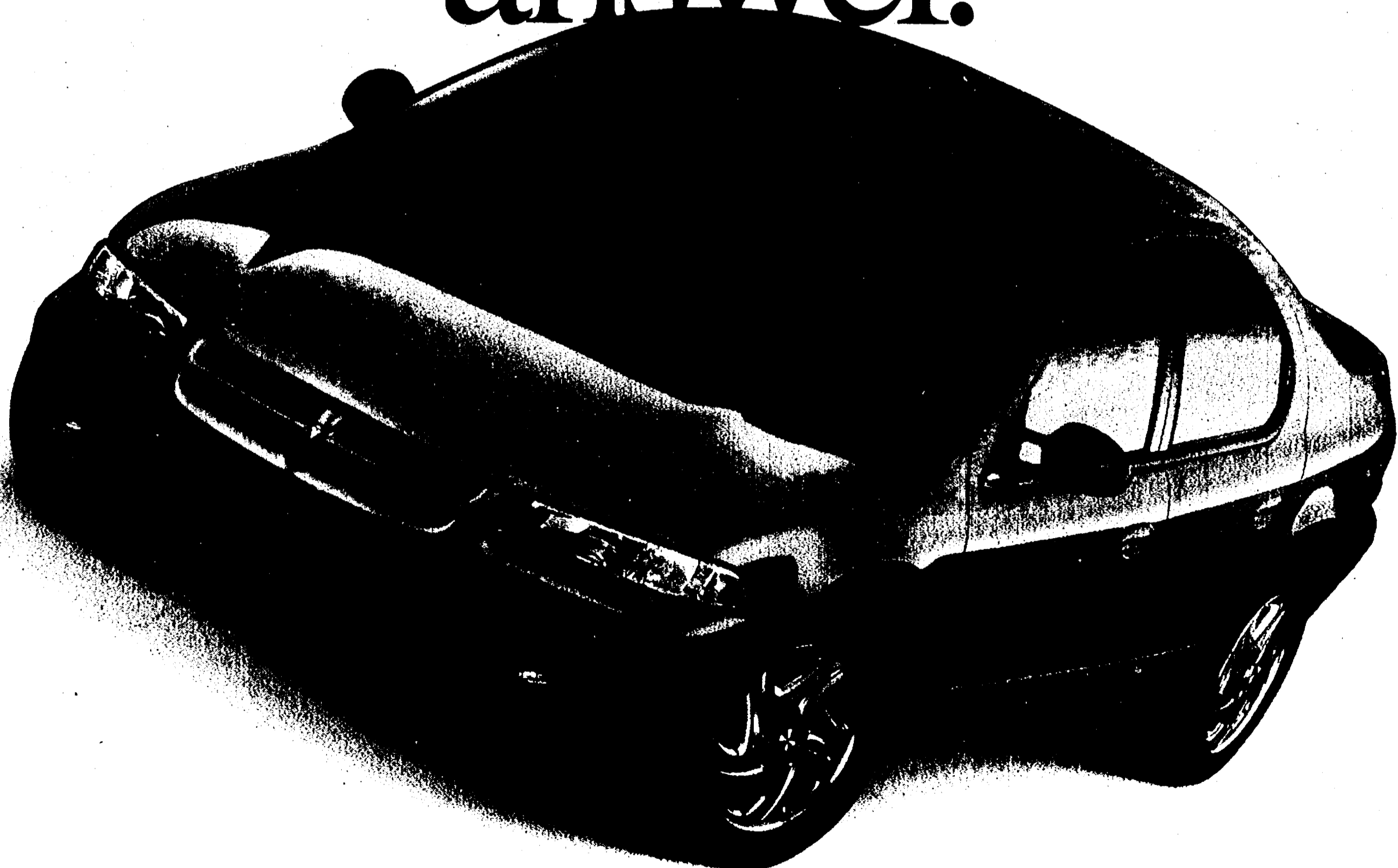
Powder-coat paint technology will give you a paint finish tough enough to help protect a car's shiny overcoat from flying gravel. When it comes to what you'll expect down the road, do we have things pretty well covered?



Dodge Stratus is \$14,375 for starters, \$18,345 impressively equipped.* Now, if we told you that "impressively equipped" includes AutoStick transmission, anti-lock brakes and a 2.5L V-6, would you be surprised?

*MSRPs after \$1,000 cash back exclude tax. Always use seat belts. Remember a backseat is the safest place for children.

This is the answer.



Stratus  The New Dodge

For more answers, call 1-800-4-A-DODGE. Or visit our Web site at www.4adodge.com

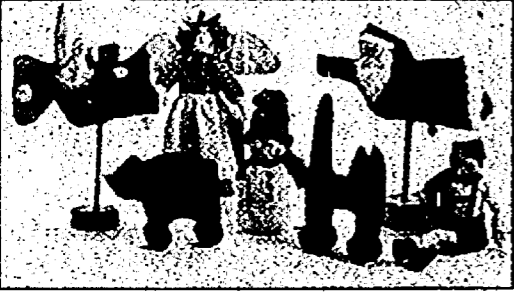
THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Orange 9mm, featuring drummer Matt Cross, formerly of Detroit, performs at The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets \$5 in advance. (313) 961-MELT.

SATURDAY



Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association Holiday Sales Show - Gifts of Art, offers a variety of handcrafted items. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 1516 S. Cranbrook Road (northwest corner of 14 Mile Road), (248) 644-0866.

SUNDAY



Take "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline," 2 p.m. at the 7th House in downtown Pontiac. Tickets \$22, call (248) 335-8101.



Hot tix: Local dance groups, including Rose Marie Floyd's Contemporary Civic Ballet Company featuring Kathleen Ott of Rochester Hills as Clara, will be presenting "The Nutcracker" this weekend. See complete listing inside.

Barenaked Ladies, 'Twistin' Tarantulas and other New Year's treats

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

This is a call to Detroit Red Wings player Brendan Shanahan - Tyler Stewart drummer for the Canadian pop band Barenaked Ladies is personally inviting you to his band's New Year's Eve show at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"Brendan Shanahan, I know that he's a Ladies fan. When he played in St. Louis, my good buddy is Curtis Joseph, the then-goalie in St. Louis, and Shanny was in charge of the music in the dressing room. In 1993, he played the whole 'Gordon' album to get ready. Maybe if they were listening to Metallica, they could have gone further," Stewart said with a laugh.

"I also know that Chris Osgood, Chris Draper and Darren McCarty are fans. They came to our show last Christmas time."

(Much to the Barenaked Ladies chagrin, The Detroit Red Wings will be busy until about 10 or 11 p.m. The Stanley Cup champions take on the St. Louis Blues at 7:30 p.m. The game is sold out.)

Stewart said choosing the Detroit area for its New Year's Eve concert was a no brainer. After all, some of the band's biggest shows have been here at Pine Knob and The Palace, and songs like "Brian Wilson" and "If I Had \$1,000,000" have inundated the radio.

The main floor and a significant portion of the lower bowl for the New Year's Eve show were sold out within 10 minutes. Tickets, \$25, still remain. Call (248) 377-0100 or (248) 645-6666 for more information. The Irish pop band The Devlins open the show at 9 p.m.

"Detroit Rock City has been very good to the Ladies. What a great night to sort of celebrate the city's support of us. We're really looking to blow out all the stops. You can look for surprises, of course. There's always surprises for Barenaked Ladies shows," Stewart said slyly.

It's no surprise, however, that going along with past practice The Palace of Auburn Hills will not allow any kind of macaroni and cheese - not just Kraft - into the venue. Fans routinely throw that and stuffed monkeys during the Ladies' trademark song "If I Had \$1,000,000."

If the Barenaked Ladies aren't your cup of tea, there's plenty of other options this New Year's Eve.

■ Royal Oak funksters The Howling Diablos and the local ska band the Parka Kings will perform at the Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Doors open at 9 p.m. for the 21 and older show. Tickets are \$20

and include hors d'oeuvres and party favors. Fans can count-down to 1998 with Dick Clark's "New Year's Rockin' Eve" shown on a 500-square foot TV. (248) 544-3030

■ Local rockabilly bands The Twistin' Tarantulas and Nobody's Business, along with the Detroit Music Award-winning blues band Mudpuppy take over the second floor of Fifth Avenue Billiards, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. The \$35 individual ticket includes a complimentary glass of champagne, while the \$80 per couple ticket price includes a complimentary bottle of champagne. A light buffet and party favors come with both options. The lower level of Fifth Avenue will operate as usual. Only those 21 and older are permitted into Fifth Avenue. (248) 542-9922

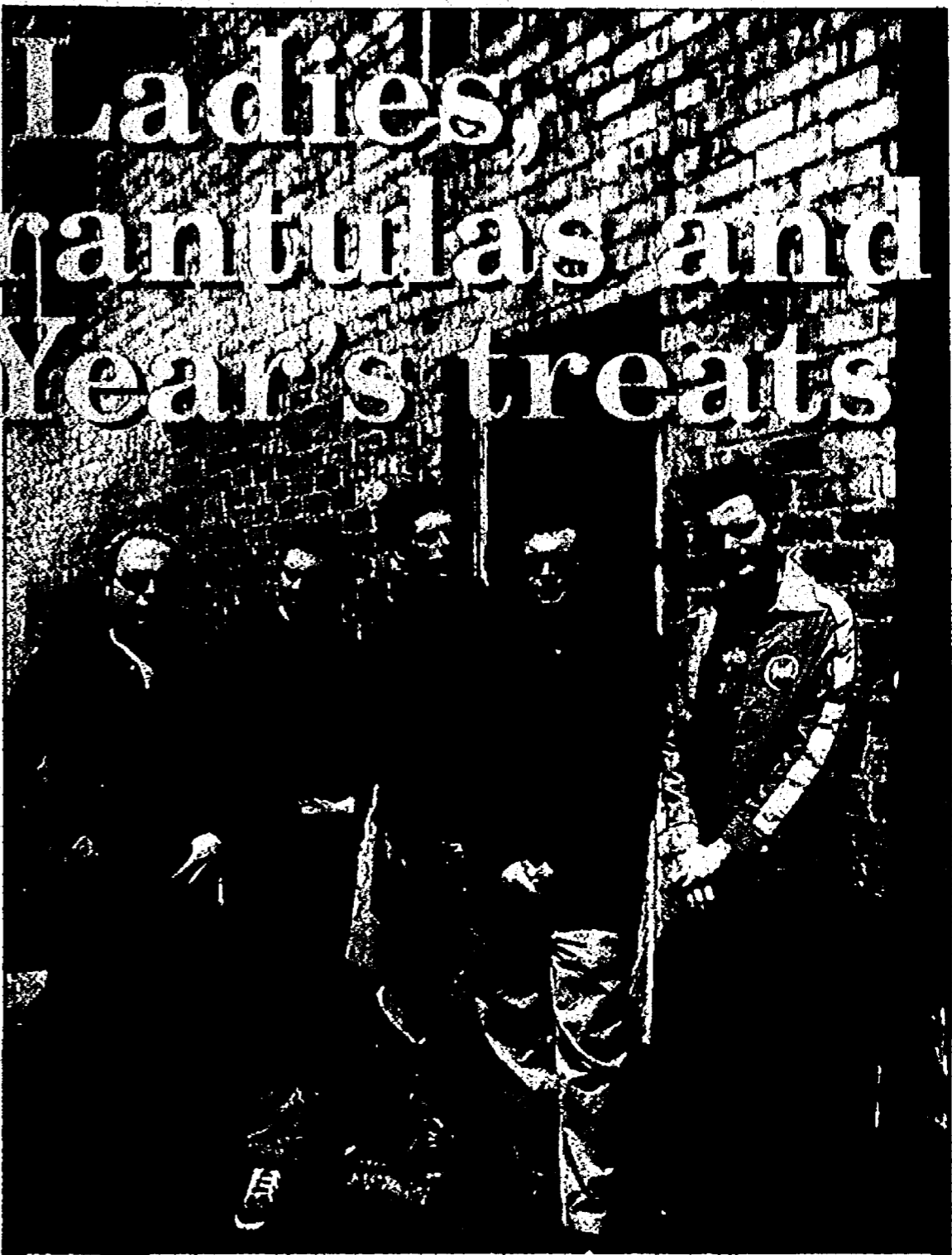
■ Former Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' Bands of the Year Speedball and Big Block will perform along with Hoarse at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door for the 18 and older show. (313) 961-MELT

■ Classic rock fans will be let down to hear that there will be no "Whiplash Bash" with Ted Nugent this year. About 3,000 of those fans can take refuge at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit, where Detroit native Alice Cooper will bring his show. Tickets are \$45 for the all-ages show. (313) 961-5451. Then there's always Dokken, Devil's Night and Illegal at The Palladium, 17580 Frazho, Roseville. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door for the 18 and older show. (810) 778-6404

■ First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willits (at Bates Street), is hosting "Chase the Blues Night" with Little Sonny and the Detroit Rhythm Band from 9:30-11:30 p.m. Sponsoring "Chase the Blues" is an effort to continue the alcohol-free New Year's Eve momentum in downtown Birmingham due to the major funding loss and subsequent cancellation of the popular First Night. After a short break, at 11:45 there will be a 20-minute closing, non-sectarian worship service. Tickets are \$7 adults, \$5 children. (248) 644-0550 or fbcb@wvnet.com or <http://members.aol.com/churchwww/first.htm>

■ Acid jazz act Groove Collective performs at the Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Doors open at 9 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are \$20. (313) 833-9700

■ Local swingers Imperial Swing



Playing The Palace: The Canadian pop group Barenaked Ladies - from left, drummer Tyler Stewart, guitarist/vocalist Ed Robertson, stand-up bass player Jim Creeggan, singer Steven Page, and keyboardist Kevin Hearn - perform Wednesday, Dec. 31, at The Palace of Auburn Hills. The Devlins kick off the show at 9 p.m.

Orchestra spends its New Year's Eve at the Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10 for the 19 and older show. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. (313) 996-8555.

■ For the sixth year, the city of Ypsilanti is hosting the drug- and alcohol-free family event New Year Jubilee. A variety of performers ranging from storytellers to jazz artists to choirs to reggae bands play in a dozen different venues throughout Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town. For children, the Wild Swan Theatre will present "Frog and Toad," San from Gemini will perform, LaRon Williams will tell stories, and Derby the Clown will make an appearance. Advance tickets, \$10, \$5 for children ages 6-12, are available at Ann Arbor- and Ypsilanti-area Busch's Valu-Land beginning Friday, Dec. 12. Admission is free to children ages 5 and younger. Tickets are \$15 at the door. (313) 483-4444 or (313) 484-6620.

■ A variety of nightclubs are holding their own parties. Fourth Street inside the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak, is having its annual celebration for those 21 and older hosted by radio station WKQI (95.5). Tickets are \$45 and include dinner, champagne, party favors, and breakfast. From midnight to 4 a.m., tickets are \$15 and include breakfast. (248) 546-7610. The New Year's Eve party at The Groove Room, 1815 N. Main St. (at 12 Mile Road),

Royal Oak, is free from 9-10 p.m. There will be a cover charge afterward. Free champagne and party favors will be offered. (248) 589-3344.

■ Local halls will once again fill for the holiday. Included in that is the VFW Hall at Nine Mile and Telegraph roads in Southfield where the Rochester Hills rock band Sensitive Clown will perform. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, both of which include beverages. (248) 652-6346

■ The City of Pontiac is expecting more than 10,000 celebrants this year at "Times Square II New Year's Eve Celebration" held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in downtown Pontiac. The free, non-alcoholic outdoor celebration features music and dancing in the street, food and beverage vendors and party favors. At the stroke of midnight, an illuminated ball will hit the top of a 100-foot pole located at the front of the Phoenix Center. A fireworks display follows. Numerous nightclubs in the area - Industry, Clutch Cargo's, Diamonds and Spurs - will have special events. (248) 857-5603. The swing/jump band Atomic Fireballs will perform at the 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 335-8100.

■ The Detroit Symphony Orchestra is hosting "A Singing, Dancing Gala for 1998" at 9 p.m. at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit, during which the orchestra will perform J.

Please see NEW YEAR'S, E2

YOUTH THEATER



On stage: Don Donnelley as Aladdin (left to right), Sultan (Robert "Bobo" Lozelle), Princess Jasmine (Kathleen Coleman-Lozelle), Amber (Sarah Wiercioch, bottom, left to right), and Myra (Sara Greenfield) are featured in "Aladdin."

Stages set for entertaining youth productions

By KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER

Toys, toys, toys is what most kids are thinking about now, but the real acting up is happening not at home, but on stages throughout metro Detroit.

There are many choices this weekend for parents seeking a little diversion from the holiday countdown. A variety of youth productions to be presented by children and adults for children of all ages are sure to please.

Dearborn Youth Theatre

Greg Wiklanski of Westland stars as Joseph in the Dearborn Youth Theatre production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Friday-Sunday, Dec. 12-14 at Edsel High School in Dearborn.

In October, Wiklanski portrayed Rolf in the Nancy Gurwin Presents staging of "The Sound of Music" at the Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre in the Jewish Community Center, West Bloomfield.

"Being cast as Joseph was a real blessing for me," said Wiklanski, 20 a sophomore at Christian-focused William Tyndale College in Farmington

Hills. "I couldn't say enough how important God has been to me. He is the foundation of my life."

A 1995 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School, Wiklanski was in three plays there, all musicals. He then took a year off from theater. Wiklanski's only performing was with the Christ Ambassadors, the college's choir, which sang during services at area churches. He returned to theater this past summer, performing in "Carousel" with Music Theatre of Michigan in Livonia and "The Sound of Music."

"Theater just started in high school as something fun to do. It's become more and more serious. Now, it's more like a passion. I'd like to make a living out of theater someday," Wiklanski said.

At William Tyndale College, he is majoring in vocal performance as well as working on obtaining his secondary education teaching certificate.

Steve Sell of Bloomfield Hills is also cast in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." In the adult chorus is Jen Rembisz of Livonia. Among the wives are Cindy Wittrock of Plymouth.

Playing one of the brothers is Kean Cronin of Bloomfield Hills.

In the children's chorus are Rachel Westphal-Gaddy, Georgene Wojciechowski, and Maria Szatkowski and Matthew Thayer of Livonia; Julia Fitzpatrick and Erin Fitzpatrick of Redford; Sarah Grace of Bloomfield Hills; and Paul Kittenger of Farmington Hills.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is being staged by Dearborn Youth Theatre in cooperation with the Dearborn Recreation Department.

