

Westland Observer

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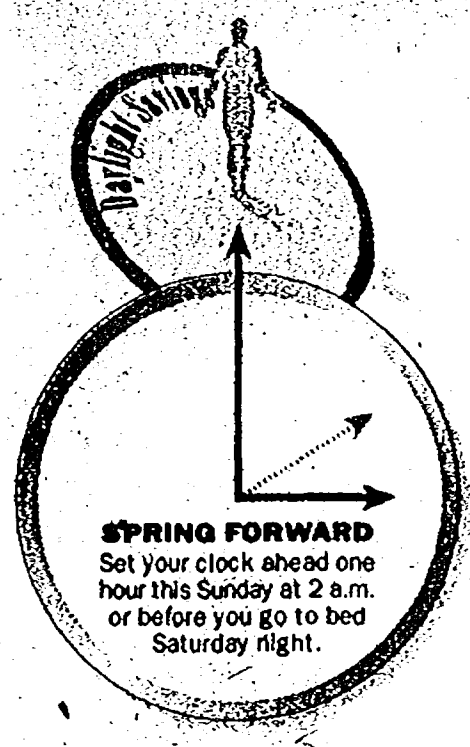
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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

OPINION

Bad policy: Concerns about misuse of guns won't be adequately addressed by a package of bills./A14

COMMUNITY LIFE

Another sellout: There was plenty of pasta and pleasantries when supporters of Schoolcraft College's Women's Resource Center gathered for its 15th annual Spaghetti Dinner./B1

AT HOME

Creative spaces: Rugs can cover a variety of areas in a variety of ways, as seen in designs by students for a recent competition./D8

ENTERTAINMENT

Off To See the Wizard: Birmingham native Jessica Grove stars as Dorothy in a touring company of "The Wizard of Oz" with Mickey Rooney and Eartha Kitt./E1

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Senior of year



Creativity: Amy Reynolds, named the city of Westland's senior high school student of the year, works on ceramics at Wayne Memorial High School recently.

Top senior 'just about perfect'

This is last in a series on the Salute to Excellence winners.

Amy Reynolds, a Wayne Memorial High senior, manages to balance school, work, friendships, artistic hobbies, travel and church — and still have time to plan her future and maintain a strong daughter-mother relationship.

"She's just about perfect," Christine Bak, Wayne Memorial assistant principal, said. "I'd love to clone her."

Instead, Bak settled for nominating Reynolds, 18, as High School Senior of the Year, part of Westland Mayor Robert Thomas' 1998 Salute to Excellence Awards.

A selection committee chose Reynolds from 99 nominees. She will be honored along with the city's top teacher, mother and father during the mayor's State of the City address, 7 p.m. April 8 at the Hellenic Cultural Center.

Reynolds credits her achievements to her mother, Maria Reynolds, a nurse at Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis Center-Wayne.

"I love to spend time with my mom. Next to God, she's the most important person in my life," Reynolds said, sitting in Wayne Memorial's second-floor library.



SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE

"My mom has taught me everything about my morals and my values, and she has given me a lot of courage to help me reach my goals.

"She raised me by herself all my life, and she has done a wonderful job," Reynolds added. "There were times when she had to work three jobs. She's a strong woman. She made me believe that if she could make it, I can make it. I'm really glad she's my mom. And she's my best friend."

Role model

At a time when many young people are being scrutinized for their faults and their failures in a violent world, Amy Reynolds serves as a reminder that teenagers can represent what's good in our society.

She not only knows what she wants out of life; she also has a backup plan.

"I want to be an elementary school teacher, but I want to get a minor in psychology," she said. "If I get tired of teaching, I'd like to go into child psychology."

Please see SENIOR, A4

Traffic woes, blight among DDA concerns

Two consultants charged with recommending ways to make Westland's commercial corridors thrive economically plunged into their task this week by compiling a local wish list.

Doyle Hyett and Dolores Palma of Alexandria, Va.,-based HyettPalma, in an exhaustive series of group meetings, heard from business owners, council members, administration officials and others as they began charting a vision for economic improvements.

