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Cable rates to increase Jan. 1



Westland cable TV subscribers will face January rate increases for the third time in a year. Cable subscribers of basic, satellite and mini-tier services will see their monthly bills increase \$2.63.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland cable TV subscribers will face January rate hikes marking the third price increase in a year.

Cable subscribers of basic, satellite and mini-tier services will see their monthly bills increase \$2.63, MediaOne public affairs director Bill Black said Tuesday.

Customers receiving those services will see their bills climb from \$26.75 to \$29.38.

Here's why:

- Satellite service will increase \$1.58 a month, from \$15.80 to \$17.38.
- Basic service will drop from \$8.90 to \$8.60.
- Mini-tier service will dip slightly from \$2.05 to an even \$2.

Combining those services, satellite

rate hikes will offset basic and mini-tier service decreases for a \$1.23 increase.

But Black said customers also will begin paying \$1.40 for franchise fees that they didn't previously have on their cable bills, boosting the overall rate hike to \$2.63. Franchise fees, historically paid by the cable company, go to the city of Westland.

David Moranty, a Westland Cable Commission member, said he had been under the impression that the \$1.40 portion had been part of customer bills all along, but was only being broken out separately now on bills.

But Black insisted during two sepa-

rate discussions that the \$1.40 marks a price increase on cable bills.

To complicate cable bills even more, customers also face a \$1 increase for premium channels such as Cinemax, Showtime and The Movie Channel, potentially adding several more dollars to monthly bills, Moranty said.

The new January rates follow earlier MediaOne price increases that took effect last February and May, adding fuel to persistent complaints that 26,000 Westland cable subscribers pay too much for their services.

And Moranty is again raising allega-

Please see CABLE, A2

Party time



Excitement of season: Marissa Myrold, 3½, of Westland raises her hand to show she is looking forward to Santa coming.

STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY



Family event: Grace Shihadeh of Westland and her sons Joseph, 3 (left), and Christopher, 5 (right), enjoy Sunday's Christmas program. Not pictured is son, Jonathan, 9.

Kids treated to yuletide joy

Children from throughout the Observer area were treated to an afternoon of fun Sunday at the annual "Labor of Love" party, held at the UAW Local 182 union hall on Plymouth Road in Livonia.

This is the fourth year the Ford UAW local has sponsored the event to benefit area children.

Invited to the party were children from Livonia Head Start, Spaulding Children's Home, Redford Boys and Girls Club and the COTS Family Shelter in Detroit.

In addition to other special guests, Livonia DARE Officer Kevin Schultz and the Moslem Temple Shriner Clowns were also part of the day.

In addition to Sunday's party, a Christmas Eve visit from Santa and members of the UAW local will also be sponsored by the group.

Bookkeeper faces charges in embezzlement case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland bookkeeper is accused of embezzling as much as \$300,000 from two local companies, Galaxy Builders and J.K. Construction Co., a police sergeant said.

Marisa Bryan, a 32-year-old married mother of two, was charged Monday with two counts of embezzling and 10 counts of misusing company checks, officially known as uttering and publishing.

Bryan is accused of "writing company

checks to her personal creditors to pay off loans," Westland police Sgt. Harry Misener said.

The woman worked for a family that owned J.K. Construction Co. and Galaxy Builders, both of Westland, Misener said.

Company officials noticed missing money after completing work on a new subdivision near Cherry Hill and Carlson.

"They noticed that they were short on money," Misener said. "The money that should have been there just wasn't

there."

A subsequent investigation led to Bryan's arrest.

She is accused of forging names on company checks and paying off her own bills, he said.

In court Monday, Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokus arraigned Bryan on two counts of embezzling and 10 counts of uttering and publishing.

Bokus placed a not-guilty plea on record for the defendant, who faces a Jan. 15 preliminary hearing to determine whether she should stand trial on

the charges.

Bryan could face a maximum 14-year prison term if convicted of embezzlement. She also could face a 10-year term and a \$5,000 fine if convicted of uttering and publishing.

Bokus ordered Bryan jailed in lieu of a \$20,000/10 percent bond, and she was released after the posting of \$2,000.

Bryan's attorney, Jeffrey Butler, chose Tuesday not to comment on the allegations. He said he hasn't had time to review the case.

Please see JAMES, A2

From songs to swimming, programs offer fun

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

When school lets out for the holidays, youngsters often complain "there's nothing to do."

Parents seek "activities usually where their kids can do something in the afternoon," said Jennifer Varajon, recreation specialist for Summit on the Park in Canton. Parents appreciate activities where kids can be dropped off for the day.

"They do," agreed Denise Felix, senior program director for the Livonia Family YMCA. "We keep them busy here." Activities at the YMCA in Livonia include day camp.

"It's really a lot of fun," Felix said. "It's kind of like a reunion time." Those who attended summer camp come back for winter fun.

See related story page E1

Fun sites for the younger set this winter vacation include:

■ The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren. At 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, there will be a stained glass ornament activity in the Children's Activity Room. At 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, a New Year Calendar craft will be featured in the Children's Activity Room. No registration is required.

A collective craft project is planned for children ages 4-10 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, in the Children's Activity Room. The project will be kept in the Children's Services Area. No registration is required.

All day Friday, Jan. 2, children will seek 10 "freaky" things in the Children's Services Area to receive a prize.

Creation Station will be offered for children ages 4-10 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, in the Children's Activity Room. No registration is required for the craft activity.

Westland's library hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. The library will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1. For information on library activities in Westland, call (313) 326-6123.

The Wayne-Westland Family YMCA will offer its winter camp Monday, Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 23,

Please see FUN, A4

James from page A1

shouldn't sit on the planning commission. She cited a Michigan law known as the Incompatible Offices Act, which she said should apply to James on city-school issues.

"I thought we had been through this," James responded Tuesday, citing an opinion earlier this year from Assistant City Attorney Keith Madden, who said James had no legal conflict.

Council members indicated Monday that City Attorney Angelo Plakas should revisit the issue in the wake of the opposing opinion from CGG attorney John D. Erdevig.

James, meanwhile, accused Robbins of raising issues against him because she opposes any development around Wilson School, situated on Wildwood north of Palmer on the west side of a 54-acre wooded area known as Sassafras Trails.

"Suddenly she's on this vendetta to remove me (from the planning commission)," James said.

Robbins and other citizens won a battle to protect the bulk of Sassafras Trails from development. They convinced school board members to accept a \$520,000 offer from the state natural resources department, which secured rights to the land to protect it.

"For Pete's sake, they got their 54 acres," James said.

He also said Robbins is now questioning his planning commission role because of an issue "that's in her back yard." Robbins lives near Sassafras Trails.

But Robbins has vehemently stood by her opin-

ion that the two offices held by James are "legally incompatible."

In another twist, James questioned why Robbins isn't concerned that Wayne-Westland school board member Ed Turner also chairs the Westland Cable Commission.

"Ironically, she was his campaign manager to help him get on the school board," James said. "Isn't that the same conflict of interest, if there is any, yet she promoted this guy to help him get elected?"

Councilwoman Justine Barns on Monday questioned whether Turner's situation is similar.

"I don't believe it is," Plakas responded, but said he would investigate it as part of the larger issue.

Councilman Charles Pickering stood by his earlier assertions that James is in a conflict of interest, despite the opinion from Plakas' office that seemed to clear James.

In yet another flap, James questioned why some CGG members complain that development around Wilson will bring more children.

In addressing the planning commission on Dec. 9, resident Beth Kunkle said children will be climbing a fence and going into Sassafras Trails.

"Can you imagine what will go on with Sassafras Trails with this number of children going in there?" she asked.

"I thought they saved Sassafras Trails for the children," James said. "There's a double standard here."

Cable from page A1

tions that MediaOne didn't give residents the proper 30-day notice of Jan. 1 rate hikes.

Black said the company followed proper procedures, although some customers told the Observer they received notices of rate hikes just this week.

"The notice was sent well in advance of the 30 days," Black said.

The rate hikes come as some

other cable companies also gear up for 1998 increases.

Moranty charged that MediaOne hasn't given proper notice of the last three rate hikes.

He asked several months ago for a Westland city attorney's opinion on whether MediaOne properly notified subscribers of rate hikes.

Assistant City Attorney Keith

Madden hadn't submitted a report as of Tuesday, Moranty said. Madden couldn't be reached Tuesday for comment.

On Monday, Westland City Councilman Richard LeBlanc also questioned during a council meeting whether MediaOne gave proper 30-day notice for the new rate hikes.

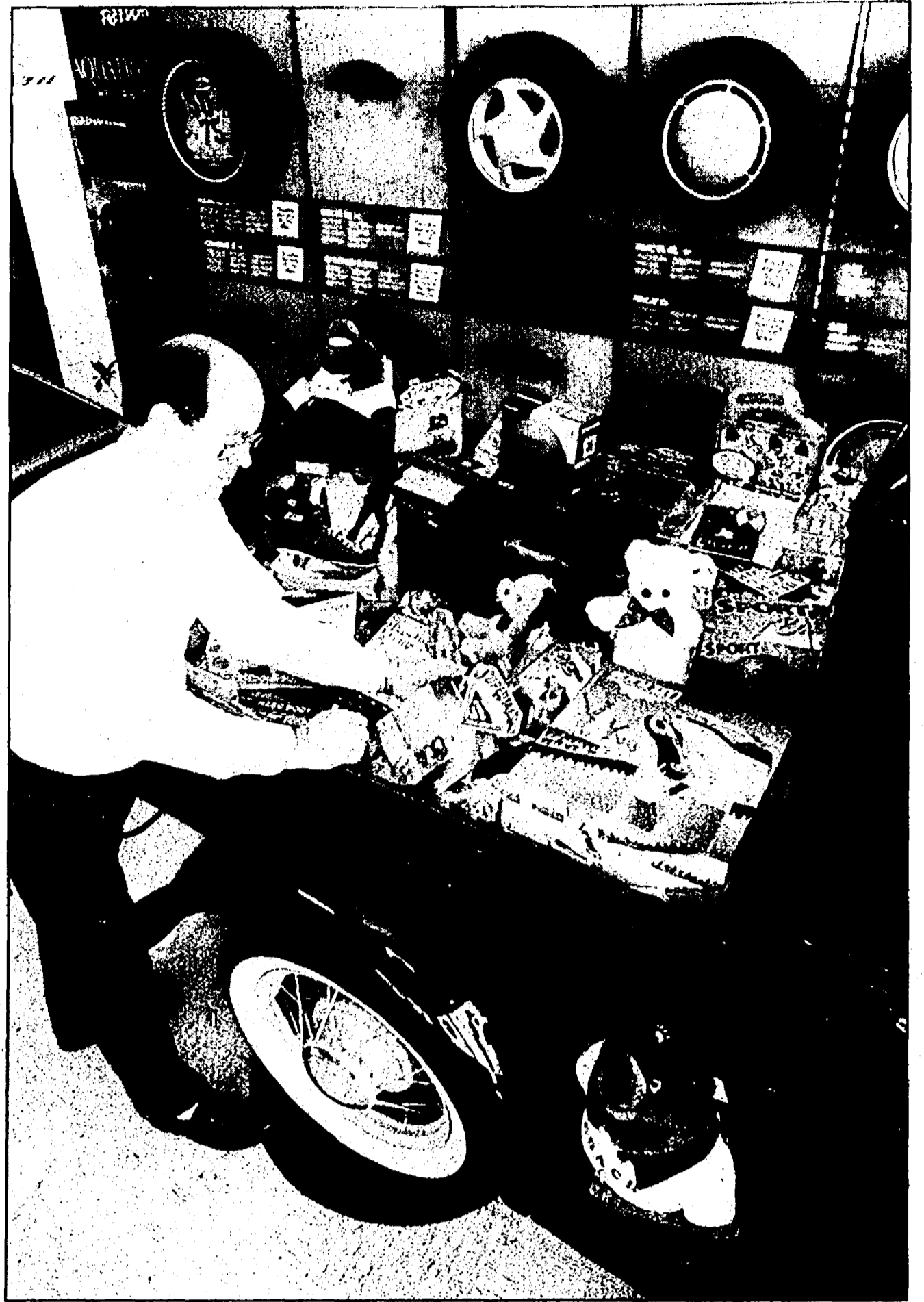
Black, responding to questions about why customers face another rate hike, said MediaOne has made a huge capital investment in the last couple of years by building a new "Broadband network" that has improved services. He couldn't immediately provide figures on what MediaOne has spent.

He did say, however, that the company expects to spend \$250 per customer in 1998 to upgrade its services.

Some customers have long complained about services provided by MediaOne, formerly Continental Cablevision.

MediaOne is expected to face competition in the next two years as Americast moves into Westland to provide services.

Packed pickup



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Toy time: Ken Belanger, owner of Goodyear Service Store in Westland, takes a look at the toys that have been donated as part of the toy drive at the business for the Westland Rotarians. The toys are being gathered in a 1932 Ford Model B Pick-up until Dec. 20 when they will be given to the homeless shelter in Westland. Donations of new, unwrapped toys are welcome, Belanger said. Goodyear is on Warren near Wayne Road.

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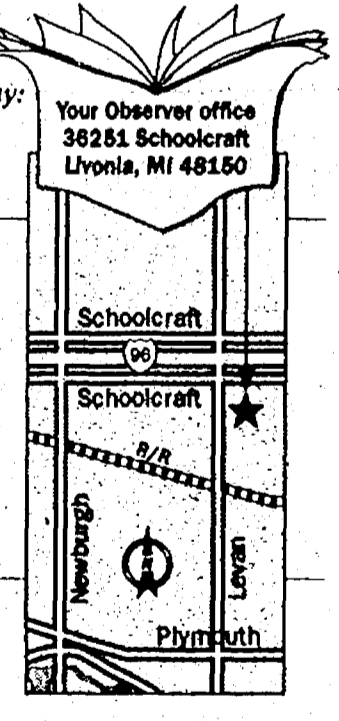


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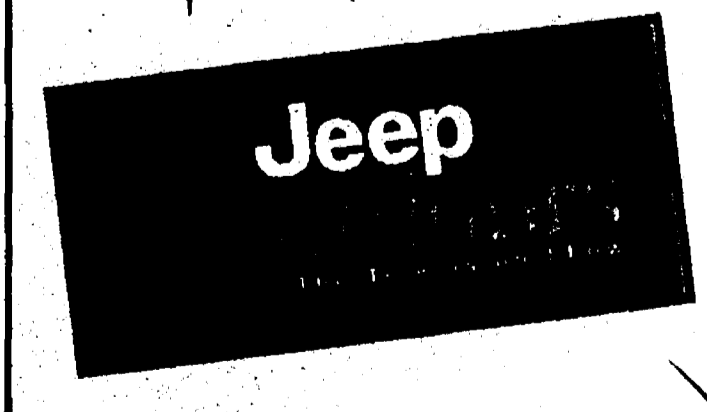
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Saturday, Dec. 20,
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

MEIJER

PLACES AND FACES

City calendars

Westland residents will soon begin receiving their 1998 City of Westland calendars in the mail. For each month, the new calendar includes historical information about what happened in Westland in years past. It also notes important birthdays, such as the Feb. 4, 1913, birthday of Rosa Parks. The calendar is dedicated in memory of Carl Clark, a Westland public services director who died of Lou Gehrig's disease last January.

Tax deadline

Westland city officials are giving residents a New Year's gift of sorts. Westland property owners will have until March 1 to pay their winter taxes, Westland City Council members decided Monday. The original deadline was Feb. 15.

GRAND OPENING

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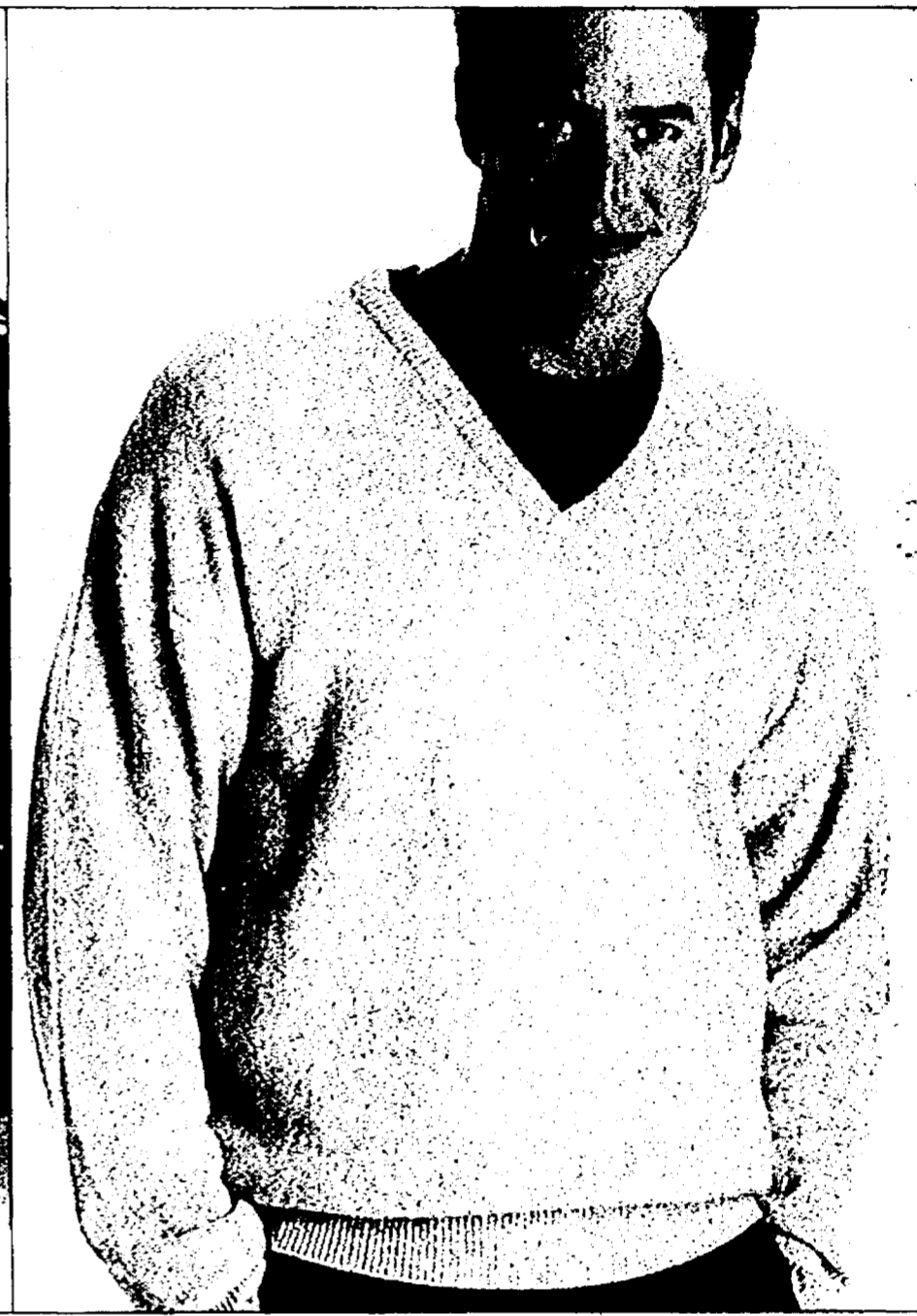
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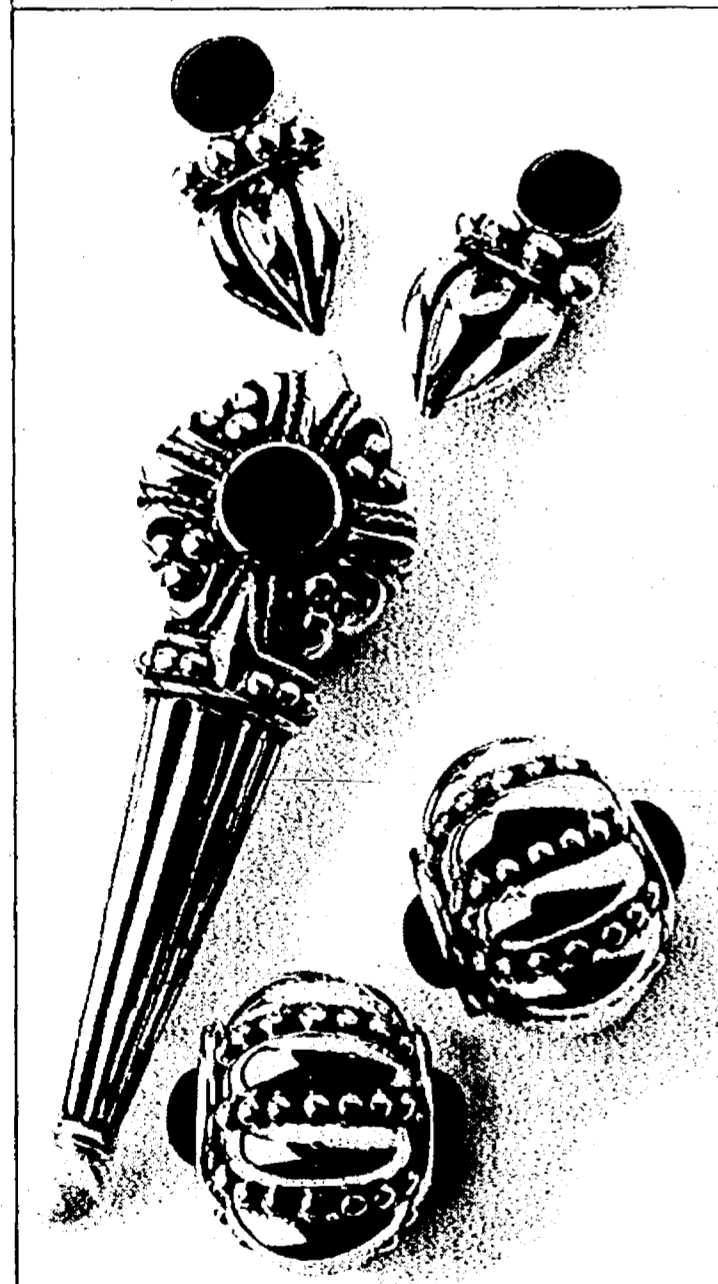
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STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

A splashing good time: Kids enjoy some swimming fun at the Livonia Family Y.



Friends, fun: Above, Swimming is part of the fun at the Wayne-Westland Y in Westland. At left, Timmy Buchanan, 7, and Jeff Koscielecki, 8, play basketball at the Livonia Y.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Fun from page A1

Wednesday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 29, Tuesday, Dec. 30, Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 2. The YMCA is at 827 S. Wayne Road, south of Cherry Hill in Westland. Hours will be 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day except for Wednesday, when hours will be 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The camp is for children ages 5-12 and will feature games, crafts, sports, swimming and field trips. Price is \$85 for members for four days, \$70 for members for three days, \$50 for members for two days. For registration information, call (313) 721-7044.

Fun can also be found at the Plymouth District Library, on Main Street between Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. The library offers a variety of videos, books and other items sure to please visitors of all ages.

Library hours in Plymouth are



Water world: The Wayne-Wayne Family YMCA offers swimming activities.

9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. The library will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1. For information, call (313) 453-

0750. The Plymouth Community Arts Council will hold holiday art and music workshops for children in kindergarten through fifth grade on Saturday, Dec. 20.

"Songs of the Season," 9:30-11:30 a.m., will look at different holiday celebrations, including Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

"Christmas Around the World," noon to 2 p.m., will focus on holiday songs and customs from other countries.

Each workshop is \$15 per child. Free child care during lunch will be provided if both sessions are attended.

For reservations or information, call the PCAC at (313) 416-4278.

The Summit of the Park, off of Canton Center south of Cherry Hill in Canton, offers winter fun for the young. Open swim is scheduled for 2-4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 23, Fri-

day, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 29, Tuesday, Dec. 30, and Friday, Jan. 2.

Drop-in gym time is also available throughout the Christmas vacation period, including teen and family/youth sessions. Drop-in time is designated for all types of activity, including basketball and volleyball. For information, call (313) 397-5110.

The Redford Parks and Recreation Department's Ice Arena will feature a skating exhibition 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. The arena is at 12400 Beech Daly, north of Plymouth Road.

Farmington Hills Youth & Family Services is at 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For information, call (248) 473-1841.

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena will be open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 23, Monday, Dec. 29, Tuesday, Dec. 30, and Wednesday, Dec. 31. The arena is on Eight Mile west of Gill.

The Farmington YMCA will be open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 23, Wednesday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 29, Tuesday, Dec. 30, and Wednesday, Dec. 31. The YMCA is on Farmington Road north of 12 Mile.

The Livonia Family YMCA is at 14255 Stark, north of Schoolcraft and west of Farmington Road in Livonia. The YMCA

will offer "School's Out" camp for kids ages 5-12. The fun-packed days will include trips on some of the days, swimming and gym games. The camp will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and extended care is available at an hourly fee of \$1.50 per hour per family. Extended care runs from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Participants should bring a sack lunch, drink, swimsuit and towel each day. Price is \$19 per day for members, \$25 for program members.

Dates are Monday, Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 23, Friday, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 29, Tuesday, Dec. 30, and Friday, Jan. 2. For registration information, call (313) 261-2161.

The Garden City Public Library is at 2012 Middlebelt, south of Ford. The library offers a variety of books, videos and other fun for kids and the young at heart. Library hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The library will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1. For information, call (313) 525-8855.

The Garden City Ice Arena is at 200 Log Cabin Road, east of the Cherry Hill-Merriman intersection. Open skating is offered 1-2:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, 4-5:45 p.m. Thursday, 12:30-2 p.m. Saturday and noon to 1:45 p.m. Sunday. For information, call (313) 261-3491.

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11 candidates vie for SC appointment

Eleven area residents have applied for a vacancy on the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees.

Applicants had until Monday to submit letters of interest to Schoolcraft College to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of John Walsh, who was elected in November to the Livonia City Council.

Four of the applicants live in Livonia. Three live in Plymouth, two in Canton, one in Northville and one in Westland.

The applicants are:

■ From Canton, Bryan Amann, an attorney and former county commissioner, and Susan Kopinski, deputy chief financial officer at Detroit's Metro Airport.

■ From Livonia, Harry Greenleaf, director of transfer college programs in the College of Engineering and Science at the University of Detroit-Mercy and a former Schoolcraft trustee; Ken Harb, an investment advisor with Prudential Securities; Donald Knapp Jr., a research attorney for a Wayne County circuit judge; and Neil Weiner, a counselor at Mackenzie High School.

■ From Northville, Greg Stempien, an attorney.

■ From Plymouth, Sean FitzGerald, assistant general

counsel at Wayne State University; John Lynch, a retired consultant for the community and business relations division at Washtenaw Community College, and Robert Omilian, a finance manager at Ford Motor Co.

■ From Westland, Michael Novak, a police officer in Livonia.

The replacement will serve through June 30, 1999. Voters will decide who will serve a six-year term in June 1999.

Board members must reside in the college district and be a registered voter. The college district includes the Plymouth-Canton, Livonia, Garden City, Clarenceville, Northville and part of the Novi school districts.

Trustees have scheduled a meeting on Jan. 7 to discuss how to narrow that field. Tentative meeting dates were scheduled for Jan. 17 for interviews and Jan. 24, if necessary.

Trustees plan to approve a final candidate on Jan. 28.

The current Schoolcraft board includes Carol Strom of Livonia, Richard DeVries of Livonia, Steve Ragan of Plymouth, Pat Watson of Northville, Mary Breen of Plymouth Township and Brian Broderick of Plymouth.

Commission reviews split-ticket primary

By KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

A group of Wayne County residents want to allow split-ticket voting in county primary elections.

Wayne County commissioners may decide today whether to place such a proposal on a countywide ballot, possibly in August 1998. If voters approved the measure, it would allow them to vote for local Democrats in county elections, even if they voted for Republicans or other parties in national or state races, or vote for Republicans in county races if they voted Democratic or other parties nationally.

Commissioner William O'Neil, D-Allen Park, is expected to introduce the resolution for approval. It may be referred to the commission's Committee on General Government for further study.

Supporters believe the split-ticket voting will create greater inclusion of voters in county electoral decision making and

improve the county's system of home rule.

"When I see numbers indicating that half of my constituents who turn out on primary election day are still excluded from the only county primaries that matter, it becomes obvious that something is drastically wrong," O'Neil said. "I will do all in my power to pass this resolution so that all the people of Wayne County can have no less than what is their right — a voice in their county government."

John Hand, the former charter commission and chairman of Citizens for Fairness in County Primaries, said, "When the number of voters disenfranchised in the polling booths is greater than the margins of difference between candidates for particular offices, it is clearly time to change the system."

"Disenfranchised" voters are described by Hand as voters who are excluded because they cannot cross party lines on the ballots without spoiling them.

In 1996, voters who cast a vote for U.S. Senate candidates Ronna Romney or Jim Nicholson in the Republican primary could not vote for Democratic candidates in county races.

In Garden City, the total Senate votes cast were 2,111. The 1,059 residents who cast votes for Romney and Nicholson were excluded from the local Democratic races or 51 percent of voters who turned out that day.

In largely Republican Livonia and Plymouth, those figures were 71 and 75 percent. In West-

land, 50 percent of voters were disenfranchised. In Canton, Plymouth and Redford townships, those figures were 68, 82 and 52 percent, respectively.

That meant that more than 47,000 voters could not vote in the prosecutor's race between incumbent John O'Hair and state Sen. Virgil Smith, a race won by O'Hair by 13,400 votes.

In a letter to commissioners, ballot proposal supporters called the voter exclusion "terribly unfair." "The promise of home

Please see PRIMARY, A7

Revamped sled hill is open for business

Grab your scarf and mittens, climb into those old galoshes and get the sled down from the nail in the garage.

Wayne County Parks has improved the sledding hill at Cass Benton hill in Hines Park to provide a safer experience for kids of all ages.

Thanks to the millage approved by voters in 1996, two new ramps with hand-rails have been installed to make it easier to trudge back up the hill after each slide down.

And, most importantly, the

parking lot has been re-oriented away from the bottom of the hill to avoid anyone accidentally sliding into the parking area. Future plans call for the addition of a firepit so bonfires can be built to provide a place to warm up after a long afternoon of fun in the snow.

Cass-Benton sledding hill is on Hines Drive between Six and Seven Mile roads. For more information, call Wayne County Parks at (313) 261-1990.

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School calendar

Commission to study start date

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Tourism got a couple of slices from the full loaf when the Michigan Legislature acted on bills to push the starting date of school after Labor Day.

On its final day of the fall session:

■ The Senate barely passed a bill, 20-16, to guarantee a four-day Labor Day weekend. It wouldn't order school districts to push the starting time after Labor Day, but it would plunk an immediate disruption in the schedules of those that do.

■ The House defeated, 35-71, a bill to require that public schools don't open their doors until after Labor Day, the first Monday in September.

"This legislation is supported by business interests but not by a majority of the constituents I represent," said Rep. Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills, summing up the opposition. "By a 3-1 margin,

constituents have urged me to defend local control. Accordingly, I vote 'no' on this bill."

The House bill was sponsored by Rep. Pat Gagliardi, D-Drummond Island. The tourism industry sees its best months as July and August. When schools open the last week in August, one-eighth of the season is lost for families.

"If we can have a day off and help an industry survive," that's a positive," said Senate floor leader Dan DeGrow, R-Port Huron.

School districts generally opposed the bill because it infringes on local control and reduces their scheduling flexibility.

Here is how area representatives voted in defeating House Bill 5080:

Yes - Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne.

No - Bob Brown, D-Deerborn Heights, Eileen DeHart, D-West-

land, Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, Deborah Whyman, R-Canton.

Rep. Frank Fitzgerald, R-Grand Ledge, won voice approval of an amendment to set up a School Calendar Commission to study arguments for and against post-Labor Day opening. Its importance became nil when the full bill was rejected.

Rep. Judith Scranton, R-Brighton, lost with her amendment to add that school activities not start prior to the first day of class. It went down 16-86.

The Senate bill, which faces an uncertain future in the House, was seen as a compromise measure, aimed at nudging schools to start classes after Labor Day but not requiring it.

Here is how area senators voted on SB 300:

Yes - Bob Geake, R-Northville, Loren Bennett, R-Canton.

No - George Z. Hart, D-Deerborn.

Primary from page A5

rule is that everyone shall have a voice in the government of his or her home county," the letter states.

But state party rules supersede county charters, argues Thaddeus McCotter, a Wayne County commissioner and chair of the Wayne County Republicans. That would allow party delegates to caucus for their candidates to place them on the ballot if they chose to do so, thus closing the general public out of that aspect of the electoral process. A caucus is a private meeting or a committee of a political party or faction.

Currently county elective seats are filled through partisan contests in which the winner from each party is placed on the ballot. With the proposed open system, the two candidates with the most votes would advance to the general election.

But some wonder about the

mischief such a setup would encourage. Many political observers remember presidential candidate George Wallace nearly winning on the Democratic ticket in Michigan in 1972, a success clearly blamed on GOP crossover votes and not attributed to support among Democrats.

That could happen on a county level, some believe.

"Our (state party) rules are quiet now, but we can change that," McCotter said. "It's not a good idea. It would be a law of unintended consequences."

But Hand said the group wants to keep the general election partisan.

"It's a government 'of the people, for the people, and by the people,' not a government 'of the party, for the party and by the party,'" Hand said. "We're not getting rid of the parties. Just don't put us in a strait jacket."


Currently voters can still disrupt the electoral process by voting for a challenger in the opposite party even though they cannot cross over into two separate races on the same ballot, Hand said.

"All we're saying is give voters a voice. Right now, we have an all-or-nothing or nothing-at-all primary. I don't believe that's good politics."

Commissioner George Cushingberry, D-Detroit, also opposed the resolution. He will introduce a strongly-worded resolution to stop that attempt.

"The two-party system has served the nation well for more than 200 years," Cushingberry said. "I'm not going to stand for a change in a tried and true method of fair representation."