Youtheatre

New York's Theatreworks/USA brings the story of "Charlotte's Web," E.B. White's story of friendship between a small pig named Wilbur and a gray spider named Charlotte, to Music Hall, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 13-14.

You'll meet Wilbur, the pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern the little girl who understands what animals say to each other; Tem-

Please see THEATER, E2

Youth Theater Productions

■ Dearborn Youth Theatre
"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" - 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12-13, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Edsel Ford High School, 20601 Rotunda Drive... (1 1/2 miles west of the Southfield Freeway) in Dearborn. Tickets \$10 general admission and \$9 for senior citizens, call (313) 561-0599 for reservations.

■ Youtheatre at Music Hall
"Charlotte's Web" presented by New York Theatreworks/USA - 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 at Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. No one under the age of 5 will be admitted to the theater.

Pre-show Playshop will be conducted 9:30 a.m. on Saturday preceding the 11 a.m. show. This hands-on workshop will explore creative dramatics with youngsters ages 5 and above. The workshop costs \$8 per person, and reservations can be made when placing ticket orders with the Music Hall Ticket Office, (313) 963-2366.

■ Henry Ford Museum/Anderson Center Theater
Wild Swan Theater Company is presenting "The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse" - 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13;

Please see PRODUCTIONS, E2

Theater from page E1

pleton, the rat who can occasionally be talked into a good deed; the Zuckermans and the Arabes; and Charlotte, the spider, who spins a solution that assures Wilbur's place forever.

Henry Ford Museum, Anderson Center Theater

Wild Swan Theater introduces audiences to "The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse," at the Anderson Center Theater inside Henry Ford Museum, in Dearborn through Sunday, Jan. 4.

"It's a very funny show, the children have been laughing so hard," said director Hilary Cohen. An original production, which features lively dancing and music, "The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse," is about a town mouse who longs for the country, and a country mouse who longs for the city.

Productions from page E1

2:30 p.m. Saturdays Dec. 20 and Dec. 27; 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 14, 21, and 28; and 2:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2-Sunday, Jan. 4 at Henry Ford Museum's Anderson Center Theater, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. Tickets \$6, (313) 271-1620.

Clarenceville Youth Theatre

"The Christmas Wish," a mini-musical and two one-acts (including the Hanukkah scene from the "Diary of Anne Frank") 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 at the Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Tickets \$5 at the door, (313) 535-8962.

Marquis Theatre

"Aladdin" continues through Jan. 25 at the theater in downtown Northville, 135 E. Main Street - 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets \$6.50, (248) 349-8110, call for additional show times

The Novi Theatres

"A Christmas Carol," The Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi - 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13; 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. Tickets \$8 adults; seniors and children under 12, \$7, (248) 347-0400.

Each thinks life would be perfect if she lived somewhere else.

Children ages 4 and older will be captivated by the production's turn-of-the-century charm.

The cast includes Michelle Trame Lanzi of Plymouth as the city mouse, and Timothy Campos of Garden City as Ernie the hired hand in the country; and Ernest the butler in the city.

MARQUIS THEATRE

Donald Donnelley, 19 of Livonia, a graduate of Churchill High School, stars in the Marquis Theater staging of the classic tale "Aladdin," which continues through Sunday, Jan. 25.

Recommended for children ages 3-1/2 and older, "Aladdin" is a retelling of the classic tale about a poor boy who likes to daydream, and falls in love with beautiful Princess Jasmine.

Aladdin finds an enchanted

magic lamp, and out pops a genie, (Ghanghus D. Goins of Westland) in a puff of smoke with the roar of thunder. Genie grants Aladdin's wish to become a prince, but Aladdin's troubles are not over.

After overcoming difficulties, Aladdin is reunited with Princess Jasmine in a happy ending. Steve Tadevic of Livonia, and Sarah Kipperman of Farmington are also part of the cast that includes six adults and 13 children.

THE NOVI THEATRES

Sixty actors ranging in age from 8 through college will take the stage in "A Christmas Carol," at The Novi Theatres, Dec. 12-14. The cast includes children from West Bloomfield, Farmington, Livonia, Plymouth and Farmington Hills.

The play features Bart

Williams in the role of Bob Cratchit. Kirk Jones returns as Scrooge. Colorful sets, costumes, and carolers are all part of this holiday classic by Charles Dickens, adapted for the Novi Theatre stage by Brian Way.

CLARENCEVILLE YOUTH THEATRE

A group of 50 actors and singers, formerly known as the Redford Youth Theatre, present "The Christmas Wish," a mini-musical and two one-acts (including the Hanukkah scene from the "Diary of Anne Frank") Dec. 20.

Written by artistic director Nancy Florikowski from a script, "The Christmas Wish" is a story about an orphan looking for a family and the unsold toys remaining in a shop. The other one-act is a scene between little Cosette and Father Christmas from "Les Miserables."

New Year's from page E1

Strauss Jr.'s "Clear Track Galop (Bahn Frei)," Bernstein's "Tonight," and Webber's "All I Ask of You." Local ballroom dancing champions Glenn Clark and Cindy Gerald of Southfield, and Antonio Madrigal and Pamela Preczewski will add to the performance. Afterward, the Keith Sexton Sextet returns to the hall to perform a mix of jazz, big

band and Motown favorites. Patrons are invited to dance on stage, enjoy a cash bar, and partake of a complimentary champagne toast at midnight. Tickets range from \$25-\$85 and include party hats and noisemakers. (313) 833-3700 or http://www.detroitssymphony.com

For 20 years the Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103

Woodrow Wilson, Detroit, has hosted a New Year's Eve gala and this year isn't any different. The evening begins at 8 p.m. with unlimited champagne, homemade soup, and appetizers, and follows at 9 p.m. with the comedy "In the Sweet Bye and Bye," featuring Bloomfield Hills resident Dorry Peltyn. The story is about a country woman named Jessie who has a penchant for becoming emotional at local funerals. After the show, a buffet dinner with music and cham-

pagne in the theater's lobby and art gallery. Tickets are \$50. (313) 868-1347

Celebrants can laugh their way into 1998 at a variety of comedy clubs throughout the area. The Second City, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit, is offering two packages with dinner and a presentation of its latest show "Generation X Files." The early show with dinner at 5:15 p.m. and the show at 7:30 p.m. is \$70 and includes tax and gratuity and a complimentary glass of

champagne with dinner. The show only is \$25. The late show package is dinner at 8:15 p.m. and the show at 10:15 p.m. The show will end just before midnight at which time the cast will do the countdown to the New Year. The dessert buffet afterward begins at midnight in Risata. There will also be live band and dancing. The \$90 tickets include tax and gratuity. During the show's intermission, each couple will be brought a complimentary split of champagne. The cost is \$40 for the late show only. Packages with the Crowne Plaza Pontchartrain hotel are

available. (313) 965-2222. Steve McGrew, Hector Rezzano and Joey Bielaska perform Wednesday, Dec. 31, at Joey's Comedy Club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. (313) 261-0555. On the other side of town, Christopher Titus, Billy Ray Bauer and emcee Steven Bills perform at 7:30 p.m. (\$45 per couple for show only), and 10:30 p.m. (\$60 per couple includes party favors and a split of champagne), at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. (248) 542-9900 or http://www.comedycastle.com.



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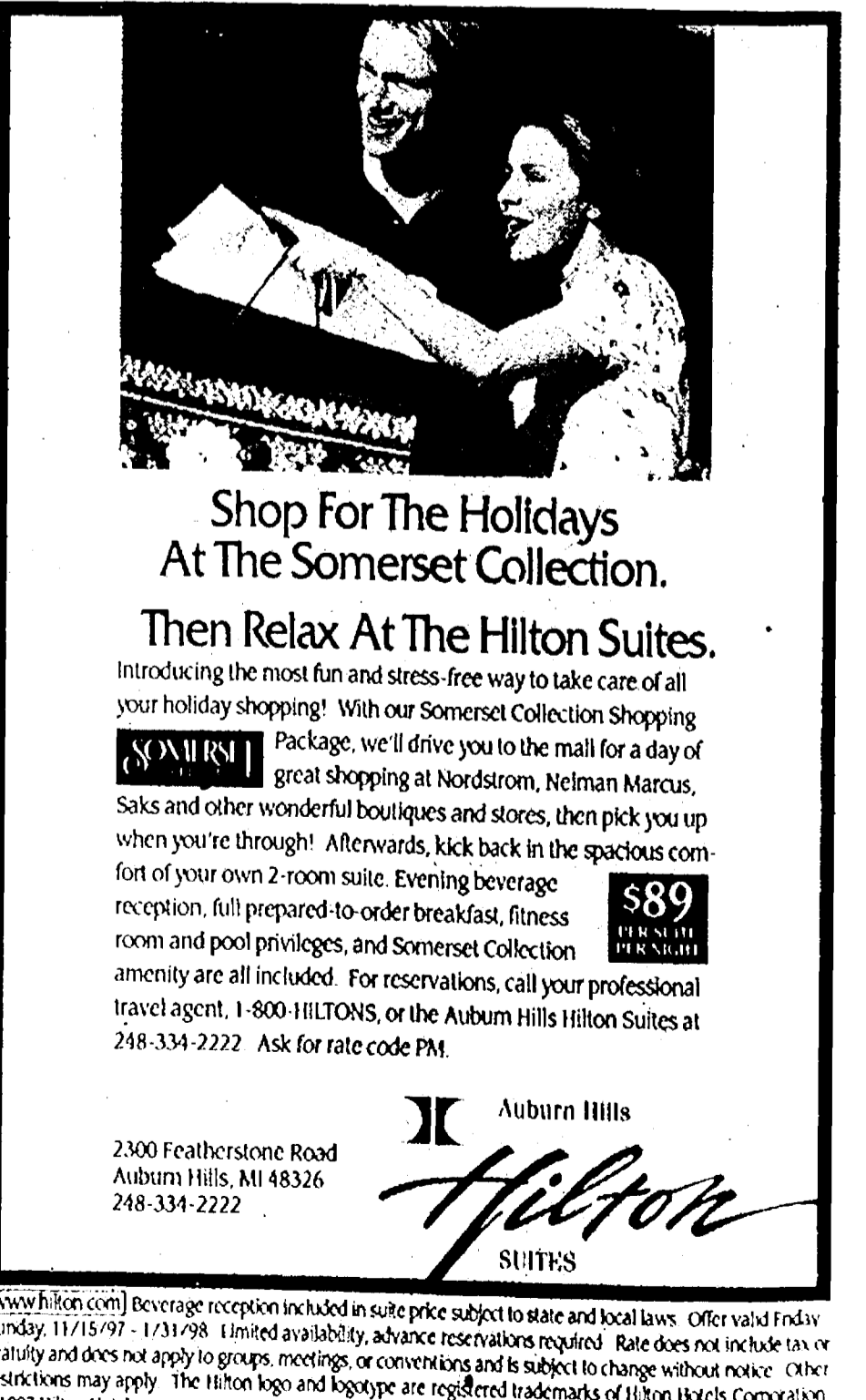
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THEATER

Spirited 'Nunsense' a jolly good musical comedy

Livonia Redford Theatre Guild presents "Nunsense," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the playhouse, 15138 Beech Daly, Redford. Tickets \$12, group rates and senior discounts available, (313) 531-0554. BY BOB WEIBEL SPECIAL WRITER

Has Christmas shopping and holiday planning become a bit of a hassle? Perhaps you need a pause that refreshes. Not the famous cola - but rather, may I suggest two hours at Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild's jolly good musical comedy, "Nunsense" featuring words and

COMMUNITY THEATER

music by Dan Goggin. It's a fast-paced, laugh-a-minute romp - the perfect tonic for whatever ails you. You don't have to be Catholic to understand the jokes, and if you are, none of it's offensive. The good sisters sing "Nuns Like to Have Fun," and do they ever, in song, dance and a double-entendre story or two. Be forewarned, that the plot is as far-fetched as the antics of the nuns. It seems that several sisters at Mount St. Helen's died from eat-

ing bad soup. There wasn't enough money to bury all of them. Four are still in the freezer. The board of health has become suspicious. And so, the nuns are putting on a benefit talent show to raise the necessary funds. The audience even gets in on the act with a 50-50 raffle. The winner is announced at intermission. What we have here is a sort of vaudevillian farce. The cast carries it off beautifully, because they cleverly create madcap non-

sense. Director, Peter Sunnberg, takes advantage of his performers' unique talents by allowing them to add schtick not seen in other productions. Stephanie Stephan (Sister Amnesia) steals most of the scenes as a forgetful silly-head. Her big-eyed double takes and comic timing are a joy to behold. Stephan's ventriloquist act wows the audience, and she's equally adept at belting out a song as a country singer - "I Could've Gone To Nashville" or delivering a sentimental ballad. Annette Hissong (Sister Mary Regina) is wonderful as the

Mother Superior attempting to keep the sisters from making complete fools of themselves. This makes for the evening's most hilarious moments, such as when the Reverend Mother accidentally gets high taking whiffs of "Rush." Debbie Pletzer (Sister Mary Robert Anne) who comes across as the happiest of the lot, is in good voice, especially with "Playing Second Fiddle." She's a riot with her Carmen Miranda fruit hat. Nancy Florkowski's (Sister Mary Leo) dancing talents were apparent in several numbers,

including the splendid "Soup's On" (The Dying Nun Ballet). Salathiel Baldwin (Sister Mary Hubert) is a natural comic. She saves the best for last as she leads the cast (and audience) in the hand-clapping, show-stopping spiritual, "Holier Than Thou." Ken Pletzer's music (piano and synthesizer) has the effect of a real combo. Ned Kalinovic's scenery (school gym with "Grease" set) was well done, and includes some nifty use of a scrim. Dan Kurt's lighting design created the right mood and on cue.

'Christmas Carol' retains its luster

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

Backstage Pass is on break for Detroit Public Television's Winterfest '97 Pledge Drive, so you'll have to hunt around for "It's A Wonderful Life." What a switch! Remember a few years back when you couldn't turn on a television

answer: "It's a guaranteed money-maker. It's a family-oriented holiday experience. It's familiar, so nobody will question the content or subject matter, and at this time of year people are looking for things to do as a family. Also, without dealing with religion directly, the play tackles issues of redemption, so it touches on certain quasi-religious issues, which makes it more palatable." Aha! A once-a-year show with no downside.

Is it my imagination, or is it the most theatrically adapted novel of all time? "Well, you have Cecily Tyson doing an African-American version. There were two other feminine versions, one of them with Susan Lucci. Then there are the British film versions. The George C. Scott made-for-TV version which was done by CBS was one of the most faithful productions to the book that's been done in a long while ... it's not the most use story, it's one of them."

Beyond getting produced into the ground, is it even a good play? Gary says, "That depends on the production, and on the script. There are several differ-

ent versions, many adaptations for the stage. Some are more successful than others at rendering the best elements of the book into an enjoyable theater experience." How about the source material? "The book is great. The story itself is good." Well, what about that Pollyannaish resolution? Isn't there a growing legion of folks getting disillusioned with the gross commercialism of the season?

Gary set me straight. "The play's message is contrary to the way the season has gone. If you listen carefully to the story, it's about a man who was busy acquiring wealth at the expense of having a life. His only nephew doesn't even know him. And he finds out at the end that it's more important to care about others than to acquire wealth, contrary to what the world seems to think."

"But there is a growing commentary on the commercialization of the season. There's a stage play called 'Inspecting Carol.' It's a satire about a company that puts up 'A Christmas Carol' every year. You're watching people who show no compassion for their common man, and

yet they're doing a play where the main theme is just that!"

OK, I'm sold! "A Christmas Carol" is one of the season's great traditions, and Wayne State's Bonstelle production shouldn't be missed. But how about some alternatives, Gary? "There are the tried and true religious options - church choirs, Handel's 'Messiah,' 'The Nutcracker,' all of those."

A personal recommendation? "The Harlem Nutcracker" by the University Musical Society in Ann Arbor. It's Duke Ellington's adaptation of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker." It goes back and forth between modern-day and 1920s Harlem, and the choreography is by former Detroiters Donald Byrd. It plays for five performances this weekend only.

There are plenty of options, so don't be a humbug! Enjoy some theater this holiday season! And remember, Backstage Pass will return next week at 9:30 p.m. on Detroit Public Television.

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See what happened? Gross overexposure had soured me to one of the sweetest movies of all time. So I got to wondering if the same danger lurked in the repeated seasonal productions of "A Christmas Carol." Are we getting to the point where audiences will start rooting for Scrooge to stay his cold, miserly, nasty self?

As usual, when I have a question regarding theater, I called on our Backstage Pass theater correspondents to enlighten me. This time, it was Gary Anderson who had to field my neurosis. "Gary," I asked, "why so many productions of 'A Christmas Carol?'"

Sure, enough, Gary had the

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Our guide to the new models displayed on the floor of Cobo Center is must "before you go" reading. Don't miss this "road map" to the ultimate automobile experience!

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Two runners-up will receive a pair of tickets to the early performance of "Generation X Files" at Second City on New Year's Eve.

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Entries must be received by Thursday, December 18, and three winners will be picked at random. Winner's names will be published in the Observer & Eccentric on Sunday, December 21. All winners will be contacted by phone on Monday, December 22. Employees of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Second City/Olympia Entertainment are not eligible to win.