They wanted to hear comments as they recommend ways to encourage a thriving economy for the city's Downtown Development Authority district.

The DDA district includes the entire stretch of Ford Road through Westland and the south leg of Wayne Road from Ford to Glenwood. City officials hope to use tax revenues from the special district to spruce up businesses and install visually appealing landscaping.

Mayor Robert Thomas has predicted it will be five years before meaty improvements will occur.

In a Monday meeting attended by only a handful of business owners and residents, consultants heard suggestions for improving the area.

Jan Crawford, who, along with husband Neil owns Westland Lock & Key on Ford Road west of Wayne, said traffic problems that cause numerous Wayne-Ford accidents should be addressed.

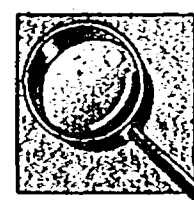
"I think the traffic flow is a big issue," she said.

Larry Walczyk, owner of Precision Tune Auto Care on the Wayne-Ford corner, said he believes the DDA district has a "great" mixture of businesses, but he would like to see city leaders strive to have the area look more like

Please see DDA, A2

Report: James' roles legal

A new opinion, which came in response to a petition filed with the prosecutor's office by Citizens for Good Government, says David James shouldn't be legally barred from his dual roles as Wayne-Westland school trustee and Westland planning commissioner.



A new opinion from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office says David James shouldn't be legally barred from his dual roles as Wayne-Westland school trustee and Westland planning commissioner.

"There was never any real doubt in my mind," James said Tuesday during a telephone interview. "In my mind I never did feel that there was a conflict."

The new opinion came in response to a petition filed with the prosecutor's office by Citizens for Good Government — a group that sought to legally stop James from serving in both positions.

CGG began attacking James in January 1997, when he voted as a planning commissioner to support a condominium development being built on former school district property next to Patchin Elementary.

The group also opposes a residential development planned on the old Wilson school site on Wildwood, next to the Sassafras Trails nature area, but James has abstained as a planning commissioner on that project.

CGG, armed with an opinion from Ann Arbor attorney John D. Erdevig, charged that the state Incompatible Offices Act should prevent James from sitting on the elected school board and appointed planning commission.

Even so, Westland City Attorney

Please see JAMES, A2

Moving to the music



In step: Dancers move to the sounds of Tony Russo's Big Band at the Westland Community Foundation Spring Ball Friday at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland. About 300 people attended the second-annual event. For more on the event, please see Page A3.

Volunteers sought for neighborhood watch

The Westland Police Department needs volunteers for its neighborhood watch program.

Volunteers drive around in old, stripped-down police cars to watch for crime and check on homes of vacationing residents.

They report any mysterious activity to police officers.

In their newest duty, neighborhood watch volunteers also issue \$95 parking tickets to motorists who park in handicapped spaces without displaying permits.

"We're just starting this, and we've trained our first group of 10 people," Westland police Sgt. David Hooper said.

Early on, some questions arose about the legality of having citizen volunteers issue handicapped parking

POLICE PROGRAM

violations.

But City Attorney Angelo Plakas researched the issue and gave an opinion supporting the new program.

Hooper, who is in charge of the neighborhood watch program, said the police department now has about 25 volunteers.

"We'd like to have more," he said. "We like to have a lot of volunteers."

Driving old police cars and wearing bright orange vests, unpaid volunteers work in pairs and choose their own hours between 7 p.m. and 2 a.m., Hooper

said. Don't worry about finding a partner. The police department will match volunteers.

Before starting their patrols, volunteers report to a shift commander at the police station on Ford Road, east of Newburgh.

"Most of our volunteers are retirees," Hooper said, "but the neighborhood watch program is open to anyone over the age of 18."

"They do have to have a good driving record and no criminal history," he added.

Potential volunteers are encouraged to call Hooper at 467-3249. Police will arrange for six hours of training before volunteers start their work.

Please see WATCH, A2

DDA from page A1

Central City Parkway. "They've done a beautiful job with the bricks and the flowers," he said.