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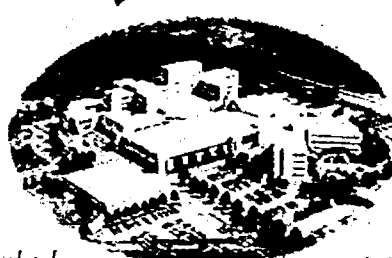
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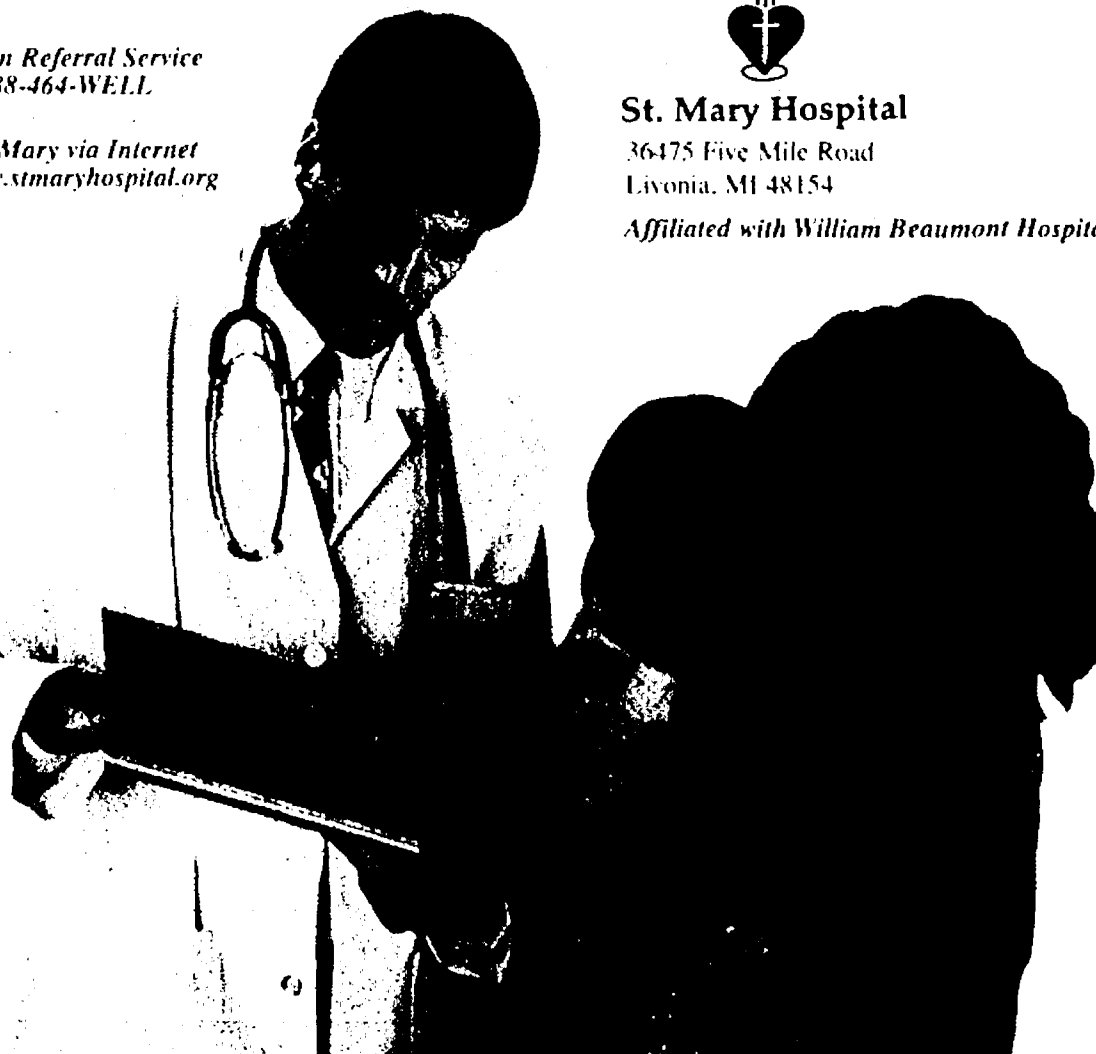
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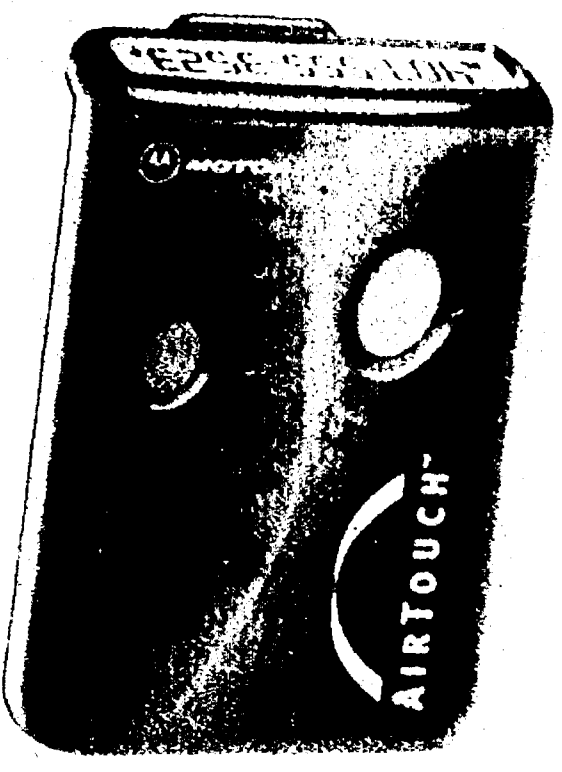
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Suburbs urged to join metro marketing effort

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

"If it's a great time in Detroit," should be "a great time in Southfield, Novi and Livonia,"

Suburban communities in western Wayne and Oakland Counties should use the same "brand" in marketing themselves as the Metropolitan Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau does, says Rick Binford.

"We need to build some type of recognition to the outside world," Binford told delegates to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments on Dec. 13.

The chief executive of the Metro Detroit bureau, Binford unveiled the brand name marketing strategy for Detroit, though to less than rave reviews, in October. In the same way the world became familiar with "I Love N.Y.," it will learn about metro Detroit - defined as Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Suburbs can cooperate by using the same kind of graceful type and the slogan "It's a great time in ... part of a greater Detroit," he said.

"In marketing jargon, it's known as 'branding.'"

SEMCOG delegates routinely approved a resolution saying the executive committee supports the convention bureau's brand strategy marketing campaign, though some St. Clair and Monroe counties' members were a trifle unhappy that the promotion is confined to three counties.

Reversing Detroit's bad national image will take many years. "It's a marathon, not a

sprint," Binford reminded them.

New York has spent 25 years building up its recognition. The MDCVC is planning to "invest" \$25 million in the next five years to promote the brand, Binford said.

"Metro Detroit has an image problem. They (consumers nationally in tests) think less of us than we'd like.

"They don't know a whole lot, and what they do know isn't good: crime, drugs, poverty, urban decay. Those elements also are present in Chicago, but Chicago is seen as having offsetting benefits.

"Yes, we are the Motor City, but that is not a motivator for the masses."

Metro Detroit has made "good" front page news during the last year in the New York Times and Los Angeles Times with casinos and the hockey team's Stanley cup. "It's time for us to take advantage and build on it," Binford said.

"We are a center of innovation in autos and the medical profession. We're a work hard, lunch bucket town, but we're also a play hard town. We know how to have a good time. Have you seen us lately? We have night life, recreation, culture."

To questions from delegates, Binford said MDCVC's funds come from a 2 percent assessment on rooms paid by larger hotels. The advertising is allocated to the region, not any one city or county.

He added that MDCVC's brand is "a hand-in-glove fit" with the state's brand: "Great lakes, great times."

Vote-by-mail bill heads to state Senate

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Democrats used their majority muscle when the state House of Representatives pushed through a bill to allow experimental vote-by-mail elections between 1999 and 2003.

In 2004, local governments will be able to hold local mail-in elections, and the Secretary of State may hold statewide mail-in elections.

The House vote was 74-33 with all nay votes being cast by Republicans. The bill faces an uncertain future in the Republican-controlled Senate.

"I am voting no," said Rep. Tom Middleton, R-Ortonville, "because it will put a large number of official ballots in the hands of people not interested in voting, and this could lead to new, widespread voter fraud problems."

Rep. Andrew Richner, R-Grosse Pointe, objected that the pilot program should be proven successful before the bill is applied to the entire state. "I offered an amendment that

would have addressed this issue by allowing the Secretary of State to terminate elections by mail upon a finding of substantial fraud in the pilot program."

Rep. Sharon Gire, D-Macomb County, sponsor of the measure, said Democrats built in a series of protections against fraud. Among them:

■ Ballots mailed to registered voters may not be forwarded.

■ Records will be kept of replacement ballots sent or received to guard against "double voting."

■ Ballots will be processed only if they come back in the return identification envelope which has been signed by the voter and the signature verified against the signature on the voter's registration card.

■ There are penalties for those who use force to influence a voter or attempt to keep a voter from voting by mail.

Here is how area representatives voted:

Yes - Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights, Eileen DeHart, D-West-

land, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne Gerald Law, R-Plymouth.

No - Deborah Whyman, R-Canton.

Democrats have made voting by mail a front-burner issue.

Republicans have been split. They have resisted mail-in voting bills until the Secretary of State installs a computer system that cancels out one's old registration automatically when the person re-registers in a new area.

Elections experts from both parties say Michigan's registration rolls are swollen (20-30 percent) with people who are dead or who have moved but whose registrations never have been canceled.

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Park barn will get facelift

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County will be getting \$124,000 in federal funds to renovate the Nankin Mills barn into a Way Station, as part of the Hines Park bike path project.

"This federal program is designed to expand upon non-motorized transportation," said Hurley Coleman, director of Wayne County parks. "Previously, we used federal money to build bike paths for the entire 17-miles of Hines Drive. This additional grant will allow us to establish a location in the center of that to be used as a bicycle livery, a way station, so people who are riding bikes have a place to stop for refreshments."

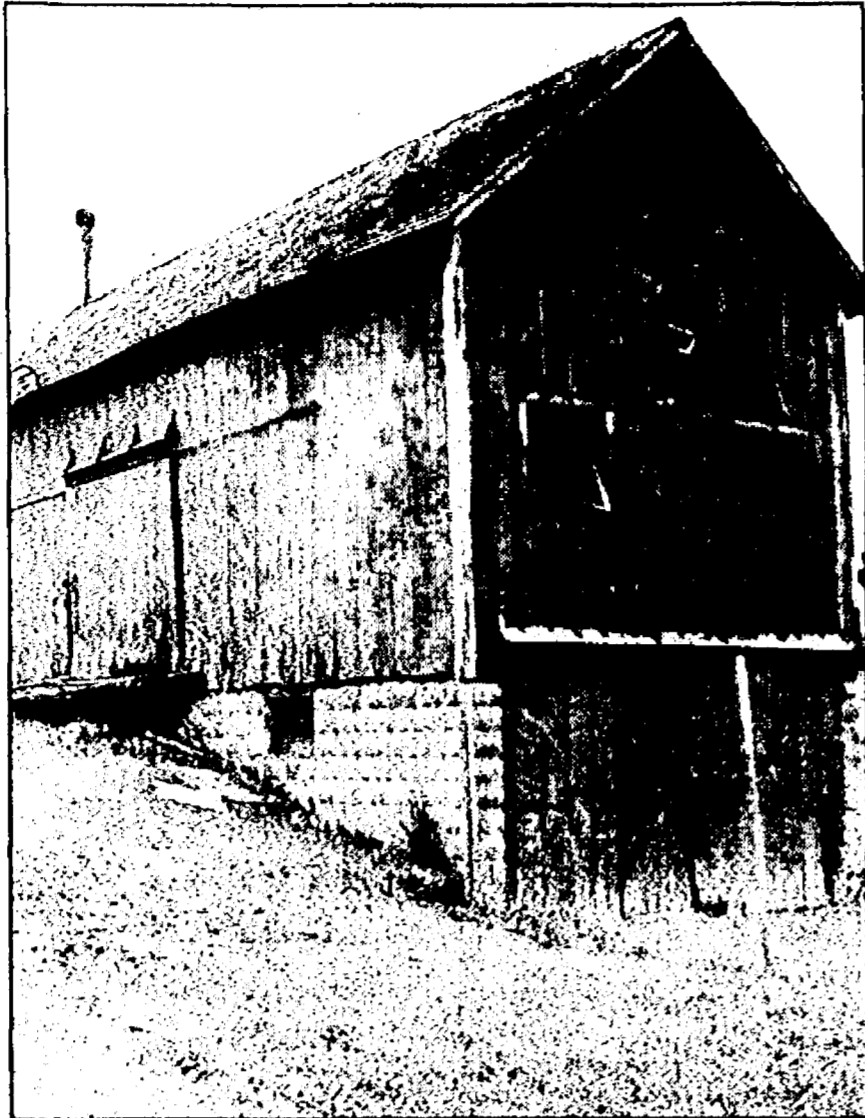
Wayne County must pay its portion of \$31,000 for the project.

The Nankin Mills barn is a historic barn, dating back to the age of the renovated mill, constructed in the 1830s.

"Nankin Mills is one of the more critical areas in the Wayne County Parks system, with all the different activities there," noted Coleman. "With the nature center, the picnic area, and the tenant house which we have some future plans for, Nankin Mills will be a key recreational complex for Wayne County."

Coleman says the county hopes to contract services at the renovated barn.

"The interior of the barn will be renovated to have refreshments, plus rent bicycles and



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGDFELD

Renovation: This Nankin Mills historic barn, dating back to the age of the renovated mill, will be renovated with a federal grant. The Way Station will provide refreshments, and bicycle and in-line skate rentals.

in-line skates," Coleman said. "We hope to contract those services to a private vendor."

University registers for winter term

Madonna University's open registration for Winter '98 term continues through Friday, Jan. 2 for new and returning students.

Office hours will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and until 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, with the exception of Dec. 18 and 22 when the office will close at 5 p.m.

All offices will be closed for Christmas (Dec. 24 - Jan. 1). Classes begin the week of Jan. 5.

Fax-in registration for all students is available and will be accepted until Dec. 22, prior to the start of classes.

Students may enroll in day, evening and weekend classes, and non-admitted students must obtain a permit-to-register from

the admissions office. Transfer students are welcome. There is no application fee.

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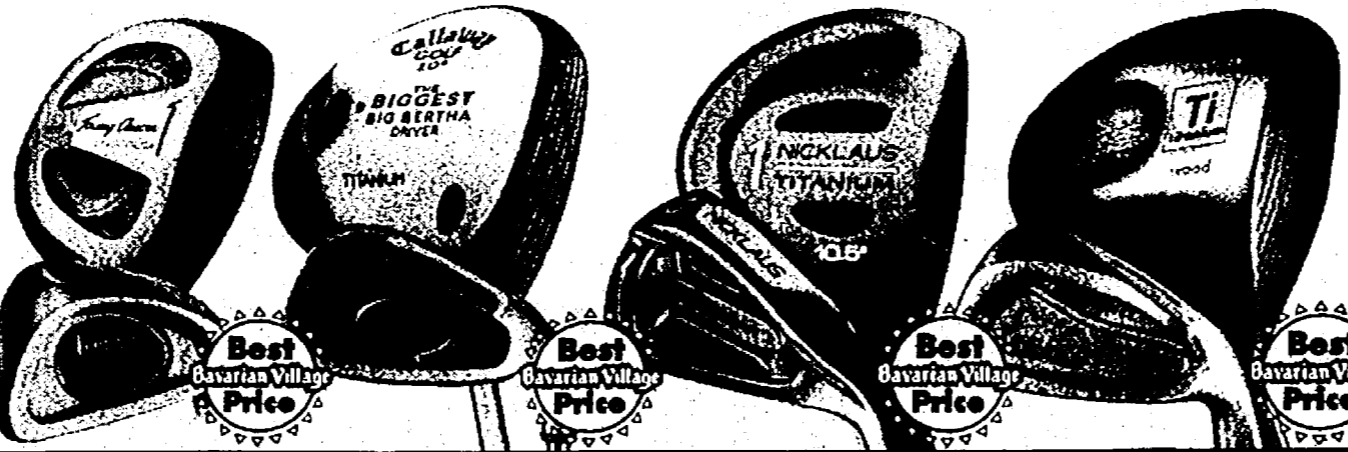
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Rouge honors Ford plant, conservation group

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Two Rouge River improvement projects are the first to be placed on the new Habitat Protection and Enhancement Honor Roll.

Ford Motor Co. and the Western Wayne County Conservation Association have been recognized for their efforts in restoring the Rouge River.

The Honor Roll was established by the habitat subcommittee of the Rouge River Remedial Action Plan (RRAC) Advisory Council. The council was formed to assist the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in implementing the state's plan for reviving the Rouge River.

A partnership consisting of Ford, the United Auto Workers and the Wildlife Habitat Council created a wildlife sanctuary occupying 13 acres at the Sheldon Road Plant in Plymouth Township.

Since its inception in 1993, the natural wildlife area has been certified three times by the Wildlife Habitat Council as an innovative model for wildlife habitat development. The sanctuary includes a meadow of wildflowers and natural grasses, a 600-tree nursery, bird nesting boxes and a butterfly garden. The site also contains a red fox den and several deer.

"We wanted to take property that was being unused around the plant and make something of it," said Dave Klotz, a member of the plant's wildlife committee. "We've had a heck of a response from the community, and they've enjoyed it. In the future, we want to take the walking path that's in existence and turn it into a wildlife study area for the benefit of employees, the community and Plymouth-Canton schools."

Andy Aho, director of Ford's environmental and safety engi-



Award winners: Chester Wright, Western Wayne Conservation Association president, (left) listens as Jim Graham, executive director of Friends of the Rouge, presents the club's award to Bob Laich, conservation chairman the association.



Honored: Friends of the Rouge Executive Director Jim Graham (left) presents an award to Sheldon Road Plant Manager Paula Winkler-Doman and David Klotz, a member of the plant's wildlife committee.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

neering, told the gathering Ford is dedicated to protecting the environment.

"We have an obligation to future generations, our children's children, to take care of the environment," said. "All of us should be keepers of the environment, not just users of it."

Sheldon Road Plant Manager Paula Winkler-Doman accepted the award.

"We have a small, but dedicated group of people who helped

make it possible," said Winkler-Doman. "Our goal is continued involvement in environmental programs."

The RRAC honored the Ford project because it enhances natural habitat in the Rouge River watershed; was established

through a strong partnership: links the economy and society with the environment; and is maintained and sustained by plant employees.

The Western Wayne County Conservation Association was honored for its work with the

fisheries division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to establish brown trout habitat in Johnson Creek. The group helped clear debris and stabilize the banks of the creek, and planted fish in the stream from 1993 to 1995.

The trout are now spawning naturally.

"At one time, saying trout stream and Rouge River in the same sentence was ludicrous," said Jim Graham, chairman of the Habitat Subcommittee of the Rouge River Remedial Plan Advisory Council, as he presented the award. "Now, we have an honest-to-goodness trout stream in the Rouge River ... in a place that was once clogged with debris and logjams."

The cleanup has taken a dozen years, but the fruits of labor are starting to show.

"I look back at 12 years ago, with all the brush and two inches of muck on the bottom of the river ... and I'm pleased to say the trout are surviving, and I'm finding fresh water clams," said Bob Laich, past president of the Western Wayne County Conservation Association. "We've come a long way, but there is still a lot to be done."

The River Rouge Advisory Council is already looking ahead for more projects that help the Rouge watershed.

"These two are excellent examples at how people can make a big change in the Rouge," said Rich Badics, RRAC chairman. "What we have to do is focus on the little things that everybody does to make a big impact on water quality."

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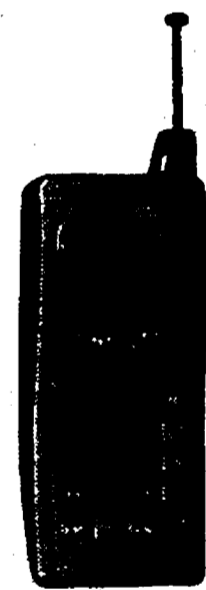
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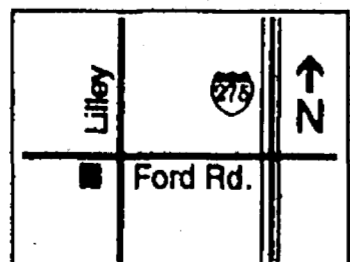
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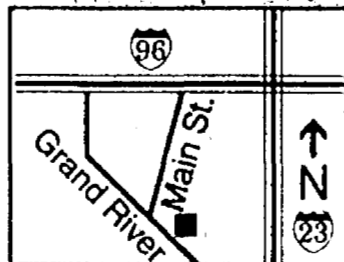
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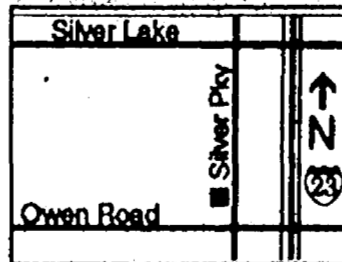
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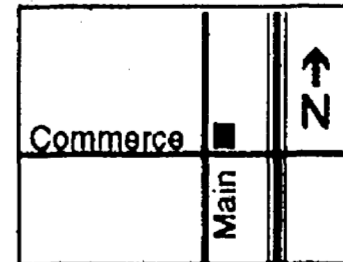
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Holiday adventure

Cruise ships, exotic spots lure many this season

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

"It'll be home for Christmas."

On second thought - maybe not.

The traditional family gathering time, the holidays - Christmas and Hanukkah - are occasions for developing new traditions in some families or just a change of pace for one year. Instead of lighting the menorah and decking the halls, these families have chosen the deck on a cruise ship and the lights of some exotic port-of-call.

"It was a fantastic trip," said Linda Douglass of a Caribbean cruise she and her family took over Christmas two years ago. "It was a trip of a lifetime to be nice and warm at Christmas time and have the sun shining."

Douglass, her husband, Jeff, and their three children, Leslie, 16, Kenneth, 15, and Jeffrey Peter Jr., 9, Westland residents, received the weeklong cruise to six ports-of-call including St. Thomas, Aruba and Venezuela, as a gift from Linda's parents, Helen and Ray Wendland of Livonia.

The Wendlands traveled with their children so they could all be together but definitely not home for the holiday. According to Helen Wendland, they chose Christmas to travel in 1995 "because we wanted to go away and this was the only time that we could get away when the little ones weren't in school."

It had to be either Easter, Christmas or summer. "And I

don't like going on a cruise to the Caribbean in the summer time," she said.

Travel common

Glenna Drennan, a travel agent for Great Travel Service on Ann Arbor Road in Livonia where the Wendlands booked their trip, noted, "We are finding families are taking extended vacations and taking the children too." She said double-income couples with no children are more likely to take the holiday vacations as well.

"I've seen more people traveling, in general, in the last year than I have in the last four or five," she said. "In the last year the holidays are getting booked up sooner than in the past."

Kaye Britton of Kaye Britton Travel on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills said that she has had a number of people who like to take cruises at Christmas and Hanukkah and many of them with their entire family. "We find that happens more and more each year," she said.

The agency also books trips to such places as London and Austria for the holidays. "They do all kinds of lovely things in Austria," she said. Britton knows one couple, longtime customers, who have not spent the holidays at home since 1983. The childless couple has traveled to such exotic places as Africa, India, Nepal, Thailand and Singapore as part of their holiday gift to one another.

According to both Drennan and Britton, the key is to book early. "People start six to eight months ahead booking for the warm climates," said Britton. "If the people are going to St. Louis, for example over Christmas, there usually isn't much problem at all, it's just the warm areas." Drennan has noticed more people were calling at the last minute this year to find nothing available. "They tell us, 'I booked the same thing just one year ago and you had seats.' Other people are beating them to their seats."

Book early

Booking early has other advantages as well - like saving \$700-\$800 on just the hotel alone. "If you wait until the last minute what's going to happen is the less expensive hotels are going to be sold out," said Drennan. "So yes, there might be space available ... but it can be that much difference in hotels for the same set of dates for the same destination."

Airfares can also soar pretty high as the holidays draw closer. "There is a date in August that Christmas goes on sale," Drennan said of the Christmas flight prices. "When that company puts the Christmas week on sale, they are generally sold out within two hours of when they started."

The Wendland and the Douglass families believe the experience is worth every penny.

Douglass said, "It was a unique experience for my kids because they had never done that before." The family woke up in Guadeloupe on Christmas morning and had taken a little Christmas tree and other decorations for their cabin.

"At first my youngest was concerned because he didn't think Santa would be able to find him but Santa found him OK," she said. "We got up and had Christmas and then ate breakfast and went on our tours. The kids didn't miss Christmas whatsoever."

Douglass said the ship was decorated with trees and lights for the holiday and so was the island, but the best decorations were the exotic flower gardens and breathtaking waterfalls.

"It was quite different because we didn't have a big Christmas dinner with family over ... but it was enjoyable," said Douglass. "The kids saw, in other parts of the world, they don't celebrate Christmas the way we do."

Douglass said when the family was in Grenada, they asked some children on the beach about their Christmas. "They told us that it was a big deal if they got one or two presents from Santa."

The Douglass family and Linda's parents enjoyed the last trip so much they have decided to do it again this year. They are doing a three-island cruise this holiday season.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRUESLER

Holiday adventure: Members of the Douglass family - Linda and Jeff (right) and their three children Leslie, 16, Kenneth, 15, and Jeffrey Peter Jr., 9, of Westland along with Linda's parents, Helen and Ray Wendland of Livonia (left) - are getting ready for a three-island cruise this holiday season.

Tips to keep house safe

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

For those traveling away from home for the holidays a few simple things that can be done so that it doesn't appear that your home is all alone.

"We always tell people that before you leave, make sure that your home looks lived-in," said Kirk Kasperowicz, police officer in the Crime Prevention Bureau of the Redford Police Department. Kasperowicz and Nancy Wilson, main dispatcher, communications, for the Garden City Police Department, suggested steps to prevent break-ins, burglaries and vandalism.

Put lights on timers in various parts of the house. Random on/off times are best. For outside lights, Kasperowicz recommends motion detectors. He said he has them on his house and they are about the same expense as other outside lights and are relatively easy to install. Otherwise, ask a neighbor to turn outside lights on and off.

■ Leave a radio on or put it on a timer.

■ Lock all windows and doors. Lock basement windows too.

■ Make sure a neighbor or relative has access to the house and can be contacted in case of an emergency. Leave numbers with that person where you can be reached during your vacation. Be sure they also know how to shut off any alarms in the house.

■ Have someone pick up mail and other deliveries or fill out a form at the post office to have mail held.

■ Garbage cans should be put in the garage or behind the house. "People look for that," said Kasperowicz. "They look to see if garbage is being put out."

■ Valuables should be locked in a safe deposit box or strong-box inside the home. "When people break in, they look for money, currency, change and jewelry," Kasperowicz said.

■ Call your local police department to check if they have a Vacation Watch program. Both the Garden City and Redford Police Departments have a program to check on homes while the owners are on vacation.

According to Wilson, the police will check the home each day at random times. "They go to the home, get out and check the exterior of the home," she said.

Vacationers need only contact the police department one or two days ahead of time with all pertinent information.

"These are just simple things and it can make or break your vacation," said Kasperowicz.

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Metro on track for record use in '97

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County officials expect to have another record year for passengers at Metro Airport in Romulus.

For the year-to-date, Metro Airport has seen 26.2-million passengers through the gates. By the end of the year, airport officials expect to surpass the 30.6-million passengers of 1996.

"We've recorded increases in passengers for every year but two since 1984," said Mike Conway, community relations man-

ager at Metro. "The only exceptions were in 1988 when we missed by a couple of thousand, and in 1991 when we were down about 2-percent."

In the latest statistics, Conway said October, 1997 showed a 6.2-percent rise in passengers, when compared to October, 1996.

"In fact, we've recorded passenger increases in forty-nine of the last 51 months," noted Conway.

The main reason for the increase in passengers at Metro

airport is the rise in the number of flights abroad.

In particular, Conway credits international flights to China as a significant reason for increased numbers.

"Metro Airport is the only U.S. airport to have a non-stop flight to mainland China," said Conway. "That's important because there are 74 companies based in Michigan with a physical presence in China. There is a lot of international business and interest in Michigan."

While some believe Metro Airport has become overcrowded, Conway says \$60-million in interim improvements made by Northwest Airlines during the current construction and renovation program has eased congestion and helped provide faster service.

Some of the noticeable improvements include six new

gates in concourse C, new check-in facilities for domestic and international flights, Northwest's expansion of baggage handling, plus new moving walkways between concourses C and D.

Metro Airport is currently in the midst of a \$1.6-billion improvement project, which is expected to be completed in the year 2000. The number of total gates will increase to 99, a jump of 25. The international terminal will also expand, from six to 10 gates.

At last count, Metro Airport is listed as the ninth busiest airport in North America...14th in the world.

"If you consider total operations -- takeoffs and landings -- Metro Airport is ranked fifth," responded Conway.

New date set for High School Proficiency Test

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Eleventh-graders will take the state High School Proficiency Tests in the last 30 days before the end of the school year under bills passed by the Michigan Legislature.

They will get their results at the beginning of the next school year.

Test time will be cut from 11 hours to no more than eight. Written portions will be graded by Michigan teachers.

Results will be printed on students' transcripts, not diplomas. The hated "proficient," "novice" and "not yet novice" tags will be gone.

Students seeking dual enrollment in college may take the tests in communications skills, math and science in 10th grade.

"We have made every effort to keep the spirit of this reform bipartisan," said Rep. Sharon Gire, D-Macomb County, as the House on Dec. 10 overwhelmingly concurred in minor Senate amendments.

With the bills on their way to Gov. John Engler for signing, lawmakers ended their 1997 session and a long battle over state government's role in setting high school graduation standards.

Gire's House Education Committee wrote the bills after lengthy public hearings.

The most controversial measure was House Bill 5229, which the Senate amended to

require testing at the end of 11th grade. The House version had scheduled them for the beginning of 12th grade.

The vote was 79-26. Here is how area representatives voted:

Yes - Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, Gerald Law, R-Plymouth.

No - Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, Deborah Whyman, R-Canton.

Absent - Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights.

HSPTs were born during a budget battle several years ago. Purpose is to enforce the state's recommended academic core curriculum.

Among other changes in the new bills:

■ Students will have more opportunities for dual enrollment in college. They may take college courses in areas where they have achieved a state endorsement on the HSPT by taking the test in 10th grade.

■ Students, parents and schools will get timely feedback on how well students did.

■ HSPTs will be used as indicators of school improvement and student achievement under the state school accreditation program.

■ Schools will be encouraged to use the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests, given in lower grades, to spot areas for needed improvement, for both the school and individual students.

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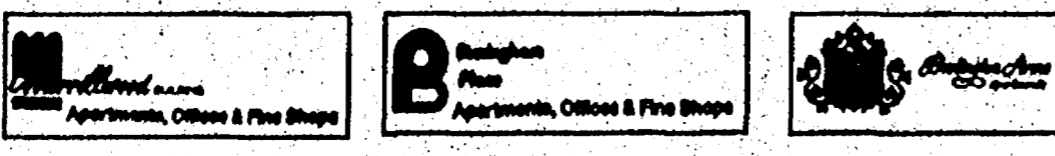
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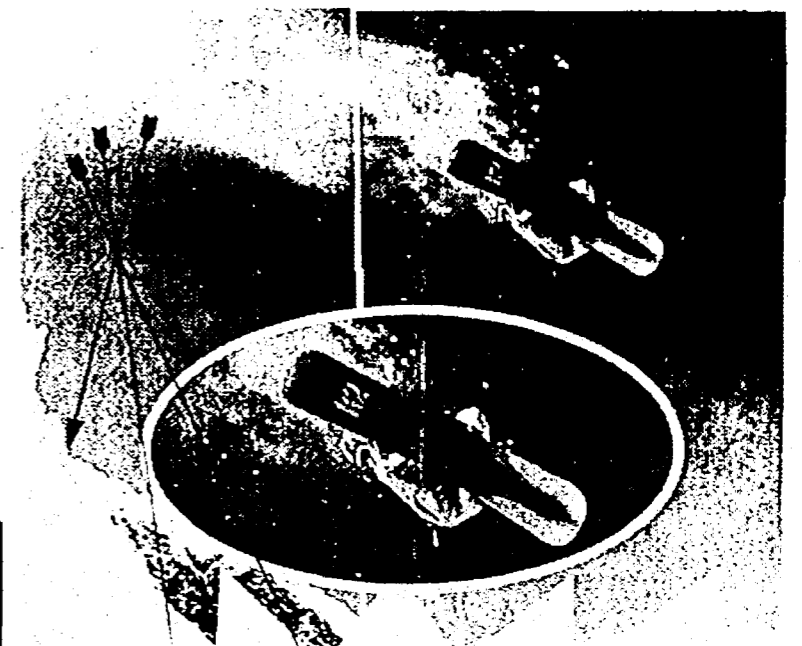
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Westland Observer

OPINION

A16(W)

36251 SCHOOLCRAFT, LIVONIA, MICHIGAN, 48150

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1997

Reddy to retire

Fire chief made contributions

The city of Westland is losing its top fire department employee, but it seems the residents of Westland won't be losing him or his efforts.

Westland fire Chief Michael Reddy confirmed Friday that he will retire in January, but at the same time Reddy announced that he plans to stay active in the city.

Reddy, who was named fire chief three years ago, rose through the ranks, climbing from a firefighting job to claim the top job.

Now after a 21 1/2-year career in the fire department, Reddy is leaving after ushering in a new era in the department.

Among Reddy's accomplishments are his successful fight to bring new Advanced Life Support medical rescue services to the city.

Westland Mayor Robert Thomas also credits Reddy with making the department more user-friendly.

For example, under Reddy's leadership, the department began providing business owners with brochures citing the most common fire code violations, allowing problems to be corrected prior to fire inspections.

The department also developed a series of brochures that firefighters give to residents and businesses to help them cope in the wake of major fires and other emergencies. We hope those programs continue under new leadership.



Michael Reddy

Meanwhile, Reddy, 54, had also begun to develop new interests before he announced his decision to retire. He and several business partners built Norris Apartments on Palmer Road, apartments for low-income residents. The project, which opened this year, is the first major residential development in the Norwayne neighborhood in 50 years.

Reddy and business partner George Riley also have launched a new business, The Fire Academy, a local brewery and grill on Wayne Road near Hunter.

But now that the city is losing Reddy as fire chief, he has said he will remain involved in the community and will possibly seek a Westland City Council seat in the next election, in 1999. He has formerly served on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education.

"I've been here my whole life, and I plan on staying here," Reddy said last week. "I plan to stay active in the community."

So the city may be losing a valuable employee, but it won't be losing an active citizen.

Deck the halls with caution

The holiday season is upon us and we remind homeowners to exercise caution and common sense in decorating, cooking and traveling to and from holiday celebrations.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, nearly 600 fires per year have been started by the ignition of Christmas trees, causing an average of 33 deaths, 117 injuries and \$23 million in property damage.

Be especially careful when decorating. Purchase laboratory-tested Christmas lights, unplug tree lights when leaving home or going to bed and use common sense when decorating with candles.

The Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross offers the following 12 tips to help Wayne and Oakland county residents prevent injuries or even fatalities this holiday season.

■ **Beware of holiday candles:** Be sure candles are kept away from decorations or other combustible materials. Don't leave children in a room with lit candles, and always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children. Never use candles to decorate a Christmas tree. Never display lighted candles in window or near exits.

■ **Test tree trimmings:** When decorating with lights, be sure to purchase only those approved by a testing laboratory. For outside decorations, use only those lights approved for outdoor uses. Don't overload electrical outlets and always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to bed.

■ **Keep Christmas trees fresh:** Choose a fresh Christmas tree and secure it in a sturdy stand. Place the tree away from heat sources and exits and water it daily. If you purchase an artificial tree, make sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.

■ **Inspect fireplaces:** Have your chimney inspected by a professional and cleaned if necessary. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chim-

neys and can cause a fire if not properly cleaned. Never use flammable liquids in a fire-place. If you plan to hang stockings on your fireplace, do not use the fireplace for fires.

■ **Buckle up:** During the holiday months, people travel more than ever. Wear a seat belt and make sure all passengers buck up. Remember to seat children 12 and younger in the back seat of the car. Children under 40 pounds must ride in approved safety seats in the back seat.

■ **Cook with care:** When cooking, always turn pot handles in. Don't store items on the stove top, they could catch fire. Don't overload electrical outlets and don't use appliances with frayed or cracked wires. Turn off kitchen appliances after use.

■ **Be cautious with portable and space heaters:** Place space heater at least three feet away from anything combustible, including clothing, pets and people. Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to bed.

■ **Prepare a winter storm plan:** Have extra blankets on hand and ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat and water-resistant boots. It's also important to have your car winterized.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:
What do you want for Christmas?



"A robot."
Joshua Konopka



"A pair of Jordan gym shoes and a black leather jacket."
John Hill



"A puppy."
Skye Jones



"A Working Out Barbie."
Crystal Guwra

We asked this question of second-graders at Elliott Elementary in Westland.

Time for Santa



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGDELD

Santa Claus coming to town: Jolly old Saint Nicholas has been leaning his ear this way for weeks now and soon will be making a list and checking it twice.

LETTERS

District deserves better

As someone who has dedicated his life to educating children, I was appalled, to say the least, to see the treatment directed toward a young man formerly from the Wayne-Westland School District by some of the members of that district's board of education.

There are no words to express the utterly insensitive manner in which the board president Debra Fowlkes and Superintendent Dr. Greg Baracy treated this young man who was harassed while he was a student at Wayne Memorial High School. He was treated poorly because he was gay. The poor treatment didn't come from other students - it came from a few staff members and administrators in the district.

When the young man expressed to his counselor fears he was dealing with due to his struggles of accepting his sexual orientation, he was then outed by district personnel to his parents and told he couldn't return to school until he had undergone a psychiatric evaluation.

The worst part of the entire evening of the Dec. 8 board meeting was when board treasurer David James, stated that adding sexual orientation to the policies was the same as adding a category for pedophiles, adulterers, those who engage in incest and bestiality. This man should immediately resign his position as a member of this board. He took a vulnerable class of students, those who are three times more likely to commit suicide and equated them to pedophiles - who are criminals. That ought to help a child who is struggling with his or her sexual orientation and with a very fragile psyche.

Baracy wasn't happy enough with his last performance badgering a student from John Glenn who spoke so courageously about her friend who had attempted to commit suicide because she was perceived to be gay. So, he badgered this young man who was harassed so much that he left the Wayne-Westland School District after his junior year to attend school in another district. And these same board members claim they protect all students equally.

Fowlkes says she will add sexual orientation back into the policies when the U.S. Constitution includes it. However, the Nabozny case and a more recent case in our federal court jurisdiction - the Sixth Circuit, imply that governmental entities such as school districts must follow the equal protection clause

of the Constitution which obviously isn't occurring in Wayne-Westland. Remember, Mrs. Fowlkes, when you took your oath of office, you promised to uphold the Constitution of the United States. Or have you forgotten?