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AVENUE PRODUCTIONS/ATTIC THEATRE
 "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline," featuring Susan Arnold as "Patsy" singing 20 of Cline's most memorable songs with a five-piece band, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 (\$22), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 (\$27), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 (\$27), and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 (\$22), 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Group rates available. Dinner theater packages at a 20 percent discount available for most restaurants in Pontiac area. (248) 335-8101

1515 BROADWAY
 "I Love Christmas," a new comedy by Detroit playwright Kim Carney, presented by Tritico Theatre Company, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the theater, 1515 Broadway, Detroit. \$12.50 and \$10. \$2 discount for students/seniors. (313) 965-1515/(248) 645-6666

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE
 "In the Sweet Bye and Bye," a comedy by Donald Driver, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the theater, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. \$15, \$40 for season subscription. (313) 868-1347

FISHER THEATRE
 "Les Miserables," through Sunday, Jan. 4. Fisher Theatre in the Fisher Building, Detroit. 8 p.m. Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and special holiday performance 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. No performances Wednesday, Dec. 24, or Thursday, Jan. 1. \$15-\$58. (248) 645-6666/(313) 871-1132

JEWISH ENSEMBLE THEATRE
 "Shiva Queen," by Rebecca Ritchle, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, in the Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre, Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, and Sunday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. \$13-\$23, discounts available for seniors ages 65 and older, and students. New Year's Eve performances 7 p.m. (\$35 includes champagne and hors d'oeuvres) and 10 p.m. (\$50 includes champagne, hors d'oeuvres and breakfast). (248) 788-2900

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE
 "A Christmas Carol," 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursday and 2 p.m. Wednesdays (\$23), 8 p.m. Fridays (\$27.50), 2 p.m. Saturdays (\$23), 6 p.m. Saturdays and 8 p.m. Saturdays (\$33.50), 2 p.m. Sundays (\$23), and 6:30 p.m. Sundays (\$27.50) through Sunday, Dec. 28, at the theater, Wilson Hall at Oakland University (Walton Boulevard and Adams Road), Rochester. Student, senior and group discounts available. (248) 377-3300

THE PURPLE ROSE THEATRE COMPANY
 "Escanaba in da Moonlight," a comedy about a family's deer hunting trip by Jeff Daniels, through Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Garage Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. \$20-\$25. (313) 475-7902

COLLEGE

WSU BONSTELLE THEATRE
 "A Christmas Carol," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the theater, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$8-\$10, \$5 children ages 12 and younger, with group discounts available. (313) 577-3960

COMMUNITY THEATRE

DEARBORN FAMILY THEATRE
 "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Edsel Ford High School auditorium, 20601 Rotunda (at Pelham Road), Dearborn. \$10, \$9 seniors, with group discounts available. (313) 561-0599

GROSSE POINTE WAR MEMORIAL
 "It's A Wonderful Life," the first stage production of a radio broadcast of Frank Capra's story, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms. \$20, \$50 includes a reception following the performance and an opportunity to meet the cast on stage, \$100 also includes preferred seating. (313) 881-7511

LAKELAND PLAYERS
 "Babes in Toyland," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, Mason Middle School, 3835 W. Walton Blvd., Waterford. \$7, \$6 students and seniors, with group rates available. (248) 674-4738

LIVONIA REDFORD THEATRE GUILD
 "Nonsense," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the playhouse, 15138 Beech Daly, Redford. \$12, group rates and senior discounts available. (313) 531-0554

THE NOVI THEATRES
 "A Christmas Carol," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. \$8, \$7 seniors and students younger than 12, \$7 and \$6 in advance. (248) 347-0400

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

An evening of holiday one-acts including "The Long Christmas Dinner" and "The Sheep Thief," through Sunday, Dec. 21, at the playhouse, 38840 W. Six Mile (at I-275), Livonia. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, and 4 p.m. Sundays. \$8, not including bread bowl with soup and cider; group rates available. Seating limited to 50. (313) 464-6302

VILLAGE PLAYERS
 "Sweet and Hot," a musical review of music by Harold Arlen, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, at the theater, 752 Chestnut St. (at Woodward Avenue, south of Maple Road), Birmingham. \$14, \$12 students. (248) 644-2075.

YOUTH

CLARENCEVILLE YOUTH THEATRE
 A group of 50 actors and singers, formerly known as the Redford Youth Theatre, present "The Christmas Wish," a mini-musical and two one-acts (including the Hanukkah scene from the "Diary of Anne Frank"), 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Clarenceville High School auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt Road (between Seven and Eight Mile roads), Livonia. \$5. (313) 535-8962

MARQUIS THEATRE
 "Aladdin," 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through Jan. 25, and 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 29, Tuesday, Dec. 30-Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 2, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., Northville. \$6.50. (248) 349-8110

RIDGEDALE PLAYERS
 The Junior Actors of Ridgedale present "Ridgedale Rascals," a holiday musical based on the Little Rascal characters, 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake, Troy. \$6.50 (includes the play, a meal, a gift, and visit with Santa). \$5.50 for the 3:30 p.m. Sunday performance (includes juice and cookies). Reservations required. Pictures with Santa available for small fee. Patrons are requested to bring donations of non-perishable food items or a new, unwrapped toy for the Salvation Army. (248) 988-7049

WILD SWAN THEATRE COMPANY
 "The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse," Saturday, Dec. 13-Sunday, Dec. 14, Saturday, Dec. 20-Sunday, Dec. 21, Saturday, Dec. 27-Sunday, Dec. 28, and Friday, Jan. 2, Sunday, Jan. 4, Henry Ford Museum's Anderson Center Theater, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. (313) 271-1620

SPECIAL EVENTS

"LIQUID SOUL"
 Featuring fashion, the music of Fathers of the Id and Ziam, and poetry. 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$10. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873

SPORTS CARD, COMIC AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW
 3-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Roseville Towne Center, 12 Mile and Gratiot, Roseville. Free. (248) 557-1529

"STRANGLEMANIA LIVE!"
 Wrestling featuring a match between rapper Insane Clown Posse (ICP) and The Chicken Boys (Confederate Fred and Al Labama) inside a 15-foot-high steel cage of horrors, a Ladies Thumbtack Death Match between Angel and Lady Vendetta, a "Three-Way 'King of the Hardcore' Death Match" with Ian Rotten versus Mad Man Pondo versus Ox Harley, a "Double Tables Death Match" with Skull Ganz and "Dirty" Don Montoya, and a 20-man "Over the Top" battle royal, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$15. All ages. (313) 961-MELT

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS
 Featuring organist Lyn Larsen and vocalist Laurie Meeker, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Redford Theatre, 17360 Lecher Road, Detroit. \$8. (313) 531-4407

TRADITIONAL POLISH CHRISTMAS TREE
 On display 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, Monday, Dec. 1, through Thursday, Jan. 1; holiday dinner dance with music by Carousels, 1:30 p.m. dinner with dancing from 3-7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. \$15 includes dinner and dancing, both events at American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Road (at Dequindre Road), Troy. (248) 689-3636

WASSAIL FEST
 A re-creation of the legendary Winter Court of England's Queen Elizabeth I, 6:30-10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11-Saturday, Dec. 13, and Thursday, Dec. 18-Saturday, Dec. 20, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$150 (discounted \$15 on Dec. 11 and Dec. 18). \$135 per ticket for tables of 20 or more. (313) 833-4005

FAMILY EVENTS

CHENILLE SISTERS
 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Borders Books and Music, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 737-0110

DETROIT ZOO'S "WILD LIGHTS"
 Light show featuring more than 50 animated animal displays along a half-mile



Enchanting Tale: Bethany Blanchard of White Lake Middle School plays the Toy Box Doll in "The Nutcracker" presented by the Lakes Area Civic Ballet.

Local dancers present 'Nutcracker'

"The Nutcracker" is a holiday tradition in metro Detroit. Local dance groups invite you to discover Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet.

Contemporary Civic Ballet presents "The Nutcracker," under the direction of Rose Marie Floyd, with New York dancer Alexander Schlempp, and Samantha Shelton, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Warren Woods Middle School auditorium, East 12 Mile, west of Schoenner, Warren. Tickets \$8 at the door, (248) 641-9063/546-7484. 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 (presented by Valley of Detroit-Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, in the Scottish Rite Cathedral Auditorium at Masonic Temple, Detroit. Tickets \$5 at the door, (248) 641-9063

Detroit Symphony Orchestra - with principal dancers Evelyn Cisneros and Anthony Randazzo from the San Francisco Ballet, and Kimberly Glasco and Aleksandar Antonijevic from the National Ballet of Canada, along with members of Dance Detroit perform "The Nutcracker" ballet, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. \$14-\$53 adults, \$10-\$24 children and seniors, (313) 833-3700

The Harlem Nutcracker - Donald Byrd's jazzy version of the holiday tale featuring a live jazz orchestra, regional gospel choir and children's casts, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11-Friday, Dec. 12, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13-Sunday, Dec. 14, Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121

Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Tickets \$16-\$34, (800) 221-1229

Eric Johnston's Detroit Ballet - "The Nutcracker," with the Betty Johnston Dance Studio and Birmingham Dance Academy, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Ave., Wayne; 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Farmington Harrison High School, 29995 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills; tickets \$8 and \$6, (313) 721-7400/(248) 473-9570

Lakes Area Civic Ballet - "The Nutcracker," under the direction of Christine Bove, who danced professionally with the Arizona Ballet Company, with Curtis Waldschmidt, a professional dancer from Los Angeles, as the Nutcracker Prince, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at West Bloomfield High School auditorium, 4925 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Tickets \$10, \$8.50, with special rates for community organizations purchasing 15 or more tickets, (248) 866-1971

Livonia Civic Ballet - "The Nutcracker" 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Clarenceville High School auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Tickets \$12 adults, \$9 seniors/students, \$6 children ages 5-9, \$6 each for groups of 12 or more, (313) 427-9103/(248) 477-0520

Michigan Ballet Theatre - With the Warren Symphony Orchestra, "The Nutcracker," 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44675 Garfield Road (at M-59), Clinton Township. Tickets \$22, \$20 for children ages 12 and younger, and senior citizens, tickets \$18 and \$17 for groups of 20 or more,



Sweet Dreams: Samantha Shelton of Troy plays the "Sugar Plum Fairy" in the Contemporary Civic Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker."

(810) 286-2222

Plymouth Canton Ballet Company - "The Nutcracker," under the direction of Dawn Greene, featuring principal dancers Dawnell Dryja and Mark Nash of the Cincinnati Ballet, and the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy Road (at Canton Center Road), Canton. Tickets \$15 adults and senior citizens, \$8 for children K-12. A Sugar Plum Fairy Tea, where children will have a tea party with the Sugar Plum Fairy and other performers, will be held after the Saturday, Dec. 13, and Sunday, Dec. 14 concerts. Tickets \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. (313) 451-2112.

trail, 5:30-8 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 30 (except Christmas and Christmas Eve), at the zoo, I-696 and Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak. \$3 adults, \$2 children 2-12, free for children younger than 2. DZS members' admission, \$2 adults, \$1.50 children 2-12. (248) 541-5835/(248) 541-5717

LIGHTFEST
 Walk-through winter wonderland features 26 animated light displays, the more than one million lights are presented by the Henry Ford Health System 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays, and 6:30-10:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through Sunday, Dec. 28, B.A.S.F. Waterfront Park, 3625 Biddle Ave. (south of Eureka Road), Wyandotte. \$2.50, \$2 seniors, \$1 for children ages four to 15. Area service organizations and nonprofits staff the event as volunteers and will receive a portion of the proceeds. (734) 246-4505/282-6233 or its website <http://www.wyandotte.net/lightfest>

"WINTER CARNIVAL OF FUN"
 Indoor amusement park, 4-11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Cobo Conference/Exhibition Center. (313) 923-7400

YPSILANTI FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Featuring miniature train rides and horse-drawn wagon rides, 6-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Sunday, Dec. 14, Friday, Dec. 19-Sunday, Dec. 21, Wednesday, Dec. 24-Thursday, Dec. 25, 6 p.m.-midnight Wednesday, Dec. 31, Riverside Park along the Huron River, Ypsilanti's Historic Depot Town. Donations accepted. (313) 483-4444 or <http://www.ypsi.org>

CLASSICAL

ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 "Viennese Winter Fest," featuring festival waltzes, marches and polkas, 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Michigan Theatre, 603 Liberty, Ann Arbor. \$16-\$29 with discounts for seniors, students and children. (313) 994-4801

BEAUX ARTS TRIO
 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, as part of a Chamber Music Society of Detroit presentation, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$5-\$39. (313) 833-3700

WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 "Family Holiday Spectacular," 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Chrysler Theatre, Cleary International Centre, 201 Riverside Dr. W., Ontario, Canada.

(800) 387-9181

POPS/SWING

ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 "Sing-Along with Santa and Sam," 4-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. \$10, \$5 children ages 12 and younger, \$25 families up to six members, \$50 patron tickets with preferred seating. (313) 994-4801

DETROIT RENAISSANCE RINGERS
 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Lord and Taylor court, Fairlane Town Center, 18900 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Free. All ages. (313) 593-1370

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 With conductor David Alan Miller, the Madrigal Chorus of Southfield and its director Robert A. Martin, and Highland Park Baptist Church Choir and its director Gary Matthews, performing Christmas Pops concert, 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$17-\$60; With Roberta Flack, Al Jarreau, Melissa

Manchester, Jeffrey Osborne, and the Perfected Praise Choir of Perfecting Church conducted by Marvin Winans, as part of "The Colors of Christmas" concert, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$21-\$75. (313) 833-3700

IMPERIAL SWING ORCHESTRA
 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (swing) (313) 485-5050

WAYNE NEWTON'S HOLIDAY SHOW
 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, Chrysler Theater in Cleary International Centre, 201 Riverside Dr.-West, Windsor, Ontario, Canada. \$40 and \$60 (Canadian, includes GST). All ages. (pops) (800) 387-9181

NOVI CONCERT BANJ
 Holiday concert and sing-along, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Road, Novi. Free. All ages. (248) 349-0720

II V I ORCHESTRA
 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Motor Lounge, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. Cover charge. 21 and older. (swing) (313) 369-0090

U.S. COAST GUARD BAND
 Holiday concert, 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. Free. All ages. (313) 764-0594

VELVIS
 With Gino and the Lone Valleyboys, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$5. 18 and older. (swing/lounge) (313) 833-POOL

AUDITIONS

NOVI THEATRES
 Auditions for "Oliver," 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, and Thursday, Dec. 18, at the Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. There are speaking and soloists roles for four adult males, five adults females, and two children; speaking-only roles for eight adult males, five adult females and seven children; and a chorus of workhouse children. Fagin's Group, workhouse assistants, Bow Street runners, street vendors/criers, inn's crowd of merrymakers. For principal vocal parts, please prepare one of the songs from the show. For speaking parts, prepare a cutting from the play. For the chorus, be prepared to sing a song or the scale and perform some simple dance routines. Bring or wear non-rubber-soled shoes for dancing. Fees are \$30 for adults, \$125 for children. Fees cover the cost of music, scripts and costumes, as well as theater, dance and choral instruction for children. Performances are March 13-15. (248) 347-0400

RACKHAM SYMPHONY CHOIR
 Holding auditions for a boy alto soloist. Tuesday, Dec. 16, First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak, 529 Hendrie Boulevard, Royal Oak. This part, to be sung in Hebrew, is included in Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms," and will be part of a concert to be performed on Sunday, March 22, at Holy Name Church in Birmingham. For an audition time, call (313) 341-3466.

THE VOCAL ARTS ACADEMY
 Holds auditions for its second semester, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Varner Recital Hall, room 134, Oakland University, Walton Boulevard and Adams Road, Rochester. (248) 625-7057

CHORAL

BIRMINGHAM MUSICALE
 "Holiday Celebration," featuring the choral ensemble, organ and soprano soloists, 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Central Woodward Christian Church, 3955 W. Big Beaver (at Adams Road), Troy. Free. (248) 475-5978

DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS
 Concert of sacred Christmas choral music, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple Road, Birmingham; 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, St. John Lutheran Church, 16339 14 Mile Road, Fraser. \$10, \$7 seniors and students. (248) 988-0604

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CHORUS
 Ernest Brandon conducts the chorus in a musical salute to the season, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, University Lutheran Chapel, 812 Ann Street, Ypsilanti. Free. (313) 487-2255

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS
 Under the direction of Steven SeGraves, presents "Holidays Revisited," 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18-Friday, Dec. 19, Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee (west of Orchard Lake Road), Farmington. \$8. \$5 seniors and students. (248) 788-5322

JACKSON CHORALE
 Christmas Concert by the choir under the direction of Gilbert Jackson, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Central United Methodist Church, 3882 Highland Road (M-59), Waterford. \$10, \$8 seniors/students, available at door or by calling (248) 651-3085

LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS
 "Making Sprites Bright," a holiday musical directed by Jim Whitten with guest artists the Tinbox Children's Choir (under the direction of Ray Schmidt), 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt Road (between

8 days a week

Making contact: Please submit popular music items for publication to Christina Fuoco; all others to Linda Chomin, two weeks in advance to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150 or by fax (313) 591-7279

Continued from previous page
Seven and Eight Mile roads, Livonia. Free. (313) 525-1447
OAKLAND SINGERS ENCORE
Holiday concert featuring Oakland County high school students. 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, St. Fabian Church, 32200 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington. Free. All ages. (248) 681-1483
RACKHAM SYMPHONY CHOIR
Handel's "Messiah." 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, East Jefferson Avenue (at St. Antoine), Detroit. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. (313) 341-3466
SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHOIR
Holiday program, "Alleluia, Rejoice!" 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church of Livonia, 30900 Six Mile Road (between Merriman and Middlebelt roads), Livonia. Donation. All ages. (313) 462-4435

JAZZ
SANDRA BOMAR TRIO
8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (vocal, piano, bass trio) (248) 645-2150
DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER
8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. \$20 in advance. 21 and older. (313) 662-8310
RON ENGLISH TRIO
7:11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (guitar, piano, bass trio) (248) 645-2150
KIMMIE HORNE
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, D.L. Harrington's Roadhouse, 2086 Crooks Road (at M-59), Rochester Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (jazz/R&B) (248) 852-0550
MIKE KAROUB'S CELLO JAZZ
8:11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Tuscan Cafe, 150 N. Center St., Northville. Free. All ages. 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, Borders Books and Music, 34300 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. All ages. (248) 305-8629/(248) 203-0056
KOG'S KATS
7:11 p.m. Saturday in December, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Free. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750
KATHY KOSINS
7:30:10:30 p.m. Wednesdays (except Dec. 24) through Dec. 30, beginning at 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 at the Oakland Grill, 32832 Woodward, south of 14 Mile, Royal Oak. (248) 549-7700
SHEILA LANDIS
With Rick Matie, 8:11:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Coffee Beanery, 152 N. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. All ages. With Rick Matie, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Tuscan Grill, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 646-6022/(248) 652-1600
RICHARD LOZON TRIO
9 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (sax, piano, bass trio) (248) 645-2150
THE MATT MICHAELS TRIO
With bassist Dan Jordan, drummer Jerry McKenzie, and special guest Jack Brokensha, 8:11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, and special guest ron Kischuk, 8:11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River, Farmington Hills. \$5 cover waived with dinner order (served 6:30-9 p.m.) plus a \$5 drink minimum. 21 and older. (248) 474-4800
ROBERT PIPHO TRIO
7:11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (piano, bass, drums trio) (248) 645-2150
HARVEY THOMPSON AND FRIENDS
9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. \$5. 21 and older. (313) 662-8310
STEVE WOOD TRIO
8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (sax, piano, bass trio) (248) 645-2150
ALEXANDER ZONJIC
9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Thai-Chi Express, 630 Woodward Ave. (two blocks north of Jefferson Avenue), Detroit. \$7.50. 21 and older; 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, as part of "Classics on the Lake," St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake. (313) 963-8424/(248) 683-1750