Walczyk also said the DDA area should try to draw new customers from places like Garden City and Canton Township, and he said he likes a city slogan that pegs Westland as "the place to be."

"I keep seeing that, and it makes me feel warm and fuzzy," he said.

Jan Crawford suggested having more visible and decorative street signs and possibly using Christmas and Fourth of July decorations to spruce up the commercial corridors.

In a later meeting with council members, HyettPalma consultants heard that Councilwoman Sharon Scott wants to keep additional drugstores and automotive shops out of the DDA district to avoid saturation.

Councilman Glenn Anderson said a top concern is battling blight along Ford and Wayne.

"The blight that we're seeing right now is, I think, the No. 1 thing that we all would like to

see addressed," he said. Councilman Richard LeBlanc, referring to statements made in recent weeks by colleague Charles "Trav" Griffin, said the city should discuss the possibility of condemning some dilapidated properties, compensating property owners and replacing what's there.

He noted that such a move would require "a strong council." Added Hyett, "This is very bold growth management."

Anderson and Councilman Charles Pickering said the city has to instill confidence in residents and business owners that the DDA plan will help neighborhoods and commercial districts.

"Just to go in brashly and say 'this is the plan and we're going with it' - we can't do that," Anderson said.

Pickering said some controversial developments have occurred in areas where residents are now pleased, although they initially opposed plans that got approved.

In planning DDA improvements, he said, "We have to reach that level of confidence."

Watch from page A1

Because of the new program targeting handicapped parking violations, neighborhood watch volunteers may have to go to Westland District Court - but only once a month.

"They may have to attend a hearing if somebody contests a ticket," Hooper said.

Now that spring has arrived, Hooper is reminding Westland residents to contact the police

department before going on vacations. Call 722-9600.

By calling, vacationers can ensure that neighborhood watch volunteers and regular patrol officers will occasionally drive by their homes to look for anything suspicious.

Officers on the phone will take some basic information to help them make vacation checks.

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Really wicked



On the way to Oz: Colleen Wright, a senior, plays the wicked witch along with her evil monkey subjects, left to right, Jason Noel, James Foran, Scott Clark, and Brad Clark in John Glenn High School's upcoming production of "Oz," at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 2-4, at John Glenn Auditorium. Tickets at the door are \$4 for students and \$7 for adults. "Oz" is a contemporary version of the "Wizard of Oz" story with rap, jazz and classical music.

Principal to take calls in forum

Mary Goedert, principal of Madison Elementary School in Westland, will team up with more than 150 principals and school psychologists to answer parents' questions about their children's education during a nationwide forum.

Goedert will be among the educators taking calls on the National Principals' Hotline during a National Association of Elementary School Principals convention in early April in Orlando, Fla. Local mothers, fathers, grandparents, stepparents and

to ask questions about any topic by calling 1-800-944-1601 during the following times:

- Sunday, April 5, from 2 to 8 p.m.
- Monday, April 6, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Callers also may request a free copy of "On Call for Kids," a booklet produced in part by the elementary principals association. The booklet provides answers to questions commonly asked by parents.

James from page A1

Angelo Plakas followed with a decision declaring that James could legally sit on both boards.

Taking its fight a step further, CGG in December petitioned the prosecutor's office to enforce the act and declare that James shouldn't sit in both positions.

But assistant Wayne County prosecutor Frank Bernacki, in a March 20 letter to CGG member Charles Johnson, issued an opinion similar to Plakas' ruling.

"It is the opinion of this office that Mr. James is not holding incompatible offices at this time," Bernacki wrote. "Indeed as is evidenced by abstention from voting, he may be more comfortable if he did not hold

both positions, and in the future a situation could arise which would lead to the opposite conclusion; however, based upon the present facts, his serving in both of these offices is not legally barred."

James held out hope that the controversy will subside.

"This should be the end of it," he said. "It makes me wonder what their (CGG's) reason is for doing this. I'm starting to take it a little personally."

CGG member Teresa Robbins, who had asked the prosecutor's office to contact her about the CGG complaint, couldn't be reached for comment Tuesday.