If this board isn't willing to change the policies, then we will just work to change this board one at a time if that's what it takes.

Wayne-Westland voters have a lot to think about. The board is probably the worst I've seen since I've lived in Westland. And the new superintendent appears to be in over his head. He has created one of the worst public relations nightmares I've ever seen. Wayne-Westland students, staff and community members deserve better.

Michael P. Chiumento
Westland

Thanks for support

I want to extend my thanks to those voters who had the confidence in me to allow me another opportunity to continue serving the city as your councilman for another four-year term.

I intend to continue my involvement in our community and work with the citizens to assist them with their concerns. I will continue my support in the fields of fire and police programs for the city and will continue working with the administration to enhance services to the citizens.

Thanks to all of you for the vote of confidence!

Sharon P. Scott
city councilwoman
Westland

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number.

Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Westland Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Westland Observer

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— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Young at heart

Westland offers variety of programs that appeal to youth

I am writing in response to an article I read in the Nov. 13 Observer. In this article, a Wayne-Westland school board member made comments regarding our city youth programs. Perhaps he was confused or just plain ill-informed, but in any event, I believe the facts should be shared.

First of all, under the Freedom of Information Act, the city budget is available to be viewed by any citizen. Secondly, the number of youth program categories offered by the city is 78. This is the most ever offered in the history of Westland. I reference program categories as opposed to individual courses as a true indicator of offerings to our youth. Total programming, including core dockets, exceeds 104. The aforementioned does not include divisions of youth basketball.

It is somewhat disturbing to hear or read that we are not doing enough for our children. Can we do more? Absolutely, and we will continue to explore many avenues that will lead us in that direction. We are not a complacent city, especially when it comes to innovation for our children.

We have an outstanding relationship with the Wayne-Westland school system and nothing will change this professional admiration we have for

them. Dr. Greg Baracy, his staff and the school board have been very supportive. Most governmental agencies only wished they could emulate the cooperation and respect we have for each other.

I personally salute WYAA, Dad's Club, Westland Soccer Association, Hockey Association and our Figure Skating Association for a job well-done. All of the aforementioned have many dedicated and committed people who volunteer many hours to help their children and other children. They are very special people.

One of the major elements facing cities in America today are what types of programs need to be implemented to encourage our children to participate. Sports programs are not the only programming needed to challenge our youth and keep them involved. After-school programs are very essential, especially sporting events that involve many students. However, after school a large percentage of students indulge in multiplexed elements. Today's kids are members of the digital generation. Students are competing in competitions such as Math Counts, Science Olympiad, Odyssey of the Mind and Knowledge Master Open. In addition, students are surfing the Net for up-to-



GEORGE R. GILLIES

One of the major elements facing cities in America today are what types of programs need to be implemented to encourage our children to participate. Sports programs are not the only programming needed ...

date information regarding their world or subjects of interest to them.

Spending time surrounded by robust, visual, electronic media, Sesame Street, Barney, MTV, home computers, video games, cyberspace networks and virtual reality are items of interest to youth today. All of these facets compete for the attention of our youth with sports and general friendship.

They have more opportunities and avenues open to them than at any time in the history of this country. The utilization of the family home computer has not only been intriguing and educational, but has brought the family closer together. If this is the case, not every child will be involved with after-school programs, but they are doing something they enjoy and still are with their parents.

Let me illustrate monies spent on our seniors opposed to our youth program areas for the city:

Annually, senior budget for programs: \$418,000 budgeted minus \$50,000 operation Bread Basket and Home Chores equals \$368,000 actually spent on programs.

Monies spent annually on youth programs: \$8,000 for fire department youth educational programs; \$280,000 on DARE; \$157,450 for two juvenile officers; \$347,000 for Westland sports arena, 80 percent programming for youth; \$8,000 for Mayor's Task Force, providing Tiger night, Cedar Point trip, golf lessons, golf outing, theater night, Turn Off the Violence Night (all programs include parents of children to accompany them enhancing quality time together); \$15,000 organizational grant monies; \$20,000 summer park

program; \$33,000 after-school program, 24 weeks at three different middle schools; \$35,000 for swim program; \$110,685 for Youth Assistance Program; \$180,000 for Playscape, providing recreation for elementary kids; for a \$1,194,135 total spent on youth in Westland.

(* indicates part of 78 program categories, plus core programs, total 104) The \$1,194,135 are only city monies spent. It does not include monies spent for youth equipment in the parks and recreation department. It also does not include what every parent spends in the individual associations that provide recreation for our youth.

The Thomas team is very proud of the number and quality of programs currently being offered to our youth. It should be apparent to readers that the city does offer a wide variety of programs for all ages of youth. However, the administration has never been complacent and therefore, we are striving to continue to develop new programs and expand offerings where ever possible. The administration will continue to move forward for the youth and all citizens of our community.

George R. Gillies is the deputy mayor of the city of Westland.

LETTERS

Simplify this season

There is a tendency during the holiday season to get so caught up in commercialism, materialism, and hustle-bustle we become stressed out and lose sight of the things most important to us. I have great holiday memories of family get-togethers, baking with my mom or kids, making homemade gifts, driving around looking at decorations and doing things as a

family.

In our society, we see many families who have lost sight of this. They are fragmented, each "doing their own thing," and "home" is a "hotel existence" where kids come in (maybe) to sleep and eat. There is no joy, togetherness or celebration. The holiday season adds additional stress because kids place high materialistic demands on their parents who feel stressed out trying to meet those expectations. In

return, the parents expect appreciation, respect, and improved behavior, but they are usually disappointed. There is no joy, no celebration, no fun.

The problem is that we have and want too much of the so-called "American Dream." The solution, quite simply, is to simplify our lives. Instead of buying expensive gifts for your family, make them something, plan a family outing, create a memory, or volunteer to help someone less fortunate as a

family. On several holidays, when my kids were younger, we all piled in the car and delivered "meals on wheels" to shut-ins who were delighted in seeing the kids. Much is said about the young people today not having any values; of course they have values, but if we do not teach them to appreciate simplicity, to embrace the concept of "giving back," and to celebrate family, then we have no one to blame but ourselves if their values are tied

to materialism and self-gratification.

It's never too late to start new traditions and to change old behaviors. I challenge each of us to do something this season that involves the whole family in a fun experience.

Ronaele Bowman
Westland Youth Assistance
program director

Legislature OKs sensible changes to proficiency test

It's easy to take a poke at the Michigan Legislature. "There are two things you don't want to watch being made too closely: sausage and legislation," goes the old saying.

Legislators respond to an enormous number of influences: lobbyists, interest groups, constituencies, donors, friends, even voters. And when the Legislature is divided — one house controlled by Republicans, one by Democrats — partisan considerations come automatically into play.

So it's easy for columnists, me included, to make the Legislature as a whole look bad.

Fairness (amply mixed with the holiday spirit), however, does require when the Legislature does something sensible, even wise, that it be duly noted and praised.

Such is the case with modifications to the High School Proficiency Test (HSPT), which passed the Legislature last week with solid, bipartisan majorities in both houses.

The HSPT has been the center of controversy ever since a bunch of parents, mainly in Birmingham and Troy, kept their kids from taking the test. Some argued that the nomenclature for the endorsements on graduation diplomas — "proficient," "novice" and "not yet novice" — was demeaning. Others found it implausible that children with stellar grade point averages might score badly in the test and so jeopardize college admission chances. Still others objected to the length — 11 hours — of time taken up by the test.

Lurking behind all the objections was a streak of right-wing paranoid thinking that holds that any assessment of educational performance is an assault on parents' rights and the first step in a government-imposed curriculum. Some activists figured that complaints about the HSPT might be a maneuver to get rid of any kind of state standard in education.

Operating in the best legislative tradition of fact-finding, the House Education Committee, chaired by Sharon Gire of Macomb County, held extensive public hearings to listen to parents, students, educators and the general public.

"There was a negative connotation to the labels," said Sen. Joanne Emmons, chairwoman of the Senate Education Committee. "Another complaint was that the tests were scored in another state (North Carolina). We want Michigan teachers to score the test."

Corrective bills were introduced in both the Senate and House. "The HSPT has had a lot of criticism, but it's bringing higher standards," said Emmons. "We have made every effort to keep the spirit of this reform bipartisan," said



PHILIP POWER

Lurking behind all the objections was a streak of right-wing paranoid thinking that holds that any assessment of educational performance is an assault on parents' rights and the first step in a government-imposed curriculum.

Gire, as the House agreed to adopt final legislation incorporating the Senate's version.

Changes were sensible:

■ The HSPT will be given at the end of the 11th grade instead of 12th, and it will take only eight hours, instead of 11.

■ Results will be expressed numerically, not in the hated labels, and will be printed on students' transcripts, not their diplomas.

■ Scoring will be done by Michigan teachers.

■ Students, parents and teachers will get prompt feedback on results, which will be used as indicators of school improvement and student achievement under the state school accreditation program.

In the end, the legislative process worked precisely as the civics textbooks say it should. Those advocating radical change were resisted; timely corrective legislation was passed.

The Legislature, especially committee chairs Gire and Emmons, deserves a round of congratulations. Students, parents, teachers and employers will all benefit from a corrected and improved HSPT.

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

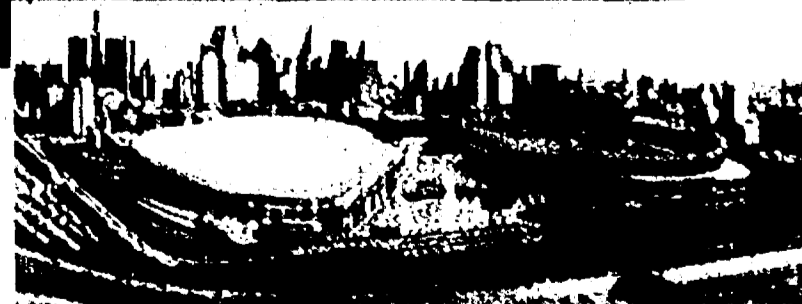
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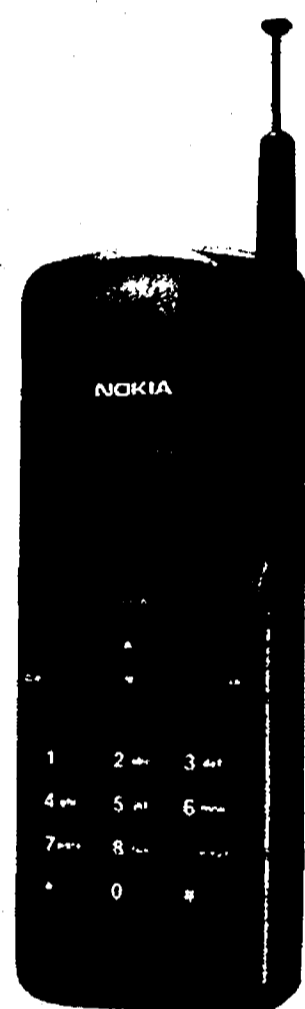


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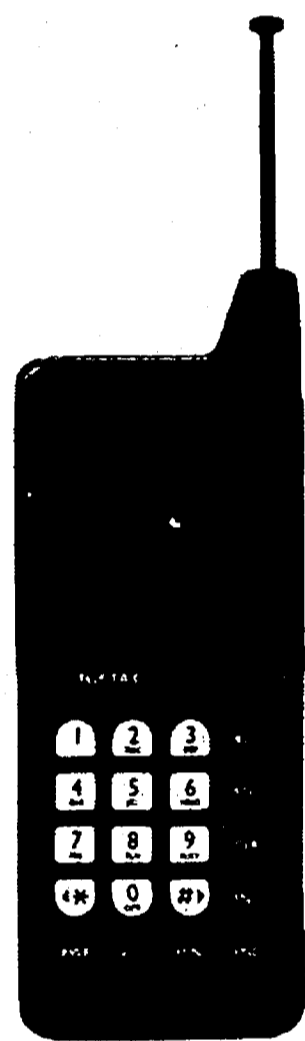


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JACK GLADDEN

Christmas still works its magic

She was 7 years old at the time, old enough to have heard the skepticism from her friends about Santa, but young enough to believe — because she still wanted to believe.

Her brother, on the other hand, was 17 and quietly rebellious. It had been a long time since he had participated in family activities. No more trips to Greenfield Village or the Renaissance Festival, no more family vacations, certainly no nights out at the movies with parents and little sister. He had his own friends and his own car and his own life now and home was a place to sleep and occasionally have a quick meal — in his room, of course.

Even holidays — especially holidays, it seemed — were times to be someplace else, anyplace else. Traditions were to be flouted. Thanksgiving was a time for a burger and fries at McDonald's, and Christmas Eve, this Christmas Eve anyway, a time to go an offbeat workshop in Ann Arbor and work on building chain mail armor with his equally rebellious buddy. A "new tradition," I suppose.

He said he'd be home sometime after midnight.

It wasn't a particularly memorable Christmas. The Feminist's relatives

Please see **GLADDEN, B2**



STAFF PHOTO BY LARRY MCKEE



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN DEAN

Making waves: Shock jock Howard Stern may be holding court mornings at WKRK-FM (97.1), but Jerry Millen of Westland is proving he is up to the challenge, anchoring the Southfield station's equally important afternoon time slot. When he's not sharing banter with Detroit Red Wing Darren McCarty or challenging Detroit radio legend Arthur Penhallow, he can be found at Ken Levy's Executive Gym in West Bloomfield.

K-Rocker mixes music with pranks

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Wherever Jerry Millen goes, his job as a DJ at radio station WKRK-FM (97.1) follows him.

"I went to the bank and I didn't even know that this woman knew my name; she asked me who won the double-cheeseburger bet," said Millen, speaking about a bet he made with a Detroit Lion over a Monday Night Football game in early October.

Others approach Millen and ask about his twice-weekly sidekick, Detroit Red Wing Darren McCarty, or his sexual preference, a frequent discussion between the two. (Millen is heterosexual.)

"I can't believe how many people listen to my show; it's so different than when I was on 89X (CIMX-FM),"

the Westland resident said.

But Millen perhaps is best known for his controversial attacks on WRIF-FM DJ and Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame member Arthur Penhallow.

"My job is to make Arthur Penhallow retire and I will. He ought to take his fourth wife and move to Maui," Millen said. "He's out of touch with the music; he's out of touch with his listeners. He thinks he's too good to talk to (his listeners) on the phone."

His goal at WKRK — the Southfield-based station that broadcasts Howard Stern's morning show — fills Millen's on-air time (3-7 p.m. daily) and off-air time. Commercials poke fun at mistakes that Penhallow has made on the air.

He pulls pranks on Penhallow — calling up an impotency clinic and

requesting information be sent to him, and sending the grim reaper to his home around Halloween. At a Red Wings party hosted by Millen at the Anchor Bar in Detroit, he brought a pinata with the face of Penhallow.

And <http://www.millenonline.com> — Millen's Web site — may soon allow visitors to play Mr. Potatohead with Penhallow's face.

WRIF management and Penhallow didn't return calls from The Observer, and without naming names, the station responds with commercials lambasting stations that imitate them and their competitors' DJs who came from out of town.

It's becoming an obsession. It's all part of Millen and WKRK's vow to become one of Detroit's top radio stations. WKRK, also known as K-Rock,

is the first real competition for WRIF in recent years, Millen explained.

"Z-Rock (the former rock station WDZR-FM) didn't come at them as hard as we did," he said. "We have nowhere to go but up."

At his former stations, CIMX-FM and then WHYT-FM, Millen took the position as a laidback DJ. With WKRK, the personality of the Wayne Memorial High School graduate has seemed to explode.

"He's one of a kind, he's definitely one of a kind," said John Gorman, WKRK's program director. "He comes up with these absolutely off the wall crazy ideas. At first I said, 'Are you kidding?' And then they work."

For example, Gorman said, Millen came up with an idea to raise money

Please see **MILLEN, B2**

winkelman's

Running out of time and money? Here's a bright idea...head into Winkelman's where you'll find fabulous last-minute savings of **25% - 50% off throughout the store!**

From sweaters, turtlenecks and career separates to dresses, shoes and accessories, Winkelman's has the perfect gift for every woman on your list.

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Her students learn skills from 'school on wheels'

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

The hallway leading to Fran Bernard's office at International Trucking School Inc. in Ypsilanti is filled with history.

Just inside the doorway, a plaque inside a yellowed poem singing the praises of female truckers. They work as hard as men, they use sweat, feminine GB handles, and one day, they yearn to be homemakers and slay home to take care of their families, it reads.

Photos of her late father's trucks are plentiful. Richard

Crane was the first person to have a classroom on wheels.

Most important to Bernard, a Canton resident and ITS's owner and president, is the framed statement about integrity.

"Wait, I want to show you something," Bernard said. "This is what I learned from my father - integrity."

Thanks to her father, Bernard literally grew up with the truck driving industry. A former truck driver, Crane started American Truck Driving Schools.

Born in Detroit, Bernard began working for her father in 1973 shortly after graduating

from high school. She married John Bernard in 1976 and moved to Southfield.

The couple moved to Kansas City, Mo., and Traverse City where she worked for American Truck Driving School while her husband was employed as a police officer and a reserve officer in the sheriff's department, respectively.

"My dad had schools all over," Bernard said. "The main schools were in Michigan, Oklahoma and Texas, but they had satellite offices in other cities."

In March 1990, Bernard opened International Trucking School Inc. Her husband came on board shortly after his wife's parents died. Bernard's brother also owns a truck driving school in Coldwater.

"My father was very open with me and he wanted me to become whatever I wanted," she said. "I admired everything he did and I wanted to do everything he did and more."

The school does testing for general driver's license for cars and motorcycles, and it is a third-party tester for commercial driver's licenses for the State of Michigan.

ITS offers several different programs. The most popular, Bernard said, is the 206-hour, five-week program that costs \$3,695. In-house financing and scholarships are available.

"If they really want it, we try to make it possible," she said.

Some of the classes are taught



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Big responsibility: Fran Bernard is dwarfed by one of the tractor-trailers her school uses to teach students the finer points of driving the big rigs.

in conjunction with Macomb, Oakland and Washtenaw community colleges and Schoolcraft College. ITS also works with numerous area agencies including JTPA and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. And Bernard is

working on putting together an associate's degree in transportation with an area school.

At Schoolcraft, students register with the college and go to class at the school for the first week. After that, the students

move on to ITS, located in the main terminal building at Willow Run Airport.

"We offer hands-on training," she said. "You can't learn to drive unless you're in the truck."

Instructors teach students to back up on the pad, go on ramps, drive on the highways and city streets, which can be the most challenging. Future truckers are taught defensive driving techniques.

"Drivers don't look at trucks like truckers do," she said. "They can get behind them and think they can stop like they can. They can't."

The training range is five acres under concrete with an additional three acres for its CDL testing site. The student-to-instructor ratio does not exceed 8-to-1 during range operation, 40-to-1 in classroom theory or lab work, and 3- or 4-to-1 during road driving.

Prospective students must be age 21 or older, have an acceptable driving and work record, the ability to write, speak and read English, pass a Department of Transportation (DOT) physical and obtain a valid license for driving a tractor/trailer unit.

ITS is the only privately owned truck driving school accredited in Michigan. It's the first school in the state to be certified by the Michigan Truck Safety Commission.

"It's not for everybody and I tell them that when they come in," Bernard said.

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 1997
PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:45 P.M.**

Present were Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Wiacek, Kaledas, and Wayneik. Absent Councilmember Briscoe.

Solicitation of Public Comments on the Fortune Telling Zoning Amendment.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:20 P.M.

Present were Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Wiacek, Kaledas, Briscoe, and Wayneik. Absent none.

Solicitation of Public Comments on the Public Recreation District Zoning Amendment.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:25 P.M.

Present were Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Wiacek, Kaledas, Briscoe, and Wayneik. Absent none.

Solicitation of Public Comments on the Civil Infractions Ordinance Amendment.

REGULAR MEETING AT 7:30 P.M.

Present were Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Wiacek, Kaledas, Briscoe, and Wayneik. Absent none.

Also present were City Manager Bayless, City Clerk-Treasurer Showalter, and City Attorney Cummings.

Moved by Dodge; supported by Lynch: 12-97-454 RESOLVED: To approve the Regular Council Minutes from the November 17, 1997 meeting. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Briscoe; supported by Wiacek: 12-97-455 RESOLVED: To approve the list of Accounts Payable. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Dodge; supported by Wiacek: 12-97-456 RESOLVED: To appoint Donna L. White, Democrat, to the Board of Canvassers with a term to expire, December 31, 2001. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Lynch; supported by Dodge: 12-97-457 RESOLVED: To appoint Richard Gora, Republican, to the Board of Canvassers with a term to expire, December 31, 1999. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Dodge; supported by Briscoe: 12-97-458 RESOLVED: To appoint Mayor Jim Barker as the Delegate and Jaylee Lynch as Alternate to the Michigan Municipal League. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Briscoe; supported by Wayneik: 12-97-459 RESOLVED: To appoint Joanne Dodge as Delegate and Michael Wiacek as Alternate to the Wayne County Community Development Block Grant Committee. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Kaledas; supported by Lynch: 12-97-460 RESOLVED: To appoint Clayton "Pat" Sleep to the Planning Commission with term to expire, March 31, 1999. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Dodge; supported by Wiacek: 12-97-461 RESOLVED: To appoint Ellen Howatt Kane to the Recreation Commission with term to expire, March 31, 2000. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Wayneik; supported by Lynch: 12-97-462 RESOLVED: To approve the Fortune Telling Zoning Amendment, as recommended by McKenna Associates and the City Manager. **AYES:** Mayor Barker, Commissioners Lynch, Wiacek, Kaledas, Briscoe, and Wayneik. **NAYS:** Councilmember Dodge. Motion passed.

Moved by Dodge; supported by Lynch: 12-97-463 RESOLVED: To approve the Public Recreation District Ordinance, as recommended by the Planning Commission and the City Manager, adding the words "at the request of the Recreation Commission" to Section 161.92 B.2, changing the last sentence to read, "At the request of the Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission shall have..." and Section 161.193 A.6, changing the second sentence to read, "...when a determination is made by the Planning Commission, at the request of the Recreation Commission, that is for the protection..." **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Lynch; supported by Kaledas: 12-97-464 RESOLVED: To approve the Civil Infractions Ordinance, as recommended by the City Manager. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Dodge; supported by Briscoe: 12-97-465 RESOLVED: To adopt a Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the Garden City Family Fest, as recommended by the City Manager, adding "That Council be presented with a detailed financial statement submitted by the Treasurer of the festival committee no later than 60 days after the last day of the festival." **AYES:** Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Wiacek, Briscoe, and Wayneik. **NAYS:** Councilmember Kaledas. Motion passed.

Moved by Dodge; supported by Lynch: 12-97-466 RESOLVED: To approve the Police/Cellular Tower Communications Ground Sublease, as recommended by the City Manager. **AYES:** Mayor Barker, Councilmember Dodge, Lynch, Kaledas, Briscoe, and Wayneik. **NAYS:** Councilmember Wiacek. Motion passed.

Moved by Dodge; supported by Briscoe: 12-97-467 RESOLVED: To approve Change Order #1 for the Brown Avenue Water Main Replacement Project, which will result in a net decrease of \$21,718.75 to the contract, as recommended by the City Manager. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Wayneik; supported by Briscoe: 12-97-468 RESOLVED: To approve Final Pay Estimate for Troelsen Excavating, in the amount of \$75,783.18, for the period of August 30 through September 30, 1997 on the Brown Avenue Water Main Replacement and the Additional Alternate Drainage Project, as recommended by the City Manager. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Kaledas; supported by Dodge: 12-97-469 RESOLVED: To approve the Chamber of Commerce License Agreement for the "Miracle on Log Cabin Drive", as recommended by the City Manager. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Dodge; supported by Lynch: 12-97-470 RESOLVED: To approve the Chamber of Commerce Request that the City purchase electrical service equipment, at a cost of \$300.00 as recommended by the City Manager. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Dodge; supported by Kaledas: 12-97-471 RESOLVED: To call a Public Hearing on Monday, December 22, 1997, at 7:20 p.m., to discuss and take public comments on the rezoning of the rear 154.97 feet of 29470 and 29510 John Hawk from R-2 to CBD. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Dodge; supported by Wiacek: 12-97-472 RESOLVED: To call a Public Hearing on the Special Use Permit requested for 32843 Ford Road at 7:20 p.m., on Monday, December 15, 1997 here in Council Chambers. **AYES:** Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Wiacek, Briscoe, and Wayneik. **NAYS:** Councilmember Kaledas. Motion passed.

Moved by Dodge; supported by Briscoe: 12-97-473 RESOLVED: To call a Public Hearing on the Special Use Permit requested for 28856 Ford Road at 7:25 p.m., on Monday, December 15, 1997, here in the Council Chambers. **AYES:** Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Wiacek, Briscoe and Wayneik. **NAYS:** Councilmember Kaledas. Motion passed.

Moved by Dodge; supported by Wiacek: 12-97-474 RESOLVED: To introduce and call for a Public Hearing on the Dance Studio Zoning Ordinance Amendment for 7:25 p.m., on Monday, December 22, 1997, here in the Council Chambers. **AYES:** Unanimous.

Moved by Lynch; supported by Wayneik: 12-97-475 RESOLVED: To approve the amended Schedule for the 1997 Regular Council Meetings/Workshops.

Moved by Dodge; supported by Wayneik: 12-97-476 RESOLVED: To amend the 1997 Council Meetings/Workshops Schedule to have three (3) Council Meetings per month, i.e. 12/1/97, 12/8/97, and 12/15/97, with the last meeting being a workshop on 12/22/97. **AYES:** Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Briscoe, and Wayneik. **NAYS:** Councilmembers Wiacek and Kaledas. Amendment passed. 12-97-475 **AYES:** Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, and Wayneik. **NAYS:** Councilmembers Wiacek, Kaledas, and Briscoe. Motion passed as amended.

Moved by Lynch; supported by Briscoe: 12-97-477 RESOLVED: To table consideration of the Schedule for the 1998 Regular Council Meetings until the December 22, 1997, Special Council Meeting, and to call a Special Meeting on that date at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. **AYES:** Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Lynch, Wiacek, Kaledas, Briscoe, and Wayneik. **NAYS:** Councilmember Dodge. Motion passed.

Moved by Wiacek; supported by Briscoe: 12-97-478 RESOLVED: To approve the Council meeting in a study session on Tuesday, December 9, 1997, at 7:30 p.m., at Maplewood Center to discuss the June 30, 1997 audit with Plante & Moran, as recommended by the City Manager. **AYES:** Unanimous

Moved by Briscoe; supported by Dodge: 12-97-479 RESOLVED: To approve the lot split for Sidwell #35-014-04-0445-000 described as Lots 445, 446 and the South 1/4 adjacent vacated alley, Grand Central Park Subdivision 2 (northwest corner of Barton and Harrison), as recommended by the City Attorney and the City Manager. **AYES:** Mayor Barker, Councilmembers Dodge, Lynch, Briscoe, and Wayneik. **NAYS:** Councilmembers Wiacek and Kaledas. Motion passed.

The meeting was then adjourned.

RONALD D. SHOWALTER
City Clerk-Treasurer

Millen from page B1

for the homeless by sending his intern out to wash windows on a street corner with an indigent.

"He has an unusual mind," he said. "He enjoys it here because we pay him in American money."

Although Millen may come across as overly confident on the air, Robert "Junior" Colaizzi, Millen's intern, said that he has a kind heart.

"A lot of people think Millen is really cocky, but he's really caring about the people he works for," he said. "That shocked me. I didn't expect that. He's really caring about his family and his friends. I've seen that with his brother."

Although Penhallow's retirement may be his target, Millen has another bigger goal in mind - to be a VJ on MTV.

"I've been honing myself for 10 years when I had my little cable show; I still have the tapes," he said with a laugh. "My God, I

was horrible. I had a perm and stuff."

As the host of "Videovox," Millen, at age 16, interviewed most of the top rap stars of the mid-1980s, including the Fat Boys.

He cushioned his resume a few years later by taking a job as one of the hosts of "Club Connect," a teen-oriented television show broadcast worldwide on PBS.

After several auditions with MTV and VH-1, Millen has moved closer to achieving his dream. Recently MTV flew him out first class to audition for "MTV Breakdown," a video countdown show.

Executives at the network watched Millen through closed-circuit television as he read scripted material for the show.

Eventually, the job was given to established MTV VJ Matt Pinfield, who also hosts the Sun-

day night video show, "120 Minutes."

MTV is still keeping his resume on file.

"Jerry's a great talent, a great on-air talent," said Rod Aissa, manager of MTV on air. "Unfortunately for us, we decided to go another way and use someone we had existing on our talent roster."

"Jerry's a music-credible guy with a strong on-air personality."

Millen said he isn't letting that experience get him down.

"I'm not gonna give up until I get a gig at MTV," he said. "The audition showed me that I was good enough to get in the door. I have no doubt in my mind that one day I will be on MTV. It just shows that if you work for something hard enough, it can happen."

During a recent visit to New York City, VH-1, MTV's sister

station, called him in for an interview.

Single and in his 20s, Millen keeps in shape by taking kickboxing classes at Ken Levy's Executive Gym in West Bloomfield.

"Kickboxing is such a release." "A release" is something that doesn't seem possible with Millen. During lunch conversations or even while he's on the air, his wheels are always turning.

"Hi, you're on K-Rock," Millen greets a caller over the speaker phone.

The caller, presumably in his mid-teens, threatens Millen and tells him he better lay off Penhallow.

"I dare you to come on over here," Millen says, rolling his eyes. "Call me when you hit puberty. We'll talk about it then."

Gladden from page B1

may have been over for Christmas Eve dinner. I don't recall. I know we stayed home, listened to carols and maybe watched a Christmas movie or two. The Christmas tree lights were on and a fire was going in the fireplace.

Before she went to bed, the 7-year-old left a snack for Santa on the mantel, cookies and milk, between the empty stockings that were hung for her and her brother. She insisted that both their stockings be hung on the

mantel, never mind that he was 17, because that wouldn't matter to Santa.

After she went to bed, The Feminist and I stayed up and attended to last-minute chores. There were toys to be assembled - there was always something to be assembled - and somebody had to make sure those stockings were filled. Then there was the milk and cookies. There had to be an empty glass and crumbs on the plate on Christmas morning.

I went to bed first - I usually do - but we were both up early, if not bright to make the coffee and turn on the tree lights before the 7-year-old charged downstairs to check out the gifts from Santa (unwrapped, of course).

After a quick examination of the big presents, she emptied her stocking. It contained the usual variety of "stuffers." The plate and glass were empty, as they should have been. But there was something else.

"What's this?" she asked.

"What's what?"

"This note."

There, underneath the plate on the mantel, was a piece of paper.

"I don't know," I said. "What does it say?"

She read it:

"Dear Leigh,

"Thanks for the cookies and milk. But next year, tell your dad to put out the fire in the fireplace before he goes to bed."

"Love,"

"Santa."

Her eyes were wide. She giggled a bit and said, "Didn't you put out the fire?"

"Well..." I said. "I, uh, I guess I forgot."

The Feminist looked at me, smiled and shook her head. The 7-year-old giggled some more

and disappeared into the bathroom.

"Nice touch," The Feminist whispered after she left.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"The note," she said. "That was a nice touch."

I looked at her.

"I didn't write that note. I thought you wrote it."

She looked at me with raised eyebrows.

"Yeah, right. I didn't write any note. You wrote it."

"I did NOT," I said. "I didn't write any note."

"Well neither did I!"

We looked at each other for a few seconds, then at the note, then at each other.

"Well," I said quietly, "if you didn't write it and I didn't write it, then who...?"

"Geoffrey!" We both said it at the same time. His car was in the drive. He had come home some time after we were in bed.

"I guess he finally got in the spirit of things," I said.

When he surfaced a couple of hours later, I called him aside and echoed The Feminist's comment to me.

"Nice touch," I said. "The note was a nice touch."

"Note?" he said. "What note?" But he was smiling.

Jack Gladden is a copy editor for The Observer Newspapers.

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
MICHIGAN
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY that sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the City Clerk, in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, MI 48135 (Telephone 313-525-8814), on or before 2:00 P.M., Thursday, January 8, 1998, for the following work according to plans and specifications prepared by George J. Hartman Architects, P.C.

Project: CITY PARK - PAVILION - RENOVATIONS
BID PACKAGE - 'A' - Roofing
BID PACKAGE - 'B' - Masonry
BID PACKAGE - 'C' - Electrical

Project: CIVIC ARENA - RENOVATIONS
BID PACKAGE - 'A' - Roofing
BID PACKAGE - 'B' - Exterior Wall Repairs

Proposals must be submitted on forms furnished in the Specification Book, in a sealed envelope, endorsed with the name of the Project and Bid Package bid. Bidders may submit bids on any or all of the above packages. Plans and specifications are available after 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, December 16, 1997 from the Purchasing Department of Garden City. All wages paid shall conform to City of Garden City standards.

The Bid and Contract security requirements will include the following, as further described in the Supplementary Conditions of the Specifications for this project:

1. Bid Bond of 5% of the total bid.
2. Performance Bond of at least 100% of the contract.
3. Labor and Material Bond of at least 100% of the contract.
4. Workman's Compensation Insurance.
5. Contractor's Public Liability Insurance and Property Damage Insurance.
6. Subcontractor's Public Liability Insurance and Property Damage Insurance.
7. Liquidated damages may be assessed if the project is not completed in the allotted time period.

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

R.D. SHOWALTER
City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: December 18, 1997

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
MICHIGAN
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the City Clerk, in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt, Garden City, Michigan, 48135 (Telephone: 313-525-8814), on or before MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1997, at 2:00 p.m. for the following:

JANUARY PARAMEDIC TRAINING

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

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

R.D. SHOWALTER
City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: December 18, 1997

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Stott-Lilienthal

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Stott of Westland announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Amy Marie, to Thomas David Lilienthal, the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lilienthal, also of Westland.

The bride is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She works for Vista Maria.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Madonna University. He is employed by the Dearborn Police Department and Meijer's.

A December wedding is planned at Martha Mary Chapel at Greenfield Village, Dearborn.



Etnyre-Metriyakool

Somrak Metriyakool and Aaron Etnyre were married Oct. 4 in Ann Arbor.

The bride is the daughter of Somsak and Krisanna Metriyakool of Bloomfield Hills. The groom is the son of Terry and Ingrid Etnyre of Springfield, Va.

The bride is a graduate of Cranbrook Kingswood School and the University of Michigan. She is a civil engineer with Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment in Livonia.

The groom is a graduate of the University of Michigan. He is an environmental engineer with Montgomery Watson in Novi.

The couple received guests at the Crowne Plaza in Ann Arbor before leaving on a honeymoon



trip to Hawaii. They are making their home in Livonia.

Andrikides-Cadaret

Dimitrios and Carol Andrikides of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Michele Lynn, to Douglas L.N. Cadaret, the son of Bernard and Nancy Cadaret of Northville, formerly of Livonia.

The bride is a 1994 graduate of Northville High School and a December graduate of Western Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Her fiancé is a 1991 graduate of Northville High School and a 1995 graduate of Western Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in public relations. He is employed by Concord Financial in West Bloomfield.

A spring wedding is planned at Holy Trinity Church in Livonia.



Cook-Schmitzer

Roger and Susan Cook of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Susan, to Andrew Schmitzer, the son of Robert and Kathy Schollmeyer of Frankenmuth, and the late Thomas Schmitzer.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in science degree in civil engineering. She is employed by Somat Engineering in Taylor.

Her fiancé is a student of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University. He expects to graduate in April 1999.

An August wedding is planned at the Bavarian Inn Motor Lodge in Frankenmuth.



Petersen-Pogarch

Lori Ann Pogarch of Detroit and James Michael Petersen of Livonia were married Sept. 13 at St. Paul Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Eggebeen.

The bride is the daughter of Ken Pogarch of Detroit and the late Susan Pogarch. The groom is the son of Daniel and Paula Petersen of Livonia.

The bride received her bachelor's degree from University of Michigan-Dearborn and her master's degree from Wayne State University. She is employed by Sears Roebuck.

The groom is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is a subcontractor with General Motors.

The bride asked Lisa Pogarch to serve as maid of honor with Kim Stone, Michelle Newton and Renee Postler as bridesmaids.

John Petersen served as best man with Jim Stone, Rob Lam-



bert and Keith Postler as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at Hawthorn Valley Country Club in Westland. They are planning a July honeymoon at Walt Disney World in Florida. They are making their home in Detroit.