WORLD MUSIC
BLACK MARKET
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (reggae) (248) 543-4300
CROSSROADS CEILI
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$11. \$10 members, students, seniors. All ages. (313) 761-1451
IMMIGRANT SONS
With Only a Mother, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$6. 18 and older. (Eastern European) (313) 833-P00L
IMMUNITY
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Union Lake Grill and Bar, 2280 Union Lake Road,

Commerce Township. Free. 21 and older; 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and Friday, Dec. 19, Woody's Diner, 208 Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (reggae) (248) 360-7450/(248) 543-6911
FOLK/ BLUEGRASS
CHRIS BUHALIS AND JO SERRAP-ERE
Celebrate the releases of their respective CDs, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$12.50. \$9, \$8 members, students, seniors. (313) 761-1451
HILLS, HERDMAN AND MANGSEN
8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$12.50. All ages. (313) 761-1451
JAN KRIST
10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cover charge. 21 and older; 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, Royal Oak Brewery, 215 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (248) 652-1600/(248) 544-1141
JOEL MABUS
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$11. \$10 members, students, seniors. All ages. (313) 761-1451
JAMES MCMURTRY
With Fred Eaglesmith, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. All ages. (313) 761-1451
RFD BOYS
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$9, \$8 members, students, seniors. (313) 761-1451

DANCE
CONTRA DANCE
"Rocky Road Advance Contra-English Dance." 7:9:45 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, Chapel Hill Condominium Clubhouse, 3350 Green Road (north of Plymouth Road), Ann Arbor. All dances taught, all welcome, no partner required. \$4. (313) 662-5158
"DANCE BALLETS: ITEMS FROM MYTHOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL STORIES"
With acclaimed Kathak director and choreographer Smt. Maya Rao and dancers Madhu Natarajan, Suma Vijay, Shubha Dhananjay, Sangeeta Sastry, Mysore B. Nagaraj, K. Prakash and Sunil Rajashekar, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Troy High School auditorium, 4777 Northfield Parkway (at Long Lake Road), Troy. \$15 and \$10, free for children ages 10 and younger. (248) 641-9340/(248) 349-7584
DFARMINGTON FESTIVAL OF DANCE
With the Detroit Dance Collective, and members of the WSU Dance Company, Michigan Classic Ballet Company, Stardust Ballroom Dance Studio, Annette and Company, Main Street Dance Company, Barbara Hatch School of Dance, Michelle Millman, Eric Johnston's Detroit Ballet Company, and the O'Day School of Dance, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Farmington High School auditorium, 32000 Shiwasssee (west of Orchard Lake Road), Farmington. \$5, \$2 seniors and children. (248) 473-9570
THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR
Numerous shows through Saturday, Dec. 27, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10-\$50. All ages. This week's performances: 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. (313) 983-6611/(248) 645-6666
WOLVERINE SILVERSPUR DANCERS
7:30 p.m.-midnight Saturday, Dec. 13, Italian American Cultural Center, 28111 Imperial St., Warren. \$7, \$6 WSD members. (313) 526-9432/(810) 573-4993

MUSEUMS AND TOURS
DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The New Glancy Trains exhibit is open in the museum's Wrigley Hall Gallery with a 25 percent larger layout and additional interactive elements for visitors, upcoming events include the Toy Train Family workshops 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13-Sunday, Dec. 14 (\$12 per parent and child, preregistration required) call (313) 833-9720, and the Glancy Trains Show with toy train appraisal for nominal fee 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27; "Remembering Downtown Hudson's" exhibit, a nostalgic look at what made the Hudson's downtown Detroit store an icon of the city's prosperous era, runs through December 1998, at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Free admission Wednesdays; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 seniors and children aged 12-18, free for children ages 11 and younger Thursdays-Sundays. (313) 833-1805
HENRY FORD MUSEUM AND GREENFIELD VILLAGE
"The Story of a Challenge; Locomotive's Old 16," exhibit dedicated to the 1906 race car that includes a multi-media display and a film produced by Academy Award-winning film maker Sue Marx, opens Saturday, Dec. 13; "1850s Holiday Evenings at Eagle Tavern," featuring a holiday dinner with a 19th Century twist, through Tuesday, Dec. 23, and Friday, Dec. 26-Wednesday, Dec. 31; "Traditions of the Season," featuring holiday trees and decorations from various eras, through Sunday, Jan. 4, at the museum and village, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. \$12.50 adults, \$11.50 seniors ages 62 and older, \$6.25 for children ages 5-12, and free for children ages 5 and younger. Group rates available. (313) 271-1620

POPULAR MUSIC
AFTERTASTE
With D-GOD, Blindfold, Tragic Methods, and Immortal Sins 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, as part of Battle of the Bands at Wayne-Ford Civic League, 1661 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Cover charge. All ages. (hardcore) (313) 728-5010
THE ALLIGATORS
10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River, Novi. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 349-9110
ARTIFICIAL JOY CLUB
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$6 in advance. All ages. (rock) (313) 961-MELT
JOHNNIE BASSETT AND THE BLUES INSURGENTS
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 543-4300/(313) 259-2643
BENNY AND THE JETS
With Dead Professor, Cary Coogian Band, and the Sane Alehdorff Band, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, as part of the Christmas party at Wine Cask Inn, 22100 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 730-1627
BIG JACK JOHNSON AND THE OILERS
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 542-9922
THE BIZER BROTHERS
8 p.m.-midnight Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, The Rattlesnake Club, 300 River Place, Detroit. Free. All ages. (pop) (313) 567-4400
BLUE EYED SOUL
2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Blockbuster Music, 482 N. Telegraph, Pontiac. Free. All ages; With Son of Adam, 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Pharaoh's Golden Cup, 28959 Joy Road, Westland. \$6. All ages. (rock) (248) 338-4700/(313) 513-8536
BLUE SUIT BLUES BAND
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18-Friday, Dec. 19, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800
BONNE TEMPS ROULLE
9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800
BUGS BEDDOW BAND
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, Fox and Hounds, 1560 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Bachelor's One, 1967 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800/(248) 682-2295
BUSTER'S BLUES BAND
9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Bo's Bistro, 51 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 338-6200
BUTTERFLY
9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (trippy psychedelic rock) (313) 996-8555
CATHERINE WHEEL
With Gandharvas, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. \$12.50 in advance. All ages. (alternative rock) (248) 333-2362
CHISEL BROS. WITH MIMI HARRIS
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 259-2643
CHUMBAWAMBA
5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. \$13 in advance. All ages. (pop) (248) 333-2362
COMMANDER CODY AND HIS LOST PLANET ARMEN
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$13 in advance. 18 and older. (rock) (248) 544-3030
CORE
With Number Six and The Prisoners, and Catch 22, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (rock) (313) 485-5050
DANNY COX
10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, Tuscan Grill, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages; 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cover charge. 21 and older. (acoustic) (248) 652-1600/(313) 861-8101
DAVE DALE AND THE BLUES CONTROL
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (blues) (313) 485-5050
DEICIDE
9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Harpo's, 14238 Harper, Detroit. Tickets at Ticketmaster. 18 and older. (metal) (313) 824-1700
DOMESTIC PROBLEMS
With Plumloc, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$4. 19 and older. (rock) (313) 996-8555
GLEN EDDIE BAND
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800
FATHERS OF THE ID
10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Rivertown Saloon, 1977 Woodbridge, Detroit. Cover charge. 18 and older. (rock) (313) 567-6020
FOOLISH MORTALS
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River, Novi. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 349-9110
ROBBIE FULKES
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$8 in advance. All ages. (roots rock) (248) 335-8100
STEWART FRANCKE
7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Borders Books and Music, 45290 Utica Park Place, Utica. Free. All ages. With Jill Jack and Susan Calloway, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, moved from 7th House to Mill Street Entry below Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Cover charge. 18 and older. (pop) (810) 726-8555, (248) 333-2362
AMY GRANT CHRISTMAS SHOW
With Michael W. Smith and CeCe Winans featuring the Nashville Symphony, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. \$24.50 \$34.50 with Superfan seating available. Groups of 10 or more receive \$3 off regular ticket price. (pop) (248) 377-0100
HR
Former Bad Brains singer, with Majek Fashek, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$12.50 in advance. 18 and older. (rock/world music) (313) 833-9700
"HOLIDAY HOOTENANNY"
With The Cure, Toad the Wet Sprocket, Big Head Todd and the Monsters, Duncan Sheik, and Huffamoose, as part of WPLT, 96.3 FM concert, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills. Sold out. (alternative rock) (248) 377-0100
JILL JACK
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (roots rock) (248) 543-4300
KING SWEAT
10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 349-9110
KNEE DEEP SHAG
With Jazody, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (funk) (313) 996-8555
LADY SUNSHINE AND THE X BAND
9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 581-3650
JOHN D. LAMB BAND
9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older; 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Mr. B's Farm, 24555 Novi Road, Novi. Free. 21 and older. (singer/songwriter) (248) 349-9110/(248) 349-7038
LIMP BIZKIT
With Sevendust, 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$5, free with a ticket stub from "WRIF's Nightmare Before Christmas" concert at The Palace. All ages. (rock) (248) 334-1999
LISA LISA
Formerly The Cult Jam as part of "Divine" night, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Motor Lounge, 3515 Caniff, Hamtramck. Tickets at Ticketmaster. 21 and older. (pop) (313) 369-0090
MACHINA
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older; With Left Undone and The Magnificent Ambersons, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (rock) (313) 485-5050/(313) 996-8555
LARRY MCCRAY
With Tony Sarno, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 542-9922
MR. FREEDOM X
9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Bo's Bistro, 51 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 338-6200
MOTOR CITY JOSH AND THE BIG 3
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 259-2643
"MOTOR CITY SANTA JAM"
With Domestic Problems, Purple Fly, Immortal Wines of Magic and Park, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Soul Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$6. \$25 with canned food donation. 18 and older. (rock/funk) (248) 544-3030
MOTOR JAM
9 p.m. Tuesdays in December, Karl's Country Cabin, 9779 Gotfredson Road, Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 455-8450
MUDPUPPY
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Beaver Creek, 1609 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Free. 21 and older; 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 722-5330/(248) 543-4300
NICK STRANGE
With Kung Fu Diesel, 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$3. 19 and older. (rock) (313) 996-8555
NOBODY'S BUSINESS
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rockabilly) (313) 581-3650
ROBERT NOLL AND THE MISSION
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, and Thursday, Dec. 18, Goose Island Brewery, 1538 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Sisko's on the Boulevard, 5855 Monroe (at Van Buren), Taylor. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 682-4566, (248) 543-4300/(313) 278-5340
ORANGE 9 MM
With H2O, Fahrenheit, and Man Will Surrender, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$9 in advance. All ages. (hard alternative rock) (313) 961-MELT
PHOENIX THUNDERSTONE
With Fondly, 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. \$6. All ages. (indie rock) (248) 335-8100
PULL
10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River, Novi. Free. 21 and older; 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Mount Chalet, 4715 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 349-9110/(248) 549-2929
SGT. ROCK
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, Lakepointe Yacht Club, 37604 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Cover charge. 21 and older. (classic rock covers) (313) 591-1868
THE SCHUGARS
10 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Bullfrog Bar and Grill, 15414 Telegraph Road (one block north of Five Mile Road), Redford. Cover charge. 21 and older. (pop) (313) 533-4477
SENSITIVE CLOWN
With The Caustic Pop and Saint Ashley, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Lili's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. Cover charge. 21 and older. (pop) (313) 875-6555
SHARECROPPERS OF SOUL
9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 542-9922
SKREW
With Acumen Nation, 20 Deade Flower Children, and The Workhorse Movement, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$7 in advance. All ages. (metal) (313) 961-MELT
SOLID FROG
9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Rivertown Saloon, 1977 E. Woodbridge, Detroit. Cover charge. 18 and older. (rock) (313) 567-6020
CURTIS SUMTER PROJECT WITH CATHY DAVIS
9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800
SUN MESSENGERS
9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (R&B) (248) 542-9922
TESTAMENT
With Thik and Circle of Konfusion, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, The Palladium, 17580 Frazho Road, Roseville. \$13 in advance. \$15 at the door. 18 and older. (metal/rock) (810) 778-6404
MARY THOMPSON AND THE DELTA CHILDREN BLUES BAND
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, B.C. Beans Coffee and Art Gallery, 2964 Biddle, Wyandotte. Free. All ages; 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Lonestar Coffee House, 207 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. All ages. (blues) (313) 284-2244/(248) 642-2233
3 SPEED
With Kung Fu Diesel, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (pop/rock) (313) 485-5050
TWISTIN' TARANTULAS
With Swingsays, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, and with The Deans, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Mill Street Lounge below Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. \$5. 21 and older. (rockabilly/surf) (248) 333-2362
UNITY
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, D.L. Harrington's Roadhouse, 2086 Crooks Road (at M-59), Rochester Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (R&B) (248) 852-0550
RANDY VOLIN AND THE SONIC BLUES
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty, Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Stan's Dugout, 3350 Auburn Road, Auburn Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 451-1213/(248) 852-6433
THE WALLFLOWERS
With The Jayhawks and Maypole, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Hill Auditorium, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. \$20 in advance. All ages. (rock) (313) 764-8350
BILL WHARTON AND THE INGREDIENTS
10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Capt. Tony's, 30923 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. \$5. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 288-6388
WILDBUNCH
With Bantam Rooster, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$4. 19 and older. (alternative rock) (313) 996-8555
WKQI'S "Q CARES HOLIDAY CONCERT"
With Shawn Colvin, Sister Hazel, Edwin McCain, Stewart Francke, and Mitch Ryder, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. \$13.95 in advance. benefits St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills 21 and older. (pop) (248) 546-7610/(248) 546-6410
THE WORKHORSE MOVEMENT
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 18 and older. (rock) (248) 335-8100
WRIF'S "NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS II"
With Megadeth, Jackyl, Jimmie's Chicken Shack, Creed, The Howling Diablos, and special guest host Dee Snider, formerly of Twisted Sister, as part of the "Nightmare Before Christmas II" concert, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills. \$15 and \$10. All ages. (rock) (248) 377-0100

MAINSTREET COMEDY SHOWCASE
The Incredible Boris, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 (\$9), 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13 (\$12), and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 (\$9, \$4.50 for kids younger than 16); Totally Unrehearsed Theatre, 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17 (\$4); Kirkland Teeple, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18 (\$7); Judy Tenuta, 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20 (\$17.50), at the club, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (313) 996-9080
MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE
Fred Greenlee "The Nickel Guy," with Mark Sweetman, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 (\$6), 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13 (\$12), and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 (\$6); Tom McTigue with Bob Phillips, 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17-Thursday, Dec. 18 (\$6), 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20 (\$12), and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 (\$6), at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. (248) 542-9900 or http://www.comedycastle.com
SECOND CITY
"Generation X-Files" through January at the club, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The cast performs a free improvisational comedy set after Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday shows, and the late shows on Fridays and Saturdays. \$14 Thursdays, \$17.50 Fridays, \$19.50 Saturdays, and \$12 Sundays and Wednesdays. The show's title is reflective of current cultural trends, not necessarily the show's content. (313) 965-2222

CONTRA DANCE
"Rocky Road Advance Contra-English Dance." 7:9:45 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, Chapel Hill Condominium Clubhouse, 3350 Green Road (north of Plymouth Road), Ann Arbor. All dances taught, all welcome, no partner required. \$4. (313) 662-5158
"DANCE BALLETS: ITEMS FROM MYTHOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL STORIES"
With acclaimed Kathak director and choreographer Smt. Maya Rao and dancers Madhu Natarajan, Suma Vijay, Shubha Dhananjay, Sangeeta Sastry, Mysore B. Nagaraj, K. Prakash and Sunil Rajashekar, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Troy High School auditorium, 4777 Northfield Parkway (at Long Lake Road), Troy. \$15 and \$10, free for children ages 10 and younger. (248) 641-9340/(248) 349-7584
DFARMINGTON FESTIVAL OF DANCE
With the Detroit Dance Collective, and members of the WSU Dance Company, Michigan Classic Ballet Company, Stardust Ballroom Dance Studio, Annette and Company, Main Street Dance Company, Barbara Hatch School of Dance, Michelle Millman, Eric Johnston's Detroit Ballet Company, and the O'Day School of Dance, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Farmington High School auditorium, 32000 Shiwasssee (west of Orchard Lake Road), Farmington. \$5, \$2 seniors and children. (248) 473-9570
THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR
Numerous shows through Saturday, Dec. 27, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10-\$50. All ages. This week's performances: 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. (313) 983-6611/(248) 645-6666
WOLVERINE SILVERSPUR DANCERS
7:30 p.m.-midnight Saturday, Dec. 13, Italian American Cultural Center, 28111 Imperial St., Warren. \$7, \$6 WSD members. (313) 526-9432/(810) 573-4993

POPULAR MUSIC
AFTERTASTE
With D-GOD, Blindfold, Tragic Methods, and Immortal Sins 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, as part of Battle of the Bands at Wayne-Ford Civic League, 1661 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Cover charge. All ages. (hardcore) (313) 728-5010
THE ALLIGATORS
10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River, Novi. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 349-9110
ARTIFICIAL JOY CLUB
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$6 in advance. All ages. (rock) (313) 961-MELT
JOHNNIE BASSETT AND THE BLUES INSURGENTS
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 543-4300/(313) 259-2643
BENNY AND THE JETS
With Dead Professor, Cary Coogian Band, and the Sane Alehdorff Band, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, as part of the Christmas party at Wine Cask Inn, 22100 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 730-1627
BIG JACK JOHNSON AND THE OILERS
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 542-9922
THE BIZER BROTHERS
8 p.m.-midnight Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, The Rattlesnake Club, 300 River Place, Detroit. Free. All ages. (pop) (313) 567-4400
BLUE EYED SOUL
2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Blockbuster Music, 482 N. Telegraph, Pontiac. Free. All ages; With Son of Adam, 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Pharaoh's Golden Cup, 28959 Joy Road, Westland. \$6. All ages. (rock) (248) 338-4700/(313) 513-8536
BLUE SUIT BLUES BAND
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18-Friday, Dec. 19, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800
BONNE TEMPS ROULLE
9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800
BUGS BEDDOW BAND
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, Fox and Hounds, 1560 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, Bachelor's One, 1967 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800/(248) 682-2295
BUSTER'S BLUES BAND
9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Bo's Bistro, 51 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 338-6200
BUTTERFLY
9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (trippy psychedelic rock) (313) 996-8555
CATHERINE WHEEL
With Gandharvas, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, Clutch Cargo's,

MOVIES

'Ice Storm' takes a complex, cold look at the 1970s

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

Mom is frigid. Dad is having an affair. Fourteen-year-old Wendy diddles with two neighborhood boys while her older brother thinks that all of life's

answers come from the pages of "Fantastic Four" comic books. The family drama of "The Ice Storm," set over a Thanksgiving weekend in Connecticut WASP country, could be the stuff of any number of Harold Pinter plays.