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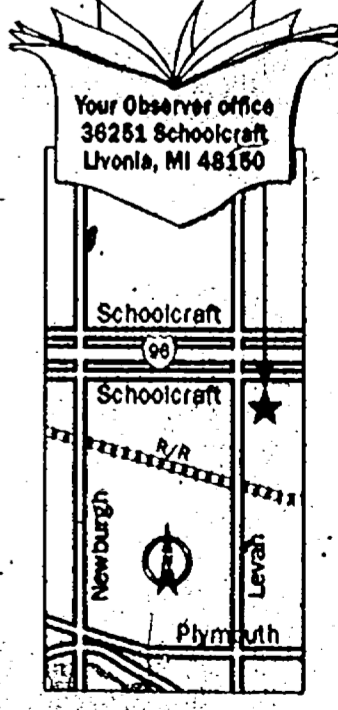
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THE Observer
NEWSPAPERS

1996 General Excellence Award



Spring fling Foundation ball draws crowd

More than 300 people attended the Westland Community Foundation's second annual spring ball Friday at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland. The event included a reception, dinner and dancing.

During the reception and dinner, George Colovus performed musical selections using a flute, vibraphone, percussion and vocals. Afterward, Tony Russo's World Famous Big Band entertained the crowd with Big Band

sounds. The money raised by the ball will to help pay for a variety of foundation programs, such as scholarships, Salvation Army summer camps, children's library programs and business-community events.



Spring fare: At top left, Mack and Bertha Mayfield of Westland sample some of the hors d'oeuvres at Friday night's Westland Community Foundation Spring Ball. Above, Glenn Shaw, executive board president of the Westland Community Foundation, dances with his mother, Martha Urmas. She is 83. At left, Elvira and Jerry Barker of Wayne are the first-prize winners of the foundation raffle.

Schools propose program additions

Three years of program improvements show just how well Livonia Public School district has fared since the state, not local taxpayers, began paying the bulk of the school district's bills.

"Just about everything out there has broken right for us," said Superintendent Ken Watson during Monday's discussion of the district's proposed 1998-99 budget.

Now recovered from the program cuts of the early 1990s, the district plans a third year of program additions next year.

The most costly addition is a proposed \$750,000 expenditure to continue to reduce class size in the district's elementary schools.

At a May 4 public hearing, both the proposed \$134.2 million budget and the \$10.3 million the district expects to get in April from the so-called Durant settlement will be aired, as mandated by state law.

LIVONIA

None of the Durant money has been included in the 1998-99 budget.

The district in 1998-99 expects to receive \$137 million in federal, state and local sources.

It also expects to end the year with a \$18.4 million surplus.

Including elementary class size, Watson highlighted 21 areas the district expects to pump more money into in the next school year. (See related story.)

These range from a new \$50,000 front-end loader to remove snow in the bigger school parking lots, to increasing the hours of high school attendance secretaries during the summer months.

Budgeting was made much easier this year, Watson said, because the current state-aid bill runs for two years and because

all contracts with school workers have been settled.

In picking the 21 areas, the district chose programs it could continue to fund in the coming years, said Randy Liepa, assistant superintendent for business.

"We don't want to take any of these back in two years," he said.

Liepa describes Livonia's economic picture as "the best financial position we have been in for some time."

Even so, he said, the district could soon face new costs, including spending \$1 million to add staffing and operation costs for an additional elementary or middle school to ease overcrowding in southwest Livonia.

The district also must follow a state mandate and add 51 hours of instruction to the school year by 2000-01. Extra costs here will come from a longer school day or year and more staffing, he said.

District program increases listed

Livonia Public Schools officials are recommending the following program increases in the district's 1998-99 budget.

Programs are listed from the most to the least expensive:

- \$725,000 to reduce class size in grades one-three in the 15 school buildings not reduced in class size in the 1997-98 budget. The current average class size of 25-to-1 will drop to 24-to-1.

- The average class in grades four-six, now 28-to-1, will drop to 26-to-1.

- \$300,000 to ensure enrichment classes will run at the three high schools, even if enrollment is small.