Feierfeil-Cermak

David Feierfeil and Julie Annette Cermak were married Sept. 6 at the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth by Dr. Dean Klump and the Rev. Gerald Feierfeil.

The bride is the daughter of William and Susan Cermak of Canton. The groom is the son of Gregory and Pamela Feierfeil of Canton.

The bride is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. She is currently employed with the Michigan Peer Review Organization of Plymouth.

The groom is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in business. He is currently employed by Pro-Trans International.

The bride asked Kristen Blazek to serve as her matron of honor with Ruth Summerman, Tina Lucas, Shannon Fairchild and Jennifer Guiles as bridesmaids. Deanna Lucas was the



flower girl.

John Cole served as best man with Jeff Feierfeil, Andy Feierfeil, Michael Cermak and Norman Alexander as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at St. Aidan's Hall in Livonia. After a honeymoon in Florida, they are making their home in Redford.

Werblin-Donaldson

Jeff and Carol Werblin of Syosset, N.Y., announce the engagement of their daughter, Wendy Leilani, to Douglas Michael Donaldson, the son of Mike and Virginia Donaldson of Canton.

The bride-to-be graduated from Syosset High School in 1988, Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., in 1992, and Fuqua School of Business at Duke Uni-

versity in Durham, N.C., in 1997. She is employed by APM Management Consultants in Chicago, Ill.

Her fiancé graduated from Plymouth-Salem High School in 1988, the University of Michigan in 1992, Fuqua School of Business at Duke University in 1997. He is employed by Arthur Andersen Business Consulting in Chicago, Ill.

No wedding date has been set.

NEW VOICES

Teresa Marie Baldwin of Westland announces the birth of **Edward Michael Doll III** Oct. 19 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins a sister, Nicole, 2, and Michael David Baldwin, 5. Grandparents are Susan Talaga and Gene Talaga.

Martin and Pamela Rhodes of Canton announce the birth of **Rachel Mae** Oct. 18 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She joins two brothers, Tony, 4, and Brandon, 2. Grandparents are Phil and Sharon Longley of Canton, and Joe and Karen Rhodes of Marquette.

Stephen and Cherie McKenzie of Westland announce the birth of **Lucas Anthony** Oct. 23 at the Birthing Center of Garden City

Hospital. He joins a brother, Andrew Stephen, 2.

Kevin and Traci (Breniser) Hawkins of Canton announce the birth of **Brooklyn Kelsey** Aug. 19 at University of Michigan Hospital. Grandparents are Ronald and Nancy Hawkins of Canton, and Harry and Patricia Breniser of Saline, formerly of Plymouth.

Jon and Stephanie Daniels

of Redford Township announce the birth of **Raechel Chesney Daniels** Oct. 23 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Ken and Jackie Daniels of Garden City, and Maxine Chesney of Northville.

Daniel Sr. and Tina Hejka of Westland announce the births of **Jessica Angela** and **Andrew Nicholas** Sept. 26 at University of Michigan Hospital. The twins

are the siblings of the late triplets Daniel Jr., Nicholas, and Angela. Grandparents are Anthony and Elizabeth Apone, and James and Constance Hejka, all of Westland.

Chris Freyman and Amanda McEuen of Westland announce the birth of **Bailey Jean Freyman** Oct. 24 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Bailey joins a brother,

Derrian Tylor Freyman, 2 1/2. Grandmother is Linda Freyman of Garden City.

Keith and Beth Wilson of Westland announce the birth of **Veronica Lorraine** Nov. 7 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She joins two brothers, Sean Keith Wilson, and Daniel Anthony Schmidtke. Grandparents are Sheila Pellar of Redford, and Mary Wilson of

Peoria, Ariz.

Kelly James LeBlanc and **Brenda M. Hill** of Westland announce the birth of **Austin Francis LeBlanc** Oct. 25 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Joan P. Sefa of Holly, and Franklin D. Hill of Howell.

Claus and Jennifer Raddatz

Please see VOICES, B7

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Gifts make holidays bright at Youth Living Centers



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Ho-ho-ho: Youth Living Centers director Cathy Green (from left), Licensing Placement Supervisor Noreen Placencia and Director of Community Recreation Jose Mangune of the agency's Foster Care and Adoption program stand among some of the many toys that were collected for its clients this Christmas.

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The generosity of strangers is making sure Christmas will be merry for the children and youths who are cared for through programs offered by Youth Living Centers.

Businesses, churches and senior housing complexes have come up with an estimated 600 gifts that are being delivered to children in YLC's foster care and independent living programs as well as families and children who have utilized YLC's Counterpoint Shelter and Safe Stay house, live in public housing or are on public assistance.

"We have people calling every day and say, 'How can we help?' which is really neat," said Melinda Klimes, YLC director of communications and marketing. "We've been doing this since the foster care program started in the early '80s."

The gifts began arriving at YLC's offices in Inkster on Dec. 15 and were distributed to the different programs on Dec. 17. By week's end, the gifts were on their way to their recipients living throughout the area.

In addition to the gifts, the staff also puts together more than 100 food baskets for families who request them.

"The gifts are generally for children birth through age 20, while the families usually are looking for food and gifts for their children," Klimes said. "The staff does a nice job of making people feel it is OK to ask for help around the holidays and that's a real compliment to the staff."

The donors range from individual families "and a lot of people who care," Girl Scout and Brownie troops, senior citizens, churches, the YLC staff to several area businesses, according to Klimes.

This is the second year YLC has distributed such a large number of gifts and food baskets and it reflects the growth in the number of programs it offers.

Founded in 1975 as a nonprofit human service agency, YLC specializes in serving at-risk children and youth and families in need. It provides residential and community-based programs for children from birth through age 21 as well as support, education and crisis programs for parents and other community members.

The agency's Safe Stay Crisis Nursery and Family Respite Center has provided 24-hour residential crisis and respite care for children and home-based services for almost 400 families.

It also has some 70 children in its specialized foster care program and another 100 youths ages 16-20 making the transition from residential care to independence in its supervised independent living program.

"We'll give out 500-600 gifts this year and gave out that much last year," said Klimes. "The agency has grown so that we serve a larger community. We had five programs where we now have 20."

People interested in helping YLC make Christmas brighter for its clients can call the agency at (734) 728-3400.

Resource Center offers divorce support group

The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College a Divorce Support Group twice a month in Room 225 of the McDowell Center.

The group meets 7-9 p.m. with the second Tuesday of the month facilitated by Kathy Koppin, a professional counselor.

The fourth Tuesday of the month is the speaker's session that address the legal, financial and emotional concerns that arise during the divorce process.

Topics to be covered include "The Divorce Process" with attorney Theodore Johnson on Jan. 27 and "Meeting the Financial Challenges of Your New Lifestyle" with certified financial planner Elizabeth Allen on Feb. 24.

On March 24, attorney Christa Coxon also will discuss the divorce process, followed by information on LEAP (Lawyers for Equal Access Project Inc.)

which provides clients of moderate means with legal assistance, counseling and equal access to the courts.

Bert Kelly, licensed psychologist with Family and Marriage Therapy, will speak on "We Are Where We Came From" on April 28. The session will help participants understand that how they interact in relationships as adults is directly related to their experiences in their families of origin and how to "do" relationships.

There is no fee to attend the group and registration isn't required.

The WRC also sponsors "Ask an Attorney" 5-7 p.m. the third Monday of the month. An attorney with the firm of Woll & Woll is available to discuss divorce and family law. Clients are served on a first come-first served basis. No appointment is necessary and it is free of charge.

For more information, call divorce support coordinator Anita Lumpkin at (248) 349-2476 or the Women's Resource Center at (313) 462-4443. Schoolcraft College is 18600 Haggerty Road, north of Six Mile Road, Livonia.

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Paralegal spins her tale in 'The Spider Trampoline'

BY MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER

Laurie Palazzolo - master's degree candidate, General Motors paralegal - didn't plan to write and illustrate a children's book. It just sort of happened.

The Farmington resident has always displayed a creative side. She won Madonna University's distinguished writing award for her poetry in 1994 and has exhibited her paintings in several local juried shows.

Her new book, "The Spider Trampoline" (Proctor Publications, Ann Arbor, \$14.95 hardcover), features 16 pages of text and an equal number of color illustrations.

It was inspired by a towering

oak tree she encountered on a visit to Baraboo, Wis., a few years ago with her husband, Wally. The couple visited an oak savanna in Wisconsin's hilly wine country and learned its history. Fire had swept through the area a century earlier destroying everything in its path except the mighty bur oak trees, which survived because of their thick bark.

Before she knew it, Palazzolo was spinning a tale about a mighty oak tree and a lively colony of dancing spiders in her mind.

"I carried the poem in my head for six weeks; the illustrations came later," said Palazzolo, who saw her story come to life page

by page, watercolor by watercolor, spread across her dining room table.

The book tells a whimsical tale in rhyme about the dancing spiders playing in a huge web spun atop a giant oak tree. Illustrations show cane-carrying spiders in straw hats, in ballerina dress, in top hat and tales, in all kinds of costumes tripping the light fantastic. She suspects the book will appeal primarily to children ages 3 to 7 years old.

Palazzolo took a couple of art classes while she was a student at Thurston High School in Redford Township (where her parents, Ted and Ruth Gomulka still live), but moved in a different career direction in college.

She is currently working on a master's degree in English/business-technical writing from Wayne State University. She earned a bachelor's degree from Madonna in 1994.

"I would have loved going into art, but somehow I ended up in the legal profession. I always knew I'd go back to art," she said. "It's like a calling."

Her story in a nutshell: "The spider chooses the bur oak tree as the site for her trampoline. Nighttime is the cue for all the spiders in the forest to migrate to the top of the tree, where they hold hands, sing and dance until dawn."

Palazzolo says the underlying message of "The Spider Trampoline" is that if we listen to the small voice of faith within us in

times of darkness, the dark times won't last.

"If we support each other in troubled times, a new day will dawn," she said.

She credits her husband, a nature photographer, as another source of inspiration.

"He taught me to observe the tiny ecosystems that thrive on the forest floor," she said.

It's not surprising then that the book is dedicated to him - "the joy and the promise."

Palazzolo has two grown stepdaughters and several nieces and nephews.

"I see what they enjoy reading," she said. "I've also been a Friend of the Farmington Library for 15 years."

When it was time to shop for a publisher, Palazzolo tried a few

of the large New York companies before thumbing through the Yellow Pages for local possibilities. Proctor Publications in Ann Arbor bit after reading her text and seeing just a few illustrations. She finished painting the pictures during a two-week vacation last summer.

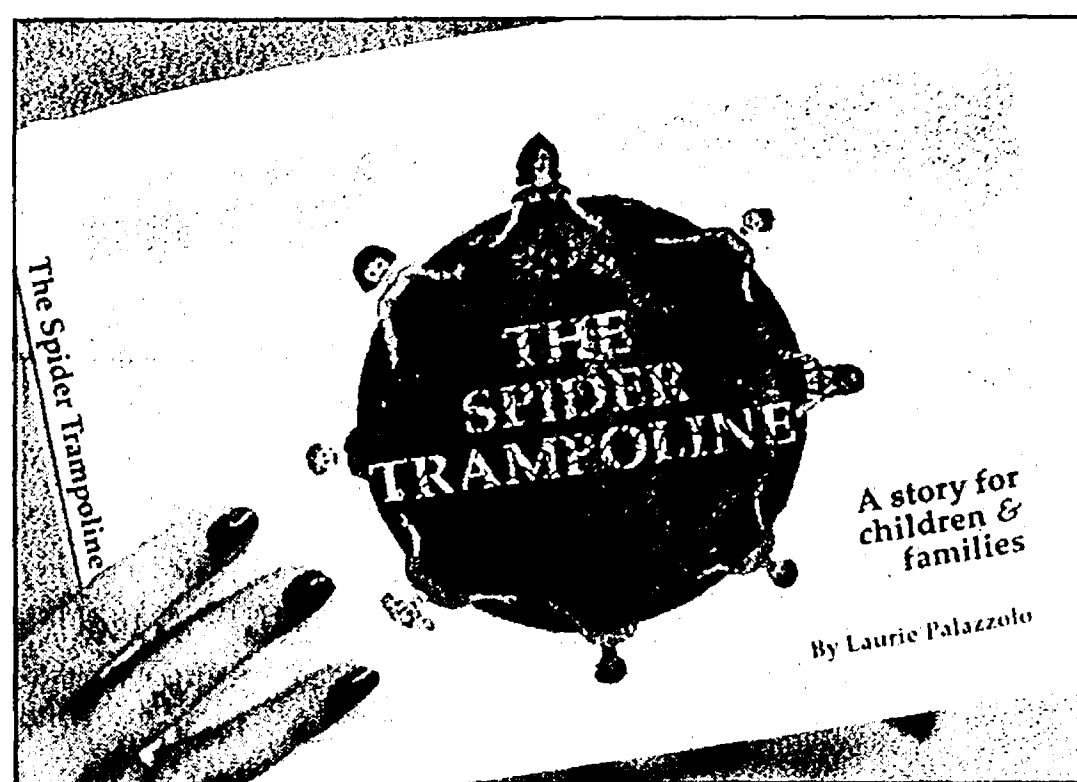
The first printing is 5,000 copies.

"I have another book written on bullfrogs, and another one in the works," she said. "I've already told my family and friends to expect books for Christmas."

Laurie Palazzolo will do a book signing at Books Abound at Border's Books and Music on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL



Work zone: Laurie Palazzolo's dining room table has served her well. In addition to seeing duty at dinner time, it has been the "easel" for the watercolor drawings Palazzolo created for her children's book, "The Spider Trampoline."

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.

<p>Activities</p> <p>Youth Basketball begins Jan. 12</p> <p>BASKETBALL AMERICA Sports Complex YOUTH LEAGUES</p> <p>257 W. Clarkston Rd. • Lake Orion 248-693-5858</p> <p>Visit our Pro Shop Great Christmas gifts</p>	<p>Child Care</p> <p>New St. Mark Montessori Educational Center</p> <p>12 mos. - 5 yrs. 7 am - 6 pm</p> <p>(313) 541-4410 • 24331 W. Eight Mile Latchley Available: January 5, 1998</p>
<p>Music/Instruction</p> <p>Kindermusik</p> <p>THE PREMIER MUSIC PROGRAM FOR YOUNG CHILDREN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindermusik Beginnings 18 months to 3 1/2 years Growing with Kindermusik 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 years Young Child I and II 4 1/2 to 7 years <p>Classes begin the week of January 26th at Arnold Williams Music. Contact Norma Atwood, a fully licensed Kindermusik® Instructor and Early Childhood Music Specialist.</p> <p>Register Early!</p> <p>Arnold Williams Music (313) 453-6586</p> <p>Let Music Be The Foundation That Supports Your Child's Lifelong Growth</p>	<p>For more information about advertising Call June at: 313-953-2099</p>

Christmas Tree Guide

MOSHER'S TREE FARM

7155 N. Territorial Road
Dexter, Michigan 48130
Located 6 Miles West of US 23
313-426-5271

- Featuring Beautiful White Spruce Trees
- Choose & Cut Christmas Trees
- Potted Trees
- All trees only \$30.00
- Includes baling and tree bag
- Free candy and cider

Weekdays 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Weekends 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

SUPER PREMIUM TREES

Choose from over 2000 trees - 600 standing - 400 inside our greenhouse! 2 1/2 ft. to 10 ft. sizes available.

Also wreaths, roping, poinsettias.

PLYMOUTH NURSERY
Christmas in the Country

9900 Plymouth Rd. • just 10 miles east of US-23
453-5500

BOUGHAN'S

Assure Freshness. Cut your own tree!

2 FARMS TO SERVE YOU
Pine-\$22.00 Spruce-\$35.00

Drive to & Thru Fields
(313) 699-8062
15851 Marquette Rd. • Belleville, MI
Pine-\$22.00 Spruce-\$35.00
Fir-\$39.00

Wreaths Garland Grave Blankets Flocked Trees
Wagon Rides Santa Claus Weekends only!

(313) 697-9800
(313) 699-8483
44020 Hill Rd. (N. Side) • Belleville, MI
We Honor all Tree Farm Coupons

Braun's Tree Farm

Frazer Fir • Douglas Fir
Blue Spruce • Scotch Pine
White Pine

Prices are \$10.00 and up
We shake and bale.

Location: 796 Warren Rd.
Between Pontiac Trail and Whitmore
Lake Rd. in Ann Arbor Twp.
Sat. & Sun. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm by appt.
(313) 663-2717

CHRISTMAS TREES

Beautiful Blue Spruce & Scotch Pine.
6-12 ft.

Come Prepared.

M-24 North of Oxford
1500 W. Brocker Rd.,
Metamora, MI.

Matthes Evergreen Farm

13416 Lulu Road • Ida, MI 48140
313-269-2668

FUN! Over 80 Acres of Choose & Cut, also pre-cut & balled. All trees cleaned, wreaths, roping, centerpieces

FUN STUFF Weekends
thru Dec. 14

Daily 9 am - 6 pm
1-75 South of Telegraph
to Albain Follow Signs.

\$2 OFF any tree with this ad. O.E.

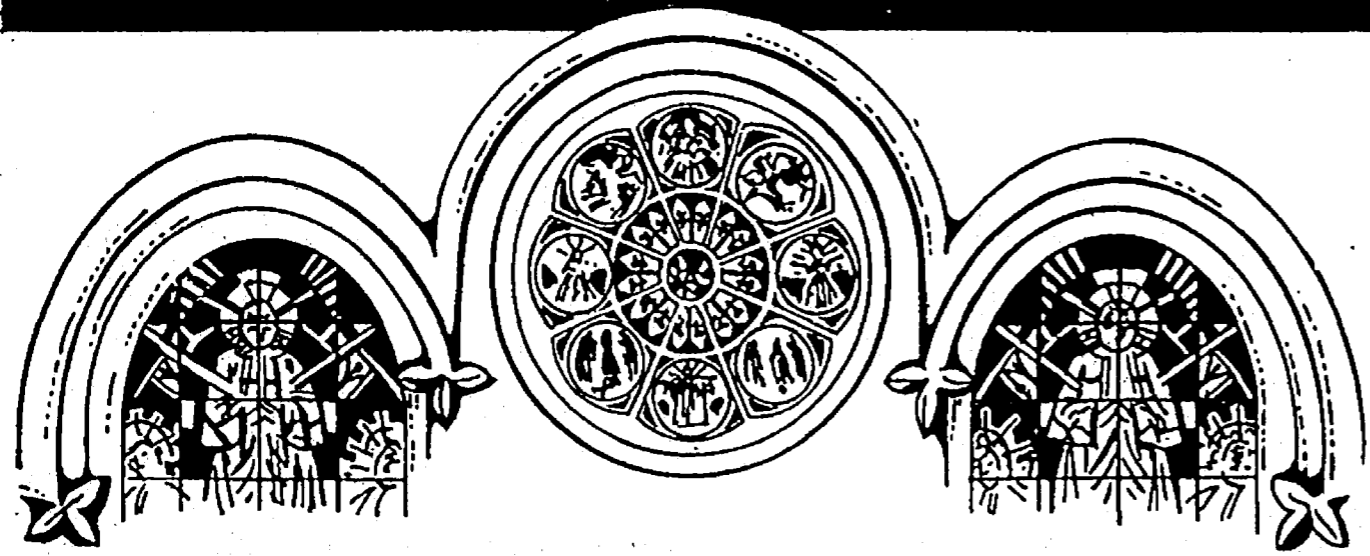
Buy your Christmas Tree & Wreaths at:

CLARKSTON EVERGREEN NURSERY

Selling live & cut trees 3-7 ft. & fresh handmade wreaths, swags & grave blankets

HOURS:
Mon-Fri 2pm - 9:30pm
Saturday Noon - 9 pm
6191 Clarkston Rd.
248-625-9336

For more information regarding this directory please call:
June 313-953-2069 • Rich 313-953-2099 • Fax 313-953-2232



Your Invitation to Worship

Mail Copy To: OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS
36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150

FOR CHURCH PAGE COPY CHANGES PLEASE CALL FRIDAY FOR INFORMATION ON
ADVERTISING IN THIS DIRECTORY PLEASE CALL: MICHELLE ULFIG (313) 953-2160

BAPTIST

BETHEL BAPTIST TEMPLE
29475 W. Six Mile, Livonia
525-3664 or 261-9276

YOUTH AWANA CLUBS

Sunday School 10:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
Wed. Family Hour 7:15 P.M.

December 21st
11:00 a.m. Christmas Cantata "Gloria"
6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program

Pastor & Mrs. H.L. Petty
A Church That's Concerned About People

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
5403 S. Wayne Rd. • Wayne, MI
(Between Michigan Ave & Van Born Rd.)
(313) 728-2180
Virgil Humes, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Children, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Luther A. Werth, Sr. Pastor
Rev. Robert Bayer, Assist. Pastor
Two locations to serve you

LIVONIA
14175 Farmington Rd.
(N. of I-96)
Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
(313) 522-6830

CANTON
46001 Warren Road
(West of Canton Center)
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
(313) 414-7422

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.ccaa.edu/~lcmcsos>

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
20805 Middlebelt
Farmington Hills, Mich.

WORSHIP SERVICES
Saturday Evening 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Morning 9:15 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30

Pastor John W. Meyer • 474-0675

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN Church & School
1 Bk N. of Ford Rd., Westland 5885 Venoy 425-0260

Divine Worship 8 & 11:00 A.M.
Bible Class & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.
Monday Evening Service 7:30 P.M.

Gary D. Headapohl, Administrative Pastor
Kurt E. Lambert, Assistant Pastor
Jeff Burke, Principal/DCE

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
532-2266 REDFORD TWP.

Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided

Rev. Victor F. Halboth, Pastor
Rev. Timothy Halboth, Assoc. Pastor

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

New Life Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship-10 a.m.
(with children's message/nursery)
Youth & Adult Education: 9 a.m.
Our Lady of Providence Chapel
16115 Beck Rd. (between 5 & 6 Mile Rds.)
Pastor Ken Roberts (ELCA)
313 / 459-8181

Timothy Lutheran Church
8820 Wayne Rd.
(Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)
Livonia • 427-2290
Rev. Carla Thompson Powell, Pastor
9:00 a.m. Adult & Children's Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Family Worship

CHRISTADELPHIANS

CHRISTADELPHIANS
Sunday Memorial Service 10:00 A.M.
Sunday School 11:30 A.M.
Bible Class - Wednesdays 7:30 P.M.
36516 Parkdale, Livonia • 425-7610

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH
291 E. SPRING ST.
2 Blocks N. of Main - 2 Blocks E. of MI

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY Bible Study 7:30 P.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M. AND 1:00 P.M. (Nursery Provided in A.M.)
Pastor Frank Howard - Ch. 453-0323

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

AGAPÉ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER
"A PRACTICAL CHURCH ON THE MOVE"

New Location and Service Times
45081 Geddes Road, Canton, MI 48188 • (313) 394-0357

Sunday Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday - Family Night - 7:00 p.m.

Agapé Christian Academy - K through 12

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Brightmoor Tabernacle

Assemblies of God • Calvin C. Ratz, pastor
26555 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI (I-96 & Telegraph • West of Holiday Inn) • 452-6200
9:15 a.m. Family Sunday School Hour • Wednesday 7:00 p.m. "Family Night"
10:30 a.m. Pastor Calvin Ratz and at 6:30 p.m. The Pastoral Staff of Brightmoor presents, "The Pastors' Christmas Card"
12/24 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Candlelight service
24-Hour Prayer Line 800-452-6205

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
5 Miles W. of Sheldon Rd
From M-14 take Gouffredson Rd. South
Dr. Wm. C. Moore - Pastor

8:00 Praise & Worship Service
9:30 Lifeline Contemporary Service
11:00 Traditional Service
SUNDAY SCHOOL (NURSERY PROVIDED)
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST SERVED 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (313) 453-1525

Sun 5:30 STUDY & WORSHIP - 9:00 A.M. & 11:15 A.M.
Sunday School - 10:05 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
FAMILY NIGHT - Wed 7:00 P.M.
Arthur C. Magnuson, Pastor
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN: 455-3196

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH
16700 Newburgh Road
Livonia • 464-8844

Sunday, Dec. 21st
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday School for All Ages 9:30 a.m.
Family Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sermon Title: "Keeper of Promises"
Rev. Dr. Janet Noble, Pastor
A Creative Christ Centered Congregation

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church (USA)
9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI
(between Meridian & Farmington Rds.)
(313) 422-0494

Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Nursery Care Provided

We Welcome You To A Full Program Church
Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor
Rev. Ruth Hollington, Associate Pastor
Visit our Website at www.rosedale.com

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

PLYMOUTH SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
PLYMOUTH ADVENTIST ACADEMY Grades 1-8
4295 Napier Road • Plymouth
(313) 455-3580

WORSHIP SERVICES
SATURDAY Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.
Drive Worship 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Pastor Mike Dococomes (313) 844-8660
School (313) 459-8222

UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
474-1444
Rev. Jean Love

Worship Services 10:15 AM, 6:00 PM
Nursery Provided
Sunday School 9 AM
Office Hrs. 9-5

NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
29887 West Eleven Mile Road
Just West of Middlebelt
248-476-8860
Farmington Hills
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Worship, Church School, Nursery

"Live Secure"
Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack, preaching

Senior Minister: Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack
Associate Minister: Rev. Kathleen Groff
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Robert Bough

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
422-0149

Worship Services & Sunday School 9:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

December 21st
"Newburg Choirs Celebrate the Music of Christmas"
Rev. Thomas G. Badley Rev. Melanie Lee Carey
Rev. Edward C. Coley

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17000 Farmington Road
Livonia 422-1150
Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Worship Services
Sunday School
8:00, 9:15, 10:45 A.M.
and 12:05 P.M.
Evening Service 7:00 P.M.

Shuttle Service from Stevenson High School for All A.M. Services Except 8:00 A.M.

Nursery Provided
Service Available 11:00 A.M.
WUFL AM 1030

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NATIVITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9435 Henry Ruff at West Chicago
Livonia 48150 • 421-5406

Rev. Donald Lintner, Pastor
9:15 Adult Class
10:30 a.m. Worship Service and Youth Classes
Nursery Care Available
-WELCOME-

REFORMED

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
5635 Scribner Rd., Canton
(313) 459-0013

Sunday Worship & Church School
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Education For All Ages

Childcare Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Resources for Hearing and Sight Impaired

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Main & Plymouth • (313) 453-6464

Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Church School & Nursery 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Dr. James Skimins Tamara J. Seidel
Senior Minister Associate Minister
David J. Brown, Dir. of Youth Ministries
Accessible to All

Reformed - Adhering to the Westminster Confession of Faith
Presbyterian Free Church
30025 Curtis Ave., Livonia 48154
off Middlebelt between Six and Seven Mile
Sunday Services - 11am and 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study - 7pm
Pastor - Kenneth MacLeod - tel 313-421-0780

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST
30900 Six Mile Rd (Bet. Meridian & Middlebelt)
Chuck Songst, Pastor

10:00 A.M. Worship & Church School
11:15 A.M. Adult Study Classes
Nursery Provided • 422-6038

"Where You Belong..."

Worship 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Church School 10:00 am

- Help In Daily Living
- Exciting Youth Programs
- Child-Care Provided

Pastors: Dr. Dean Klupp, Rev. Tonya Aronson

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth
45201 N. Territorial Rd. (W. of Sheldon Rd.)
(313) 453-5280

Catch the Spirit at
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
10000 Beech Daly, Redford
Between Plymouth and W. Chicago
Bob & Diana Goudle, Co-pastors
313-937-3170

3 Styles of Creative Worship
8:00 a.m.-Cozy, Traditional, Basic
9:30 a.m.-Contemporary, Family
11:00 a.m.-Traditional, Full Choir

Emphasis: Advent; Peace
Scripture Focus: Isaiah 11: 1-10
Rev. Bob, preaching

Sunday School
11:00 a.m.-Children-Youth-Adults

Worship with Us



ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

You Don't Have to be a Great Detective

You don't have to be a great detective to discover the life changing principles taught in church. Principles that will return joy to living. These principles are free to everyone. Join us this Sunday and see what we mean.

Tri-City Christian Center
Michigan Ave. & Hanson Rd.
326-0330
Sun 9 a.m. 11 a.m. 6 p.m.

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
11 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills
(810) 661-9191

NOW OFFERING TWO WORSHIP SERVICES!

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages - 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Child Care provided for infants through preschoolers
Wednesday evenings - Activities for All Ages

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Society of St. Pius X
Traditional Latin Mass

23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan
5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 531-2121
Priest's Phone (810) 781-9511

Mass Schedule:
First Fri. 7:00 p.m.
First Sat. 9:30 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

1160 Penniman Ave.
Plymouth • 453-0326
Rev. John J. Sullivan

Masses: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 A.M., Sat. 5:00 P.M.
Sunday 8:00, 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M.

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187
451-0444

REV. RICHARD A. PERFETTO

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m.
Saturday - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Come Join Us In Our Celebration
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!
St. AJ's...Where People Come To Belong

Mass Schedule
Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 9 am & 11 am
Monday 7:39 pm
Mass for Peace

Christmas Eve
4 pm & 6 pm Children's Liturgies
10 pm Mid-Night Mass
Christmas Day 10 am

Church of St. Alexander

Rev. James B. Wright
Pastor
27835 Shilohsee
Farmington Hills, MI
248-474-5748

EPISCOPAL

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
16360 Hubbard Road
Livonia, Michigan 48154
421-8451

Mon-Fri 9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Dinner & Classes
Saturday 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist

Sunday 7:45 & 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist
10:00 A.M. Christian Education for all ages
Sunday Morning - Nursery Care Available

The Rev. Robert Clapp, Rector

Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Phil. 2:11

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

9083 Newburgh Road • Livonia • 591-0211
The Rev. Emery F. Gravette, Vicar

Sunday Services:
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
A Barrier Free Facility for the Handicapped

St. Martin Episcopal Church

24699 GRAND RIVER, DETROIT, MI

313-533-3600
• Nursery Care Available
• Free Parking

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
9415 Meridian • Livonia
Sunday Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

School Grades Pre-School - 8
Church & School office: 422-6930

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

17810 Farmington Road • Livonia
(313) 261-1380

May thru October • Monday Night Service • 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Bible Study & Sunday School 8:45 A.M.

Lola Park Ev. Lutheran Church

14750 Kinkoch • Redford Twp.
532-8655
Pastor Gregory Gibbons

Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 a.m.

Now accepting applications for 1997-98 school year.
WLQV 1500 SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.

Dinner to honor achievements of St. Mary's CEO

While Sister Mary Modesta Piwowar will leave her post at St. Mary Hospital on Jan. 1, she won't be closing out her 39-year career with the medical facility.

St. Mary's president and chief executive officer for 15 years, she will take on a new role as senior vice-president in charge of special projects, a position she sees as offering new opportunities.

"Becoming senior vice-president will afford me a number of challenging opportunities," said Sister Modesta who has been a Felician Sister for 54 years. "I hope to encourage interaction with patients, family members and hospital staff on supportive care for terminally ill and dying patient."

"And I plan to offer support to the administrative executive team in any way possible."

Filling the hospital's top spot will be Sister Mary Renetta Rumpz, the current executive vice-president and chief operating officer.

Sister Modesta will be the guest of honor at a reception and dinner at Laurel Manor in Livonia on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

The reception will be at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., David Brandon, chairman of the hospital's Board of Trustees and president of Vallass Communications, will emcee a special program that will honor Sister Modesta's life and achievements.

Tickets cost \$50 and proceeds will benefit the St. Mary Hospital Institute for Supportive Care.

The institute provides for the appropriate management and appropriation of care to meet the physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs of patients with chronic, life-threatening

and terminally ill conditions.

Among the things the institute will fund are focus groups, speakers and education. It also will help create programs that teach supportive care skills and provide training for staff and volunteers in the various aspects of supportive care.

The deadline for ordering tickets is Friday, Dec. 26. To order or for more information, call the community relations department at (734) 655-1590.

Sister Modesta has been a part of St. Mary Hospital since its opening in 1959. She served as its chief medical technologist, helping to organize and direct the hospital laboratory, until her appointment as vice-president responsible for diagnostic services in 1977.

As the administrative medical technologist, Sister Modesta was involved in the planning of the original laboratory and its expansion in 1972.

"With the teamwork of the laboratory staff, we implemented new procedures and automated technology in all areas of the laboratory, increasing the number of laboratory tests from 81,000 in 1960 to 1.5 million in 1977," she recalled.

During her tenure as vice president of diagnostic services, she expanded management opportunities to seven diagnostic service departments and three other patient-related areas and organized the first Quality Assurance program in 1980.

She stepped up to the position of president and CEO in 1982. Under her leadership as president and CEO, the hospital affiliated with William Beaumont Hospital in a partnership of shared programs and resources

and received accreditation with commendation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization.

"This distinction demonstrates a hospital-wide commitment to provide our community with continuous high quality care," she said.

Sister Modesta also has overseen four major and nine minor expansions of the hospital, including the opening of the St. Mary Hospital Pavilion and Marian Professional Building in 1988, Emergency Center in 1995 and the west addition, which houses the Miracle of Life Maternity Center, the Marian Women's Center, Surgical Center and Central Processing Department, in 1997.

She also was involved in the construction of the Marywood Nursing Care Center, Marybrook Manor and the St. Mary Hospital Child Care Center on campus.

"I've seen so many changes in the health industry and at St. Mary Hospital over the years," she said. "We opened in 1959 with a 180-bed hospital and grew to more than 300 beds by 1972."

But for Sister Modesta, her most fulfilling accomplishment to date has been in developing the hospital's logo in 1985 and introduction of the "I Care" program in 1987.

The distinctive blue and white logo features a cross, symbolic of the Golden Rule, inside a heart, denoting the sensitivity, love and care of those served at the hospital, positioned in a circle, denoting the continuance of care from birth to death and the comprehensive services provided through a team effort.



Changing times: Sister Mary Modesta (left) will step down as president and chief executive officer of St. Mary Hospital in Jan. 1, turning the helm of the city's largest employer over to Sister Mary Renetta, the current executive vice president and chief operating officer.

FILE PHOTO

Sister Modesta is a graduate of Madonna University, Wayne State University and Notre Dame University and holds master degrees in medical technology and hospital administration.

In addition to her responsibilities at the hospital, she also has served on the boards of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, Livonia Prayer Breakfast, Hearts of Livonia, Breakfast, Michigan Hospital Council, Council on

Healthcare and Health Emergency Medical Service.

She also has been active with the Greater Detroit Area Health Council, Michigan Hospital Association and American Hospital Association.

She also is a diplomat in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

"The biggest challenge today is to provide quality care at an

affordable price to our customers whether they are patients, family members, physicians, staff, vendors, third-party payors or anyone using the services of St. Mary Hospital," Sister Modesta said. "Through the ongoing implementation of our mission, I believe St. Mary Hospital will continue to meet and even exceed the needs and expectations of those who depend on us for their health care."

Voices from page B3

of Grand announce the birth of Katja Barrett Oct. 27 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. Grandparents are Dwight and Gabriele Raddatz of Ridgeway, Colo., and Thomas and Susan Memmel of Bolingbrook, Ill.

Brett and Kim of Garden City and Angela McNeil of Wayne announce the birth of Katelyn Elizabeth McNeil Fee Oct. 7 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Millard and Kathryn Fee of Garden City, and Joe and Deborah McNeil of Wayne.

Bill and Kay Downer of Garden City announce the birth of Paige Karilyn June 15 at the Birthing Center of St. Mary Hos-

pital. Grandparents are Barbara Jones of Garden City, Keith Jones of Florida, and June and Jerry Downer of Garden City. Great-grandmother is Edith Jones of Westland.

Curtis and Crystal Thompson of Garden City announce the birth of Hunter Curtis Oct. 7 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins a brother, Bryan, 19 months. Grandparents are Mike and Frank Wallen of Westland, and Sharon and Michele Diepenbrock of Armada.

Stuart and Lori Palm of Westland announce the birth of a baby boy Oct. 31 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. He joins three brothers,

Bradley, Stuart and Garrett. Grandparents are Bonnie Preston of Redford, and Patricia Palm of Westland.

William and Debra Wilson of Westland announce the birth of Christian William Oct. 8 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins two brothers, Joshua, 8, and Gregory, 5, and a sister, Tammy, 2. Grandmothers are Connie Shonebarger of Rochester Hills and Barbara Wilson of Dearborn Heights.

James and Helene Rucker of Westland announce the birth of Tyler James Nov. 4 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. He joins a sister, Donna Nicole. Grandparents are Bud

and Virg Rucker of Algonac, and Walter and Victoria Gorney of Warren.