But the new movie, currently at the Star Southfield and Maple, is a complex and subtle adaptation of novelist Rick Moody's confessional account of growing up in the land of Valium and wife swapping.

Though set in 1973, this is no nostalgic lark. Only a few songs of the era grace the soundtrack. Instead, haunting music by Mychael Danna underscores a rather somber study of how the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s has left mom and dad as confused as the kids in how to act sexually.

The movie relives the "key party," where upscale couples arrive for a dinner party but, through a lottery with car keys, leave with someone else's spouse. Hood father Ben (Kevin Kline), meanwhile, engages in an old-fashioned affair with a sexy neighbor (Sigourney Weaver) presumably because his wife is such a cold fish in bed.

Daughter Wendy (Christina Ricci) is routinely left home alone to get into her own mischief in between reruns of "The Time Tunnel." Though usually linked with Mikey (Elijah Wood), she is later caught in the bathroom playing doctor with his little brother Sandy (Adam Hann-Byrd).

"The Ice Storm" is directed by Ang Lee, who brought such energy to "Sense and Sensibility" and "The Wedding Banquet." He uses a more classically Asian film aesthetic here. The movie unfolds at an almost painfully slow pace, awash in a palette of blues, whites and blacks to give it an appropriately cold feeling.



Drama: Kevin Kline and Joan Allen as husband and wife in Ang Lee's "The Ice Storm."

This inherent frostiness translates to the characters as well, who interact with each other but without any genuine emotion. When Ben fixates on his golf game after sleeping with his

mistress, she coolly reminds him that she already has a husband to listen to this kind of mindless banter.

Ben's wife Elena (Joan Allen), meanwhile, is on her own journey. After seeing her daughter looking so free on her bicycle, she starts riding one herself and even engages in a little drug store larceny just to prove that she can do it.

The most stable element of the Hood family turns out to be son Paul (Tobey Maguire), the 16-year-old who goes to a prep school and has a crush on a girl there. He knows his attempts to politely court her will be upstaged by his hipper roommate, who has slept with virtually every girl at school.

It takes a natural phenomenon (the ice storm of the title) to make the characters realize that they really have very little control of their destinies. The cast of "The Ice Storm" is uniformly good, but I still have trouble believing Kevin Kline in a serious role. He's all right in comedies like "A Fish Called Wanda," where he flounders when called upon to do anything dramatic, even a role that essentially requires him to look lost throughout.

Ultimately, the movie is about people ill-equipped to communicate. Perhaps the entire thing is summed up in an oral report given by 14-year-old neighbor kid Mikey, who describes the effect that molecules (like the characters) have as they bounce off of each other in space.

It's the seemingly banal moments like this that add up in "The Ice Storm" and keep you thinking about it long after. Though in limited release, it's a movie you might hear from again, especially around Oscar time.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.

Book, T-shirt prizes offered

Kids - what would you do if you were a princess or prince, and had the power to do anything? Would you try to help others, or buy a lot of toys?

The first 100 children to respond will receive an activity book from "Anastasia," Fox's first full-length animated feature film, now playing at metro Detroit movie theaters. We also have 18 child-size T-shirts to give away to the first readers to respond. We'll share our favorite responses with readers in an article on Thursday, Dec. 26.

Send your - "If I were a prince or princess" answer, and T-shirt size preference - small, medium or large to: Attn: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax responses to: Wygonik at (313) 691-7279.

A magical mix of action, adventure, comedy, romance and music, "Anastasia" is a full-length animated motion picture by Twentieth Century Fox about the lost Russian princess.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

<p>General Cinemas Bargain matinee daily plus \$3.25 (Twi-Lite) show daily</p>	<p>Showcase Pontiac 1-5 Telegraph-Sq. Lake Rd. W Side of Telegraph 810-332-0241 Bargain Matinee Daily 6-8pm *All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily*</p>	<p>BOOGIE NIGHTS (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>United Artists Oakland Inside Oakland Mall 810-585-7041</p>	<p>99¢ Livonia Mall Livonia Mall at 7 Mile 810-476-8800 ALL SEATS 99¢ ALL SHOWS FREE REFILL on Drinks & Popcorn FREE SHOWS DAILY FOR CHILDREN 12 & UNDER ADULTS 99¢ THIS FEATURE ONLY</p>
<p>Canton 6 Ford Rd., 1 MI west of I-275 981-1900 Advanced same-day tickets available *Denotes V.P. Restrictions. Friday thru Thursday</p>	<p>FLUBBER (PG) RAINDMAKER (PG13) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) BEAN (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>Star Rochester Hills 200 Barclay Circle 853-2260 FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p>	<p>ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) NV THE RAINDMAKER (PG13) NV FAIRY TALE (PG) NV ONE NIGHT STAND (R) NV CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>SWITCHBACK (R) AIR BUD (PG) MEN IN BLACK (PG13) GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>
<p>THE RAINDMAKER (PG13) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) 'BEAN (PG13) 'ALIEN: THE RESURRECTION (R)-2 SCREENS* I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>Showcase Pontiac 6-12 2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph 810-334-6777 Bargain Matinee Daily 6-8pm *All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat.</p>	<p>Star Southfield 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off I-596 248-353-STAR No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p>	<p>United Artists 12 Oaks Inside Twelve Oaks Mall 810-585-7041</p>	<p>Waterford Cinema II 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner M-55 & Williams Lake Rd. 24 Hour Movie Line (810) 666-7900 \$3.25 (Twi-Lite) SHOWS DAILY</p>
<p>Novi Town Center 8 Novi Rd., South of I-96 344-0077 Advance same-day tickets available FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY *DENOTES V.P. RESTRICTIONS</p>	<p>ALIENS 4 (R) ANASTASIA (G) THE JACKAL (R) MORTAL KOMBAT (PG13) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) EVE'S BAYOU (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>Star Southfield No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p>	<p>ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) NV THE RAINDMAKER (PG13) NV BEAN (PG13) NV STAR SHIP TROOPERS (R) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) NV FAIRY TALE (G) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>24 Hour Movie Line (810) 666-7900 \$3.25 (Twi-Lite) SHOWS DAILY</p>
<p>'THE JACKAL (R) MORTAL KOMBAT 2 (PG13) ANASTASIA (G) FULL MONTY (R) 'MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) 'FLUBBER (PG) 2 SCREENS DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>Quo Vadis Warren & Wayne Rds 313-423-7700 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed.Thurs. Fri. & Sat.</p>	<p>Star Southfield No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p>	<p>United Artists West River 9 Mile, 2 Block West of Middlebelt 810-788-6572</p>	<p>Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil (R) FLUBBER (PG) ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) ANASTASIA (G) MORTAL KOMBAT: ANNIHILATION (PG13) RAINDMAKER (R) MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG) THE JACKAL (R) STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) BEAN (PG13) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>
<p>Keego TWIN Cinema Orchard Lake Rd. at Cass Lake Rd. 682-1900 All Seats \$1.50 before 6 pm Family Matinee Fri.-SAT.-SUN</p>	<p>ALIENS 4 (R) ANASTASIA (G) MORTAL KOMBAT (PG13) BEAN (PG13) THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) ALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>Star Southfield No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p>	<p>United Artists Theatres West River 9 Mile, 2 Block West of Middlebelt 810-788-6572</p>	<p>Waterford Cinema II 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner M-55 & Williams Lake Rd. 24 Hour Movie Line (810) 666-7900 \$3.25 (Twi-Lite) SHOWS DAILY</p>
<p>KISS THE GIRLS (R) IN AND OUT (PG13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>Star Theatres The World's Best Theatres Bargain Matinee Daily \$4.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm Now accepting Visa & MasterCard *NP* Denotes No Pass Engagement</p>	<p>Star Southfield No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p>	<p>Birmingham Theatre 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-644-3419 NP Denotes No Pass Engagements</p>	<p>Terrace Cinema 30400 Plymouth Rd. 313-261-3330 All shows \$1.50 except shows after 6 p.m. * All shows \$1.50 7se every Tuesday. Would you like to see Free Movies? Then become a "FREQUENT VIEWER!" COME IN AND FIND OUT HOW</p>
<p>National Amusements Showcase Cinemas</p>	<p>Showcase Westland 1-8 6800 Wayne Rd. One blk. S. of Warren Rd. 313-729-1060 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed.Thurs. Fri. & Sat.</p>	<p>Star Southfield No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p>	<p>United Artists Fairlane Fairlane Town Center Valet Parking Available 313-593-4790</p>	<p>SUN.-THURS Box Office opens at 4:00 pm Monday - Friday only CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>
<p>Showcase Auburn Hills 1-14 2150 N. Copelye Rd. Between University & Walton Blvd 810-373-2660 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed.Thurs. Fri. & Sat.</p>	<p>FLUBBER (PG) ALIENS 4 (R) ANASTASIA (G) RAINDMAKER (PG13) MORTAL KOMBAT (PG13) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) THE JACKAL (R) STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>Star Southfield No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p>	<p>United Artists Theatres Bargain Matinee Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM Same day advance tickets available. NV - No V.I.P. tickets accepted</p>	<p>Special Offer... 10% OFF on ALL \$10, \$20 AND \$50 GIFT BOOKS FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY! NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE</p>
<p>FLUBBER (PG) ALIENS 4 (R) ANASTASIA (G) RAINDMAKER (PG13) MORTAL KOMBAT (PG13) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) THE JACKAL (R) BEAN (PG13) STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p>Showcase Dearborn 1-8 Michigan & Telegraph 313-561-3460 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm. Continuous Shows Daily *Late Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun.</p>	<p>Star John R at 14 Mile 32289 John R. Road 810-585-2070 CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES FRIDAY - THURSDAY No one under 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p>	<p>MJR THEATRES \$1.00 Ford Tel \$1.50 313-561-7200 \$1.00 til 6 pm After 6 p.m. \$1.50 Ample Parking - Teardrop Center Free Refill on Drinks & Popcorn Please Call Theatre for Showtimes</p>	<p>Star Southfield No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm</p>
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STREET SCENE

Musicians pay tribute to injured Wings with a song



CHRISTINA FUOCO

A group of local musicians have banded together to pay tribute to injured Detroit Red Wings player Vladimir Konstantinov and trainer Sergei Mnat-akanov who were severely injured in a Friday, June 13, car accident.

The song "Broken Wing: A Tribute" - the brainchild of Caryn Ciesielski and Jim Gentry, creative partners for McCann Erickson Advertising - features vocals by Graham Strachan of Redford and music written and performed by Strachan and Michael Kudreiko, both of whom are in the local band Robb Roy.

Former DC Drive members Brian and Mark Pastoria of the Harmonie Park Creative Group in Detroit produced and played drums and keyboards, respectively, on "Broken Wing." Jason Kuehn and Chris McCall, both of Thunder Harp Choir, also played on the song.

Kudreiko explained that the music came quickly when the Pastoria brothers showed him and Strachan Gentry's lyrics.

"We went down to their studio and jammed on it. It didn't take that long. You know how people say they channel things? Well this whole project is falling in place one step after another," said Kudreiko, a Dearborn resident.

The melancholy 3:59 ballad includes the lyrics: "In our hearts we have the power/In our strength we hold the key/Together we will move mountains/We can mend this broken wing."

The musicians are celebrating the release of the CD and cassette with a performance of "Broken Wing" at noon Friday, Dec. 12, at Harmony House, 30830 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

The week ending Nov. 30 "Broken Wing" hit No. 1 on the cassette/CD singles chart at Harmony House stores above Puff Daddy, Boyz II Men and Elton John.

Profits from the sale of the cassette and CD, priced at \$3.99, will be donated to William Beaumont Hospital's Rehabilitation of brain trauma injuries, and the trust funds for the families of Konstantinov and Mnataskanov. It is not sanctioned by the NHL.

Kudreiko said that this project was right up his alley.

"I'm a big Red Wings fan and Graham has become a big Red Wings fan the last couple of years. ... I play beer league hockey, local hockey, and so it's near and dear and Konstantinov was a lot of people's favorite player and he definitely was mine."

He added that he and Strachan also chose to participate so they could give something back to the community.

"Basically, we felt it would be a good thing for the city. We wanted to give something back. Some people go to soup kitchens and dole out soup once a year and that makes them feel good. I haven't done anything like that as a musician so this is something that we can do."

For more information about the project, see their web page at http://members.aol.com/mending-wing

The pop band Huffamoose is pretty thrilled about playing The Palace of Auburn Hills on Friday, Dec. 12, as part of holiday station WPLT's sold out "Holiday Hootenanny" concert.

"I'm excited, definitely," said vocalist/guitarist Craig Elkins. "It's our first arena-sized gig. We opened for Toad the Wet Sprocket for a little bit. We played 3,000-seat places, but it's as big as we've gotten so far."

Elkins said the key to arena shows is not to get nervous.

"The best way to prepare for something like that is not to think about it. You kind of live

your life. If you do get nervous about those things, you'll get super nervous and worked up. If that happens for me, at least, I always end up falling on my face."

The Philadelphia band's debut album "We've Been Had Again" (Interscope) is a punchy look at the world according to Elkins, whose vocals jump all over the music scale, and lead guitarist Kevin Hanson.

The hip-swaying first single "Wait," written by Hanson, is "about my girlfriend being a really good dancer. When we get out there, everybody else clears the floor. And all the other guys with the hip moves check her out - and I feel like a jerk."

Filled with fuzzy guitars, the Dinosaur Jr.-esque title track, another Hanson song, politely disses the music industry.

In "Buy You a Ring" Elkins longs for the simplicity of being a kid. "I wanna be in the fifth grade again. I wanna worry about poison ivy. I wanna worry about getting beat up after school. I wanna send you a note," he sings.

For the album "We've Been Had Again," Huffamoose did the "typical go to Los Angeles and record" thing. After a falling out with the producer, Huffamoose

returned to Philadelphia and completed the project at The Chill Factor Studio in Ardmore, Pa., with producer Erik Horvitz.

"The funny thing is we all thought it would be so cool to do it in Los Angeles, but it had the opposite effect. When I'm home, the most creative atmosphere is your bedroom," Elkins said with a laugh.

"My bedroom is some place that I'm super familiar with. When you record in those big scary studios, it's so sterile and the mood just isn't creative. We recorded in this little tiny studio and it really worked for us."

The second annual Holiday Hootenanny features Huffamoose (6-6:35 p.m.), Duncan Sheik (6:55-7:40 p.m.), Big Head Todd and the Monsters (8:45 p.m.), Toad the Wet Sprocket (9:10 p.m.) and The Cure (10:30-11:30 p.m.), Friday, Dec. 12, at The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills. The show is sold out. For more information, call (248) 377-0100.

When guitarist Tobi Miller left The Wallflowers 2-1/2 years ago, he had no desire to play in another band. He wanted to concentrate on producing records and starting his own label.

"There's so many things to do

with music. Just being in a rock band doesn't fill the gamut of the different stuff to do," Miller explained.

"It was exciting for me to have an opportunity to produce and work with different kinds of music instead of playing the same songs for a year or two."

One band that came along was the roots rock band Maypole.

"In making this record, I was just the producer in the beginning. I was playing all the guitar parts because there wasn't a guitarist. I just fell into it. I didn't necessarily want to be in a band, but I sort of couldn't resist. This band, I think, is the band I was born to be in."

The result is "Product" released on Sony's Work Group label. Miller said that one thing that initially attracted him to the band was singer/guitarist Hans Hitner's lyrics.

"He has this way with words that to me reminds me of why I

started listening to music in the first place. You can learn about life from certain songs. That was what sort of hooked me into music in the first place," he said.

"I've described him like this - some people don't have a lot to say, but they know how to make it sound very lyrical. Others do have a lot to say, but they can't write poetry or lyrics. He combines the two. The words by themselves sound great and when you put it all together it has a lot of meaning."

Maypole opens for The Wallflowers and The Jayhawks 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Hill Auditorium, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$20 in advance for the all-ages show. For more information, call (313) 764-8350.

If you have a question or comment for Christina Fuoco, you may leave a message for her at (313) 953-2047, ext. 2130.

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Movie advertisement for Scream 2. Features a quote from WBAL Radio, a photo of the main cast, and a list of theaters across the region.

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Movie advertisement for Alien Resurrection. Features the title, lead actors Sigourney Weaver and Winona Ryder, a quote from People Magazine, and a list of theaters.

Movie advertisement for The Rainmaker. Features a quote from Time Magazine, a quote from Newsweek, and a list of theaters.

Movie advertisement for Flubber. Features a quote from The New York Times, a quote from The Los Angeles Times, a photo of Robin Williams, and a list of theaters.

Large advertisement for Home Alone 3. Features the text "A COMEDY THAT HITS HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS." and a list of theaters.

DINING

Smitty's Grill heats up downtown Rochester

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

Just opened, Jimmy Schmidt's Smitty's Grill in Rochester is not a cookie cutter stamp of his Tuscan Grill formats in Southfield and Ann Arbor. In fact, Schmidt bills it as a "wild departure."

Tuscan implications at Schmidt's other restaurants may lead one to assume an Italian-accented menu. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"I use Tuscan only as a reference to Italy's Tuscany region where wood-roasting meats is a specialty," Schmidt explained. "And of the three restaurants I've called 'Grills,' the Rochester location plays out the wood-roasted theme best."

Schmidt built Smitty's Grill from the ground up. It was formerly a parking lot, but if you didn't see it in construction phases, then you won't recognize that it was built new to look old-world by design architect Howard Ellman of Dynamic Designs in Birmingham. Designed by Plymouth's Dennis Larsson, the modern interior is bright and engaging.

Diners can enter from either Main Street or a rear entrance (designed as the main entrance with a bright green canopy) where there's also valet parking. A colorful, playful interior is arty, yet speaking to quality, natural materials with cherry wood dividers, mahogany tables and stone work, highlighted by sophisticated, creative light fixtures.