- \$250,000 to begin a two-phase program to replace playground equipment over a four-year period. The district wants to get rid of old, outmoded, even unsafe equipment while it has the money in its budget to do so.

- \$210,000 to launch seventh-grade academic teams at Riley, Frost and Holmes middle schools. Teachers will team teach in academic areas only, not in such areas as art or physical education.

- \$125,000 to add more psychological counseling for emotionally troubled students. The district's current staff of 4.5

social workers will jump to 6.5; the district's 7.5 psychologists will go to eight.

- \$90,000 to provide more support for high school teachers in the areas of core curriculum and Michigan Educational Assessment Program.

- \$75,000 to launch a one-year pilot program at Churchill that tracks ninth-graders to ensure their academic success. The program boosts the counseling and administrative staff.

- \$75,000 to add hours to paraprofessionals' work day at the three high schools. This means areas such as computer rooms and hallways will be monitored one hour before and after school.

- \$56,000 for a pilot program at Churchill High and Frost and Holmes middle schools for more after-school busing. This would allow students who participate in extracurricular activities to ride rather than walk home.

- \$50,000 to give elementary school teachers training sessions in the district's new math program.

- \$50,000 to add more teachers to the district's "SAFE program" in two elementary buildings, who serve as liaisons for social problems between the

school and family. The district this year has 10 full-time and 12 part-time SAFE teachers; in 1998-1999 this would be reversed with 12 full-time and 10 part-time.

- \$50,000 for more paper and cleaning supplies used by custodians.

- \$50,000 for more teaching materials and technology supply costs.

- \$50,000 to replace a 20-year-old front-end loader with a new one.

- \$40,000 to boost the leadership support for the seventh-grade academically talented program.

- \$40,000 to boost the leadership support in middle school core curriculum areas.

- \$30,000 for extra clerical support at Churchill and Stevenson.

- \$25,000 to boost the high school career intern program.

- \$15,000 to make the job of the parent outreach coordinator full time.

- \$15,000 for more secretarial support at Perrinville School.

- \$7,000 to boost the on-the-job time of high school attendance secretaries from 10 months to 12 months.

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SHOPPING HOURS • MON-SAT 10-9 • SUN NOON-6

Senior from page A1

Reynolds grew up in Westland, and she has a 21-year-old brother. Her father, William, died four years ago, but she chooses not to discuss him.



The Spectator. Her hobbies include rollerblading, softball, art, shopping, bowling and going to movies. She spends her weekends engaging in those kinds of activities with friends rather than going to parties where drugs and alcohol are used.

At school, Reynolds maintains a 3.79 grade point average, and she is a member of the National Honor Society. She was in Wayne Memorial's homecoming court in October.

"Drugs are a big problem," she said, when asked to cite the No. 1 problem facing her generation. "I don't go to parties where drugs and alcohol are involved, and I don't have friends that do drugs and alcohol."

One of her most beloved hobbies is art, including studio art, ceramics, pottery, drawing, painting and jewelry-making, just to name a few of her artistic talents.

"I have some really good friends," she said. "My friends are important to me."

She captured a top art award in her school last year, and she has won two regional awards and a certificate award in a competition sponsored by the Center of Creative Studies in Detroit.

Reynolds attends church at Sts. Simon & Jude in Westland.

She routinely receives academic letters at school.

Reynolds also has traveled to Rome and along the eastern coast of the United States, from Maine to Florida. She wants someday to see the Pyramids of Egypt and to visit Australia.

Reynolds finds time to work 21 hours a week at Westland's Target store, and she is making plans next fall to attend either Eastern Michigan University or Henry Ford Community College.

"I love going to new places and meeting new people," she said.

Why does she want to become a teacher?

Reynolds said she didn't expect to be chosen High School Senior of the Year, even though Bak told her she was being nominated.

"I like teaching little kids. I want to teach them to do things the right way and to inspire them. I want them to be able to think for themselves," she said.

"It was a pleasure to nominate her," Bak said.