Charles B. Bourbeau and Louise B. Atchley of Livonia announce the birth of Catherine Beatrice Bourbeau Oct. 26 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She joins a brother, Michael Atchley, 2. Grandparents are Robert and Beatrice Roderick of Livonia.

Steven and Tiffany Harvey of Westland announce the birth of Brendan Eric Nov. 2 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Wayne and Cheryl Peeler, Ray Harvey and Laraine Harvey, and Gail Skrandis, all of Westland.

Richard C. and Kimberly S. Brumm announce the birth of Kyndra Lee Oct. 10 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Kyndra joins a sister, Meggan Tyler, 3. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Stehney of Redford, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schmidyke of Garden City.

James A. and MaryAnne Schira of Garden City announce the birth of Bethany Anne Oct. 31 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She joins a brother, David Derkatch, and a sister, Jessica Schira. Grandparents are John and Sally Schira of Westland, and Pete and Terry Derkatch of Garden City.

Rob and Carrie McGaffey of Westland announce the birth of Jamie Lynn Oct. 10 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Jamie joins a sister, Dana, 4. Grandparents are Sharon Geyer, and Robert Sr. and Debbie McGaffey of Dearborn Heights.

Ronald and Annette King of Okemos announce the birth of Samuel Aaron Nov. 7 at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. He has two brothers - Ben, 7, and Mitchell, 3 - and two sisters - Carly, 5, and Alexandra, 1 1/2. Grandparents are Robert and Marilyn Bryce of Plymouth and Lester and Barbara King, also of Plymouth. Great-grandmother is Grace Gibb of Dearborn.

INTERNET ADDRESS DIRECTORY

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ART GALLERIES
Elizabeth Stone Galleryhttp://esgallery.com
The Print Galleryhttp://www.everythingart.com

ART MUSEUMS
The Detroit Institute of Artshttp://www.dia.org

ASSOCIATIONS
ASM - Detroithttp://www.asm-detroit.org
Society of Automotive Engineers-Detroithttp://www.sae-detroit.org
Suburban Newspapers of Americahttp://www.suburban-news.org
Suspenders Wearers of Americahttp://oeonline.com/swaa

AUDIO VISUAL SERVICES
AVS Audiohttp://www.avsstudio.com
Sledmastershttp://www.sledmasters.com

AUTOMOTIVE
Huntington Fordhttp://www.huntingtonford.com
John Rogin Buick-Isuzu-Suzukihttp://www.johnrogin.com
Ramchargers Performance Centershttp://www.ramchargers.com
Universal Bearing Co.http://www.unbearco.com
Automotive Bearing Co.http://www.unbearco.com

AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS

REPRESENTATIVES
Marks Mgmt. Serviceshttp://www.marksmgmt.com

AUTO RACING
KC Racinghttp://www.kcracing.com
Milan Dragwayhttp://www.milandragway.com

BAKING/COOKING
"Jiffy" Mix-Chelsea Milling Companyhttp://www.jiffymix.com

BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
Mr. Spongehttp://www.mrsponge.com

BICYCLES
Wahul Bicycle Companyhttp://rochester-hills.com/wahul

BOOKKEEPING PRODUCTS
BIG E-Z Bookkeeping Cohttp://www.bigez.com

BOOKS
Apostolate Communicationshttp://www.apostolate.com

BUSINESS NEWS
Insider Business Journalhttp://www.insiderbiz.com

CERAMIC TILE
Stewart's Specialty Tileshttp://www.specialtytiles.com

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
Livonia Chamber of Commercehttp://www.livonia.org
Birmingham/Bloomfield Chamber of Commercehttp://www.bbccc.com

CHILDREN'S SERVICES
St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Centerhttp://oeonline.com/svscf

CLASSIFIED ADS
Advillagehttp://advillage.com
Observer & Eccentric Newspapershttp://observer-eccentric.com

CLOSET ORGANIZERS/HOME STORAGE
Organize-Ithttp://www.organize-it.com

COMMERCIAL PRINTING
ColorTech Graphicshttp://colortechgraphics.com

COMMUNITIES
City of Livoniahttp://oeonline.com/livonia

COMMUNITY NEWS
Observer & Eccentric Newspapershttp://observer-eccentric.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Sanctuaryhttp://rochester-hills.com/wecare
Wayne Community Living Serviceshttp://www.wcls.org

COMPUTER GRAPHICS
Logix, Inc.http://www.logix-usa.com

COMPUTER HARDWARE/PROGRAMMING/SOFTWARE SUPPORT
Applied Automation Technologieshttp://www.capps-edges.com
BNB Softwarehttp://www.oeonline.com/bnb
Mighty Systems Inc.http://www.mightysystems.com

COMPUTER PRODUCT REVIEWS
HORSE RACING HANDICAPPING SOFTWARE
CyberNews and Reviewshttp://oeonline.com/cybernews

CONSTRUCTION
Frank Rewold Constructionhttp://rochester-hills.com/rewold

CORPORATE VIDEO/WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT
NetWorth Internet Marketinghttp://netw.com

DUCT CLEANING
Mechanical Energy Systemshttp://www.mes1.com

EDUCATION
Fordson High Schoolhttp://oeonline.com/~fordsonh
Global Village Projecthttp://oeonline.com/gvp.htm
Oakland Schoolshttp://oakland.k12.mi.us
Reuther Middle Schoolhttp://oeonline.com/~rms
Rochester Community Schools Foundationhttp://rochester-hills.com/rcsf
The Webmaster Schoolhttp://rochester-hills.com
Western Wayne County Internet User Grouphttp://oeonline.com/~wwcug

ELECTRICAL SUPPLY
Caniff Electric Supplyhttp://www.caniff.com
Progress Electrichttp://www.pe-co.com

ELECTRONIC SERVICE AND REPAIR
ABL Electronic Service, Inc.http://www.ablserv.com

EMPLOYEE LEASING COMPANY
Genesys Grouphttp://www.genesysgroup.com

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
Employment Presentation Serviceshttp://www.epsweb.com

ENVIRONMENT
Resource Recovery and Recyclinghttp://oeonline.com/~rrrasc
Authority of SW Oakland Co

EXECUTIVE RECRUITERS
J. Emery & Associates, Inc.http://www.jemeryassoc.com

EYE CARE/LASER SURGERY
Greenberg Laser Eye Centerhttp://www.greenbergeye.com

FLOOR COVERING
The Floor Connectionhttp://www.floorconnection.com

FROZEN DESSERTS
Savino Sorbethttp://www.sorbet.com

HAIR SALONS
Heads You Winhttp://www.headsyouwin.com

HEALTH CARE
Family Health Care Centerhttp://oeonline.com/ehrmc

HERBAL PRODUCTS
Nature's Better Wayhttp://oeonline.com/nbw

HOME INSPECTIONS
GKS Inspectionhttp://www.gks3d.com

HOSPITALS
Botsford Health Care Continuumhttp://www.botsfordsystem.org
St. Mary Hospitalhttp://www.stmaryhospital.org

HYDRAULIC AND PNEUMATIC CYLINDERS
Hennellshttp://www.hennells.com

HYPNOSIS
Full Potential Hypnosis Centerhttp://oeonline.com/hypnosis

INDUSTRIAL FILTERS
Elixair Corporationhttp://www.elixair.com

INSURANCE
J. J. O'Connell & Assoc., Inc.http://www.oconnellinsurance.com

INTERACTIVE CD ROM PUBLISHING
Interactive Incorporatedhttp://www.interactive-inc.com

JEWELRY
Haig Jewelryhttp://rochester-hills.com/haig

MORTGAGE COMPANIES
Mortgage Market
Information Serviceshttp://www.interest.com/observer
Village Mortgagehttp://www.villagemortgage.com

NEWSLETTERS
GAGGLE Newsletterhttp://oeonline.com/gaggle

NOTARY SERVICES
Notary Service & Bonding Agency, Inc.http://www.notaryservice.com

NURSING EDUCATION
Michigan League for Nursinghttp://oeonline.com/mln

PAINTING
Al Kahn Paintinghttp://oeonline.com/alkahn

ORIENTAL RUGS
Azar's Oriental Rugshttp://www.azar.com

PARKS & RECREATION
Huron-Clinton Metroparkshttp://www.metroparks.com

PERSONAL GROWTH
Overcomer's Maximized Living Systemhttp://www.overcom.com

PLANNING AND TRAFFIC CONSULTANT
Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.http://www.birchlerarroyo.com

POWER TRANSMISSION
Bearing Service, Inc.http://www.bearing-service.com

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR
Profile Central, Inc.http://www.profile-usa.com

PUBLIC AND INVESTOR RELATIONS
Rein Normm & Associates, Inc.http://www.profile-normm.com

REAL ESTATE
REALnethttp://oeonline.com/realnet.html

139749

Wards Two Day

FRIDAY, DEC. 19 & SATURDAY, DEC. 20

2.99
Cyberbaby!
#2316001
While quantities last
Limit 4 per customer
No dealers. No refunds.

7.99
Giga Pets! Feed,
Play & Clean Up
After Your Pet
#2500100
While quantities last
Selection varies by store
No dealers. No refunds.

OUR LOWEST PRICE EVER!

VHS-C CAMCORDER - \$100 PRICE BREAK!

STEREO 19" COLOR TV - \$40 PRICE BREAK!

YOUR CHOICE Admiral 99.99
13" Remote Color TV
Sleep timer, black or white cabinet. #1230605/1230506
Limit 1. No dealers.

4-Head VCR with On-Screen Display
#2042100/2092402/2044409
Limit 1. No dealers.

13" Remote

NEW LOW PRICE!

Quasar by Panasonic 499.99
VHS-C Camcorder With 2.6" Color LCD Monitor
16x optical zoom, full-size video head cylinder, backlight control button.
#2275700/2175709
Similar to model shown.

2.6" Color LCD Monitor

NEW LOW PRICE!

Admiral 159.99
Stereo 19" Color TV
Universal remote control, bilingual on-screen display, built-in sleep timer, closed captioning, closed captioning on mute. #1277808

19" Stereo

NEW LOW PRICE!

OUR LOWEST PRICE EVER - \$150 PRICE BREAK!

8MM OR VHS - \$100 PRICE BREAK!

OUR LOWEST PRICE EVER - \$200 PRICE BREAK!

NEW DVD MOVIE TITLES AVAILABLE!

349.99
Digital Video Disc Player
Plays DVD studio master quality movies and audio CDs, Dolby Digital sound.

NEW LOW PRICE!

YOUR CHOICE 299.97
8mm or VHS Camcorder with Autofocus and Power Zoom
#2762705 or #2770700
Closeouts. Limited to stock on hand.

aiwa 399.99
80-Watt Dolby ProLogic™ Mini System with 3-Disc CD Changer, Dual Auto Reverse Cassette and 5-Speaker Surround Sound Package
#6236705 Mfr. #NSX-AVH80
80 watts per channel, 60Hz-20kHz @ 8 ohms, 0.9% THD

NEW LOW PRICE!

OUR LOWEST PRICE EVER - \$20 PRICE BREAK!

OUR LOWEST PRICE EVER - \$200 PRICE BREAK!

3-DISC SHELF SYSTEM - \$50 PRICE BREAK!

4-Head Hi-Fi VCR

Admiral 129.99
4-Head Hi-Fi Stereo VCR with Auto Picture Enhance, Auto Tracking and Multilingual On-Screen Menu #2044508

SONY 499.99
100-Watt Dolby ProLogic™ Rack Stereo with 5-Disc CD Changer, Dual Cassette Deck, Surround Sound Speakers, Remote and 2-Way 10" Speakers
#6174601 Mfr. #R400
100 Watts, 70Hz-200Hz @ 8 Ohms, 0% THD

5-Disc CD Changer

DOLBY SURROUND PRO LOGIC

RCR 149.99
3-CD Shelf System with Dual Cassette and Remote Electronic bass boost, digital tuning. #6211706 Mfr. #RP9325

15" 3-WAY SPEAKER - \$50 PRICE BREAK!

25 CD CHANGER - \$60 PRICE BREAK!

27" TV WITH PIP - \$80 PRICE BREAK!

36" TV WITH PIP - \$200 PRICE BREAK!

JENSEN 49.99
Each, Sold Only in Pairs
15" 3-Way Speaker
220 watts power handling, 3" tweeter, 5" cone midrange, charter oak finish.
#6578401
Mfr. #CS315

NEW LOW PRICE!

PIONEER 119.99
25-Disc CD Changer
24-step programmable with 3 custom play modes, best selection memory.
#6764709 Mfr. #PFD506

NEW LOW PRICE!

299.99
Stereo 27" Color TV with Picture-In-Picture™
Universal remote, dark tint picture tube for excellent contrast. #5243607

27" Picture-In-Picture™

799.99
Stereo 36" Color TV with Picture-In-Picture™
Universal remote, dark tint picture tube for excellent contrast. #5243805

36" Picture-In-Picture™

FLASHLIGHT OR BATTERY GIFT PACKS!

100-WATT RECEIVER - \$50 PRICE BREAK!

CD PLAYER WITH CAR KIT - \$20 PRICE BREAK!

CD BOOM BOX - \$30 PRICE BREAK!

YOUR CHOICE RAYBANK 14.99
4-Flashlight Gift Pack with Batteries
#3889306 Mfr. #FLP

22-Battery Gift Pack with 9V AA, AAA, C and D Batteries
#3889405 Mfr. #ALP

NEW LOW PRICE!

SONY 199.97
100-Watt Dolby ProLogic™ Receiver
Remote, 6 pre-set acoustic environments.
#6874608/6875609, similar to model shown.
100 watts per channel, 40 Hz-20kHz @ 8 ohms, 0.09% THD. Closeout. Limited to stock on hand.

DOLBY SURROUND PRO LOGIC

aiwa 79.99
Portable CD Player With Car Kit
10-second electronic skip protection.
#4812707 Mfr. #XPS69

NEW LOW PRICE!

aiwa 99.99
CD/Cassette Portable Stereo With 4-Speaker Front Surround Sound and Remote
#4911707 Mfr. #CSDE070

NEW LOW PRICE!

OUR LOWEST PRICE EVER!

35mm CAMERA KIT - \$20 PRICE BREAK!

25 CHANNEL CORDLESS - \$20 PRICE BREAK!

900 MHz CORDLESS - \$30 PRICE BREAK!

MEMOREX 2.99
Final Price after \$5 mail-in rebate
5-Pack VHS 120 High Standard Video Tapes
#3315506
Mfr. #21812505
You pay 7.99.

MINOLTA 49.99
Freedom 35mm Auto Focus Big View Quartz Date Camera Kit with Film and Batteries
#1033703 Mfr. #2444-902

NEW LOW PRICE!

AT&T Lucent Technologies 39.99
25-Channel Cordless Phone with 20-Number Memory, Quick Charger and Page/Find Feature
Voice scramble, LCD handset. #2270208
Mfr. #7415

NEW LOW PRICE!

GE 59.99
900 MHz 30-Channel Cordless Phone with 10-Number Memory
Digital security system, handset volume control.
#2278008
Mfr. #2-9920

NEW LOW PRICE!

All FREE and REBATE offers with purchases of items shown, coupons, details in store. All TVs measured diagonally, simulated wood, picture. (When used with your VCR. All phone tones/pulse dial. FCC registered. Limited warranty details in store.

- Montgomery Ward 13551 Michigan Ave. Dearborn 313-943-4300
- Montgomery Ward 29501 Plymouth Road Livonia 313-427-1600
- Montgomery Ward 35151 S. Gratiot 15 Mile Rd., Mt. Clemens 810-791-2000
- Montgomery Ward 409 N. Telegraph Waterford 248-682-4940
- Montgomery Ward 13665 Eureka Road Southgate 313-285-4400
- Montgomery Ward 28800 DeQuindre Warren 810-751-7500
- Montgomery Ward 28500 Telegraph Road Southfield 248-358-1200
- Montgomery Ward Genesee Valley Mall 3341 S. Linden Rd., Flint 810-230-3900

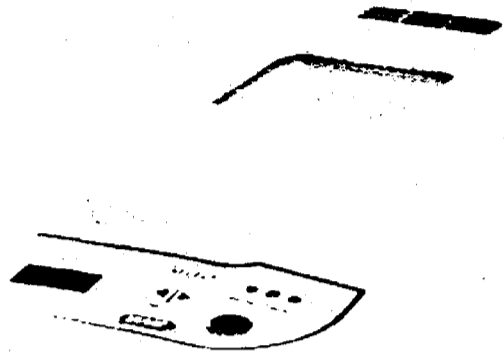
Wards Holiday Sale

FRIDAY, SHOP 8AM-MIDNITE SATURDAY, SHOP 7AM-MIDNITE

ALL BREADMAKERS ON SALE!

**1/2 PRICE!
REGAL.
59.99**

- 7.5 Lb. Breadmaker
 - 6 menu cycles
 - 13-hour programmable timer
 - Makes regular and whole grain breads
 - Makes rice, jam and pasta
 - Crust control selector
 - Instructional video
- Reg. 119.99. #07948



50% off

All Christmas[†]

Trees • Gourmet Food • Outdoor Decor
Lights • Decorative Pillows
Table Linens • Towel Sets

Plus...

75% off All[†]

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer Gifts

YOUR CHOICE KITCHEN ELECTRICS - SAVE *8

Admiral 16.99

- 10-Cup Digital Coffeemaker. Pause & serve feature. Reg. 24.99. #45617
- Variable Steam Iron with Burst & Spray Auto off. Nonslick soleplate. Reg. 24.99. #45614
- 5-Speed Hand Mixer with Burst of Speed. Reg. 24.99. Beaters, dough hooks, wire whisk, stainless steel bowl. #45615

YOUR CHOICE KITCHEN ELECTRICS - SAVE *3

Proctor-Silex 8.99

- Ultra-Ease Steam/Dry Iron. Lightweight, self-cleaning, reversible wrap/snap cord. Reg. 11.99. #45102
- 2-Slice Wide-Slot Chrome Toaster. Snap-open crumb tray. Reg. 11.99. #45264
- 5 Speed Hand Mixer. Chrome plated beaters. Reg. 11.99. #45753

50% OFF SELECT COOKWARE!

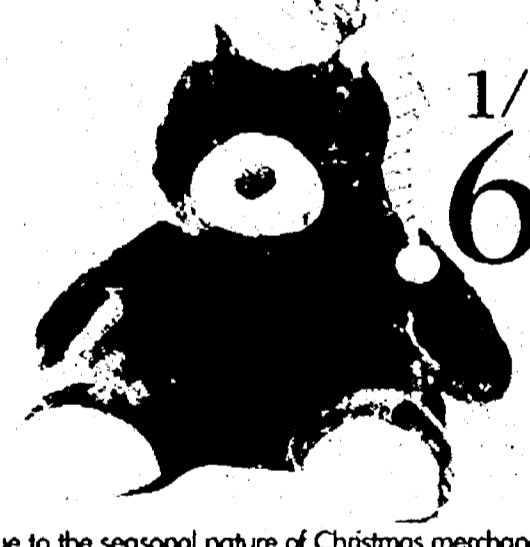
Hammercraft 49.99

8-Piece Cookset includes 2 and 3-qt. covered saucepans, 4-qt. covered dutch oven, 8" & 10" open frypans. Non-stick. Red or green. Reg. 99.99. #1947778. Limited to stock on hand.

50% OFF SELECT DINNERWARE!

Sango 34.99

20 Piece Stoneware Dinnerware Set. Choose Canyon, Intrigue or Ballet patterns. Set includes 4 each: dinner plates, salad plates, soup/cereal bowls, cups, saucers. Reg. 69.99. #1700/1/2. Patterns vary by store.



**1/2 PRICE!
6.49** Montgomery Bear
Exclusively ours. A full 15 inches!
Reg. 12.99. #77022

[†]Due to the seasonal nature of Christmas merchandise, no rainchecks will be given, limited to stock on hand.

SAVE *10-15 ON RAZORS!

REMINGTON Windmere

YOUR CHOICE 19.99

- Rechargeable Foil Shaver. Single foil, sleek Euro design. Reg. 29.99. #685
- Gold Cord/Cordless Rechargeable Shaver. Reg. 34.99. #67116

SAVE *20 ON PERSONAL CARE GIFTS!

Butler 9.99

Final Price after \$5 mail-in rebate. Gum Plaque Remover. Battery operated. Reg. 29.99. #07009. You pay 14.99 less \$5 rebate.

HOMEDICS 19.99

Samurai Ultra™ Slim Shiatsu Massage. Reg. 39.99. #66112

50% OFF BRIEFCASES!

London Fog Luggage 29.99

Special Purchase With Bonus! Professional Carry-On With 3-Piece Bonus. Large capacity vinyl carry-on with bonus umbrella, travel sundry kit and hanging garment carrier. #94001

SAVE *7-14! ANY SIZE ONE PRICE PILLOW!

5.99

Standard • Queen • King White Down Pillow. Provides super soft comfort. 100% cotton cover. 18 oz. fill twin. Reg. 12.99-19.99. #5090/1/2

50% OFF 200 THREAD COUNT SOLID SHEETS!

GRAND MANOR 3.99

Deep Fitted 200 Thread Count Solid Color Sheets. Up to 9 colors. Twin reg. 7.99. Full, sale 7.49. Queen, sale 11.49. King, sale 14.49. Reg. 7.99-28.99. #A720

28 X 56" EGYPTIAN COTTON BATH TOWEL

4.99

28x56" Egyptian Cotton Bath Towels. Up to 6 fashion colors. #3054. Slight irregularities will not affect wear if perfect. 9.99

50% OFF FANNEL SHEETS!

4.49-29.99

Flannel Sheet. Flat or fitted. Assorted colors. Twin, reg. 8.99-59.99. #81118. • Full/Queen, sale 6.49-34.59. • King, sale 11.49-39.99. #0045

SAVE 20-50%! ANY SIZE ONE PRICE BLANKET!

19.99

Twin • Full/Queen • King Vellux Blanket. 100% nylon Vellux is velvety soft and long wearing, does not mat or pill. Provides maximum warmth and year round comfort. Assorted colors. Reg. 24.99-39.99. #3120-22

Montgomery Ward
13551 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn
313-943-4300

Montgomery Ward
29501 Plymouth Road
Livonia
313-427-1600

Montgomery Ward
35151 S. Gratiot
15 Mile Rd., Mt. Clemens
810-791-2000

Montgomery Ward
409 N. Telegraph
Waterford
248-682-4940

Montgomery Ward
13665 Eureka Road
Southgate
313-285-4400

Montgomery Ward
28800 DeQuindre
Warren
810-751-7500

Montgomery Ward
28500 Telegraph Road
Southfield
248-358-1200

Montgomery Ward
Genesee Valley Mall
3341 S. Linden Rd., Flint
810-230-3900

Sale prices good through December 24, 1997



Misses Stadium
29⁹⁹
Reg. 59.99

Misses
3/4 Leather
69⁹⁹
Reg. 199.99

Men's Parka
49⁹⁹
Reg. 99.99

Boys Stadium
29⁹⁹

Wards

50% Off
and more
On Family Outerwear!

Plus
After-Christmas Clearance Starts Now!
40-50% off
Original Prices
On Apparel, Shoes and Accessories for Men, Women and Kids.

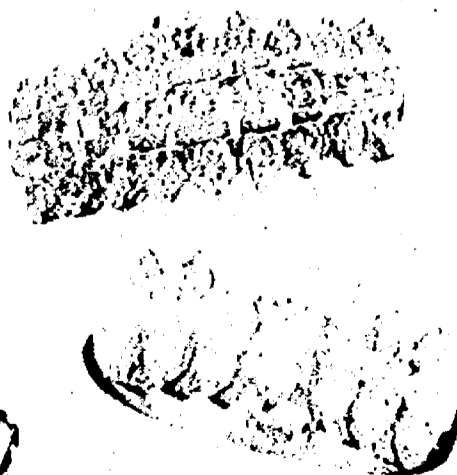
Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. Styles vary by store.

40-60% off Fine Jewelry!

Diamond Accent Heart Pendant
29⁹⁹
Reg. 79.99

Plus, save 60% off all jewelry boxes!

2.0 ctw Diamond Tennis Bracelet
299⁹⁹
Reg. 839.99



1.0 ctw Anniversary Bands
299⁹⁹ each
Reg. 669.99

14K Gold 3-Piece Rope Set
99⁹⁹
Reg. 169.99

If a jewelry item is temporarily out of stock, we will order it at the advertised price. We reserve the right to make corrections for omissions or typographical errors. Enlarged to show detail. All fine jewelry is 10K gold or set in 10K unless otherwise stated.

Montgomery Ward
13551 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn
313-943-4300

Montgomery Ward
29501 Plymouth Road
Livonia
313-427-1600

Montgomery Ward
35151 S. Gratiot
15 Mile Rd., Mt. Clemens
810-791-2000

Montgomery Ward
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248-682-4940

Montgomery Ward
13665 Eureka Road
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313-285-4400

Montgomery Ward
28800 DeQuindre
Warren
810-751-7500

Montgomery Ward
28500 Telegraph Road
Southfield
248-358-1200

Montgomery Ward
Genesee Valley Mall
3341 S. Linden Rd., Flint
810-230-3900

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

'LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE'

For the 17th year, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene is presenting "The Living Christmas Tree: Music of the True Meaning of Christmas" directed by Dan Whitney, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road, three miles west of I-275, Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 463-1525.

SUP AND CELEBRATE

Trinity House Theatre presents community theater in a festive tradition - with a double bill and shared meal of bread bowls, hot soup and cider - 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 18-20, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the theater, 38840 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia.

The Bayards celebrate 90 years of family relationship in Thornton Wilder's "The Long Christmas Dinner," while three bumbling shepherds search for a lost sheep and find the wonder of Christmas in "The Sheep Thief," a comic adaptation by Ford Ainsworth of "the Second Shepherd's Play."

Seating is limited to 50 and tickets cost \$8, not including the shared supper. For more information, call (734) 464-6302.

ADVENT CLASS

Kindergartners, first and second graders are invited to an Advent class 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Activities include making ornaments, gifts, cooking, stories and worship. Participants should bring a sack supper; milk will be supplied. For more information, call (734) 422-0149.

YOGA CLASSES

The Unity of Livonia Church, located at 28660 Five Mile Road in Livonia, hosts yoga classes from 10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays throughout November and December. The class, taught by Linda Haught, is offered on a love offering basis. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-1760.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

The children of Alpha Baptist Church will present a Christmas musical program, "Three Wise Men and a Baby," at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 28051 W. Chicago, Livonia. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-6300.

Temple Baptist Church is presenting its annual musical production, "The Glory of Christmas: A Holiday of Hope," at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Dec. 19-20, and at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 49555 N. Territorial, Plymouth. Tickets are priced \$6 to \$10 and can be purchased at the church's ticket

office, or Visa/MasterCard by calling the ticket hotline at (734) 414-3980. No children younger than age 4 will be admitted to the performances.

The Chancel Choir of St. James Presbyterian Church will present a Christmas cantata, "Rejoice in his Coming," at the 10 a.m. worship service Sunday, Dec. 21. The church is at 25350 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. For more information, call (313) 534-7730.

For the 17th year, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene is presenting "The Living Christmas Tree: Music of the True Meaning of Christmas," directed by Dan Whitney, 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Dec. 19-21, at the church, 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road, west of I-275, Plymouth.

The choir will step into the branches of a 30-foot high tree to sing the songs that articulate the reason for the birth of Christ. No tickets are necessary and seating will be on a first come-first seated basis. Nursery will be provided for children under age 3. For more information, call (734) 453-1525.

The Student and Adult choirs of Merriman Road Baptist Church will perform a musical drama, "Room in the Inn," at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. "Room in the Inn" is great family entertainment that presents the age-old Christmas message in a contemporary urban setting.

The presentation is free of charge. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-0472.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will present a choir Christmas cantata at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 27475 Five Mile Road, east of Inkster Road, Livonia. For more information, call the church at (734) 422-1470.

The Archdiocesan Chorus and orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Noah Duncan IV, will present its second annual festival of Christmas Music concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit. Advance tickets are \$5 and \$10 at the door.

The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament is at 9844 Woodward Ave., Detroit. For further information, call (313) 865-6300 during the day.

PRAYER GROUP

The Madonna University prayer group will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, in Patio Classroom 1 on the ground floor of the University Center, 14221 Levan, north of Schoolcraft, Livonia. For more information, call John at (734) 422-5611 or Cecile at (734) 591-3247.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

St. John's Lutheran Church of Redford will present its annual children's Christmas program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, Dec. 21. The church is at 13542 Mercedes Ave., east of Inkster Road and

south of Schoolcraft Road, Redford. For more information, call (313) 538-1248.2

FAMILY SERVICE

The Detroit First Church of the Nazarene will have a Family Christmas service at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Children will be included in the service with special recognition of "Baby's First Christmas" at which time babies born since last Christmas will be introduced and a special gift presented to each child.

Between services, the children's department will host a Christmas open house 9:45-10:45 a.m. Detroit First Church of the Nazarene is at 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 348-7600.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

St. Aidan Youth Group is raising funds in December by selling the Entertainment Ultimate Book which contains discounts on dining, travel, shopping, movies, special events and sports. The books cost \$40 with a portion of the proceeds going to help fund youth conferences and workshops. For more information, call (734) 425-5950 or (248) 474-1396.

St. Matthew United Methodist Church is also selling the 1998 Entertainment book. The cost is at \$40 with \$8 going to the church's Mission Committee. To order, call Dick Horie at (734) 522-4856.

SUNDAY LESSONS

"Love" will be the lesson at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Church of Today West in Village Oaks Elementary School, 23333 Willowbrook (between

Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads), Novi. The lesson for Sunday, Dec. 28, will be "Lessons Learned."

The church also offers youth education, a course in miracles at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and others courses in 4T, meditation and unity basics. For more information, call (248) 449-8900 or at its Web site, <http://www.cotw.com>.

DIVORCECARE

DivorceCare, a special video seminar and support group, has begun a 13-week session, 7:15-9:15 p.m. Sundays at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton Township. The series features nationally recognized experts covering such topics as "Facing Your Anger," "Facing Your Loneliness," "Depression," "New Relationships," and "Forgiveness." Child care is available. Call (734) 459-3333 for more information.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

The radio series, "What is This Christian Science and Who Are These Christian Scientists?" is being broadcast at 1:30 p.m. Sundays of WQBH-AM 1400. The topic will be "How can anyone have that much faith?" on Dec. 21, and "Just what is a Christian Science practitioner?" on Dec. 28.

"The Christian Science Sentinel-Radio Edition" also can be heard at 9:30 a.m. Sundays on WAAM-AM 1600. The conversational program discusses current public topics as well as shares healing through prayer from people all over the world.

TEAMKID

TeamKid, a unique club which blends activity with interactive

Please see RELIGION, B12

LHM sponsors airing of 'Red Boots'

Just because the story of Christmas is 2,000 years old doesn't mean the methods of telling that story have to be.

For years, that thinking is what has led Lutheran Hour Ministries, a worldwide multimedia ministry organization, to try new ways to share the Gospel with people all over the world. And this year is no exception.

Through the award-winning animated television special, "Red Boots for Christmas" released in 1995, Lutheran Hour Ministries hopes to reach millions around the globe with the "true" message of Christmas.

The colorful 30-minute family special is set to broadcast locally on WADL-38 a 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Following the broadcast, viewers will be given the opportunity to call a toll-free number to receive a free children's storybook version of "Red Boots."

"Red Boots for Christmas" is based on a German folk tale about a grouchy shoemaker named Hans who, with the help of his pet crow Aldo and a visit from an angel learns to embrace the true meaning of Christmas and receive the ultimate gift from God, the Savior. For more information about "Red Boots for Christmas," call the

toll-free "Red Boots" hotline at (800) 442-0324. Internet users can visit "Wired With the Word" at <http://www.lhm.org>.

Lutheran Hour Ministries also will fill the airwaves with a host of colorful personalities on its nationally-syndicated radio talk show, "Woman to Woman."

The weekly half-hour program is heard locally at 5:30 p.m. Sundays on WAAM (1600) on the AM dial. The talk show is hosted by Phyllis Wallace.

The "Woman to Woman" Christmas special on Sunday, Dec. 21 is "Mysteries Revealed." The guest list includes children's author Dandi Daley Mackall,

author of the new Lutheran Hour Ministries children's book series featuring The Puzzle Club.

The program also includes interviews with cartoonist Charles Schulz, known for his lovable Peanuts characters, and Dr. Raymond Damadian, the inventor of the magnetic resonance imaging scanner (MRI).

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

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Tri-County Orthopedic Group, P.C. is pleased to announce the addition of Miles L. Singer, D.O. Dr. Singer served his internship and orthopedic residency at Botsford General Hospital, and has recently completed an accredited spine surgery fellowship with Dr. Shannon Stauffer, M.D. at Southern Illinois University. Dr. Singer's subspecialty is the treatment of acute and degenerative conditions of the neck and back.

Tri-County Orthopedic Group, P.C. is pleased to announce the addition of Germaine R. Fritz, D.O. Dr. Fritz completed her internship and orthopedic residency at Botsford General Hospital and a hand and microvascular surgery fellowship at Riverside Methodist Ohio State University Hospitals. Dr. Fritz's subspecialty is the treatment of acute and chronic conditions of the upper extremity including microvascular surgery.

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Religion from page B11

learning, discipleship and Bible memory, meets 5:45-8 p.m. Sundays at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. The program is for children in grades 1-6 and provides practical Biblical answers in a fun and interesting setting. For more information, call the church office at (734) 421-0472.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Salem National Evangelical Lutheran Church will have its Sunday School children's service at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 32430 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. The service will be based on the theme of "A Christmas Surprise" and will highlight many of the Sunday School children and staff. For

more information, call (734) 422-5550.

LATKE PARTY

Congregation Beit Kodesh will have its annual Hanukkah Latke Party at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the synagogue, 31840 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia. There will be entertainment and a 50/50 raffle. The cost to attend is \$6 per adult, \$3 per child ages 3-12. Children under age three will be free of charge. For more information, call Anita Cottrell at (734) 453-7141.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Men Who Make a Difference, a small group of Christian men dedicated to the biblical principles of building a "Godly Man,"

meets at 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. The group is open to men of all denominations who wish to diligently seek the face of Jesus. For more information, call (734) 421-0472.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Ward Presbyterian Church will celebrate New Year's Eve with an evening of fellowship, beginning at 9 p.m. with a sacred Christian concert, featuring Dale Hicks, at the church, 17000 Farmington Road, Livonia. A buffet is available at 10 p.m. by advance reservation only.

The evening will conclude with

a Watch Night service at 11 p.m. Chimes will ring in the New Year and close the service just after midnight. For more information, call (734) 422-1826.

NEW BEGINNINGS

New Beginnings, a grief support group held year-round at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile Road, east of Merriman Road, Livonia, continues with its monthly speaker series on Thursday, Jan. 8, with "Moving On."

There are no fees. Anyone may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need. For more information, call the church office at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903,

or Rosemary Kline at (734) 462-3770.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience for married couples to improve their communication skills, learn the value of intimacy and renew their love for each other Friday through Sunday, Feb. 13-15 and March 20-22, at St. John's Family Life Center in Plymouth. For more information or to register call (248) 528-2512 or (810) 286-5524.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance divorced and separated Christians, will have a

dance at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, West Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. The cost is \$8 and includes refreshments. For more information, call Rose at (734) 464-3325.

The group also meets on Sundays for breakfast and Mass - 10 a.m. at the Redford Inn, Five Mile Road west of Beech Daly Road, Redford, and at 11:15 a.m.; at St. Aidan's Church, Farmington Road north of Six Mile Road, Livonia - call Val at (734) 729-1974; for coffee and conversation at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Archie's Restaurant, Plymouth Road east of Merriman, Livonia, and for pinocchio at 7 p.m. every other Friday - call Rose at (734) 464-3325.