"The colors are natural food colors," Schmidt noted. "That's not just blue, it's blueberry. Green is the color of leafy vegetables. And that's pumpkin."

It's all deliberate to showcase the natural food preparations created by super-chef/proprietor Jimmy Schmidt and his partner Michael Schram, serving as executive chef at Smitty's Grill.

Smitty's Grill

Where: 222 Main Street (between Second and Third), Rochester (248) 652-1600.

Hours: 5-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; until 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 3-8 p.m. Sunday.

Menu: Wood-roasted meats are the specialty, but the remainder of the large menu has inspired contemporary dishes Americans like to eat. Fun kid's menu.

Cost: Cold and hot appetizers \$6-10; Salads \$4-7; Seafood \$14-17; Wood-roasted specialties \$11-17; Desserts \$4-6.

Reservations: Not accepted. Credit cards: All majors accepted.

Other Jimmy Schmidt restaurants:

■ Tuscan Grill, 28565 Northwestern Highway, Southfield (248) 350-0055

■ Tuscan Grill, 314 South Main, Ann Arbor (313) 332-0800

■ Stellite, Somerset Collection, Troy (248) 649-0102

■ Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms (313) 886-8101

■ Rattlesnake Club, Stroh River Place, Detroit (313) 567-4400

Schram has been with Schmidt since his tenure at the London Chop House in Detroit.

"I've been with Jimmy for 17 years and have gone from opening oysters to executive chef and one of three active partners in the business," Schram added.

The food concept is a concentration of natural, lively, bright

flavors that explode in your mouth. Plate presentations are dynamic and vibrantly colorful. Menu prices serve to emphasize Schmidt's philosophy that eating good food need not be a special occasion.

Among tempting appetizers are Gulf Shrimp, served in a martini glass with red/yellow salsa, similar to a cocktail only chunky and clean \$8; or Seared Yellowfin Tuna, spiced, seared rare, sliced thin, and arranged over jicama/pepper salad \$9. Spring roll style crab or shrimp \$9, characterize the eclectic mix on the menu that includes achiote spicing and papaya salsa. Poached oysters in champagne with chardonnay sauce and tons of chives \$10 are a Jimmy Schmidt signature.

Fresh-daily seafoods consist of such tasty treats as Yellowfin Tuna Asian Style \$17 and Pickled in Parchment with cranberry cous cous, champagne sauce, roasted shallots and green vegetable \$17. Wood-roasted features include beef, lamb, veal, pork and chicken. Veal and lamb racks are Friday/Saturday specials. For those preferring meatless, salads, pastas and pizzas abound, in addition to a grilled vegetable plate \$11. Sides, in particular, represent seasonality in menu choices. There's ginger-flavored sweet potato purée, mashed root vegetables plus five different preparations of potatoes.

Stephanie Kane, Rochester Hills resident, graduate of Rochester Adams High School, and armed with a 1995 Central Michigan University business degree with emphasis in restaurant/hotel management, is Smitty's Grill's general manager.

"Coming home to run one of Jimmy Schmidt's restaurants is an exciting challenge," she remarked.

Schmidt's experience with restaurant "no shows" has made a no reservation policy necessary. Seating for 200 and ample bar room should make any wait short and pleasant. Even if the wait gets a little long, the great kid's menu will please young diners once they're seated.

In addition to a full-service bar with beers on tap, Schmidt has revolutionized restaurant by-the-bottle wine sales. A star-studded list of mostly California wines states "what Jimmy pays" tacks on a \$10 corkage and lists "what you pay." If you've groaned about high wine prices in area restaurants, the pricing at Smitty's Grill is just \$10 per bottle over wholesale. In the case of more expensive wines, such as a 1988 Burgess Library Release Cabernet Sauvignon, you pay \$33.10 per bottle. The full retail price in a wine shop is \$34.50. With more expensive wines, the deal gets even better. Drinking a bottle of wine in a restaurant for less than retail was unthinkable. Until now!

Look for Focus on Wine on the first and third Sunday of the month in Taste. To leave a voice mail message for Eleanor and Ray Heald, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1864.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN STORMZAND

At your service: Michael Schram, (left) and Jimmy Schmidt at Smitty's Grill.

RESTAURANT SPECIALS

Eagle Tavern - Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Call (313) 271-1620 for reservations and information. Open on select evenings during the holidays, serving food and spirits that were prepared from mid-19th century.

Henry Ford Estate - on the campus of The University of Michigan, Dearborn, Call (313) 593-5590 for reservations/information. A variety of special

events will be offered at the Henry Ford Estate during the holidays including, Holiday Luncheon Concerts, 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 11-12, \$19.50; and Candles and Carols Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, \$38. The Pool Restaurant is open for lunch weekdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Limited lunch menu Dec 24 to Jan. 2, closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

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The
Season
of
Giving

A Holiday Gift Guide

Supplement to

The Observer

Thursday, December 11, 1997

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*Phone requires accessory purchase

A season for giving

The Observer Newspapers Holiday Gift Guide 2 offers suggestions and ideas for any type of holiday giving. We also offer decorating ideas. Happy shopping and happy holidays from all of us at the Observer Newspapers.

About the cover photo:

The cover photo was taken by staff photographer Jim Jagdfeld at the Parisian store at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

Inside:

4 How about putting all your presents in one basket this Christmas? Especially when you have help from some of Santa's most food-loving elves. His helpers are ready and waiting to fill unique baskets and other vessels full of food and beverages for that special person in your life. His helpers say they need just the most basic information to get started.



other seasons, that empowers you to deck your halls as you like.



7 Whether it's a well-thought-out gift, or something at the last minute, stocking stuffers can be as much a surprise as the gifts neatly wrapped under the Christmas tree. And, the ideas are endless for gifts that cost a quarter to whatever you'd like to spend on that special person.



12 Those who want to buck tradition and set aside the Elvis and Bing Crosby Christmas albums can find a sleigh full of new holiday records at local record stores.

15 "Every woman would love a beautiful diamond bracelet," said Joyce Pappas, Orin Jewelers registered jeweler. And if you're searching for that perfect gift, jewelry, especially diamonds, makes a brilliant statement.

16 What's one way to personalize a gift without getting too personal? Or a way to surprise that friend who has it all with something unique? Just focus on a theme.



6 Whether your idea of decorating is a simple wreath of garland adorning your front door or a phenomenal display of colored lights that attracts motorists from far and wide - the holidays evoke a sense of creative freedom, unlike

Credits

This holiday gift guide section is a product of the Observer Newspapers.

Peg Knoespel, Wayne County retail advertising manager
Beth Sundrla Jachman, Wayne County special projects editor
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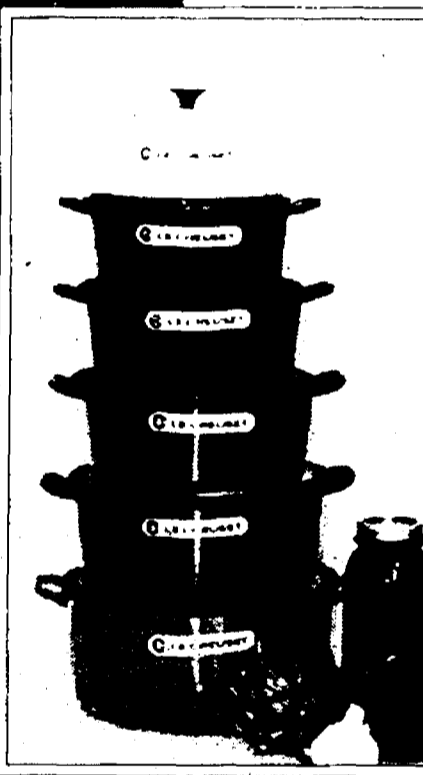
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5-qt.	\$200.00	\$129.99
7-qt.	\$240.00	\$169.99
8-qt.	\$280.00	\$189.99
11-qt.	\$320.00	\$224.99

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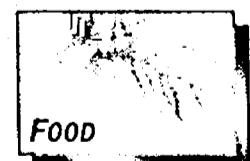


STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

To a tea: Tea lovers will be steeped with joy when they receive a tea-theme basket including teapot, teabags, doilies, stationery, cookies and a box of chocolates from Basket Kreations of Canton.

Everyone eats up food-related gifts

BY CAROL COMMAND
SPECIAL WRITER



How about putting all your presents in one basket this Christmas? Especially when you have help from

some of Santa's most food-loving elves. His helpers are ready and waiting to fill unique baskets and other vessels full of food and beverages for that special person in your life. His helpers say they need just the most basic information to get started.

"Just tell us who it's for and what they like," said Leslie Hladis, sales person at Basket Kreations in Canton. Then Hladis or store owner, Stella

Delap, will put together a latte and biscotti cup for under \$20 to thank your dependable letter carrier or a blueberry splurge to please Aunt Gladys with her favorite fruit.

For \$49 a Blueberry Morning hand-made basket will be stacked high with blueberry pancake mix, blueberry syrup and wild blueberry preserves. Also inside are a blueberry mug with 12 blueberry teabags and decorated napkins. Or how about topping off a stainless steel or porcelain mixing bowl with Belgian waffle mix and Red Raspberry Ecstasy or Blueberry Lemon topping? Williams-Sonoma at Laurel Park Mall has a store and catalog dedicated to both serious and fun-loving cooks.

Please see **FOOD**, A5

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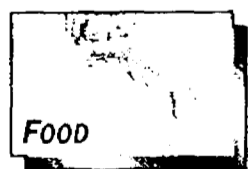





STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

State pride: A made in Michigan theme basket from Basket Kreations of Canton includes cherries, jam and mustard in a Michigan wood crate.

Food from page A4



And who could resist a combination of cherries and chocolate? There's a basket to fit both big tastes and small at Basket Kreations.

Cherry Bombs! for \$22 is a cherry-colored oval basket bursting with six Joseph Schmidt cherry-filled chocolate truffles. Wishing You Cherries! is a heavy willow basket that boasts pasta, marinara sauce, sparkling cherry juice, cherry butter, dried and chocolate-covered cherries, Sanders hot fudge sauce and much more. This 14-pound basket sells for \$95.

If your mouth isn't watering yet, think about fresh pastries hand-made each day at the crack of dawn by European bakers, just waiting for your personal taste test.

When people taste the pastry that de Ros Delicacies in Redford is known for, many say, "It's just like my grandmother used to make," explained owner Del-

phine Kryza-McMaster. The "kolacky" are rolled out dough, pinched at the corners with a dollop of raspberry or pineapple in the center. Kryza-McMaster said Czechs, Hungarians and Poles will all accept ownership for this tasty holiday pastry. The bakers also deliver fresh each morning trays of breads, croissants, cookies and cakes - all preservative-free, she said.

Although baskets lined with special fabric or holiday linen and teeming with pastries have gone to famous recipients such as George Bush and Bob Hope, Kryza-McMaster says "It's the little people we care about."

With that in mind, she makes it possible for one even with limited finances to give something to be proud of. Perhaps an angel for your tree that costs just over \$3, she suggested.

"Just because you don't have money, you still care about that person, and I care about that."

She began her pastry basket busi-

Please see **FOOD**, A18

LIVONIA'S Performance TOOL CENTERS

What's The Latest For Your Tool Gifts?

Is your holiday shopping becoming a struggle trying to think of something new for that tool lover on your shopping list? Fear not, because at Performance Line Tool Centers they feature not only the area's largest tool selection, but their buyers search the country for the "latest and greatest" in the tool universe.

If you haven't looked at tools or been to Performance Line Tool Centers lately, you'll enjoy an amazing and money saving experience when it comes to buying gifts for those tool folks.

The universe of cordless tools has been rapidly changing. Longer run times, faster charge times, lighter weight, more power is just the start. Beginning with the basic cordless screwdrivers and drills, cordless tools have evolved, and now you can get cordless 18 volt tools, also reciprocating saws, sanders, jigsaws, cutout and rotary tools, flashlights, nailers, even caulk guns!

In pneumatics, close to 80 different tools are offered. One of the biggest highlights are prices that now start at less than \$100 for nailers that used to be in the two or three hundred dollar range. They offer a terrific increase in fun and efficiency!

Space age science has come to help with laser technology. Now with a few simple settings, a guaranteed accurate straight line will focus up to 300' in a 360° rotating surface. Laser tools which used to cost near the thousand dollar mark can now be bought at prices starting at under \$100! Along that "line," for those projects that do not require such hi-tech equipment, simple chalk lines have now improved and can reel in 5X faster to shorten reel time.

When accuracy counts for woodworkers, engineers, model builders, etc., new stainless steel rules with internal slots allow "dead-on" marks down to 1/32" without squinting!

For those projects that require you to have "x-ray" vision behind walls, there are scanners that not only will sound or light up when it senses studs, joists, wires, pipes, conduit and rebar but some will show a picture of the center of the object.

If you haven't seen what's new in screwdrivers lately, you will be amazed. Today's screwdrivers not only carry "on-board" all common bits, but are also available with extension magnets, internal telescoping flex shafts and even high intensity lights to illuminate your immediate work area.

Great innovations in sockets and pliers have solved the problems of removing worn nuts. Today these tools grab on the "flats" of the nuts (as opposed to the corners) for "bull-dog" gripping power and no "round-offs." In addition, pliers have advanced to spring loaded, one handed, self-adjusting multi-rack teeth for 9 different grip settings. That says it all for ease and comfort!

Even the basic extension cord gets updated. You may remember the recent (now defunct) chain store commercial showing a cord becoming unplugged while up on the roof. Odd's are he wasn't using one of Performance Tool's cords. Most of theirs lock onto the tool and onto each other.

Folks, this is only the beginning...

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Create your own look for holidays

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER



Whether your idea of decorating is a simple wreath of garland adorning your front door or a phenomenal display of colored lights that attracts motorists from far and wide – the holidays evoke a sense of creative freedom, unlike other seasons, that empowers you to deck your halls as you like.

The problem may not be what to decorate but how? Professional decorators are routinely grilled for ideas by Martha Stewart wannabes who don't think they have the where-withal to pull off a holiday celebration with all the trim. Don't fret say the experts – it's as easy as 1,2,3 and according to Debbie Beaver, floral designer for Michaels Arts & Crafts in Westland, any degree of decorating can be done on a budget without having to look that way.

With Christmas just two weeks away, the Westland store has a full stock of pre-made items or all the necessities to make your own swags, wreaths, and topiaries for the inside and outside of your home.

For outdoor trim, accessories such as power strips, clips, extension cords and wreath hangers make decorating practical and safe. Colored and white lights,



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Cheery cherubs: Pair of matching cherub mantel pieces are featured at Michaels Arts and Crafts in Westland.

artificial garland, and ribbons can be used to dress up your home or yard as well as large plated ornaments that are more easily visible from the road or street compared to average bulbs used on trees indoors. The round and uniquely shaped bulbs, some six or

eight inches in diameter, come in a variety of bright holiday colors including gold and silver glitter.

Beaver said popular colors for the 1997 holiday season include plum, purple and gold. "Lots and lots of gold," said Beaver. To generate an overall

color scheme inside your home and out, color-coordinated sets and accessories come in various shades from a soft green sage to vibrant purple hues and glimmering golds. Ornaments, beading, and ribbons

Please see LOOK, A8



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Stuffers for kids: Joe Boxer flannel boxers for kids and Kids Cosmetics by Riviera and a trio of cosmetics in its own carrying case are available at Parisian in Livonia.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JAGDFELD

Variety of gifts good to stuff

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER



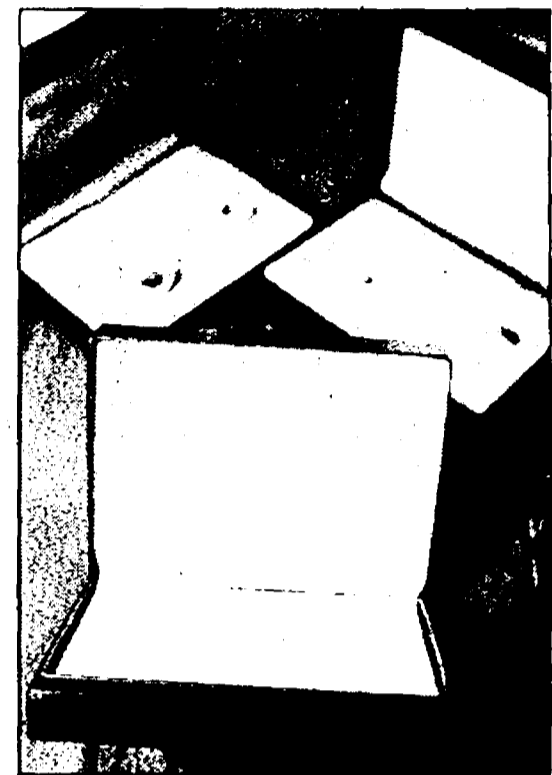
Whether it's a well-thought-out gift, or something at the last minute, stocking stuffers can be as much a surprise as the gifts neatly wrapped under the Christmas tree.

And, the ideas are endless for gifts that cost a quarter to whatever you'd like to spend on that special person.

"I think stocking stuffers are just as fun as the big gifts," said Jane Bassett, Midwest regional special events manager at Parisian in Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

The self-proclaimed "Queen of stocking stuffers" says she "wraps all my stocking stuffers, too, to make them a big surprise."

For young girls, Bassett suggests a three-piece glitter make-up kit that includes matching lipstick and nail polish. For the boys, Joe Boxer flannels are always nice. The ever-playful virtual pets are still popular with the



Found links: Kenneth Cole cuff links some in the shape of little hot and cold water faucet handles are available at Parisian.

Please see **STUFF**, A10

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Look from page A6



DECORATING

can help complement your Christmas tree, mantle, front door wreath and table-top centerpiece for an overall coordinated appearance.

Other options in addition to color coordinating include period themes such as renaissance, country and Victorian. Michaels has plenty of prearranged sleighs, wreaths, topiaries and swags in various themes for large-scale decorating to small arrangements from \$19.99 into the hundreds. Beaver said the store also custom designs everything from bows to table-top arrangements and wreaths with a couple of days notice.

If you're an apartment dweller, fresh trees and garland can be a problem. Michaels stocks an assortment of artificial greenery that minimizes fire hazards and even carries preserved cedar that can be cut and added to wreaths and swags without having to worry about needles drying out and causing a mess. The cedar is scented "and offers a pleasant holiday scent for up to two years" said Beaver.