She already has some background. She used to tutor young children at Lincoln Elementary School in Westland, and she has babysat for friends and family.

Reynolds had no idea until she was interviewed for this story that she was chosen among 99 nominees.

Teaching seems like a good choice for someone who enjoys school as much as Reynolds does.

"That makes me a little nervous," she said. "That's a great honor."

"I love coming to school. I'm not one to skip classes," she said. "I come to school to achieve my goals. If you don't have an education, you have nothing."

Indeed.

This year, she designed the cover for her senior yearbook.

'I like teaching little kids. I want to teach them to do things the right way and to inspire them. I want them to be able to think for themselves.'

Amy Reynolds

Salute to Excellence winner



Musical moments: Churchill High School presents the 1930s Broadway musical "42nd Street" at 7:30 p.m. today-Friday, April 2-3 and at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 4, in the Carli Auditorium, 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Cost is \$5 for presale tickets and \$7 at the door; a special \$4 rate is available for students and seniors on Thursday. Pictured are members of the cast: (from left) junior Anna Bonde plays Peggy Sawyer, junior Eugene Doss as Bert, senior Joe Wisniewski as Julian Marsh, sophomore Brian Druchniak as Billy Lawler, senior Jill Getz as Dorothy Brock and senior Christa Carlomusto as Maggie. A total of 125 student actors, singers, musicians, crew members, scenery constructors and dancers will take part in this production. Teacher Pat Hutchison and student Allison Sorrano direct the student musical. Call (734) 523-9230.

BUSINESS NOTES

New staff added

Livonia-based Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment Inc. (OHM) has added Amy E. O'Brien of Westland and Christopher M. Parrish to its staff.

A right-of-way-technician, O'Brien works in OHM's Survey Department processing survey data collection, preparing right-of-way plans and easement descriptions.

Parrish serves as an engineering technician assisting OHM's municipal engineering groups with various projects.

Galea appointed VP

Former Westland resident Robert W. Galea was recently appointed senior vice president/director of marketing/public relations at Imperial Bank of California.



Galea

Before joining Home Savings of America, he served at Michigan National Bank of Detroit. He received his B.B.A. in marketing from Western Michigan University.

Galea currently resident in Placentia, Calif., with his wife and two children.

Professional engineer

Lynn M. Surdock, formerly of Westland, has earned Professional Engineer status from the state of Michigan. She is a staff member of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTC&H). A graduate of John Glenn

High School and the daughter of Westland residents Mrs. and Mrs. Dennis McCormick, Surdock has design background on facilities at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and worked with clients such as Amway Corporation, Michigan State University, Ingham Regional Medical Center, and the Flat River Community Library in Greenville.

EMU appointments

Two Westland residents are among several new appointments to the Eastern Michigan

Please see BUSINESS, A6

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Engler names Talbot to state appeals court

Michael Talbot, a Wayne County circuit judge, was appointed Thursday by Gov. John Engler to the Michigan Court of Appeals, 1st District.

The following day, Engler appointed Richard Halloran Jr., an administrative law judge, to Wayne's 3rd Judicial Court to replace Talbot.

Talbot will be filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Maureen Pulte Reilly.

Engler called Talbot "one of the most experienced and respected" trial judges in the state.

"He has served with distinction at every level of our trial court system and has been a visiting judge on the Court of Appeals. There is no one better prepared to handle the challenging work of the Michigan Court of Appeals than Judge Mike Talbot."

Talbot, of Grosse Pointe Farms, has been a judge of the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court since 1991 and had served on the Recorder's Court from 1980 to 1991.

Talbot was engaged in private practice when he was first appointed by Gov. William Milliken as a judge of the Detroit Common Pleas Court in 1978. He has served as a visiting judge for the Washtenaw County Probate Court and for numerous circuit courts, including the Monroe County Circuit where he has served as a visiting judge since 1986.

Talbot has served as a visiting

'He has served with distinction at every level of our trial court system... There is no one better prepared to handle the challenging work of the Michigan Court of Appeals than Judge Mike Talbot.'