CLASS REUNIONS

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

BELLEVILLE

Class of 1988
A reunion is planned for Sept. 19.
(800) 677-7800

BLOOMFIELD HILLS LAHSER

Class of 1987
March 21 at Doubletree Guest Suites, Southfield.
(248) 360-7004, press 2
Class of 1978
Aug. 1 at Somerset Inn, Troy.
(248) 366-9493, press 3

CHERRY HILL

Class of 1983
Reunion and alumni family picnic is planned for August 1998.
(734) 729-6783

DETROIT CASS TECH

Class of 1968
Looking for classmates for a reunion in 1998.
Pam Yee Gianola, 1243 Smith Road, Beulah, Mich., 49617-9493 or e-mail at mie-nai@aliens.com
Classes of 1980-82
Are planning a reunion.
Stephanie Bradford Wright '80, 1753 Cornell, Southfield 48075, (313) 945-8473; or Dylan War-

mack '81, 2131 Bryanston Ct., Detroit 48207, (313) 963-7665
Class of 1988
Is looking for names and addresses of classmates.
(313) 896-0736, (313) 859-0261 or (313) 882-1632
Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 442-9320, by fax at (248) 442-8830 or Sharon Law-Williamson, 28479 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia 48152

DETROIT KETERING
Classes of 1971-72
Is planning a reunion.
Send names, addresses and telephone numbers to Ron or Pat (Tish Mack) Matthews, P.O. Box 7647, Bloomfield Hills 48302, or call (810) 745-8422, (248) 696-6342 or (248) 857-6043.

Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion.
Send name, address and telephone number to Chrystal Esaw, 27930 Berkshire Dr., Southfield 48076, or call (248) 358-5236, (313) 526-8667, (313) 839-9858 or (313) 372-3159

DETROIT PERSHING
Classes of 1949-53
Are planning a reunion.
(248) 471-5609 or P.O. Box 530-244, Livonia 48153-0244
January-June classes of 1952
A fall 1998 reunion is being planned.
(248) 623-2454, (810) 771-9810 or (810) 979-4594

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Troy. Cost is \$50 per person with checks payable to Audrey (Laird) Poole, 1640 Oxford Road, Grosse Pointe Woods 48236.
(248) 879-9779, (313) 884-2462 or (248) 546-3500

DETROIT WESTERN

Class of 1949
Is planning at 50th reunion.
(313) 274-3214

FARMINGTON HARRISON

Class of 1988
A reunion is planned for July at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, Westland.
(248) 442-2862

FRASER

Class of 1972
A reunion is being planned for Fraser Steffens Park.
(810) 293-2160

GARDEN CITY

Class of 1987
A reunion is planned for October.
(810) 765-1380 or (734) 513-6071

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Class of 1978
A reunion is planned for Aug. 8.
(800) 677-7800

HAZEL PARK

Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion.
(800) 677-7800

HIGHLAND PARK

Class of 1969
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 864-5943, (313) 583-5418 or (313) 867-3201
Class of 1978
Planning a 20-year reunion for July 1998. Seeking classmates.

Fax info to C. Jones (313) 836-5302 or write to HPCHS reunion committee, c/o P.O. Box 760484 Lathrup Village, MI 48076.

MADISON

Class of 1948
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 548-5470 or (810) 264-9191

MARIAN

Class of 1982
11:30 a.m. Dec. 27 at the Fox & Hounds Restaurant, Bloomfield Hills.
(248) 644-1750

OAK PARK

Classes of 1957-59
Is planning a reunion for November 1998.
(248) 559-1746 or (248) 354-0092

PLYMOUTH CANTON/SALEM

Classes of 1988
A joint reunion will be held June

20.
CEP Class of '88, P.O. Box 5356, Plymouth 48170

ST. ALPHONSUS

Class of 1958
A reunion is being planned for 1998.
(513) 878-7483 or (734) 455-1277

ST. HEDWIG HIGH

Class of 1958
Is planning a reunion.
(734) 953-1011

ST. JOSAPHAT

Class of 1943-46
Are planning a reunion.
(313) 886-0770 or (810) 783-6889

STERLING HEIGHTS

Class of 1978
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(248) 360-7004, press 6

STERLING HEIGHTS STEVENSON

Class of 1988
Is planning a reunion.
(800) 677-7800

WARREN WOODS TOWER

Class of 1988
Is planning a reunion.
(810) 790-4214 or (810) 771-7328

WATERFORD KETERING

Class of 1968
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 628-3926, (248) 681-1768 or (248) 623-6057

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Class of 1983
Sept. 26 at the Rama Banquet Center, Garden City.
(248) 360-7004, press 1

YPSILANTI

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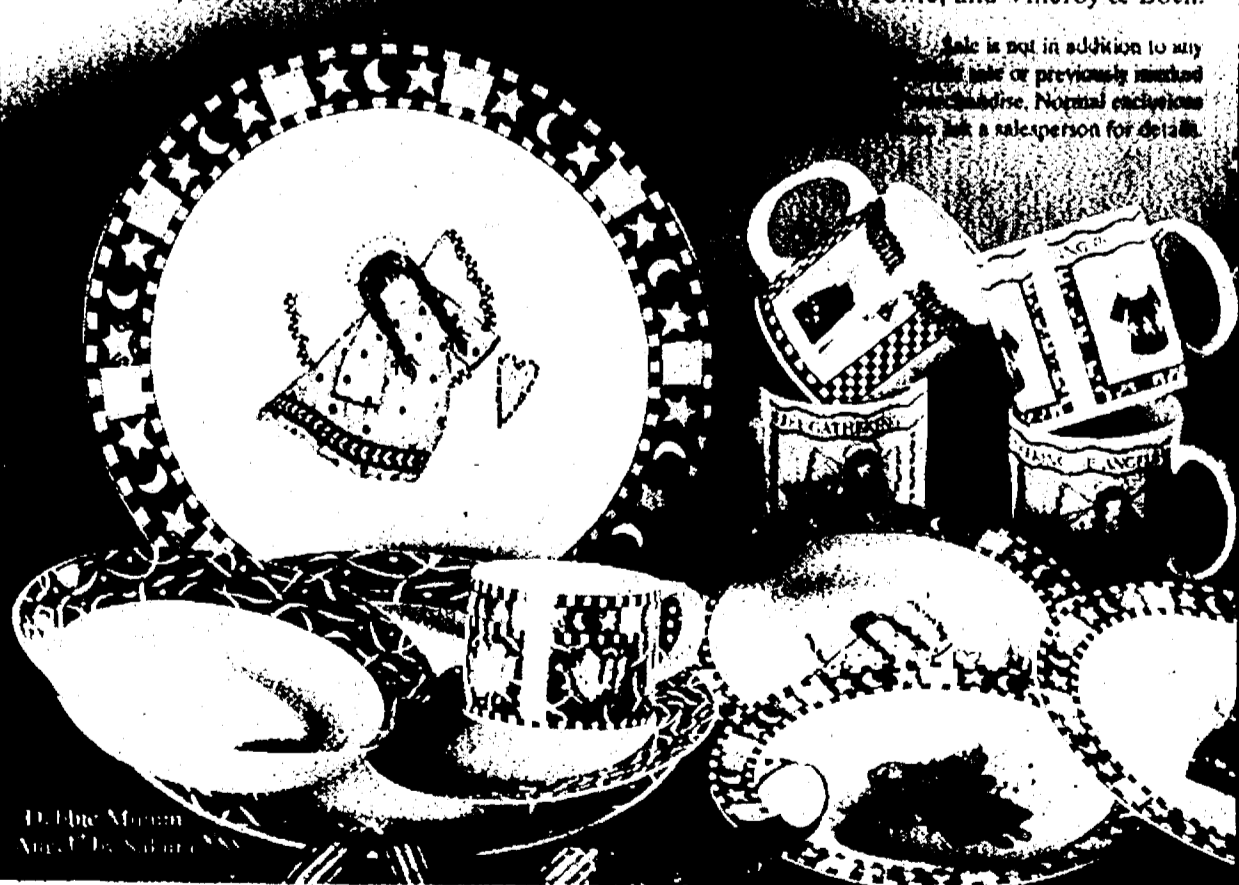
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All-Area hoops, C2

L/W Page 1, Section C

Brad Emons, Editor 313-953-2123

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Thursday, December 18, 1997

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Sisung All-America

Madonna University junior outside hitter Karin Sisung (Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central) was named to the NAIA All-America Volleyball second team.

The Monroe native averaged 3.7 kills per game, 0.83 blocks per game and compiled a .884 passing percentage as the Lady Crusaders finished the year with a 34-15 overall record.

Madonna won both the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season and playoff championship before reaching the NAIA regional semifinal.

Senior outside-hitter Erin Gregoire, a senior outside-hitter from Monroe CC, earned NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete honors for the second straight year. Gregoire compiled a 3.65 grade-point average.

Glenn's DeLuca saluted

Westland John Glenn's Todd DeLuca has been honored as the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year.

DeLuca, who was nominated by Glenn head coach Chuck Gordon, will receive a plaque during the MHSFCA Clinic Saturday, Jan. 24 in Battle Creek.

DeLuca, 39, has been a member of the Glenn football staff the past 18 years. He is a graduate of Glenn where he played for University of Michigan head coach Lloyd Carr.

The Glenn math teacher also coaches the Rockets' JV boys basketball team and is involved coaching football, basketball and baseball in the Westland Youth Athletic Association.

He attended Alma College three years before graduating from Eastern Michigan University.

DeLuca resides in Westland with his wife Cheryl and two sons, Vincent and Andrew.

Youth soccer champs

The under-15 Michigan Wolves, coached by Tim Ernst and Doug Landefeld, captured the Thanksgiving Super Clubs Tournament in Orlando, Fla. with a 1-0 victory over the Tampa Bay (Fla.) Blackwatch Lightings.

The tournament featured state champions from the south and midwest.

Members of the Wolves include: Josh Swim, Eric Sicilia and Jason Emrick, all of Livonia; Brian Kisc, Garden City; Karl Lopata and Andrew Hathaway, Farmington; Tim Kelleher, Northville; Andy Fabian and Eric Spreitzer, Troy; Colin Lyman, Bloomfield Hills; John Webster, Monroe; Zach Wilkes and Ryan Mallord, Dearborn; Robbie Norenz, Ann Arbor; Kevin Oakley, Waterford; Brian Hassenflug, Sterling Heights.

The Livonia YMCA Meteors, an under-17 Division I girls premier league team coached by Mike McGrath and assisted by Derrick Steele, recently won its second fall season title in three years.

Members of the Meteors include: Vanessa Byerle, Kersten Conklin, Mary Gignac, Susan Hill, Sara Lizbinski, Becky Peterson, Lindsay Pfeifer, Natalie Pickelhaupt, Jill Richardson, Paula Shureb and Stacey Supanich, all of Livonia; goalie Tiffanie Hembrough, Westland; Jamie Jakacki, Farmington Hills; Julia DiPonio, Novi; Andrea Deshong, Becky Guibord, Jane Hefferan and Lindsay Theisen, all of Dearborn.

The Livonia YMCA Meteors, dominated girls play during the first season at the new Soccerzone, a multi-sport complex in Novi.

Division winners included the under-17 team, coached by Mike McGrath (7-1 record); under-16, coached by Bob Westfall (8-0); under-14, coached by Mike Peterson (8-0); and two under-10 teams by Doug Calvin and Jeff Bobo (8-0), respectively.

Collegiate note

Lines in the record book continue to fall for Army senior goaltender Daryl Chamberlain (Livonia Stevenson).

As he approaches the RPI holiday hockey tournament, Chamberlain ranks first in career shutouts (13), third in wins (47), fourth in saves (1,836), fifth in goals-against average (3.05) and eighth in save percentage (.887).

This season, Chamberlain is 6-6 with a 3.59 goals-against average.

The Cadets are 7-7 overall.



Season opener

Rockets blast off: Westland John Glenn started off the 1997-98 boys swim season with a 101-82 dual meet victory over rival Wayne Memorial. The Rockets were led by Ryan Zoumbaris (top photo), who captured the 200-yard freestyle in 1:57.03. He also won the 100 breaststroke and took part in two winning relay teams. Wayne's Sonny Webber (right photo) won the 200 individual medley in 2:26.5 and was on a winning 200 medley relay team. See more on page C3.



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

Patriots overcome slow start to vanquish rival

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

Despite Tuesday's game between inter-city rivals Livonia Franklin and Livonia Churchill being a non-leaguer, the contest still meant a lot to Brian Facione.

Facione, a senior forward for the Patriots, was very motivated for the game, thanks to the "trash talk" being spread.

"I heard them talking all week about how they were going to smoke us," Facione said. "I heard things like we were too small and too slow. We felt like we had something to prove."

It took Facione and his teammates a while to prove it, but the host Patriots walked the talk by trouncing the Chargers 67-52.

"Coaches never hear that talk, but the players are always looking for something to motivate themselves," Franklin coach Dan Robinson said.

Franklin improved to 2-1, while the Chargers slipped to 0-3.

Ten different Patriots scored, paced by senior guard Nick Mongeau, who netted a game-high 19 points while collecting six steals. Eddie Wallace poured in 14 points, including three triples, and Facione added six points, four blocks and three steals.

Senior forward Corey Cook led Churchill with 15 points (13 in the second half). Lamar Smith and Erik Uhlinger chipped in with 10 and nine points, respectively.

BOYS HOOPS

Robinson opted to start the game with Facione and several other regular starters on the bench after a group of players missed a Saturday practice.

The Chargers took advantage of Franklin's makeshift lineup by jumping out to a 12-3 lead. Churchill took control by forcing the Patriots into five straight turnovers with an aggressive full-court press.

"We came out a little flat and didn't handle their pressure very well," Robinson said.

The Patriots figured out the press and outscored Churchill 9-2 to end the first quarter to cut the deficit to 14-12.

It was the second consecutive game the Chargers squandered a sizeable lead.

On Friday, Churchill was leading Milford Lakeland 60-45 entering the fourth quarter, before losing 80-71.

"We've had a tendency the last two games to get a lead and then stop working," Churchill coach Rick Austin said. "We've let the other team back in the game. We have to learn that we have to play 32 minutes. We have some young players who will learn that with time."

Franklin owned the second quarter as Churchill fell apart.

The Chargers committed 14 of their 28 turnovers in the quarter and were outscored 24-9.

Glenn, Warriors garner 1st victories

Ty Haygood scored 14 points to lead Westland John Glenn to its first boys basketball game win of the season Tuesday against visiting Ann Arbor Huron, 52-48.

Stephan Lawson and Eric Jones each added nine points for the victorious Rockets, 1-2 overall.

Glenn led 27-21 at intermission and extended its lead to 46-34 after three quarters as Jason Crofton hit a pair of three-pointers to spark a 19-13 third-quarter surge.

Glenn won despite making only four of 16 free throws. Sophomore Matt Kohn led Adrian (1-2 overall) and all scorers with 19 points, 15 coming in the second half. He hit three triples.

Chris Howard added 19 points for the Maples, who trailed by as many as 14 during the final quarter before making an ill-fated late run.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 65, HARPER WOODS 48: Junior forward Thomas Habitz and senior guard Scott Randall each tallied 14 points Tuesday, leading Lutheran High Westland (1-2, 0-1) to its first win of the season against the host Pioneers (0-4, 0-1) in a Metro Conference encounter.

BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

The Warriors opened up a 30-21 halftime lead with a 19-9 second-quarter run.

"We got a few transition basketball and we switched defenses and I don't think they (Harper Woods) got as many good looks at the basket," Lutheran Westland coach Dan Ramthun said.

Senior center Jason James added 11 points for the winners. Habitz and Brad Woehike also pulled down nine rebounds apiece. The Warriors were 10 of 19 from the line, while Harper Woods was 11 of 14.

Senior guard Dino Sipsas led Harper Woods with 13 points.

HAMTRAMCK 89, CLARENCEVILLE 71: "We've never played so bad of defense," Livonia Clarenceville coach Rick Larson said.

Sophomore Eli Warren scored a game-high 22 points and teammate Jason Popov added 21 for the victorious Cosmos, now 2-1 overall and 2-0 in the Metro Conference.

Senior center Justin Villanueva scored 19 for Clarenceville (1-1, 0-1).

VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW



Michelle Berry
Clarenceville



Sarah Poglits
Ladywood

Tall order: Attacking mode lifts area teams

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

This could be the year of the big hitter in Observerland girls volleyball.

State Class A quarterfinalist Livonia Ladywood, 52-7 a year ago and six-time defending Catholic League champion, is already off to a 6-0 start thanks to the efforts of 6-foot-1 junior Jenny Young, who had 44 kills in Saturday's Midland Tournament.

And if that's not enough, Ladywood coach Tom Teeters has lefty and first-team All-Observer pick who has Division I potential.

Ladywood's stiffest challenge will come from Birmingham Marian, which handed the Blazers their first Central Division defeat in five years during a regular season match.

Marian is led by 6-1 lefty Kristy Krehner.

"Surprisingly the athletes we have are improving, but Marian has gotten a lot tougher," Teeters said. "We lost a lot from last year, but they have their top two back."

Another local team which reached the state quarterfinals last year was Livonia Clarenceville (28-13-1). The Trojans won last year's Metro Conference regular season title, but were upset in the playoffs before making a run in the state tourney.

The Trojans will be led by 6-1 senior middle-hitter Michelle Berry, a first-team All-Observer pick who has Division I potential.

"She realized what her weaknesses are and she's worked on them on her own — and that's a big step for someone her age," said Clarenceville coach Alisha Love, who was named Observerland Coach of the Year.

Berry's twin sister Melissa, also at 6-1, should give Clarenceville one of the top one-two blocks in the area. Melissa spent last year in Sweden as a foreign exchange student.

For Livonia Stevenson (28-9-4), the top attacker will be Stephanie Dultz, a 5-11 junior who was called up late last year from the JV squad. She gave Ladywood fits in last year's district final.

If Stevenson can contend in the Western Lakes Activities Association, the Spartans will have to surpass perhaps the area's top returning team — Plymouth Salem (49-5) — led by a trio of powerful hitters — 6-1 Amanda Abraham, 5-10 Angie Sillmon and 5-9 Jenny Trott.

Meanwhile, another Lakes Division team, Westland John Glenn (17-19-7) lost five starters, but will bank on pew-comer Noelle Swartz, a 5-10 sophomore.

In the Western Division of the WLAA, Livonia Franklin (19-19-10) figures to have its strongest team in recent memory.

Patriot coach Ann Hutchins, who just returned from officiating the NCAA Division II women's nationals, has a pair of top-line hitters in 5-10 senior captain Brooke Hensman and 5-11 sophomore Tera Morrill.

Livonia Churchill (26-1), guided by the dean of Observerland coaches — Mike Hughes, now in his 23rd season — will put a scrappy team on the floor.

Hughes, however, can rely on 5-9 senior outside hitter Jessica Sherman and 6-foot junior middle-hitter (from the right side) Lauren Ruprecht for some offensive attacking.

"This could be the most competitive year since I've been coaching," Hughes said. "Canton is the defending champion in our division and has a new coach (Cynthia Montgomery)."

Please see VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW, C3

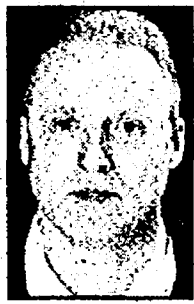
1997 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Hardwood heroes

Borgess star Smith leads way

By C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Selecting the best girls basketball team in Observerland wouldn't be any real problem: Redford Bishop Borgess lost once all season, rolling through the Class C state tournament with relative ease en route to its third state championship in five years.



Bob Blohm
Coach of Year

Which is why the Spartans' Aiysha Smith was selected as Miss Basketball, with some controversy.

Choosing the rest of the team wasn't so easy, simply because there was a lot to choose from. The teams that fared the best didn't do so on the shoulders of any single player. Depth of talent was the key element in successful seasons at Borgess, Plymouth Canton, Plymouth Salem, North Farmington and Farmington Harrison.

Selecting an Observerland coach of the year was also a difficult task. It might seem Borgess' Dave Mann is being penalized because he had a team so loaded with talent and wasn't our choice.

Instead, the honor goes to Canton's Bob Blohm.

It shouldn't be any real surprise, considering what Blohm's Chiefs accomplished this season. They won the Western Lakes Activities Association championship with an 11-0 record and defeated a very tough Salem squad en route to a district title.

Canton was 19-5 for the year and came within an eyelash of upsetting Birmingham Marian in the state regional final.

What makes all this more remarkable is that the Chiefs' biggest starter was 5-foot-8", Nkechi Okwumabua. Canton lacked size and was not a great offensive team, but Blohm's motion offense — which stressed patience — wore opponents down and put Canton in control. Which is why he was chosen. Now the rest of the team.

Mantyla. "She made great contributions to the program and her teammates."

Roble also earned fifth team all-state honors this season. Mantyla said she didn't have a bad game.

"She was a model of consistency," he commented.

Besides playing great offense, Roble new how to play defense, too. She averaged three steals per game and is the school's career leader in that category.

Roble is also the career leader in three-pointers with 85.

"She's very versatile," Mantyla said. "She could shoot from the perimeter, take it to the basket and post up."

Melissa Marzolf, 5-7 Sr., Plymouth Canton: Another four-year starter, Marzolf was part of a Canton team that needed everybody to do a bit of everything if it were to succeed.

The Chiefs did, coming within a possession or two of reaching the state quarterfinals. And Marzolf was a major reason why.

The team's second-leading scorer (10.5 points per game), Marzolf led Canton in assists (4.3 per game) and steals (2.7), and averaged five rebounds as well.

The Chiefs' career leader in points and steals, she also has more starts than anyone with 91. Canton was 73-20 during her career, winning three district championships and reaching the state semifinals once.

"She's great in the open court, she sees people and is a great passer," said Canton coach Bob Blohm. "She allowed people to get open and got the ball to them when they did."

"That kind of player fits in really well with us. She was a good decision-maker."

Marzolf has already signed to play at NCAA Division II Northwood University.

SECOND TEAM

Christina Anderson, 5-6 Sr., Bishop Borgess: A three-year starter, Anderson averaged 9.8 points, 6.0 assists, 4.2 steals and 4.2 rebounds per game. She made 43 percent of her field goal attempts, 61 percent at the free throw line.

"She probably enjoys playing more than anyone I've had," Mann said. "During the time she's on the floor she has a good time. She shows it, always smiling. She's a great, great guard with exceptionally quick hands. She's a good passer and shot the ball great toward the end of the year."

Andrea Pruett, 6-1 Jr., Plymouth Salem: What Pruett accomplished as a junior was, simply put, pave the road for what figures to be a very impressive senior season.

A threat in the low-post as a sophomore, Pruett showed improvement there, and also took her game outside more.

"Through the middle of the season, we spent time with her playing facing the basket," said Thomann. "So her perimeter game improved, and that made her a more complete player."

"She's already got a really nice inside game, and her facing-the-basket game is really getting better."

Thomann also called Pruett, who was second on the team in scoring (11.2 points) and rebounding (6.6), "a great defender and a good rebounder. I thought, by the end of the year, she was the kind of player who wanted the ball."

Nkechi Okwumabua, 5-9 Sr., Plymouth Canton: Okwumabua led an over-achieving Canton team in both scoring (11.6 points) and rebounding (7.0).

What made her production more remarkable was that she was forced to



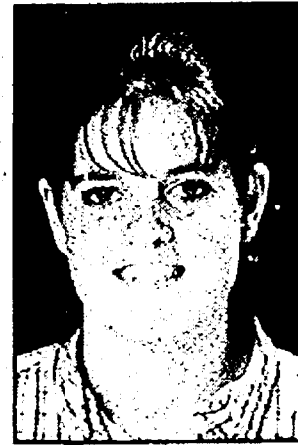
Aiysha Smith
Bishop Borgess



Amanda Abraham
Plymouth Salem



Koren Merchant
Bishop Borgess



Amy Roble
Farm, Hills Harrison



Melissa Marzolf
Plymouth Canton

FIRST TEAM



Christina Anderson
Bishop Borgess



Andrea Pruett
Plymouth Salem



Nkechi Okwumabua
Plymouth Canton



Sarah Poglits
Livonia Ladywood



Kellee Fournier
North Farmington

2ND TEAM

play center against teams with far bigger players at that position.

"She did a great job getting open," said Blohm. "She's just a great athlete. Her athletic ability and her ability to get out in the open court really put pressure on opposing defenses."

"She also did a great job on defense for us. She and (Marzolf) led our team in deflections defensively."

A statistic even more impressive concerning Okwumabua is her 4.0 grade-point average. That will take her on an academic scholarship to the University of Michigan.

Sarah Poglits, 6-0 Sr., Livonia Ladywood: Helped lead Ladywood to the regional finals and a 12-13 overall record.

The Catholic League All-Central Division pick finished the year averaging 12.5 points, seven rebounds, and 1.5 blocks per game. Poglits shot 49 percent from the field and 72 percent from the free throw line.

In five state tournament games, Poglits stepped up her game by averaging 17 points, seven rebounds, while shooting 56 percent from the field and 87 percent from the line. Her best outing was against Livonia Stevenson with 22 points (on 11 of 15 shooting), eight rebounds, five blocks, five assists and

two steals.

"Sarah was a lot more aggressive offensively this year," Livonia coach Andrea Gorski said. "She was coach's good shooter. When she got the ball inside she was committed to scoring."

Poglits, who committed to Loyola Chicago to play volleyball, carries a 3.9 grade-point average.

Kellee Fournier, 5-6 Sr., North Farmington: The Raiders were one of the area's most improved teams this year. Fournier was one of the reasons why.

"Her senior leadership on the floor was tremendous," North Farmington coach Linda Perkins said. "She was always in the right place on offense and defense."

Fournier was a varsity player for four years for the Raiders.

At shooting guard this season, she averaged in double figures while connecting on 34 percent of her three-point attempts.

Fournier also averaged better than two steals per game and nearly four rebounds.

"I think she played the best she has ever played this season," Perkins said. "She's been a tremendous player to coach."

"Every year she developed more court sense. She had a great senior season."

1997 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Aiysha Smith, 6-1 Sr. Borgess
 Andrea Abraham, 6-1 Sr. Salem
 Koren Merchant 6-0 Sr. Borgess
 Amy Roble 5-8 Sr. Harrison
 Melissa Marzolf 5-7 Sr. Canton

SECOND TEAM

Christina Anderson 5-6 Sr. Borgess
 Tera Pruett 6-2 Jr. Salem
 Nkechi Okwumabua 5-9 Sr. Canton
 Sarah Poglits 6-1 Sr. Ladywood
 Kellee Fournier 5-6 Sr. N. Farmington

THIRD TEAM

Samantha McComb 5-7 Fr. N. Farm.
 Tera Morrill 5-11 Soph. Franklin
 Tiffany Gubough 5-8 Soph. Salem
 Kacie Mathena 5-8 Sr. Redford Union
 Mahogany Fletcher 5-8 Sr. Harrison

FOURTH TEAM

Tonya Crawford 5-11 Jr. Wayne
 Jessie Brennan 5-9 Jr. Mercy
 Kristin Lukasik 5-7 Sr. Canton
 Tiffany Simon 5-9 Jr. Borgess
 Kersten Conklin 5-9 Jr. Churchill

COACH OF THE YEAR

Bob Blohm Plymouth Canton

HONORABLE MENTION

Redford Bishop Borgess: Shermaine Drake; Plymouth Canton: Kristin Mayer, Janell Twietmeyer; Plymouth Salem: Christine Phillips, Bree Pastalanec; Farmington Hills Harrison: Ari Ault, Amy Jenkins, Kaitlin Knutson; North Farmington: Melissa Gratz, Katie Vihetic; Livonia Ladywood: Erin Hayden, Jeni Lechappelle, Kelly Jeffrey, Cheryl Wroblewski; Farmington Hills: Susie Roble, Ashley Schumacher, Kelly Moug, Katie Van Leeuwen; Livonia Stevenson: Carolyn Courtright, Stephanie Dug; Lindsy Gustick; Livonia Churchill: Tony Owens, Stacey Supanich; Wayne Memorial: Erica Davis, Natalie Garrison, Beth Mollitor; Livonia Franklin: Lori Jendrusik, Julie Warner; Westland John Glenn: Rhea Amad, Latoya Chandler, Samantha Crews; Farmington: Beth Jager, Jamie Jaskocki; Garden City: Sarah Talbot, Missy Bakko, Shannon Faber; Redford Union: Katie Thomson, Laura Hillison; Redford Thurston: Kelly Grenan, Christie Koester; Redford St. Agatha: Katie Miller, Chris Woods; Lutheran Westland: Anna Schewecke, Rebekah Hoffmeier, Kiera Decker; Livonia Clarensville: Danielle Sledz, Michelle Berry; Westland Huron Valley Lutheran: Sara Tacia; Plymouth Christian Academy: Liz Pugno, Jenny Sutherland; Canton Agape Christian: Kim Ther, Margie Henry.

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CC wins 3-1; Royal Oak tops Spartans, 6-2

Redford Catholic Central improved to 3-0-1 overall with a 3-1 victory Saturday night over Wyandotte Roosevelt in a Michigan Metro High School Hockey League game played at Redford Ice Arena.

ROYAL OAK 6, STEVENSON 2: Tim Atkins and Kevin Ayers each scored twice Saturday to lead host Royal Oak to the victory.

"It was one of those nights, we hit the post three times and the nob of the goalie's stick on another," said Livonia Stevenson coach Mike Harris, whose team fell to 6-3 over-

PREP HOCKEY

all. The Spartans are 6-0 in the South Division of the SHSL. Royal Oak led 6-1 after two periods. John May gave Stevenson a 1-0 lead. Jeff Lang added a third-period power-play goal for Stevenson. Lang, Darin Fawkes and Ryan Sinks had assists. The Spartans' Chris McComb worked in goal the first two periods before giving way to Matt McLeod.

Seder, Rose co-MVPs at GC

Individual accomplishments took center stage last Saturday in the 33rd Garden City Christmas Wrestling Tournament.

Livonia Stevenson's Dan Seder (135 pounds) and Livonia Clarenceville's Craig Rose (160) took home titles and were named lower weights and upper weights most valuable wrestlers, respectively.

Northville captured the team title with 215 1/2 points with Stevenson taking second with 139.

Other area schools finishing included Clarenceville, seventh; Westland John Glenn, eighth; Livonia Churchill, 11th; Livonia Franklin, 12th, and Lutheran High Westland, 15th. See statistical summary.

Seder, a senior, is now 8-0 on the season. He pinned Lutheran Westland's Andy Ebendick in 3:35 to win the title. Seder was also selected MVP the previous week after capturing his weight

PREP WRESTLING

class in the Trenton Tournament (Dec. 6).

"Dan is one of the hardest working kids I've ever met," Stevenson assistant coach Bob Moreau said. "His hard work is paying off."

Stevenson also won two other individual titles at GC — senior Katsuhiko Sueda (112) and senior Jeff Brach (145). Both are 8-1 on the year.

Brach, who won his 98th career match, decided Churchhill sophomore Mike Carter in the final, 5-3.

Senior Chris Goins (119) added a second for the Spartans and his 8-1 overall, while junior Joe Moreau (103) finished third to tie his record to 7-2. Brian Barker (160) added a sixth.

Other top finishers for Stevenson at the McIntosh Tournament in Trenton included Goins, first;

Sueda and Brach, second; Moreau and Barker, third; and Nick Coffman, sixth (140).

Rose, a senior for Clarenceville, became the first GC Tournament champ in school history with a 16-5 victory over Jeff Neese of Dearborn Heights Annapolis in the final.

It was also the second straight week Rose has been named tournament MVP after winning the River Rouge Invitational (Dec. 6).

Other Clarenceville finishers include Dave Lemmon (130), second; Dan Tondreau (103) and Walter Ragland (189), fourth; Eric Tondreau (103), fifth; and Tony Rachoza, sixth (152).

Westland John Glenn sophomore Jake Tharp (215) was also an individual champ with teammate John Fedulchak (152) taking second.

Churchill's Vinnie Ascione (171) was a runner-up, while Franklin's Aaron Haddad (135) took third.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING RESULTS

33rd annual GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 215 1/2 points. 2. Livonia Stevenson, 139; 3. Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 135; 4. Dearborn Fordson and Garden City, 132; 6. Melvindale, 108; 7. Livonia Clarenceville, 100; 8. Westland John Glenn, 99; 9. Monroe, 97; 10. Dearborn, 82; 11. Livonia Churchill, 79; 12. Livonia Franklin, 75; 13. Dearborn Divine Child, 69; 14. Inkster, 50; 15. Lutheran Westland, 45; 16. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 41; 17. Redford Union, 27.

FINAL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Heavyweight: Johnson (Monroe) d. Barrett (Annapolis), 10-0; **consolation:** Bowersox (Northville) d. Meyer (Lutheran Westland), 15-0; **fifth place:** Wright (Redford Union) p. Yoches (Divine Child), 3-30.

103 pounds: Sayn (Garden City) d. Tarow (Northville), 4-2 (overtime); **consolation:** Moreau (Stevenson) d. Tondreau (Clarenceville), 15-0; **fifth place:** Haddad (Annapolis) p. Gossiauk (Divine Child), 0-54.

112: Sueda (Stevenson) d. Munassar (Melvindale), 7-4; **consolation:** Nowitzke (Monroe) d. Arbuckle (Northville), 7-6; **fifth place:** Phillips (Annapolis) p. Bellows (Garden City), 1-30.

119: Torrence (Northville) p. Goins (Stevenson), 4-30; **consolation:** Vasiloff (Churchill) d. Berry (Melvindale), 10-4; **fifth place:** Zoccol (Garden City) p. Hartley (Dearborn), 3-20.

125: Saran (Northville) p. Dydik (Divine Child), 13-4; **consolation:** Sulaver (Dearborn) d. Franklin (Inkster) 19-4; **fifth place:** Tondreau (Clarenceville) d. Leask (Monroe), 10-2.

130: Hamka (Fordson) d. Lemmon (Clarenceville), 9-2; **consolation:** Torrence (Northville) p. Weyher (Monroe), 1:48; **fifth place:** Azzopardi (Franklin) d. Gismond (John Glenn), 18-0.

135: Seder (Stevenson) p. Ebendick (Lutheran Westland), 3:35; **consolation:** Haddad (Franklin) d. Neumann (Northville), 9-3; **fifth place:** Atwood (Garden City) d. Gooch (Monroe), 9-0.

140: Alvarado (Dearborn) p. Fee (Garden City), 3:35; **consolation:** Fry (Franklin) p. Denton (Divine Child), 4:30; **fifth place:** Scappaticci (Northville) d. Misud (Melvindale), 14-0.

145: Brach (Stevenson) d. Carter (Churchill), 5-3; **consolation:** Provost (John Glenn) p. Arington (Dearborn), 3:00; **fifth place:** Litchner (Annapolis) p. Jackson (Inkster), 1:06.

152: Evans (Fordson) defeated Fedulchak (John Glenn) on forfeit; **consolation:** Braden (Monroe) d. Betz (Melvindale), 3-1; **fifth place:** LaPointe (Churchill) p. Rachoza (Clarenceville), 4-03.

160: Rose (Clarenceville) d. Neese (Annapolis), 16-5; **consolation:** Majed (Fordson) d. McCracken (Northville), 8-6 (overtime); **fifth place:** Panczynsyn (Churchill) d. Barker (Stevenson), 4-3.

171: Hinzman (Garden City) d. Ascione (Churchill), 8-5; **consolation:** Fakhouri (Melvindale) d. Wizinsky (Crestwood) 8-5; **fifth**

place: Giles (Northville) d. Rahman (Fordson), 4-0.

189: Alqirsh (Fordson) d. Grider (Northville), 24-11; **consolation:** Wales (Annapolis) p. Ragland (Clarenceville), 2-15; **fifth place:** Myslinski (Franklin) defeated Borrys (Crestwood) by default.

215: Tharp (John Glenn) d. Essa (Fordson), 18-10; **consolation:** Jay (Melvindale) p. Dietz (Annapolis), 2-30; **fifth place:** Livandos (Northville) pinned Fawaz (Dearborn), 0-36.

MOST VALUABLE WRESTLERS

Lower weights: Dan Seder (Stevenson). **Upper weights:** Craig Rose (Clarenceville).

DUAL MEET RESULTS

LIVONIA STEVENSON 51
LIVONIA FRANKLIN 18
Dec. 15 at Franklin

103: Josh Gunterman (LS) p. Lee Warren, 1:22; **112:** Joe Moreau (LS) won by void; **119:** Katsuhiko Sueda (LS) won by void; **125:** Chris Goins (LS) won by void; **130:** Derek Azzopardi (LF) p. Chris Cooperider 2:45; **135:** Dan Seder (LS) won by technical fall over Aaron Haddad, 18-3; **140:** David Fry (LF) def. Mike Falzon, 10-6; **145:** Jeff Brach (LS) def. Ryan Shiplett, 13-4; **152:** Nick Coffman (LS) p. Alan Duff, 3:28; **160:** Brian Barker (LS) p. Eric Toska, 3:41; **171:** Joe Montz (LF) def. Mike Radley, 17-15; **189:** Steve Myslinski (LF) p. Waleed Haddad, 2-30; **215:** Double void; **275:** George Tsoukales (LS) p. Dan Sorensen, 1-19; **Stevenson's dual meet record:** 1-0.