Another convenient item is an 18-foot rope of garland for decorating a railing or mantle without the freedom of having a lot of space. The accessory comes prestrung with 75 clear lights eliminating the need to buy the garland and a string of lights.

Making things from scratch, rather



Bow tie: Debbie Beaver works on making a Christmas bow at Michael's Arts and Crafts.

than having someone else do all the work, is made easy with a bounty of artificial poinsettias, holly berry garland, baskets, holiday tins, faux fruit, pine cones, wired ribbon, and replicas of angels, Santa Claus, musical instruments, snowmen and more.



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

With style: A renaissance cherub swag and a matching Christmas topiary are among the items at Michael's Arts and Crafts.

"We have everything here anyone would need to decorate for the holidays," said Beaver. "And if you're having trouble deciding - one of the prearranged sets makes it easy."

"Keep in mind decorating should not be intimidating. You have the creative license to decorate as you please and you should have fun with it. Happy decorating!"

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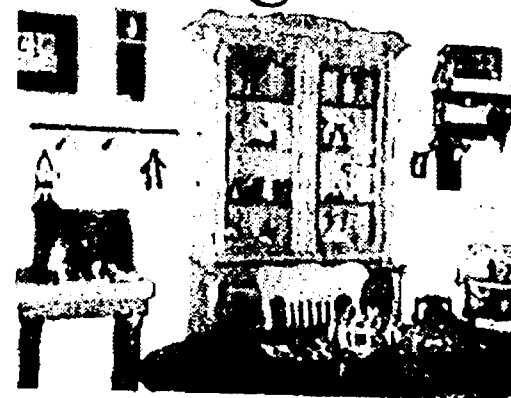
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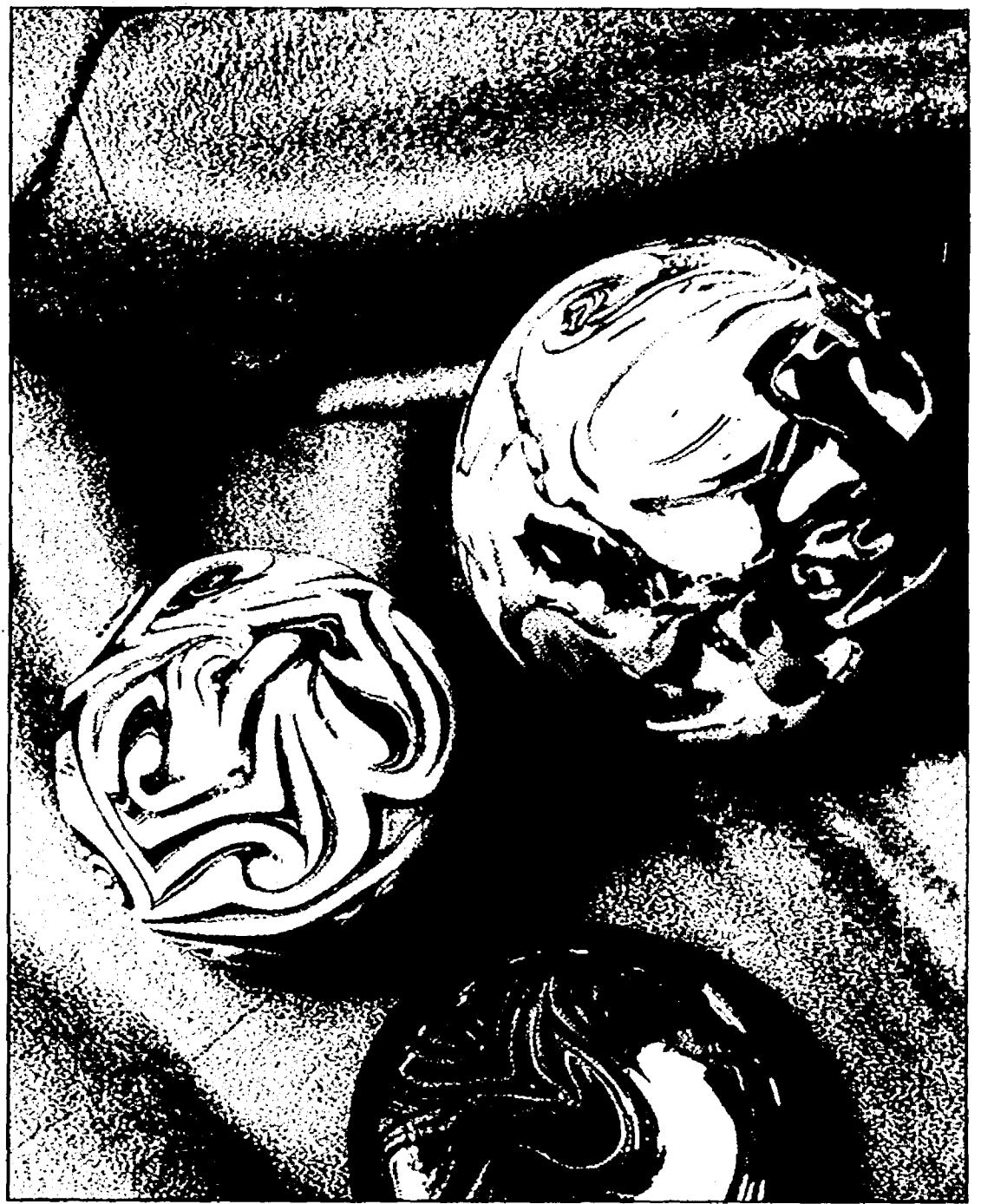
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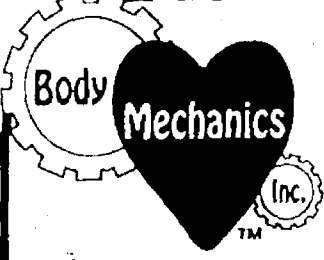
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STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

Artistic statement: Exotic glass paperweights, (above right) and hand-blown glass tree ornaments (above) are made by Plymouth artist Don Schneider at the York Street Glass Works, 875 York St. in Plymouth. A large variety of blown and lampworked glass is available. Call (313) 459-6419 for hours. Prices from \$5 to \$40.






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Crystal persuasion: A crystal choker by Crystalare and designed by Susan Stefani is available at Parisian in Livonia.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JAGDFELD

Aroma therapy: Cinnamon-Cider Refresher Oil by Aromatique is among the items available at Parisian in Livonia.

Stuff from page A7



STOCKINGS

younger set. Guys, listen up. Bassett has some suggestions to make sure you don't miss your big chance.

For a small price, Bassett says scented soap is a nice gesture.

"Velvet has moved from evening wear to everyday wear, so a velvet muffler is a nice gift," noted Bassett. "There are mini evening purses from satin to

beads. And some beautiful Susan Stefani crystal jewelry that begins where Swarovski leaves off."

Bassett suggests a "magnificent" multi-strand choker for the more daring, at \$337.

Ladies, the man in your life might like a Michigan mug stuffed in his stocking. Kenneth Cole cufflinks will show him you care. And, there are a number of Sharper Image items, including a 6-in-1 screwdriver and field

binoculars.

"And, tickets to anything, stuffed in a stocking, are great gifts," said Bassett. "Whether it be to a movie or stage performance, it's usually something everyone likes to receive."

Janice Karamedjian, district manager for Barnes & Noble, has a few suggestions.

"Paper weights, book marks and book ends are inexpensive, nice gifts for your favorite bookworm," noted Karamed-

jian. "For kids, there are plush animals of their favorite book characters."

For the person on the run, Karamedjian suggests books on cassette and Christmas music on CD's or cassette.

At Georgia's Gift Gallery in downtown Plymouth, owner Michelle Suttle proposes a special, dated ornament to mark Christmas 1997.

Or how about a porcelain jewelry box with a gift certificate or ring inside.

Please see **STUFF**, All

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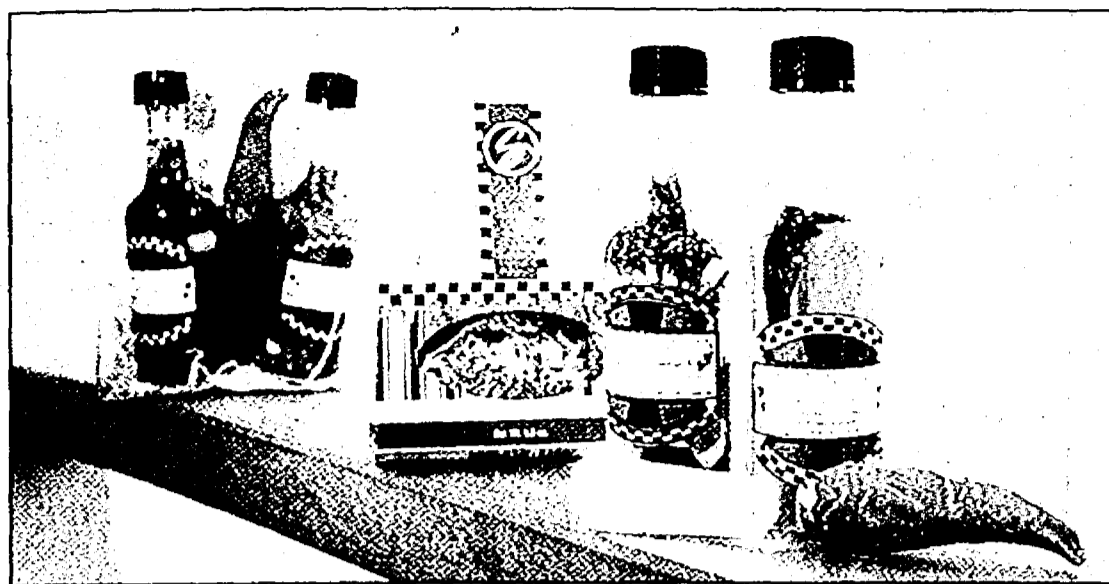
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Spice of life: *Sumptuous Selections* offers the fixins for some spicy dip. Included in the package are: *Sting'n Vegetable dip mix*, *pepper infused Molten Lava Oil* and *Mediterranean Vinegar*, and a spreading knife with a *Red Hot pepper handle*.

Stuff from page A10



STOCKINGS

Suttle says dolls are popular items, whether they be made of porcelain, vinyl or are plush.

Potpourri can be special. And, prepared pretzels dipped in special chocolates are yummy.

Sarah Bauer, the fragrance manager at Victoria's Secret in Westland Mall, says guys could do well to slip scented nail polish with matching flavored lip gloss into their significant other's stocking.

Bauer also suggests gift sets which include nail polish, bubble bath, cologne and lotion.

Lingerie manager, Sherry Estep, recommends slippers, and Victoria's Secret signature pens and tea cups as special gifts.

"There's always the opportunity to put sexy underwear into your favorite person's stocking," suggests Estep.

If you're looking for those low-cost, impulse gifts, Gags and Gifts in Liv-

Please see **STUFF**, A14



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JAGDFELD

Day by day: *Page-A-Day* calendars come in a variety of themes at *Parisian* in Livonia.

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Sound a seasonal note with music

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER



Those who want to buck tradition and set aside the Elvis and Bing Crosby Christmas albums can find a sleigh full of new holiday records at local record stores.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Neeme Jarvi have released "Joy! A Celebration of Holiday Music."

"Around the world, we celebrate the holidays with joyous music and music-making, and I am delighted that we can offer the experience of this recording to our audiences. It includes many fine classics and also some more unusual selections. I think a wide audience of listeners will be very pleased to hear it during the holidays and beyond," Jarvi said.

"Joy!" features 12 songs including Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," "Air on a G String" by J.S. Bach, Schubert's "Ave Maria," a Christmas carol medley, "Trumpet Voluntary" from "The Prince of Denmark's March" and Handel's "Entrance of the Queen of Sheba" from "Solomon."

The album, priced at \$11.99, is available at area record stores, Kmart, Meijer, Rite Aid, or by calling (888)



New album:
The Dearborn-based reggae band Universal Xpression has released its debut holiday album "Christmas on the Beach," featuring traditional and original Christmas songs.

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316-1901. "Joy" will also be available at Orchestra Hall at the Music Box Boutique during DSO concerts, at the Detroit Opera House during the DSO production of "The Nutcracker," and via the DSO's website at <http://www.detroitssymphony.com>.

The Dearborn-based reggae band Universal Xpression offers its debut holiday album "Christmas on the Beach" (UXP Records). The album highlights a mix of traditional and original songs including a 7 1/2-minute reggae medley of "Silent Night," "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful," "Drummer Boy," and the original song "Breadnut," and a soca medley of "Joy to the World," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Oh Holy Night," and "Hark the Herald."

The album is available by writing or calling UXP Records, Box 7242, Dearborn, Mich., 48121, (313) 272-3798. Universal Xpression can also be reached via its websites at <http://www.kmh.bas.org> or <http://www.soultosoul.com>.

Guitar slingers will get a kick out of "Merry Axemas - A Guitar Christmas" (Epic) on which some of rock's top guitarists offer their interpretations of classic Christmas songs. Upstart Kenny Wayne Shepherd does "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer," Brian Setzer Orchestra covers "Jingle Bells," Jeff Beck plays "Amazing Grace," Steve Vai does "Christmas Time is Here," Joe Satriani plays "Silent Night," Joe Perry offers "Blue Christmas," and Richie Sambora covers "Cantique De Noel (O' Holy Night)." Eric Johnson, Steve Morse, Alex Lifeson and Hotei also

Please see MUSIC, A13

Music from page A12



appear on the CD. Country star Dwight Yoakam has released "Come on Christmas" (Warner Bros.), an album of

traditional holiday songs - "Run Run Rudolph," "Silver Bells," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Silent Night," "Santa Claus is Back in Town," "The Christmas Song," "Away in a Manger," and "Here Comes Santa Claus." Yoakam also offers his original songs "Santa Can't Stay" and "Come on Christmas." Beth Anderson, Jim Lauderdale and Ricky Skaggs make guest appearances on the album.

Staying in the pop vein, a host of musicians joined forces to put out "Sounds of the Season" (Columbia), a benefit album for the Children's Hearing Institute. Vince Gill ("Do You Hear What I Hear"), Kenny Loggins ("Celebrate Me Home"), Bruce Springsteen ("Santa Claus is Comin' To Town"), Elton John ("Ho, Ho, Ho... Who'd Be a Turkey for Christmas"), and B.B. King ("Merry Christmas Baby") are among the artists on the album.

RCA records offers a quartet of holiday releases. The R&B act SWV has released its first holiday-themed recording "A Special Christmas." Pianist Randall Acheson's "Christmas by Candlelight" offers Christmas songs delivered by him and an orchestra. John Pizzarelli swings into the holidays with "Let's Share Christmas." The record company has also reissued Elvis Presley's "If Every Day Was Like Christmas," the first album to feature all of Elvis's classic Yuletide hits. Besides music, the limited edition CD features a pop-up Graceland, rare photographs, and an extensive historic essay.

Teen heartthrobs Hanson have followed-up their multi-platinum debut "Middle of Nowhere" with the holiday collection "Snowed In" (Mercury).

Inspired by last year's holiday hit, "A Classic Cartoon Christmas," Nick at Nite Records, Sony Wonder and Sony 550 Music have partnered to release "A Classic Cartoon Christmas, Too" on Oct. 14. The album features cult songs from popular claymation cartoons - "Heat Miser" and "Snow Miser" from "Year Without a Santa Claus," Burgermeister Meisterburger's "The First Toymaker to the King" from "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," and "Silver and Gold" from "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." "We Wish You a Hairy Chestwig" from "Ren and Stimpy: Crock O'Christmas" is also on "A Classic Cartoon Christmas, Too."

Walt Disney Records entered the holiday market with the soundtrack and score to "Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas" on which its characters sing traditional and new holiday songs. Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts, Angelique and a chorus team up to sing "Deck the Halls." Belle and her alter ego Paige O'Hara take on "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." "Do You Hear What I Hear," and "O Christmas Tree" among others. Peabo Bryson and Roberta Flack sing "As Long As There's Christmas (End Title)."

Jazz fans have at least two titles from which to choose. Saxophone player Dave Koz offers "December Makes Me

Feel This Way: A Holiday Album" (Capitol). Besides the traditional Christmas songs, Koz performs his original song "December Makes Me Feel This Way," and "Eight Candles (A Song for Hanukkah)."

"Warner Bros. Jazz Christmas Party" brings forth the talents of a variety of artists including Joshua Redman ("Santa Claus is Coming to Town"), Al Jarreau ("Celebrate Me Home"), Boney James ("Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"), Bela Fleck and Bob James ("White Christmas"), and Michael Franks ("I Bought You a Plastic Star for Your Aluminum Tree").

Poet, professor, and NPR commentator Andrei Codrescu offers "The Valley of Christmas" (Gert Town), an authentic Transylvanian folk tale which he has adapted with the help of musical collaborator and producer Mark Bingham. The story begins when a yuppie couple in New Orleans gives birth to a baby who promptly exacts three prenatal promises: He wants to know what preschool he's going to, he wants a T-Bird on his 18th birthday, and he never wants to grow old. His father goes along with it and the baby is born on Christmas day. On the child's 18th birthday, he encounters a rooster that morphs into a 1965 Thunderbird and the journey begins. The album is available by calling (888) 368-5763.