Gov. John Engler

judge for the Court of Appeals on numerous occasions. For many years, Talbot presided over all drug forfeiture and public nuisance cases brought in the Wayne County Circuit Court.

Talbot has served as a member of the Board of Catholic Education for the Archdiocese of Detroit since 1992. He currently serves as a chair of the advisory board of St. John's Center for Family and Youth and is a member of the board of directors of Manressa Retreat House, the Catholic Lawyers Society and of Jefferson House, a residential drug treatment facility. Talbot also is a member of the Board of Education for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

The newest appellate judge earned a bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown University in 1967 and a juris doctor degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1971.

Talbot's appointment runs

through Jan. 1, 1999. He will have to run for election in November 1998, in order to serve the remainder of the term, which expires Dec. 31, 2002.

Halloran, of Detroit, was appointed to the 36th Judicial District Court and in 1998 became an administrative law judge for the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. He currently is a board member of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and serves on the state task force on batterer intervention standards.

Halloran previously served as chair of the Wayne County Coordinating Council To Prevent Domestic Violence.

"Richard Halloran's experience as a magistrate and judge of the 36th District Court has prepared him well for the challenge of serving on the Wayne County Circuit Court," Engler said. "He has been a leader in the fight against domestic violence, and his ability to address the needs of families will be a valuable addition to this important court."

Halloran received his bachelor of arts degree from Canisius College in Buffalo in 1970, and his juris doctor in 1975 from the University of Detroit Law School.

Upon receiving his law degree, Halloran became an attorney for the Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and later became a 36th District Court magistrate.

County parks plan marshmallow drop

Everyone knows that March marches in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.

But does everyone know that April springs in like... "marshmallows?"

Well, if you don't, here's the scoop:

Wayne County parks will hold its annual Marshmallow Drop at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 10, at Nankin Mills in Westland on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail.

Marshmallows will be dropped from a helicopter, much to the delight of hundreds of waiting children, who will scramble to collect the sweet treats and turn them in for a prize-filled egg during the county's 13th annual Great Marshmallow Drop. Children will be divided into age groups in order to collect their share of the marshmallow treats.

"This isn't just an opportunity for kids to eat more candy," said Edward McNamara, Wayne County executive. "This is a chance for families to start the season by enjoying the spring air and getting plenty of exercise in the process."

The Great Marshmallow Drop is co-sponsored by WNIC-FM 100.

For information, call (313) 261-1990.

Transition

Hospice chief resigns to head Phoenix-based organization

Hospice of Michigan's board of directors has asked its chairman, Lee R. Miskowski, to serve as interim CEO while it undertakes a search to replace President and CEO Carolyn J. Cassin.

Cassin recently accepted a position as chief operating officer east for VistaCare, a national Hospice corporation based in Phoenix.

Miskowski, former vice president of the Ford Motor Co. and general manager of the Lincoln-Mercury Division, will head Hospice of Michigan's transition team during the search, the board announced

Tuesday.

"We have a terrific leadership team at Hospice of Michigan," said Miskowski, who has led the organization's nine-member board since 1996. "Carolyn Cassin has a superb group of vice presidents who share her vision. Hospice of Michigan's style of participatory management means patient care services will be unaffected."

Cassin will remain at Hospice of Michigan for at least 30 days. She came to Hospice of Southeastern Michigan, forerunner of Hospice of Michigan, in 1988. The board credited

her with rescuing the organization from the verge of bankruptcy.

In 1994, Cassin spearheaded a merger of Hospice of Southeastern Michigan, Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids, and eight smaller hospice programs into Hospice of Michigan, the first statewide hospice in the United States. Hospice of Michigan is the largest nonprofit hospice in the nation.

VistaCare currently operates in Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Texas and plans to expand into other states.

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Early summer?



Wow, it was warm: Ashley Johnson, 3, Matt Wertz, 5, and Josh Johnson, 4, drink strawberry slush at the Dairy Dan on Ford Road as residents took advantage of the recent warm temperatures. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end as temperatures took a more seasonable turn.