Druken hat trick leads Plymouth Whalers, 8-4

Harold Druken got a goal in each period Sunday, helping the Plymouth Whalers romp past the Toronto St. Michaels Majors 8-4 in an Ontario Hockey League match.

Druken's three goals gave him 13 for the season. David Legwand, the Whalers' rookie sensation, pushed his point total to 59 — one behind OHL leader Peter Sarno of Windsor.

Legwand had two goals against Toronto, including the game-winner, giving him an OHL-best 36 for the season. Julian Smith added a goal and two assists, Luc Rioux had a goal and an assist, Jamie LaLonde scored a goal, and Andrew Taylor and Shaun Fisher each picked up two assists.

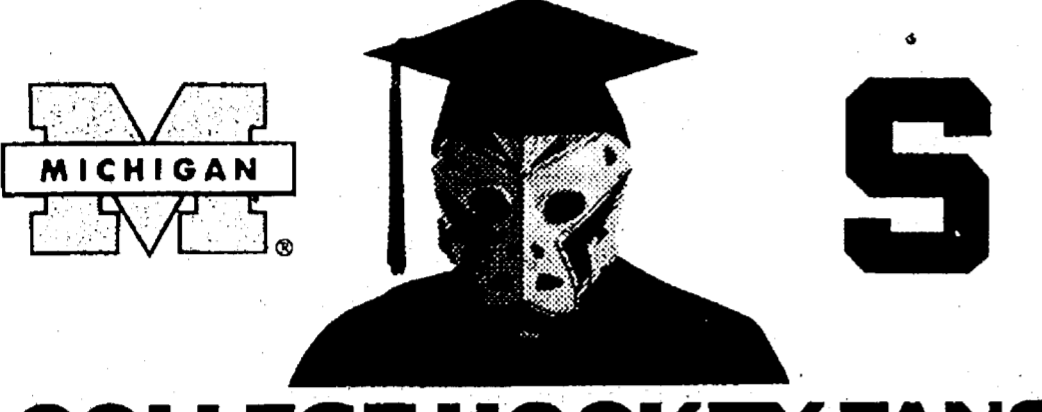
Robert Esche was in goal for Plymouth, making 19 saves to

improve his record to 16-5-1; he has a 3.06 goals-against average with an 88.9 save percentage.

The win pushed the Whalers' record to 18-9-3; their 39 points puts them second in the OHL's West Division to the London Knights (20-10-1, 41 points), who have played two more games.

Last Friday, Plymouth lost at Sudbury.

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COLLEGIATE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Ocelot fever!

Schoolcraft (8-2) topples Grand Rapids, 77-71

The doubters are dwindling. And after Saturday's thrilling, come-from-behind 77-71 overtime victory over highly-regarded Grand Rapids CC, the ranks of the Schoolcraft College men's basketball doubters have become slim indeed.

The Ocelots ran their record to 8-2 with their second victory this season over GRCC, which slipped to 6-3.

"It showed character to come back and beat a good team like that," said SC coach Carlos Briggs. "The kids showed a lot of pride and heart."

Emeka Okonkwo drained a three-pointer with 1:30 left to tie the game. In overtime, the Ocelots outscored GRCC 11-5 to win easily.

SC trailed 34-23 at the half. "We got off to a slow start, then in the second half we picked it up defensively," Briggs explained.

Part of that defensive adjustment included a 1-3-1 half-court zone that "took them out of their offense," Briggs said. "We kept switching defenses, and that kept them off-balance."

Kevin Melson, the third-leading scorer in the NJCAA Division I (28.7 points per game), led SC with 28 points and 16 rebounds. Okonkwo added 18 points, Dave Jarrett (from Westland John Glenn) scored 10 and grabbed 10 rebounds, Pete Males (Garden City) totaled 10 points and six assists, and Jimar Eddins collected eight points and 10 boards.

Damion Powell's 16 points paced GRCC; Delshan Adams added 15.

SC hit 23-of-47 from the field (49 percent) and grabbed 45 rebounds, 21 of those offensive.

The Ocelots are averaging 101.1 points per game, seven-best in the NJCAA.

In other area college action.

•ST. MARY'S 73, MADONNA 63 (Men): Orchard Lake St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake built an eight-point lead by halftime and held off a Madonna second-half comeback in a game played Monday in Livonia.

The loss dropped the Crusaders to 1-11.

Poor shooting was the biggest factor in the Crusaders' loss. They converted 24-of-65 shots from the floor (36.9 percent) compared to St. Mary's 28-of-58 (48.3 percent). In addition, Madonna made just 3-of-17 three-point tries (17.6 percent); the Eagles were 4-of-10 (40 percent).

A Nick Hurley (from Plymouth Canton) layup with 11:19 left in the first half gave Madonna a 16-9 lead, its biggest of the game. St. Mary's answered with eight-straight points to start a 19-6 run, a run that would give the Eagles the lead for good.

The closest Madonna got in the first half was 28-27 on a Erick Giovannini (Livonia Stevenson) three-pointer with 4:31 left. During the remainder of the half, the Eagles outpointed Madonna 13-6.

In the second half, the closest the Crusaders got was 44-41 on another Giovannini triple with 16:51 left. St. Mary's answered with a 13-2 run, and it was never close after that.

Giovannini finished with a team-high 14 points; he also had five rebounds. Hurley totaled 13 points, four boards, three assists and three steals, while Narvin Russaw collected 11 points, 10 rebounds and three steals.

For St. Mary's, Pierre Brown led the way with 17 points; he also had three steals. Kevin Spencer scored 16 points, Jason Karyl got 11 points and 12 boards, and Shawn Hurt totaled 10 points, seven boards, six assists and three steals.

•FERRIS STATE 92, MADONNA 62 (women): A poor first half put the Lady Crusaders into a hole they could not climb out of Monday in Big Rapids.

The loss was Madonna's second in a row, dropping the Crusaders to 6-4. Ferris is 6-3.

Madonna hit just 8-of-33 floor shots in the first half (24.2 percent) and trailed 51-24 at the break. The Lady Bulldogs were 20-of-34 (58.8 percent) in the opening half.

Katie Cushman's 16 points paced Madonna. Chris Dietrich had 13 and Dawn Pelc scored 11.

Ferris was paced by Valerie Scott's 20 points. Julie Anthony added 15. Heather Rozneck scored 13 and Tianna Kirkland got 11, as 14 of 15 of the Bulldogs played and scored.

•LAKE SUPERIOR 78, MADONNA 62 (women): Again, a poor start proved costly to Madonna as Lake Superior State used a 45-21 first-half barrage to propel it to the win Saturday in Sault Ste. Marie.

Lori Enfield, a freshman center, was one of the few bright spots for the Lady Crusaders. Enfield came off the bench and in just 10 minutes of action, hit 8-of-14 shots to score a team-high 17 points. She also grabbed six rebounds.

Chris Dietrich added 11 points and Katie Cushman collected 10 points, nine assists and two steals.

For Lake Superior, four players reached double-figures in scoring: Jill VanderEnde with 20, Becky Murray with 18 (and 11 rebounds), Heather Bertram with 13 (and 11 assists) and Holly Hockin with 12.

Madonna was outrebounded, 45-33.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 18
Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Ypsi Lincoln at Farmington, 7 p.m.
N. Farmington at Milford, 7 p.m.
Harrison at Riv. Richard, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19
West Wayne at Agape, 6:45 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Luth. N'west, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Ypsilanti, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Wyandotte, 7 p.m.
Lincoln Park at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Allen Park at Thurston, 7 p.m.
Canton at A.A. Pioneer, 7 p.m.
Redford CC at O.L. St. Mary, 7:30 p.m.
Immaculate at St. Agatha, 7:30 p.m.
Huron Valley vs. St. Alphonsus at Marshall Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Dec. 20
Madonna at Northwood, 1 p.m.
Kellogg at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 19
Tiffin (Ohio) at Madonna, 7 p.m.
S'craft at Macomb Tourney, TBA.
Saturday, Dec. 20
Tiffin (Ohio) vs. Kalamazoo at Madonna Tourney, 3 p.m.
S'craft at Macomb Tourney, TBA.
Sunday, Dec. 21
Kalamazoo at Madonna, 2 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Thursday, Dec. 18
Redford Union vs. U-D Jesuit at Redford Ice Arena, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19

Franklin vs. Stevenson at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20
Redford CC vs. Brother Rice at Compuare Arena, 3:45 p.m.
Churchill at Dearborn, 8 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 18
Ply. Whalers at Windsor, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20
Ply. Whalers vs. North Bay at Compuare Arena, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Friday, Dec. 19
West Wayne at Agape, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20
Taylor Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
DeTS CC Invitational, 9 a.m.
USA Tourney at Grand Rapids, TBA.

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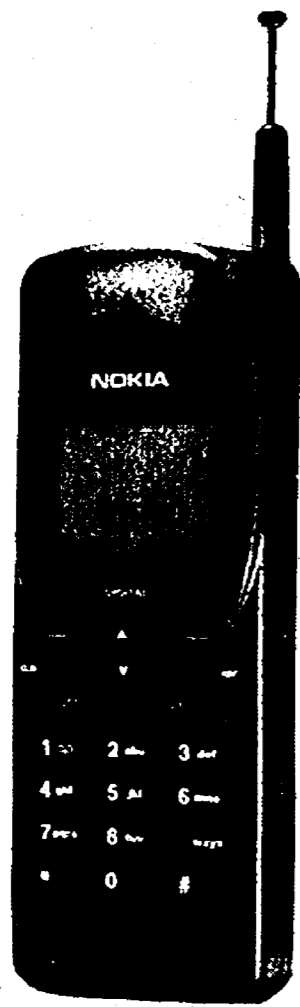
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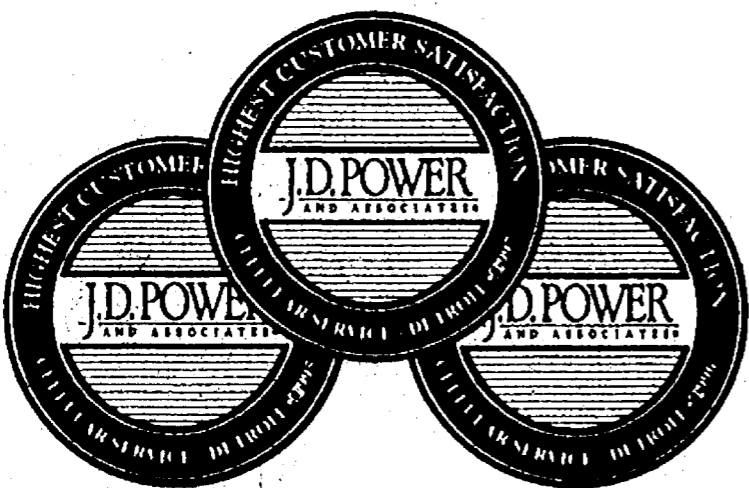
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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Amy Grant Christmas 7:30 p.m. at The Palace, 2 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, with guests Michael W. Smith and CeCe Winans and the Nashville Symphony. Tickets \$34.50, \$27.50 and \$24.50, (248) 645-6666.

SATURDAY



Blessid Union of Souls and InDrama perform at The Palladium, 17580 Frazho Road, Roseville. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. (810) 778-6404.

SUNDAY



Detroit Symphony Orchestra with guest artists and members of Dance Detroit perform "The Nutcracker" ballet, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets \$14-\$53 adults, \$10-\$24 children and seniors, (313) 833-3700.



Hot tix: Holiday Doll Show 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 at Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St., features new, used, antique and collectible dolls, Teddy Bears, stuffed animals, doll-house supplies and miniatures, (313) 455-2110.

Otter-knapping: Detroit Zoo staff spent nearly 20 minutes looking for Mack, a five-year-old river otter in the new exhibit. Mack eventually was found fast asleep. Here, he pauses between laps in the pool.



After the last prettily wrapped package is opened and the excitement of celebrating the holidays diminishes, one very special gift remains - time to spend with family, friends and other loved ones.

From visiting the new otter exhibit at the Detroit Zoo to learning about motors or viewing the first American race car to win an international competition, enjoy an educational adventure together.

Here's a few suggestions as to the learning experiences you can share:

Detroit Zoo

Otters, otters everywhere but not an otter in sight. That was the case last week at the new river otter exhibit as the Detroit Zoo staff searched in vain for the silky-coated creatures.

Finally Mack was spotted sleeping in a cozy spot behind a fallen tree. But Chirp, the female otter was nowhere to be found. It seems she and Mack need some time to get used to one another so only one of them at a time are allowed in the new exhibit. Eventually the two, 5-year-old mammals will share the \$700,000 home designed to mimic their natural environment.

Learning Experiences

■ Detroit Zoo
8450 West 10 Mile Road and Woodward, Royal Oak, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, \$7.50 adults, \$5.50 seniors/students, \$4.50 children ages two to 12, (248) 398-0903.

■ Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village
20900 Oakwood Boulevard and Village Road, Dearborn, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, \$12.50 adults, \$11.50 seniors over age 62, \$6.25 children ages five to 12, members free, (313) 271-1620.

■ Cranbrook Institute of Science
1221 North Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, until 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, \$7 adults, \$4 seniors/children, planetarium shows an additional \$1. Laser show an additional \$2, (248) 645-3200.

interaction with people," said Kagan. "And because it's a Michigan animal, it's always fun to see an animal you can relate to."

The staff designed the waterfall, evergreens, rocks and pool to simulate the wetland environment where river otters live. The project was funded nearly in its entirety by the family of Edward Mardigian Sr., an enthusiast devoted to the preservation of wildlife.

"You can't go wrong if you recreate nature,"

SEASON'S A TIME FOR SHARING WITH

'Otters'

LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HOFMEYER

Otter Antics: Detroit Zoo director Ron Kagan loves watching the acrobatics of the river otters in the new Edward Mardigian Sr. Exhibit.

said Kagan. "Part of the view was developed for kids in strollers so they can see into the water."

Interpretive displays help visitors learn about the river otters' habitat, diet and unique characteristics like the clear membrane protecting the eyes and allowing the otter to see underwater. The otters are usually fed at the end of the day as an incentive for them to end their frolicking and leave the pool. In the wild, their menu includes frogs, crayfish, clams and slower fish such as sunfish and carp. Here at the zoo, the otters eat live fish, mostly trout and minnows.

"What's unique about the otter is this is a predator working in three dimensions not just two dimensions like a lion or tiger and you get to see that because it's an underwater exhibit," said Kagan.

The nice part for visitors is that they can view the otters either indoors or out regardless of the weather. Kagan presses the buttons on an interactive display. One by one the sounds of a bullfrog, great horned owl and blue heron create a wetland symphony.

"Part of the idea was to create more indoor exhibits so people realize this is a wonderful place to be in the winter," said Kagan. "You'd never be able to see otters underwater in the wild."

The goal is to make the zoo a year-round facility. Kagan encourages people to take advantage of the indoor exhibits of reptiles, penguins, birds, giraffe and snow monkeys currently in existence.

"A lot of the animals like the Siberian tiger are

more active in the winter," said Kagan. "A few winters ago my most unique experience was a couple of wolverines who were laying on the ground making snow angels."

Future exhibits planned for the zoo include Frog World, a new home for amphibians and the "Ring of Life," an arctic environment scheduled to open in 1999 as a holiday present to the community.

"It will be the largest polar bear exhibit in the world, four acres of tundra and packed ice with a 100-foot glass tunnel underwater," said Kagan. "The polar bears will swim all around you."

The zoo celebrates its 70th anniversary in 1998 with a big birthday party and numerous events scheduled all year long. What better gift to give a family member or friend than to adopt an animal. The Wildlife Preservers Program allows animal lovers to choose one of more than 100 species of mammals, reptiles, fish, birds, and amphibians. For a \$45 donation, the recipient will receive a bean bag animal in a take-home crate. Proceeds are used for veterinary care, exhibit renovations, educational classes and seminars. Call (248) 541-5717.

After the zoo closes for the evening, there's still plenty of activity. "Wild Lights" dazzles visitors with more than 50 animated animals displays and 350,000 lights 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 5:30-9p.m. Friday-Saturday through Jan. 4. Admission is \$3 adults, \$2 children ages two to 12.

Please see **OTTERS, E2**

DANCE

'Tap Dogs' back with in-your-face dancing

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Dance has been having a renaissance the last two years, especially tap dance.

"Tap Dogs" proved so popular last February that it is back again at the Detroit Opera House, Dec. 26 to Jan. 4, with a different touring company. The two "Dogs" companies are dubbed Spot and Rover.

This time the Australian show will have an American flavor as four of the six dancers are from the United States.

Anthony LoCascio, 25, was teaching dance in the Howard Beach section of Queens, New York, when he found out about "Tap Dogs" on the Internet.

"I went down for an audition. Actually, my audition lasted four or five days, but I got the part," he said in his distinctive New York accent. "I made the group in April of this year, rehearsed for two weeks and did my first show May 1, off Broadway at the Union Square Theatre."

Since then, LoCascio's troupe has been crisscrossing North America - New York, Los Angeles, Hawaii, St. Louis, Milwaukee to Montreal, where he was reached by phone.

"Tap Dogs" is the brainchild of Australian choreographer Dein Perry. The show was an immediate hit when it premiered in Sydney in 1995, then

played to raves in Edinburgh and London. Following a March opening at the Union Square (where a company continues to perform), Perry won a Drama Desk nomination for choreography and the show won a 1997 Obie Award (given to off-Broadway productions). Perry's brother, Sheldon Perry, is the lead dancer in the touring company coming to the Opera House.

LoCascio said the interest in dance has been coming for a long time and "long overdue."

He said three hit shows define different approaches - from Savion Glover's tribute to old style tap in "Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk" to the Irish traditional step dancing of "Riverdance" to the hard edge of "Tap Dogs."

"Bring in 'da Noise' is like the history of tap, a

Tap Dogs

What: Heavy duty tap dancing to a rock beat.

Where: Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.

When: Dec. 26 to Jan. 4, 8 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 7 p.m. Sundays.

Tickets: range from \$22.50 to \$36. Available at Fisher Theatre Box Office, Ticketmaster. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666. For information, call (313) 872-1000.

little more subtle with a message behind the story that you have to listen for," LoCascio said. "We're more in your face, more like a rock concert. We're going to give you everything we've got for 70 minutes. We're going to work and sweat and in time with each other. Audiences are definitely entertained and want us to keep going after we're done."

Sweat and hard work are the theme of this masculine dance show. The setting is a construction site.

"We get to build the set we dance on. It's a construction site. By the time we're done, we've built the set," LoCascio said.

In a solo number, LoCascio said he taps on a metal surface which creates an unusual rhythm, lighter than when dancing on a wood floor. In another number, the dancers tap up a metal ladder and come down on a metal plate. In another number, a dancer dances upside down.

The audiences have been enthusiastic. "Sometimes they're kicking, screaming and hollering through the whole thing and other times they're very quiet because they've never seen anything like this, and when it's over they give us big standing ovation," LoCascio said.



Heavy metal tap: The dancing in "Tap Dogs" has been called "testosterone tap" with its emphasis on masculine moves and heavy sweating.

Please see **TAP DOGS, E2**

Marquis Theatre 's 'Aladdin' a pleasure to treasure

"Aladdin" is now playing at the Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main Street, downtown Northville. Show times 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays until Jan. 25. Weekday performances 2:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 29-31; and Fridays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. Tickets, \$6.50, call (248) 349-8110.

BY LIBBY PRYSBY
SPECIAL WRITER

Take a well-known fairy tale, add talented actors, a beautiful set, great costumes, slapstick humor and joyous melodies - the product - an enjoyable performance by the Marquis Theatre.

"Aladdin" is a pleasure for young and old to treasure. The actors are of varying ages, and have experience on stage. Donald Donnelley, 19 of Livonia, who plays the title role of Aladdin, shows excitement and energy from beginning to end.

Talent must be contagious because another actor, Ghanghus D. Goins, 28 of Westland, who plays the "generous genie," does a splendid job. His exaggerated gestures and silly humor brings

the musical to life. Goins interacts well with the children and other characters on stage. He is an excellent addition to the cast.

Other adult actors that give to the performance are Steve Tadevic of Livonia, Magician Jackie Abercrombie, Aladdin's mother; Robert "Bobo" Lozelle, Sultan; Kathleen Coleman-Lozelle, Princess Jasmine.

Not only does this production have talented adult actors, but talented young thespians also highlight this fine performance. Sarah Kipperman of Farmington who plays Tareye, does a fantastic job on the stage. Kipperman, a fifth grader, shows a natural ability and is of good quality.

Many other children are a part of Aladdin's adventure as people in the marketplace and dancers. It is also nice to see the adults and children working hand in hand on such a wonderful production.

The set of "Aladdin" is another aspect to admire. The dreary cave and stunning palace scenes are just two of the different yet

interesting designs. The sets seem to whisk the audience off to a faraway land hundreds of years ago.

Creative costumes only add to this fabulous production. Exquisite fabrics and feathered pieces show what time and effort went into this production.

One of the most entertaining parts of this terrific performance is the lively music and singing. The actors sing with joy and move with rhythm which entrances the audience. Children love to see dancing and hear music and singing, so this should surely entertain any child.

For such a wide variety of ages and talent, "Aladdin" by the Marquis Theatre should be on the top of everyone's list. It is fun and low-priced entertainment for all to enjoy.

Libby Prysby, a junior at Groves High School in Birmingham, has been involved in children's and community theater for over 10 years.



Children's presentation: Sultan (Robert "Bobo" Lozelle, top left to right), Genie (Ghanghus D. Goins), Princess Jasmine (Kathleen Coleman-Lozelle, left to right) and Aladdin (Donald Donnelley) star in the Marquis Theatre production of "Aladdin."

CHRISTINA ZAVIT

Otters from page E1

"The lights are fun, and especially with the snow, it's beautiful," said Kagan.

Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

Experience the thrill of racing while learning about the first American race car to win the 1908 Vanderbilt cup in a display created by Exhibit Works of Livonia. Old 16, designed by Andrew Riker for the Locomobile Co., cost \$20,000 and still has

the original paint.

"It was a milestone that an American automobile won an international competition against the Europeans," said Jim Notarianni, project manager at Exhibit Works. "The exhibit is an introspective look at the excitement of racing at a time when two people were needed to run the car. There were no seat belts or a windshield so they wore masks because the car was capable of going over 100 miles an hour."

Exhibit Works designed the track underneath the car and the background, a 25-foot mural painted after a vintage photograph of the Long Island Race Track. Academy Award-winning producer Sue Marx created a film about the legendary race car that's part of the display.

"This was a time when only 200,000 cars were on the road, the average house cost \$2,500 and a Ford Model T was \$900," said Notarianni.

Cranbrook Institute of Science

Visitors to the Experiment Gallery are invited to become a scientist and explore, observe, tinker or dabble at 26 "investigation stations" that feature a variety of scientific principles of electricity, light and optics, mechanics, oscillators and resonance, pendulums, waves and weather. Lab assistants help visitors with experiments and discuss their findings. The exhibit continues through Jan. 4.

Created by the Science Museum of Minnesota as a fun and informal way to introduce the physical sciences, the Experiment Gallery appeals to people of all ages.

Discover how motors, lamps and resistors work at the electricity bench. Change the seasons by using a computer model to alter how the earth and sun interact. Generate, observe and filter sound waves with the assistance of musical synthesiz-

ers or the human voice. Make telescopes and microscopes using lenses and light.

Before leaving Cranbrook, be sure to stop by "Microscapes: the Hidden Art of High Technology" to see how everyday objects take on unrecognizable and artistic appearances when magnified. This series of photographs, taken through high-powered microscopes, reveals the beauty and mystery of the world of science.

Tap Dogs from page E1

Critics have called the show "sexy and sweaty" but LoCascio said no one has compared it yet to the hit "dance" movie "The Full Monty."

"We don't do a 'full monty' (frontal nudity), though a couple guys do take their shirts off. We work hard and it's hot up there and guys will take their shirts off. After all, we are on a con-

struction site, but we wear tap shoes," LoCascio said with a laugh.

For LoCascio, dancing has been a lifelong pursuit.

"When I was 2 years old I wasn't allowed to dance in the house unless I danced to the rhythm of the music. My father taught me how to listen to the rhythm," he said.

DANCE

He began dance lessons when he was 4 and has been teaching dance for the last five years. He said he enjoys when he can come into a city and arrange master classes with other dancers in the group. And he looks forward to a time when the show has finished its tour

and he can return to his first love.

"I'd like to go back to New York and teach, open a dance studio somewhere in New York or New Jersey," LoCascio said. "I enjoy performing a lot, but overall I want to teach. I like teaching kids, they're a lot of fun."

And the more kids LoCascio teaches, the longer the tap revival will continue.

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FINE ARTS

Student artists give holidays a different spin

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

On the computer screen of your mind, what icons appear when you think of the holidays? OK, it's a loaded question. (I'm even assuming that you're running Windows in your head - if Bill Gates hasn't gotten hold of your synapses yet...) But on tonight's Backstage Pass at 9:30 p.m. on Detroit Public Television, we'll see how a group of artists tackled the perceptions of holiday season.

A well-known annual event, donations and purchases from the Detroit Artists Market's (DAM) Holiday Exhibition help support the gallery's exhibition and educational programs, as well as generate revenue for par-

ticipating artists. But title of this year's event, "Un-Defining ... the Holidays," implied a twist. So we put our crack Backstage Pass pop culture correspondent Lex Kuhne of the case.

Sure enough, Lex reports that the DAM has put a new layer atop an old favorite. "Un-Defining ... the Holidays" is really two exhibits: The first is what they've done for 36 years, which is to present wonderful works of local art for sale as gifts during the holiday season.

"The second exhibit puts the whole concept of gift-giving into pop-cultural context. Students from Wayne State, the Center for Creative Studies, and other schools provide their unique take on the holidays - through their generational filter."

Think about the generation of young artists in question. It's a unique group. Due to social changes, they have been the first

generation of children not just raised with television, but raised by television. And while the same may be true of children who followed, the impact of mushrooming media options - zillion-channel cable servers, satellite TV, video games (other than Pong), the Internet, et al - attenuated any sense of shared seasonal experience with the medium: Kids today can pop in a VHS copy of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" any time they want, so it's no longer an anticipated annual event that generates excited playground discussion.

"From these installations it's clear that these students' impression of the holiday pretty much exclusively has come through the media images they've seen growing up," Lex says. "So you have multimedia displays of Christmas themes, including a Santa Claus taking a nap over four monitors, tape

loops of choice moments from classic Christmas shows we grew up with, and remarkable murals, including one of Santa with DJ headphones and a gold tooth. Norman Rockwell, it's not."

Speaking of traditions, our Backstage Pass film correspondent, Elliot Wilhelm of the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts, will give us the scoop on his venue's latest offering, Spike & Mike's Festival of Animation. Says Elliot, "Spike & Mike's began in 1977, so this is its 20th anniversary, with 15 short films of animation this year. Some are Oscar winners and nominees, and most have appeared at festivals all over the world. Spike & Mike's is the foremost touring package of short animated films. The program is extremely popular here, as it is everywhere."

But why a festival of animated shorts? "You have to put anima-

tion into context. There used to be an expectation associated with arthouse or experimental exhibition. When I was running the Wayne State Cinema Guild in 1966, audiences expected some shorts - experimental animated films from the world over - and we always ran two or three of them prior to the feature. That's changed. In fact, audiences have become quite resistant. It's just the way exhibition has gone. But there's still an enormous audience for animation. What's become increasingly popular lately is to put short animation from around the world together for a festival. In that context, these short films are more popular than ever.

"It's a fabulously expressive medium. The great thing about animation is that you can show almost anything that you can imagine. Now that's a part of fea-

ture film as well. The lines really have blurred between live action and animation. Many feature films have a sort of invisible animation in them. When computer animation started people said it wasn't really drawing, so it wasn't really animation, and it wasn't true at all. It's just another tool. It's always a kind of revolutionary process." Tonight, Elliot will give us a peek at the next revolution in art animation for film.

Also on the show, Gary Graff will host pop quartet Dog's Eye View in the Detroit Public Television studio, and local favorite and internationally acclaimed flautist Alexander Zonjic will get us in the holiday spirit with variations on "Greensleeves." That's all on Backstage Pass, tonight at 9:30 (repeated at 1:30 a.m.) on Detroit Public Television, Channel 56.

Children's show has a few lively moments

Wild Swan Theater Company is presenting "The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse" - 2:30 p.m. Saturdays Dec. 20 and Dec. 27; 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 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.

BY SUE SUCHYTA
SPECIAL WRITER

The annual holiday children's play at Henry Ford Museum, a favorite tradition with area families, took a disappointing turn this year.

The Wild Swan Theater's rendition of "The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse," is poorly sung, moves slowly, and fails to hold the interest of either children or adults.

Last year's Wild Swan Theater presentation of "Charlotte's Web" was delightful and professionally done. This year, however, the group has slipped. Even the enthusiasm and energy of the cast was not enough to bring an incredibly dull script and slow paced story to life.

The museum should send this swan south for the winter. The

show got off to a rocky start when it became evident that the Country Mouse, despite her upbeat facade, was in eminent danger of losing her voice. Unfortunately, the rest of the cast didn't sing much better, and the piano tended to drown out the lyrics. The audience didn't even applaud at the end of "The Chorus Song."

The entire show is signed for the deaf by two mice who shadow the main characters. It's fascinating to watch the signing.

The cast took advantage of the opportunities thrown its way to liven up the dismal script with some physical comedy. During one of the interminable scenes about food, the country mice eat corn on the cob in comic staccato precision while accompanied by the sound of an old manual typewriter, snapping their heads at the sound of the carriage return bell.

Tim Campos' scene as the butler ballet teacher was one of the few funny moments. Campos lit-



On the road: Sandy Ryder (left to right), Dan McDougall, and Michelle Trame Lanzi in a scene from the Wild Swan Theater presentation of "The Town Mouse & The Country Mouse."

erally threw himself into the role as he pirouetted across the stage with unfettered enthusiasm.

It's a shame there weren't

more opportunities for the cast to liven up the show.

Special features Chenilles

WDIV-TV is celebrating the spirit of the holidays with a special Walk on the Wild Side program featuring the Chenille Sisters and local actors.

"The Chenille Sisters and the Secret of the Box" airs 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22 and at noon on Thursday, Dec. 25.

The story transports the Chenille sisters and a cast of local actors including Jackie Marns of Canton as Uncle Avarice, Marlee Green, 9 of Birmingham and Nathan Keen, 9 of Beverly Hills, all over the world in search of the true meaning of the holiday season.

From the Detroit Zoo to an African jungle where the story characters meet elephants, zebras and lions; to the frozen Arctic for an encounter with a polar bear.

"The Secret of the Box" features eight favorite Chenille songs including "Out of Africa," and "Polar Bear Stomp." A ninth song was composed for the special. Portions of the special were taped at the Detroit Zoo and on a

specially-created set at WDIV. Walk on the Wild Side is WDIV's year-long project with the Detroit Zoo. The project has included a series of prime time specials, news stories and vignettes which have encouraged the public to explore and enjoy the natural resources around us.

The story was conceived and written by Rose Morand, in collaboration with the Chenille Sisters - Cheryl Dawdy, Connie Huber and Grace Morand.

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THEATER

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. 18, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, and Sunday, Dec. 28; 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through January; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5-Saturday, Feb. 7, 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12-Saturday, Feb. 14, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Group rates available. \$22 Thursdays and Sundays. \$27 Fridays and Saturdays. Colangelo's Sunday brunch package \$33; Bacì Abracci dinner packages \$35 and \$39. (248) 335-8101

CAPITOL THEATRE

"A Christmas Carol - The Musical," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Sunday, Dec. 21, at the theater, 121 University Ave. West., Windsor, Ontario, Canada. \$12, buy 10 and get one free. Group rates available. "Holiday Nights on the Town," \$25-\$42, includes tax, tip and theater tickets and pre-theater lunch or dinner at one of 10 downtown Windsor restaurants. (All prices Canadian) (519) 253-8065 or capital@mnsi.net or http://www.mnsi.net/~capitol

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 Ritchie, through 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, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Garage Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. \$20-\$25. (734) 475-7902

COMMUNITY THEATER

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE
An evening of holiday one acts including "The Long Christmas Dinner" and "The Sheep Thief," 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18-Saturday, Dec. 20, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the playhouse, 38840 W. Six Mile Road (and I-275), Livonia. \$8, not including bread bowl with soup and cider; group rates available. Seating limited to 50. (734) 464-6302

VILLAGE PLAYERS
"Sweet and Hot," a musical review of music by Harold Arlen, 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) 644-9667

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

CLARENCEVILLE YOUTH THEATRE
A group of 50 actors and singers, formerly known as the Redford Youth Theatre, presents "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, 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, Dec. 20-21, 27-28, and Jan. 3-4, 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

WILD SWAN THEATRE COMPANY

"The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse," Saturday, Dec. 20-Sunday,



You Beautiful Doll: The Holiday Doll Show 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 at Plymouth Cultural Center, 526 Farmer St., Plymouth features dealers, collectors, doll artists and hobbyists showing and selling new, used, antique and collectible dolls of all kinds. There will also be doll making supplies, doll clothes and furniture. In addition to dolls there were Teddy Bears and stuffed animals along with dollhouse supplies and miniatures. Admission is \$4 adults, children ages 4-12, \$1, call (313) 455-2110, or its website http://www.ameritech.net/users/rppromo/doll-show.html

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

"SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS"
With entertainment by the Rising Star Singers, 6:30-10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Domino's Farms, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright, Ann Arbor. (734) 930-3957

SPORTS CARD, COMIC AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW
10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Roseville Towne Center, 12 Mile and Gratiot, Roseville. Free. (248) 557-1529

"STRANGLEMANIA LIVE!"
Wrestling featuring a match between rappers 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's Death Match" with Ian Rotten versus Mad Man Pondo versus Ox Harley, a "Double Tables Death Match" with Skull Gang 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

TOYS FOR TOTS BENEFIT PARTY
Hosted by WPLT-FM's Johnny and the Morning Crew, "name that holiday tune," and a seafood and roast beef buffet, 4-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Tremors, Holiday Inn-Livonia, 17123 Laurel Park Dr., Livonia. Everyone who donated a new, ungift-wrapped toy will receive free admission to Tremors, complimentary VIP passes to the club, and entrance into the Holiday Inn's Holiday room giveaway. 21 and older. (734) 462-2196

TRADITIONAL POLISH CHRISTMAS TREE
On display 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, through Thursday, Jan. 1, American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Road (at Dequindre Road), Troy. (248) 689-3636

"WDRQ HOLIDAY BALL"
8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Palladium, 17580 Frazho, Roseville. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door, benefits The Rainbow Connection. 18 and older. (810) 778-6404

FAMILY EVENTS

DETROIT ZOO'S "WILD LIGHTS"
Light show featuring more than 50 animated animal displays along a half-mile trail, 5:30-9 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, until 10:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, through Sunday, Dec. 28, in B.A.S.F. Waterfront Park, 3625 Biddle Ave. (south of Eureka), 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>

MEALS WITH SANTA
Lunch with Santa, and special guest Ken Dumm, comedian/magician, 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Mr. B's Roadhouse, 595 N. Lapeer Road (M-24), Oxford. Kids will visit with Santa then he'll judge the coloring contest. \$5.95 children, \$7.95 adults; Breakfast with Santa, Sunday, Dec. 21, at the roadhouse. Kids will have breakfast, visit with Santa and participate in a caroling session with Santa. \$4.95 children, \$47.95 adults. (248) 628-6500

YPSILANTI FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
Featuring miniature train rides and horse-drawn wagon rides, 6-10 p.m. 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. (734) 483-4444 or <http://www.ypsi.org>

CLASSICAL

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Performing J. Strauss Jr.'s "Clear Track Galop (Bahn Frei)," Bernstein's "Tonight," and Webber's "All I Ask of You," with the Keith Saxton Sextet performing for dancing onstage after the concert, as part of "A Singing, Dancing Gala for 1998," 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$25-\$85 includes party hats and noisemakers. (313) 833-3700

TERRY FARMER
Formerly of the pop/rock bands Let's Talk About Girls and The Bead Band, performs a concert of classical guitar music, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland, Farmington. Free. All ages. (248) 474-6880

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

RENAISSANCE

OWAIN PHYFE
8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

POPS/SWING

ATOMIC FIREBALLS
9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (swing) (248)

335-8100.
DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
With Roberta Flack, Al Jarreau, Melissa Manchester, Jeffrey Osborne, and 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



Melissa Manchester

THE IMPERIAL SWING ORCHESTRA
9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$10, 19 and older. (swing) (734) 996-8555

VELVIS
With Gino and the Lone Valleyboys and St. Ashley, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$5, 18 and older. (swing/lounge/pop) (313) 833-POOL

CHORAL

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS
"Holidays Revisited," 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18-Friday, Dec. 19, Farmington High School, 32000 Shlawassee (west of Orchard Lake Road), Farmington. \$8, \$5 seniors and students. (248) 788-5322

INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR
From the Jewish Community Center performs Russian and Hebrew ethnic and holiday music, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at the Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward (at Kirby), Detroit's Cultural Center. \$3 adults, \$1.50 seniors/children ages 12-18. (313) 833-1805

LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS
"Making Spirits Bright," a holiday musical pick-me-up directed by Jim Whitten with guest artists the Tinderbox 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 Seven and Eight Mile roads), Livonia. Free. (734) 525-1447

OAKLAND SINGERS ENCORE
Holiday concert featuring high school students from Oakland County, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19, St. Fabian Church, 32200 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington. Free. All ages. (248) 681-1483

RENAISSANCE VOICES
Holiday concert features "Festival of Lessons and Carols" service which is performed annually at King's College in Cambridge, England, as well as "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten, 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Christ Episcopal Church, 120 N. Military (at Cherry Hill Road), Dearborn. \$8, \$5 for students and seniors. (313) 317-6566

THE SALVATION ARMY
"1997 Festival of Carols," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Chrysler Theatre, Cleary International Centre, 201 Riverside Dr. W., Windsor, Ontario. (800) 387-9181

HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
The Wonders of His Love, Highland Park Baptist Church Chancel Choir and guest-concert pianist Michael Faircloth, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20; 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, 28600 Lahser Road, Southfield. Tickets complimentary, but recommended, call (248) 357-5464.