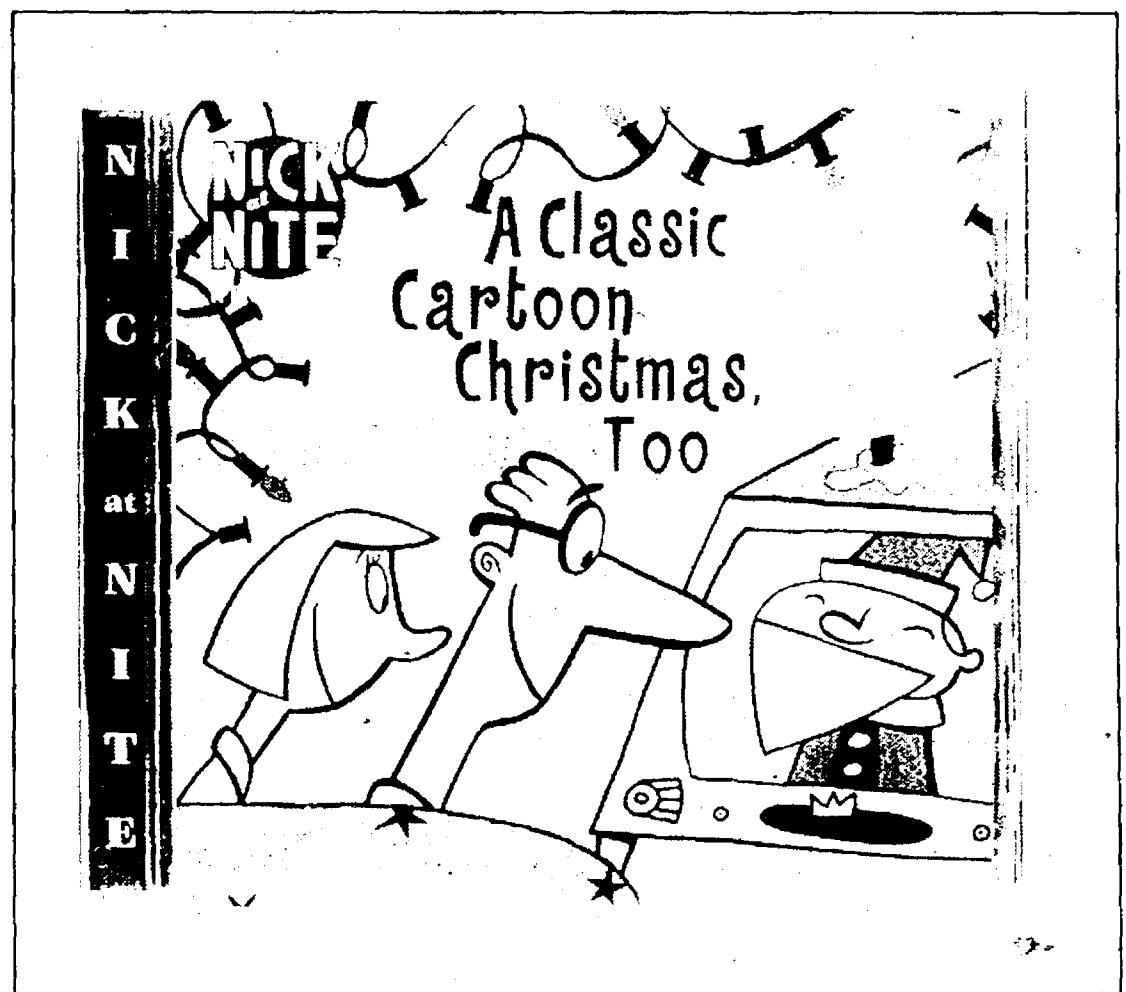
Windham Hill records has released four holiday selections this year. "Celtic Christmas III: A Windham Hill Sampler" features traditional holiday carols and original compositions from a cross section of top Irish- and Celtic-inspired artists. Produced by Nightnoise founder Michael O'Donnell, "Celtic Christmas III" includes Nightnoise, Brian Dunning and Jeff Johnson, Lisa Lynne, Patrick Cassidy, W.G. Snuffy Walden, who did the music for the TV show "My So-Called Life," and David Arkenstone.

Pianist Jim Brickman offers "The Gift," a collection of original songs and traditional songs that he has rearranged. "The Gift" features guest appearances by Collin Raye, Susan Ashton, Kenny Loggins, Point of Grace, and Norbett Stachel. The album is available in most record stores, however, it can also be ordered by calling (888)-Brickman.

"A Winter's Solstice VI: A Windham Hill Sampler" is a collection of original instrumental compositions from a cross-section of performers. Among those contributing to the album are long-time Windham Hill veterans Michael Hedges, George Winston, Will Ackerman and Liz Story, along with new artists Todd Cochran, Sean Harkness and Lisa Lynne.

Rounding out Windham Hill's selection is "Carols of Christmas II," featuring 15 hymns and carols of the holiday season interpreted by its artists including George Winston, Jim Brickman and Liz Story, as well as special guests Steve Lukather, Joan Armatrading and newly signed Windham Hill artist Janis Ian who collaborates with Deana Carter and Kathy Mattea on "Emmanuel."

Ray Stevens gives a different view of the holidays with "Ray Stevens Christmas: Through a Different Window"



Cult songs: Nick at Nite Records' "A Classic Cartoon Christmas, Too" includes cult songs from the claymation Christmas cartoons "Year Without a Santa Claus" ("Heat Miser," "Snow Miser"), "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" ("The First Toymaker to the King," "No More Toymakers to the King,"), and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" ("Silver and Gold," "There's Always Tomorrow").

(MCA Nashville) featuring songs such as "Annual Office Christmas Party," and as "Guilt for Christmas," "Redneck Christmas," "Xerox Xmas Letter," "The "Santa Claus is Watching You."

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Dolled up: Dated Barbie Christmas plates at Georgia's Gift Gallery in Plymouth.



Decked in Disney: Dated Disney Christmas ornaments are available at Georgia's Gift Gallery in Plymouth.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

Stuff from page A11

nia, Westland or Canton may be the place to shop.

"There are a lot of inexpensive toys and trinkets to put into those stockings," said Sue Adams, manager of the Gags and Gifts in Livonia. "Here, you can get things ranging from 25-cents to a few dollars."

Some of her suggestions include all

kinds of make-believe jewelry, virtual pets, Beanie Babies, and lots of different kinds of fun key chains.

Adams notes that if you're looking for a holiday gag, whoopee cushions, disappearing-ink pens and snakes which jump out of the can are still fun this time of year.

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Diamonds still best friends

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER



"Every woman would love a beautiful diamond bracelet," said Joyce Pappas, Orin Jewelers registered jeweler. And if you're searching for that perfect gift, jewelry, especially diamonds, makes a brilliant statement.

"There's such meaning attached to diamonds," said Pappas, "and a lot of thought goes into a purchase like that."

Whether it's a diamond bracelet, colored stone pendant, gold watch or engraved cuff links, the local jeweler, whose family-owned independent store observed its 64th year in business in Garden City this year, says the recipient always remembers the occasion of your generous gift giving.

Popular for the 1997 holiday season is the unique "add-a-link" diamond bracelet. The gold bangle is a gift that doesn't stop giving as diamonds or precious colored stones can be added to commemorate special occasions over any period of time the giver desires, ultimately creating a beautiful bracelet. Pappas said some people have each link engraved with the date they received the next portion of the bracelet to add even more significance to the item.

Chain jewelers and local independents say Christmas and New Year's

lend themselves to private or public engagements. "There's something about the holidays that makes men want to propose at restaurants or in front of families," said Dave Anderson, Livonia gemologist.

The holidays are not only an occasion to buy an engagement ring but to upgrade, said Anderson. "A lot of women want larger diamonds or are interested in having a jeweler, like myself, design a custom setting."

Don't rush into a diamond purchase, say the professionals. A lot of thought should go into a purchase that has such meaning attached to it and it's important to be an educated shopper when you're spending potentially thousands of dollars.

"Pearls are very big and always in style," said Pappas. "Particularly the black pearl."

Orin Jewelers carries the Mikimoto line of pearl jewelry featuring necklaces, earrings, and rings that stand alone or are highlighted with colored stone accents of rubies, emeralds and sapphires.

Another popular item for women is the "Tin Cup" necklace nicknamed from the 1996 Kevin Costner and Renee Russo movie "Tin Cup" where the Hollywood actress dons a simple silver chain choker dotted with pearls. The necklace can be worn as an everyday piece or dressed up for those special

Please see JEWELRY, A19



PHOTO BY JERRY MENDOZA

Timely gift: An Orin Jewelers sales associate models one of several CYMA Swiss watches that are popular Christmas gifts for men this season. Watches are available in gold and silver and adorned with or without diamonds and mother of pearl dials.

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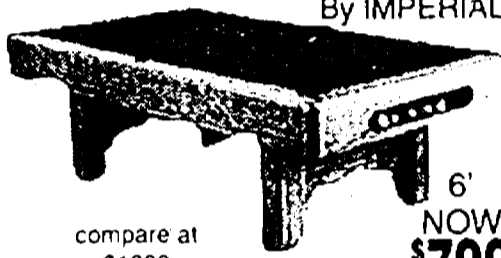
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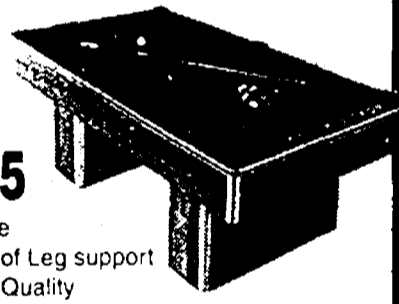
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STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

Oh deer: Candy Bouquet in Canton has created a reindeer bouquet. A 25-inch high reindeer is filled with domestic and imported candies and chocolates along with colorful accents.

Personalize gifts by following theme

BY CAROL COMMAND
SPECIAL WRITER



What's one way to personalize a gift without getting too personal? Or a way to surprise that friend who has it all with something unique? Just focus on a theme.

From the rose basket that sings "take me away" with relaxation tapes and bath oils to the bucket that hauls the armament of cleaning essentials necessary to keep his wheels shining, a little creativity can make an ordinary container special.

The Car Wash bucket at Basket Kreations in Canton, for example, is bubbling over with cleansers to remove road crud and add sparkle for under \$40.

For his or her own bodywork, fill a rose motif metal basket with botanical bath soaps and crystals. Add Camille Beckman fruit and floral scented cremes and a loofah to slough away winter's dryness. And add any combination of blissful items that say relax. You could include a book on aromatherapy.

"We do a lot with candles and stationery," said Leslie Hladis, salesperson

Please see **THEME, A17**



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

Candy creation: A plastic white top hat filled with colorful accents and candies is available at the Candy Bouquet, 8473 North Lilley in Canton.

Theme from page A16



at Basket Kreations. This gift store offers a variety of bath baskets for under \$50, and you can pick the flavor. If peach is a pleaser, you might set the mood with peach-scented candles and lotions. Or you could make it a strawberry or vanilla night in the tub. Don't forget to include mood music. An ethereal Enya tape, a sensual Rimsky-Korsakov or the aquatic accompaniment of Songs of the Humpback Whale by Earth Music Productions will make that escape complete. If Basket Kreations doesn't have your favorite tune, just bring it along and they'll include it in the basket.

And if you really want to put a smile on his or her face this holiday, consider a gift certificate for a professional massage. Healing Arts Clinic in Plymouth can provide an hour of deep-tissue- or

gentle Swedish massage for \$50.

Have a cigar

Some baskets say Happy Holidays with a little more gusto.

"You could add a couple of cigars to your beer basket," said Vinnie Shoukri, co-owner with Sam Shoukri of Showerman's Fine Wine & Liquor in Livonia. Vinnie explained the renewed interest in the art of cigar smoking as he pointed to shelves of cigars inside a glass case.

Of course you can also select from non-alcoholic as well as alcoholic champagnes and from a selection of more than 300 California wines to fill anything from a bucket to a bushelbasket.

"When you want to give above and beyond a bottle," Vinnie said, "you give a basket."

Weighing in at 60 pounds, a wicker basket filled with a variety of rums,

Please see **THEME**, A18

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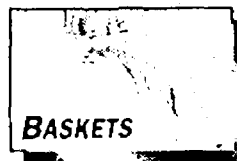
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Theme from page A17



wines, liqueurs and champagne is ready-made and waiting to be sold at \$225. "You name it, and it has one of each type," he explained.

Last year it took three people to carry out a 4-foot-wide basket of holiday liquors sent from one doctor to another, Sam said. The price: \$500.

A simple but elegant choice might be the transparent pitcher that holds Kahlua liqueur, Kahlua mix and coffee for \$21.99.

A basic basket of gourmet merchandise starts at \$25. Add from \$5 to \$25 for a bottle of wine. Chianti might accompany a basket filled with pasta and Italian cookies and chocolates. The \$59.99 gourmet basket includes pates of turkey, salmon and crab; pepper and almond cheeses; Danish canned ham; a Columbia Crest chardonnay; orange marmalade and crackers; and Irish creme coffee and more.

For last-minute shoppers or those without a plan Showerman's will have 15 to 20 baskets in stock right up to Christmas.

If, however, you have on your list a Single Malt Scotch connoisseur with a passion for Havana-seeded cigars and she hasn't been too naughty, don't hesitate to enlist Sam or Vinnie in the design of a special package for her.

"We can make anything you want, custom made for whatever purpose you specify."

Baskets of ideas

Santa's elves have endless ideas to help those who like to think as a team.

For just over \$100, the Basket Kreations staff can transform any food basket into an ethnic indulgence. Give your friends an Italian or TexMex night in their own home. For \$45 a stylishly packaged basket with red bandanna and Star of Texas holds hot and spicy bean dip, chutney, chips and salsa, chilies and hot pepper sauce.

Since food for thought goes well with food for the tummy, you might also

include a video, available at most discount department stores, that enhances the ethnicity of the evening and generates conversation on those long winter nights.

For example in the video, "The Big Night," two brothers epitomize the Italian traditions of good food and good company. Or add a Lone Star video, and see a personal history of contemporary Texas with the backdrop of its rich and painful past.

Since even Scrooge loves either candy or flowers, how about a ready-made bouquet of candy to remember the difficult to buy for on your list?

At Candy Bouquet of Canton, Kwang and Silvia Chung will combine international chocolates and candies into a striking bouquet of colors. They've only been open a short time and are anxious to use Silvia's artistic talents to bring a garden of candy to you. They will mix a basket, sundae glass or mug full of edible candies from Belgium, England, Egypt and other places. Chocolate long-stemmed roses or sugar-free selections can make even a holiday centerpiece tasty.

And you might do a sports package for the jock or outdoor-lover in your life. Dunham's Discount Sports is one place where the staff is anxious to help you put that package together.

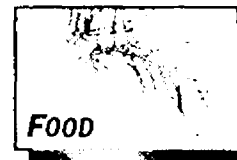
"Part of our everyday selling procedure is qualifying the customer," said Bill Merrifield, manager of Dunham's at Wonderland Mall in Livonia.

Personalizing a gift from golf to roller blading is typical. Or you might consider the unusual yet traditional sport of black powder gun as something for a special person on your list.

Merrifield can help you get together accessories such as powder, caps, cleaning rod and ball starter. He can even offer tips on lessons.

There's no limit on gift ideas with all of Santa's helpers out there.

Food from page A5



ness 18 years ago as an alternative to sending flowers and keeps in touch with what made it a success. "Giving

great care" remains important to her and her staff because every basket has "a beautiful story; every basket represents the sender."

If Santa were flying over the area right now, he'd see how inventive Metro people are filling baskets and other containers with fun foods.

At Williams-Sonoma, manager Katy Moore will be filling pots and pails, warming pans and woks with gourmet edibles and accessories. Just give her 15 to 20 minutes and she'll put together combinations of food in a container of your choice. Maybe a popcorn bowl for New Year's Day? or a relief pattern bowl packed with gourmet mulling

spices and syrups that infuse red wine or cider with the flavor of cloves and cinnamon? How about a wok chock full of Thai Basil noodles surrounded by Jasmine and Red rice? Most gift packages range between \$42 and \$250. Moore said.

From soup to chocolate, from pancakes to pasta, a basket is already prepared or can be made for you usually with just 24-hours notice.

Whether it's an earthenware chicken or a Calphalon soup pot at Williams-Sonoma, or baskets of chocolates or pastries, you can personalize a gift yet take the big guesses out of shopping.

Containers of food are not as personal as buying clothes, but they're gifts people come back for year after year, merchants agree.

"You don't worry about color or size," Moore said.

"Everyone loves to eat."



PHOTO BY JERRY MENDOZA

String of pearls: Necklaces embellished with pearls, like the one pictured above, are always favorites for the special woman on your list. Black pearls are particularly popular this year with gold or silver accents.

Jewelry from page A15



JEWELRY

occasions. It's available in gold or silver and white or black pearls.

DeBeers, diamond experts, in addition to several other well-known distributors, are selling the Diamond Lock Pendant or solitaire necklace that has women wishing and men searching. Jewelers say you don't have to look far for the solitaire diamond in a gold setting with a chain attached to each side of the gem or flowing through a loop on the top of the setting.

They also have Diamond Lock Pendants with princess cut diamonds in an invisible setting (no metal separating the diamonds) that gives the illusion of a solitaire diamond.

"Diamonds are a part of the '90s everyday lifestyle," said Pappas. "They can be worn daily and it's very acceptable."

For that man on your list, diamond rings, bracelets, cuff links, chains, money clips and watches make great stocking stuffers. Cuff links, money clips and brass golf ball markers can

be engraved to add a special monogrammed touch or opt for an initial ring.

A solid gold man's watch never goes out of style, said Pappas. The Garden City jeweler carries Citizen, Tag Heuer, and CYMA Swiss watches for business, casual or athletic wear. Watches can be simple accessories in gold/silver or highlighted with diamonds or mother of pearl dials.

Other stocking suggestions, say jewelers, include earrings, necklaces and pendants, charms and classic pocket watches.

Most independent and franchise jewelry stores have layaway plans to accommodate your budget and accept most major credit cards. Several jewelry stores have their own line of credit that can be applied for while you shop in a matter of minutes.

"Jewelry is always a smart gift because it says so much and has a great deal of significance attached to it," said Anderson. "It would be really hard to go wrong with a diamond bracelet or a gold watch for that special someone on your list."

Be on cutting edge of diamonds

Know your C's.

Diamonds are graded in four areas known as the Four C's: Cut, Clarity, Color and Carat weight.

Cut refers to the cutting angles and proportions of the stone, which are responsible for the stone's brilliance. Whether it's round, oval, or emerald-shaped etc., the proportions play a big part in the value of the stone. Clarity refers to the presence of internal breaks or inclusions as well as external imperfections, called blemishes.

Most diamonds have some flaws, but these flaws help to identify the diamond, much like fingerprints. Those diamonds deemed "flawless" are more expensive and more rare than those containing flaws.

Color refers more to the absence of color than a true color. The most valuable diamonds are those with the least amount of color, with the exception of

"fancy" colored diamonds. These diamonds have distinct attractive tints, such as a fancy yellow or green diamond.

Carat refers to the weight of the stone and is the most objective of the Four C's, since loose diamonds can be weighed precisely on a carat scale. One hundred "points" equals one carat.

Know what you're looking for.

Each person's choice of a diamond will depend on his or her personal taste and budget. Some people want a larger size and are willing to sacrifice clarity, while others want the most perfect stone they can afford and will sacrifice size for clarity.

Always have a diamond appraised before buying it.

An appraisal by an independent appraiser will tell you whether you're paying too much for a diamond as well as confirm the grading.

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