(248) 543-6911
MICHAEL O'BRIEN AND FRIENDS
9:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (Acoustic Irish) (248) 642-1135

ODD ENOUGH
With The Lash as part of customer appreciation day, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (Irish) (248) 642-1135

STONE CIRCLE
9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (Irish) (248) 642-1135

JOHN L. SULLIVAN BAND
9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, Dick O'Dow's, 160 W. Maple Road (between Woodward Avenue and Southfield Road), Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (Irish) (248) 642-1135

FOLK

CHRIS BUHALIS AND JO SERRAPERRE
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. (734) 761-1451

RON CODEN
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 27, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

ORIN ROSSE FINESSE
9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

CHARLES GREENE
5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

LISA HUNTER
1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Borders Books and Music, 34300 Woodward Ave. (south of Maple Road), Birmingham. Free. All ages. (acoustic folk/pop) (248) 203-0005

JAN KRIST
10:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Tuscan Grill, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 651-1600

JOEL MABUS
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$11. \$10 members, students, seniors. All ages. (734) 761-1451

WOODY WASHINGTON
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, O'Mara's, 2555 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 399-6750

JOSH WHITE JR.
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$12. All ages. (734) 761-1451

DANCE

CONTRA DANCES
Open jam with the Cobblestone Farm Dancers, 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Road (1/2 mile south of I-94), Ann Arbor. Free. (734) 662-3371; Third Saturday contra dance with the Cobblestone Farm Dancers, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at the same location. \$6. (734) 665-8863/(734) 426-0241; English Contra Dancing with the Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance, winter solstice party featuring dances with a seasonal theme, 7-9:45 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, Chapel Hill Condominium Clubhouse, 3350 Green Road (north of Plymouth Road), Ann Arbor. \$4. (734) 663-0744/(734) 662-5158

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
With principal dancers Evelyn Cisneros and Anthony Randazzo from the San Francisco Ballet, and Kimberly Gasco and Aleksandar Antonijevic from the National Ballet of Canada, along with members of Dance Detroit perform "The Nutcracker" ballet, 8 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

ERIC JOHNSTON'S DETROIT BALLET
"The Nutcracker," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Farmington Harrison High School, 29995 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills; \$8 and \$5. (248) 473-9570

DEIN PERRY'S TAP DOGS
Friday, Dec. 26-Sunday, Jan. 4, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays (\$26 and \$36), 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays (\$22.50 and \$32.50), 7 p.m. Sundays (\$32.50 and \$22.50), 8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays (\$22.50 and \$32.50), and 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31 (\$26 and \$36). All ages. (313) 872-1000

THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR
Numerous shows through Saturday, Dec. 27, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10-\$50. All ages. 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22-Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, and 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27. (313) 983-6611/(248) 645-6666

Please see next page

MOVIES

Director Cameron steers 'Titanic' clear of disaster

TICKETS PLEASE



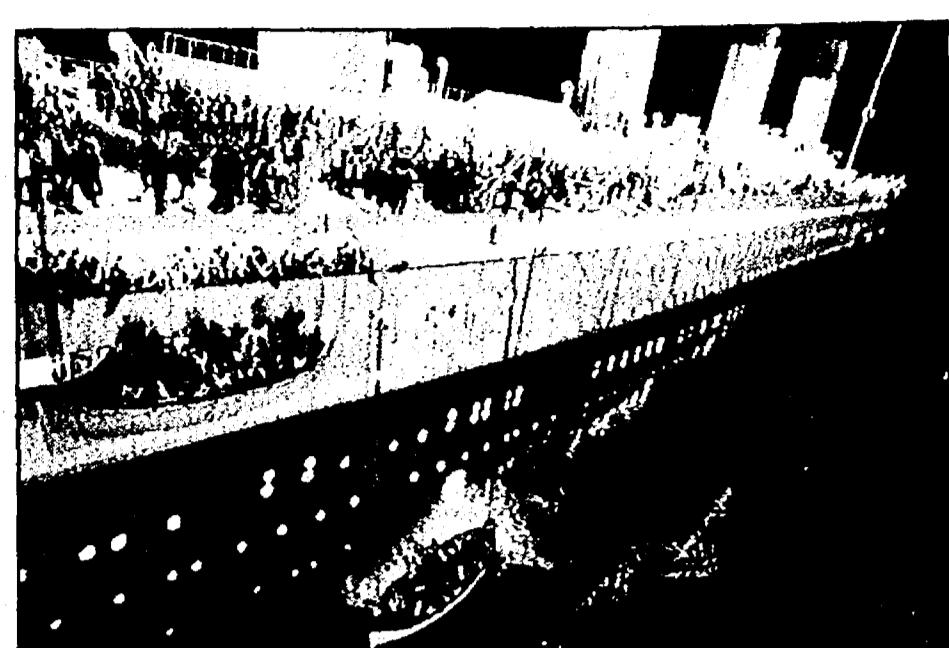
JOHN MONAGHAN

Let's call it the "wall of flame" shot, the 1990s action movie staple in which a corridor of fire threatens our sprinting hero and heroine, always in slow motion. In "Titanic," James Cameron's epic take on the 1912 ocean disaster, a literal wall of water will swamp a pair of young lovers unless they can stay a few steps ahead. And damned if it doesn't work. Despite the corny romantic dialogue. Despite the cheap framing device. Despite some one-dimensional villains. "Titanic" is everything it promises and more: a true epic spectacle with jaw-dropping special effects and genuine tragedy; in short the mother of all disaster movies.

I've been fascinated by the Titanic story ever since discovering that one of the survivors (a child at the time of the sinking) lived down the street I grew up on. In 1985, when the world's most famous shipwreck was finally discovered at the bottom of icy Atlantic waters, I was riveted by the haunting pictures sent back. It's this same sense of wonder that launches the film, as robot submarines explore the Titanic's deepest crevices. Bill Paxton plays a modern-day treasure hunter on the trail of a priceless diamond, "The Heart of the Ocean," that supposedly went down with the ship. Enter Rose Dewitt Bukater (Gloria Stuart), who, at 101, may be the ship's last living survivor. She not only knows where that diamond is, but has a romantic yarn to tell that keeps the high-tech treasure hunters glued. Her flashback comprises most of the

film. Now played by Kate Winslet, Rose is a classic spoiled rich girl who travels in the company of her domineering mother. Her fiancé (Billy Zane) has all the pomposity of the upper class, all the better to place him in contrast to the handsome young Bohemian Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio) who she hooks up with by chance. Watching the romantic intrigue, I couldn't help but remember "Somewhere in Time," the similar vintage romance starring Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour. If, like me, you were charmed by that unabashedly romantic fluff, you'll love Rose and Jack's improbable relationship, foiled at every turn by disapproving elders. Of course, the real test of any epic is how the personal story comes across through all the spectacle. Thanks to winning,

warm performances by DiCaprio and Winslet, "Titanic" keeps you hooked throughout its over three-hour running time. With his most ambitious project yet, director Cameron has been compared to the late David Lean. But where the English director of "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Doctor Zhivago" would camp out a week to shoot his perfect sunset, director James Cameron has only to tweak with his computer to achieve the look he wants. And that's not a criticism. Equally obsessive about his epic visions and possessing Lean's hit-and-miss track record ("The Abyss" and "True Lies," which both failed for me overall, still have their share of memorable moments), Cameron has set himself up as one of the modern screen's true visionaries, an artist whose palette just happens to be big-budget Hollywood blockbuster.



Sinking ship: Lifeboats are lowered from the ship in "Titanic," an epic, action-packed romance set against the ill-fated voyage of the R.M.S. Titanic.

And as anyone who follows Hollywood knows, "Titanic" was produced for a whopping \$200 million, making it the most expensive in movie history. Many thought that the same hubris that launched the "unsinkable" Titanic had infected the director, who has been tweaking with the movie ever since it was held back from summer release. Not surprisingly, "Titanic" is a visual tour de force. Cameron and Company have painstakingly recreated the look and feel of the ship itself, from the cramped quarters of the third class to the polished banisters in the elegant ballroom. You need the movie's hefty running time to take it all in. Cameron almost undermines his own efforts early in the film, where a technician, employing a computer-generated replica on a TV monitor, illustrates just how the ship sank. You're forced to recall these video game-quality images as Cameron uses the same computer technology to create the ship on screen. I thought the "Titanic" had

been done every which way, from the ship as metaphor for the foundering relationship between Barbara Stanwyck and Clifton Webb in the 1953 edition to the superior British version ("A Night to Remember") five years later. But this one delivers some haunting images not seen before and hardly likely to be forgotten. One of the most haunting happens after the passengers have gone into the icy drink. A lifeboat, guided by a single flashlight, trolls for survivors but only finds frozen corpses bobbing atop the water. Cameron, true to his action movie background, packs the film's final hour with well-orchestrated action. Here's where the movie comes together as the lovers, along with over half of the ship's 2,200 passengers, fight their way to the stern as the ocean liner quickly takes a nose dive. As in his last great movie, "Terminator 2," Cameron uses the soundtrack to brilliant effect. Listen closely in the film's early scenes, as the camera pans across the portholes, and you will hear the faint voices of the 1,500 souls that went down with it. Later, when one of the smokestacks crashes on deck, the sound moving from the front to back of the auditorium makes you feel right beneath it. When that iceberg hit and those speakers rumbled, I could have sworn I was back in the days of Sensurround.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

General Cinemas	MORTAL KOMBAT (PG13) THE JACKAL (R)	FLUBBER (PG) ANASTASIA (G) BEAN (PG13) WINGS OF THE DOVE (R) EVE'S BAYOU (R) BOOGIE NIGHTS (R)	United Artists Oakland Inside Oakland Mall 810-585-7041	99c Livonia Mall Livonia Mall at 7 mile 810-476-8800
Bargain matinee daily plus \$3.25 (Two-Lite) show daily	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	ALL SEATS \$9.95 ALL SHOWS FREE REFILL ON DRINKS & POPCORN FREE SHOWS DAILY FOR CHILDREN 12 & UNDER ADULTS \$9.95 THIS FEATURE ONLY	RED CORNER (R) EXCESS BAGGAGE (PG13) AIR BUD (PG) MEN IN BLACK (PG13)
Canton 6 Ford Rd., 1/2 mile west of I-275+ 981-1900 Advanced same-day tickets available *Denotes VIP restrictions Friday thru Thursday	Showcase Pontiac 1-5 Telegraph Sq., Lake Rd., W. Side of Telegraph 810-332-0241 Bargain Matinee Daily * All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily *	Star Rochester Hills 200 Barclay Circle 853-2360 FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm	United Artists 12 Oaks Inside Twelve Oaks Mall 810-585-7041	Waterford Cinema II 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd. 24 Hour Movie Line (810) 666-7900 \$3.25 (TWO LITE) SHOWS DAILY
GIFT BOOKS NOW ON SALE	SCREEN 2 (R) FLUBBER (PG) RAINMAKER (PG13)	NP AMISTAD (R) NP SCREEN 2 (R) NP FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) THE RAINMAKER (PG13) NP MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) THE JACKAL (R)	United Artists West River 9 Mile 2 Block West of Middlebelt 810-788-6572	HOME ALONE 3 (PG) SCREEN 2 (R) FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) FLUBBER (PG) ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) ANASTASIA (G) RAINMAKER (R) MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG) THE JACKAL (R) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)
THE RAINMAKER (PG13) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) SCREEN 2 (R) 'ALIEN: THE RESURRECTION (R) FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)	Showcase Pontiac 6-12 2495 Telegraph Rd., East side of Telegraph 810-334-6777 Bargain Matinee Daily * All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat.	Star Southfield 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off I-696 248-353-STAR No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm	United Artists Birmingham Theatre 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-644-3419 NP Denotes No Pass Engagements Order Movie tickets by phone! Call 644-3419 and have your VISA or MasterCard ready! (A 75c surcharge will apply to all telephone sales)	Terrace Cinema 30400 Plymouth Rd. 313-261-3330 All shows \$1 except shows after 6 p.m. * All shows \$1.50 75c every Tuesday Would you like to see free movies? Then become a "FREQUENT VIEWER!" COME IN AND FIND OUT HOW
GIFT BOOKS NOW ON SALE	AMISTAD (R) FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) ALIENS 4 (R) ANASTASIA (G) THE JACKAL (R) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R)	NP SCREEN 2 (R) NP AMISTAD (PG) NP FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) NP HOME ALONE 3 (PG) NP ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) NP FLUBBER (PG) THE RAINMAKER (PG13) THE JACKAL (R) ANASTASIA (G) EVE'S BAYOU (R) NP MORTAL KOMBAT 2: ANNIHILATION (PG13) NP MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R)	SPECIAL OFFER... 10% OFF ON ALL \$10, \$20 AND \$50 GIFT BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE	SUN.-THURS Box Office opens at 4:00 pm Monday - Friday only
Novi Town Center 8 Novi Rd., South of I-96 344-0077 Advance same-day tickets available FRIDAY THRU THURSDAY *DENOTES VIP RESTRICTIONS	Quo Vadis Warren & Wayne Rds 313-425-7700 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.	Star Winchester 1136 S. Rochester Rd., Winchester Mall 248-656-1160 No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm	MJR THEATRES \$1.00 Ford Tel \$1.50 313-561-7200 \$1.00 till 6 pm After 6 pm, \$1.50 Ample Parking - Telford Center Free Refill on Drinks & Popcorn Please Call Theatre for Showtimes	Haln Art Theatre II Main - 11 Mile Royal Oak (248) 542-0180 \$3.00 (TWO-LITE) SHOWS DAILY
GIFT BOOKS NOW ON SALE	FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) ALIENS 4 (R) ANASTASIA (G) MORTAL KOMBAT (PG13) I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) STARSHIP TROOPERS (R)	United Artists Theatres Bargain Matinee Daily for all shows starting before 6:00 PM Same day advance tickets available. NV - No VIP tickets accepted	NP AMISTAD (R) NP SCREEN 2 (R) NP HOME ALONE 3 (PG) FLUBBER (PG) ANASTASIA (G) BEAN (PG13) WINGS OF A DOVE (R)	KISS OR KILL (R) THE FULL MONTY (R) THE WINGS OF THE DOVE (R)
HOME ALONE III (PG) 'THE JACKAL' (R) FOR RICHER OR POORER (R) ANASTASIA (G) FULL MONTY (R) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) 'FLUBBER' (PG)	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.	United Artists Fairlane Fairlane Town Center Valet Parking Available 313-593-4790	NP AMISTAD (R) NP SCREEN 2 (R) NP HOME ALONE 3 (PG) FLUBBER (PG) THE RAINMAKER (PG13) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) ANASTASIA THE JACKAL (R)	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
KEEGO TWIN CINEMA Orchard Lake Rd. at Cass Lake Rd. 682-1900 All Seats \$1.50 before 6 pm Family Matinee Fri. SAT-SUN	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	Home Alone 3 (PG) ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) NP ANASTASIA (G) NP THE RAINMAKER (PG13) NP EVE'S BAYOU (R) STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) NP SOUL FOOD (R) NP THE WINGS OF THE DOVE (R) NP I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)	EXCESS BAGGAGE (PG13) RED CORNER (R)	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
RED CORNER (R) KISS THE GIRLS (R) IN AND OUT (PG13)	Star John R at 14 Mile 32289 John R. Road 810-585-2070	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
National Amusements Showcase Cinemas	Showcase Dearborn 1-8 Michigan & Telegraph 313-561-3449 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun.	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
SCREEN (R) FLUBBER (PG) RAINMAKER (PG13) FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) FLUBBER (PG) ALIENS 4 (R) ANASTASIA (G) RAINMAKER (PG13) MORTAL KOMBAT (PG13) MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R) THE JACKAL (R) DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R)	CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES FRIDAY - THURSDAY No one under 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) AMISTAD (R) FLUBBER (PG)	NP AMISTAD (R) NP FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Winter 1988

Courses taught by Robert Schefman

Drawing - All Levels - In this class held on Tuesdays from 9:00 - 12:00 noon, students will explore a variety of drawing media, techniques, and subjects with an emphasis on drawing as our most immediate and fundamental means of expression.

Oil Painting - All Levels - Students will work from the model in this class held on Thursdays from 9:00 - 12:00 noon or 12:30 - 3:30 to breathe life into their painting. The class will study the formal concerns of value, color, and composition; going beyond into subject matter. A good drawing foundation is essential.

Level 3 Painting Studio - This course is team taught with Leslie Masters on Tuesdays from 12:30 - 3:30. The goal of this class is to provide serious, advanced painters with a group venue to examine their direction in painting, participate in discussions, and move ahead in the art process. Class members will be expected to work outside of class and approval from the instructors must be received to enroll in this class.

Robert Schefman received his BFA from Michigan State University and his MA from University of Iowa. He has participated in a wide variety of group shows including Interventions at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1995. He has completed numerous commissions in painting and sculpture for schools such as Wayne State, University of Iowa, and Cooley Law School in Lansing, and for restaurants such as Stelline at Somerset and at Tribute. His most recent controversial sculpture was "They Came and Prayed" and his most recent mural commission for Dearborn's 19th District Court has everybody talking.

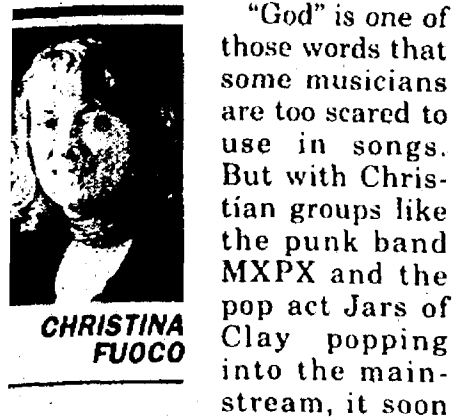
You can register for these classes and more by signing up for the Winter Semester at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. Classes start January 5 through March 28.

Call (248) 644-0866

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STREET SCENE

Blessid Union of Souls not afraid to put God first



CHRISTINA FUOCO
"God" is one of those words that some musicians are too scared to use in songs. But with Christian groups like the punk band MXPX and the pop act Jars of Clay popping into the mainstream, it soon may become the norm.



Coming to town: The Cincinnati pop band Blessid Union of Souls (above) and the local rock band InDrama perform Saturday, Dec. 20, at The Palladium, 17580 Frazho Road, Roseville.

Speaking from his Cincinnati-area home, Blessid Union of Souls singer Eliot Sloan explained his band doesn't care what people think. God is the focus in its life and its music. Following that belief, Blessid Union of Souls, Sloan said, tries to inject positivity into all its songs while subtly mentioning God.

"Not every song has a happy ending but there's always optimism in our songs. We speak about God and everybody thinks that God is all about happy endings. We don't care about what people think (about mentioning God)," Sloan said.

Artists who shy away from their religion, he added, are "afraid. Ultimately people are

afraid that it's going to hinder them from making money. Money is the No. 1 focus in society today. (They think) ultimately people will not buy the record if you speak too much about God. They don't want it to affect their dollar which is hilarious to me. It's not like you can take it with you."

The follow-up to its successful debut "Home" (EMI), "Blessid Union of Souls" (Capitol), the band's sophomore effort, expands on its theme - "The way a love relationship ignites and evolves is just as unpredictable, just as wonderful." Songs such as the harmonica-laced "I Wanna Be There" ("And

if I had my way I'd hold you in my arms/And leave this madness all behind"), the psychedelic "It's Your Day" ("Gotta learn to keep those ghosts away/ Buy 'em all a one-way ticket on a flight to Neverland"), the effervescent "Scenes From a Coffee House" ("We got to show each other/That we were fine just being friends"), and the graceful "Hold Her Closer" ("There's no reason to be scared/to open up/Cause love may be blind/But all of us don't see it") backed by strings, all carry that mood.

The next single, "Light In Your Eyes," was co-written with Tommy Sims, who wrote "Change the World," the Grammy Award winner for 1996's Song of the Year, for Eric Clapton.

Because of Blessid Union of Souls' positivity, Sloan sees a lot of families at his shows.

"It's pretty much a wide age range. We see a lot of kids at our shows. We see a lot of teen-agers with their parents. It's just that we sing about life and everybody can relate to it. That's just the main emotion we tap into."

Blessid Union of Souls and InDrama perform at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at The Palladium,

17580 Frazho Road, Roseville. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door for the 18 and older show. For more information, call (810) 778-6404.

The Detroit-area punk band The Suicide Machines have contributed two songs - "S.O.S." and "No Face" - to the Sony PlayStation game "Vs.," and another song, "Break the Glass," to the movie "American Werewolf in Paris" which opens Christmas Day. It's a busy December for the band. The Suicide Machines, who recently completed a tour of 12 European countries, is in Los Angeles working on its second album for Hollywood Records. It will also perform with En Kindel at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, and with Bumpin' Uglies, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$8 in advance for the all-ages shows. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT. The shows are going to be recorded for a possible live album, EP or B-sides.

At its show Monday, Nov. 24, the '80s super group Duran Duran expressed its sorrow over the hanging death of INXS lead singer Michael Hutchence. Singer Simon LeBon dedicated the song "Save a Prayer" to Hutchence whom he called a dear friend. According to the Internet, Duran Duran had performed the songs "So Long Suicide" and "Michael You've Got a Lot to Answer For," both from its latest album "Medazzaland," at previous shows, but both were left out of its set list in Detroit.

If you have a question or comment for Christina Fuoco, you may leave a message for her at (313) 953-2047, ext. 2130, or by writing to her at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150, or via e-mail at CFuoco@aol.com. Listen to Christina Fuoco's rock music report every Friday at 5 p.m. with Millen during the "K-Rock Report" on WKRR-FM (97.1).

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AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC WONDERLAND
BIRMINGHAM 8	QUO VADIS
SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE PONTIAC
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE
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AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC WONDERLAND	BIRMINGHAM 8
GENERAL CANTON	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE DEARBORN
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GENERAL CANTON	RENAISSANCE 4	BIRMINGHAM 8
SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS
SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD
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SPECIAL THANKS TO SPENCER BARRY GERSTON PRODUCED BY AL GIDDINGS GRANT HILL SHARON WARDY SPECIAL THANKS TO DIGITAL DOMAIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RAE SANCHEZ
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Read the book by MARY MCKEON. Illustrated by BOB CLASPER. Available in paperback only.

STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH		
AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC EASTLAND	AMC AMERICANA WEST
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC LAUREL PARK
GENERAL CANTON	RENAISSANCE 4	BIRMINGHAM 8
SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS
SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE
STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	UNITED ARTISTS FAIRLANE	UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER

NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

No. VI in Novi raises hotel dining to new heights

BY ELEANOR & RAY HEALD
SPECIAL WRITERS

Opened late last month, the sleek and stylish transformation of the former Trattoria Bruschetta to No. VI Chophouse & Lobster Bar is bound to be a hit, both with The Hotel Baronette guests and others seeking a fine dining steakhouse atmosphere.

Designed by Ron Rea to give the impression of a 1920s Havana Hotel, No. VI is inviting and instantly sets an upscale comfort level. Styled in warm dark woods, terra cotta tile floors, black and copper-toned fabrics set off white tablecloths, shimmering table settings, bamboo window coverings and accent chairs. The bamboo room, raised several feet above the main dining level, offers a power dining spot.

It is just this breakup of the floor plan plus others created by distinctive wood and glass cabinets that form private, cozy dining areas, tempering the overall noise level of a busy chophouse.

No. VI is one of 13 dining venues in the portfolio of the Unique Restaurant Corporation, masterfully orchestrated by 39-year-old restaurateur Matt Prentice and his partners. At this Novi location, Keith Schofield is

managing partner who after 22 years in the restaurant business, 13 with URC, is still in love with it. "I truly enjoy dealing with guests," he said. "The variety of people add energy, and unlike a corporate desk job, it is different every day."

The menu at No. VI bears the artful signature of URC's Corporate Chef Jim Barnett. "It's a steakhouse menu, but with greater variety," Barnett noted. "We believe that lobster is more popular than oysters, so we've focused on it as the seafood specialty. We've also trained wait-staff to prepare dishes tableside. By reservation, diners can have Steak au Poivre prepared tableside for two."

Executive Chef John "Chili" Rees likes the "fast pace and kicking out pristine product" at No. VI. Rees, who has worked in URC restaurant kitchens for nearly five years, learned the tools of the trade in the Oakland Community College culinary program. He cites Chef Kevin Enright for teaching him integrity and the fact that there are no short cuts in the preparation of great food. General Manager David Munro adds to this by saying "It's easy to satisfy diners with a great product."

No. VI Chophouse and Lobster Bar

Where: Hotel Baronette, 27790 Novi Road (in The Hotel Baronette), Novi (248) 305-5210.

Hours: Dinner only. Monday-Thursday 5:00-10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 5:00-11:00 p.m. Sunday 4:00-9:00 p.m.

Menu: Upscale steakhouse with lobster as principal seafood focus set in atmosphere reminiscent of a 1920s Havana hotel.

Cost: Starters and lobster bar specialties \$7-17; prime rib, chops and steaks \$20-30; seafood and surf/turf combos \$20-33; desserts average \$5.

Reservations: Recommended.

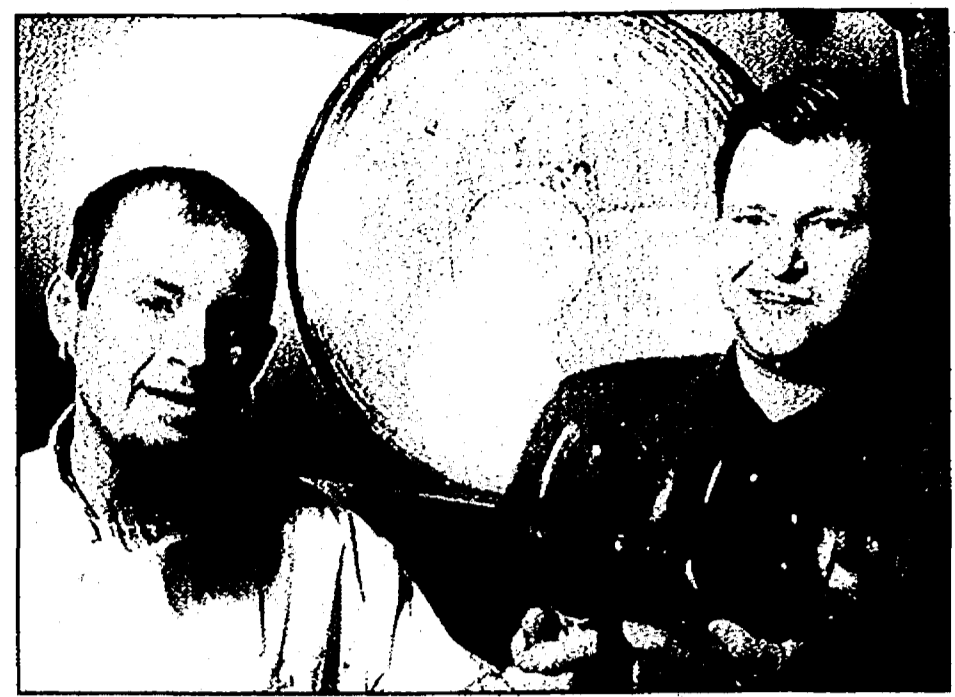
Credit cards: all majors accepted.

And the great product is emphasized on the menu: "It is our goal to be Michigan's Finest Steakhouse. We are the only Steakhouse in the Detroit Metropolitan Area to serve exclusively PRIME meat. Less than 2 percent of all beef meets the grade of Prime which makes

it not only the best, but also the most expensive. Prime may be costly, but we believe that you'll notice the difference."

Steak au Poivre adds a note of variety, Barnett spoke about. This house specialty, 14-ounce New York strip is rubbed with cracked Telichery black pepper and pan roasted with Martell Cognac and porcini mushrooms. At \$32.95, it is an ideal size for two people. For an additional \$1.95 per person, No. VI Steak Soup (prime steak morsels, garden veggies and Yukon Gold potatoes), The Wedge (iceberg lettuce, egg, tomatoes, croutons with choice of dressing) or house salad (assorted greens, tomatoes, chick peas, cucumber, Bermuda onions, ricotta cheese and choice of dressing) can be added.

Billed as Perfect Prime Rib, rubbed with garlic, herbs, cracked black pepper and salt, then slow-roasted at low temperature for five hours, served with housemade onion rings, horseradish sour cream and natural pan au jus, is well sized. Ten ounce \$20, 14-ounce \$24 and 18-ounce \$28. In the chop department, two hand-cut Colorado Lamb T-Bones with Paloise Sauce \$27 top the list, but the number one seller on the



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

At your service: Executive Chef John "Chili" Rees (left) and General Manager David Munro at No. VI Chophouse & Lobster Bar.

former Trattoria menu, Veal Scallopini Marsala \$22, remains. If you like veal, don't play monopoly, head straight for Veal Chop Milanese \$25.

Steamed or broiled live Maine lobsters sized from 1-1/2 to 5 pounds are \$19.97 per pound.

Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon has created a stellar wine list including a broad selec-

tion of champagnes and chardonnays. A cigar-friendly full bar, completely separated from the main non-smoking dining areas, has a handsome selection of fine cigars including the excellent Robusto and Corona Hamilton Reserve. There's dining for 12 in the bar. Hey, why not, the ambiance is Havana!

Local restaurants offer special New Year's Eve menus

BY ELEANOR & RAY HEALD
SPECIAL WRITERS

If you're planning to celebrate in the New Year with a celebratory dinner, most area restaurants are open New Year's Eve. The following have special menus, seatings and/or entertainment.

■ **Big Rock Chop & Brew House** - 245 S. Eton, Birmingham (248) 647-7774. Specials and favorite items from the regular menu plus crab legs and prime rib. A \$50 per person deposit is required. Got Rocks is limited to the first 50 guests and features a prix fixe, \$250 per person, menu including champagne and caviar.

■ **Clawson Steak House** - 56 S. Rochester Road (south of 14 Mile Road), Clawson, (248) 588-5788. Three seatings at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. will feature the same appetizers (\$7) and entree selections (\$16-35). Price ranges will be bumped somewhat higher at the last seating that includes party favors and live music.

■ **Excalibur** - 28875 Franklin Road, Southfield (corner of 12 Mile Road and Northwestern Highway), (248) 358-3355. Reserve a table early and receive service from the winter menu and daily special selections or start the evening at 9:30 p.m. for a four-course meal with five different entree selections. The \$75 (excluding beverage, tax and gratuity) per person dinner package also includes live entertainment with the Billy Rose Quartet, dancing and party favors. Advanced reservations required. If you'd like to extend festive moments to the first day of the new year, you can pick up a complete New Year's Day Dinner to Go. For \$110 the package feeds 6-8 and includes your choice of turkey, spiral-sliced honey-glazed ham or a standing bone-in prime rib roast and all the trimmings for a complete meal.

■ **Fox & Hounds** - 1560 North Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, (248) 644-4800 will continue its tradition of offering a number of choices for your New Year's Eve celebration. In the main dining room and Pub, you can enjoy favorite dishes from the traditional dinner menu from 5 p.m. to midnight. In the Pub, it will be a party atmosphere with Randy Volin and The Sonic Blues playing their own style of classic and original blues beginning at 9 p.m. For a quieter venue, in the newly-renovated and refurbished banquet rooms, an intimate dinner for two or a party of 20 can enjoy the smooth swing, jazz and ballads performed by the Del Kauffman Trio from 9-11 p.m. while feasting on New Year's Eve Prime Rib and Shrimp Extravaganza \$34 per person.

■ **The Lark** - 6430 Farmington Road, West Bloomfield (248) 661-4466. Seatings are 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. All offerings are four-course prix-fixe ranging \$55 to \$82.50, dessert, tax and gratuity not included.

■ **Morton's of Chicago** - One Town Square, Southfield (248) 454-6006. Seatings at 5:30, 7:30 and 10 p.m. The regular menu includes every-known cut of steak as well as chops and lobster. A \$25 per person deposit required.

■ **Oakland Grill** - 32832 Woodward Avenue (just south of 14

Mile Road), Royal Oak (248) 549-7700. Count on chef/owner Louai Sharkas for a special dinner menu at seatings from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Seating for a six-course degustation menu at \$125

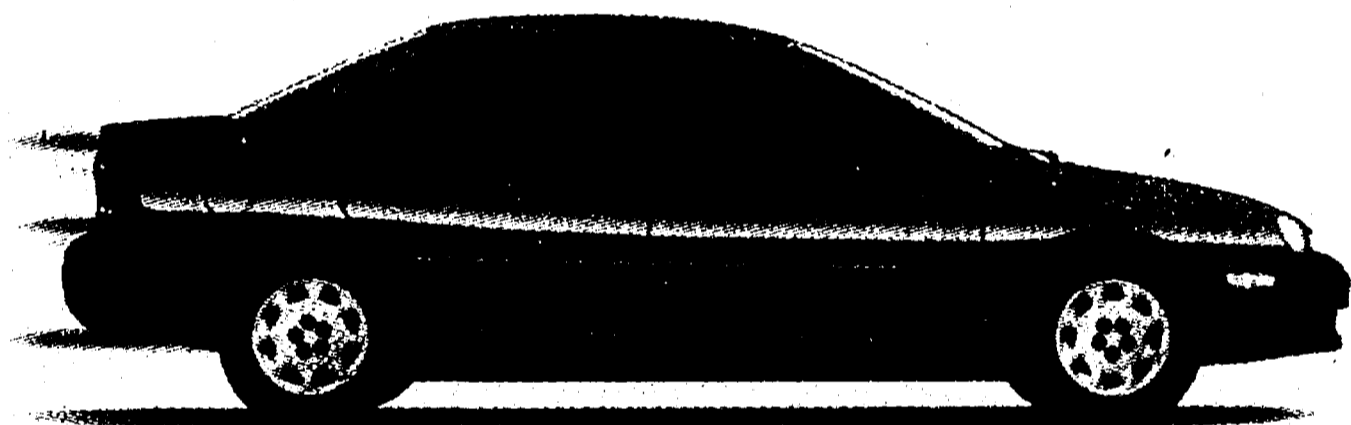
per person is 9:30 p.m. You can choose from among six appetizers and eight entrees. From 10 p.m. until 2 a.m., vocalist Kathy Kosins accompanied by string bass and piano, will perform.

■ **Cafe Cortina** - 30175 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 474-3033. Christmas Eve enchanted evening of music and warmth with a special menu, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24;

\$58 per person; New Year's Eve - special menu, party favors, dancing, \$95 per person.

■ **Corsi's** - 27910 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, (313) 531-4960, New Year's Eve Family

Buffet, 5-9 p.m., adults \$7.75, senior citizens, \$7.50; children under 10, \$4.75. Includes two homemade soups, salad and dessert bar, homemade lasagna and other surprises.



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