Republicans to meet

Susy Heintz, director of the governor's southeastern Michigan office, will address the Westland Republican Club at 7 p.m. Monday, April 13, at Amantea's Restaurant, 32777 W. Warren, at Venoy in Garden City. Heintz was the chairwoman of the Michigan Republican Party, was a Wayne County commissioner, has held numerous elected positions, and has served on several boards and committees in Wayne County.

Competes in finals

Angel Gamba, daughter of Patricia and Carlos Gamba of Westland, competed as a finalist in

PLACES & FACES

Michigan's 18th Annual Homecoming Queen Selection, March 28 and 29 in Lansing. Gamba, who was selected as John Glenn High School's homecoming queen in October 1997, competed with 56 other Michigan homecoming queens. The competition in Lansing was part of America's Homecoming Queen Inc., a nonprofit organization promoting education and educational travel for high school homecoming queens. About 10 percent of the homecoming queens in Michigan were selected to compete in the finals.

Business from page A4

University staff. Mary Jackson is a workplace education specialist at the Center for Management and Leadership. Jackson earned her bachelor's degree in secondary education at Eastern Michigan University in 1993 and her master's degree in teaching at EMU in 1995. She has served as a guest lecturer at EMU since 1995 and as an adjunct faculty member at Henry Ford Community College since 1997.

Judith Poger is a workplace education specialist at the Center for Management and Leadership. Poger earned her bachelor's degree from Wayne State University in 1963 and her master's degree in reading from EMU in 1986. Poger has served as adjunct English and communications instructor at Henry Ford Community College and instructor at the Dearborn Public Schools Adult Education program.

Salon anniversary

The Maria Cisar Salon, 35857 Ford Road, celebrated its first year anniversary in Westland on April 1. The salon introduced a new color line, sponsored by Nailco, at a color party in honor of

the anniversary.

Home improvement show

Canton Fence & Supply Company and Best Buy Blinds of Westland are displaying their goods at the second annual Home Improvement Show which opens today and runs through April 5 in Novi.

Canton Fence & Supply Company will present vinyl fencing and decking and Best Buy Blinds will feature blinds.

Novi Expo Center is at I-96 and Novi Road. Show hours are 2-10 p.m. today and Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

Resale spree

Nicole's Revival is hosting a resale shopping spree 9 a.m. to about 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 4. Cost is \$35. The spree departs from Nicole's Revival, includes continental breakfast, lunch and transportation to resale shops. Nicole's Revival is a 958 N. Newburgh Road, between Cherry Hill and Ford. (734) 729-1234.

MILITARY NEWS

Joshua Barr, son of Gayla and David Barr of Detroit, enlisted in the Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program March 19.

Barr, a 1996 graduate of Westland Lutheran High School, is scheduled for enlistment in the Regular Air Force May 13. Upon graduation from the Air Force's six-week basic training course in San Antonio, Texas, he is scheduled to receive technical training as a tactical aircraft maintenance apprentice.

He will earn credits toward an associate degree in applied sci-

ences through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools.

Air Force Airman Dennis R. McCann has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.



McCann

During the six weeks of training, McCann studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, the airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate's degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

McCann is the son of Dennis P. and Kathleen A. McCann of Livonia.

He is a 1997 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School.

OBITUARIES

AMY JO NELLIGAN

Funeral services for Amy Jo Nelligan, 48, of Westland were March 31 in Vermeulen Funeral Home, Westland. Officiating was Monsignor John Zenz.

Mrs. Nelligan, who died March 29 in Farmington Hills, was born in Detroit. She was a receptionist at Botsford Hospital for six years.

Surviving are: husband, Donald Jr.; son, Donald III of Redford; daughter, Christina Frisstick of Westland; parents, Robert and Doris Hall; brothers,

Patrick Hall of Arizona, Michael of Garden City, Robert Hall Jr. of Howell; sisters, Pamela Hall of Englewood, Fla., Debra Caminiti of Englewood, Fla., Josephine Holtz of Englewood, Fla. and Doris Rysztak of Garden City; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society.

POLLY CANTERBURY

Funeral services for Polly Canterbury, 75, of Westland were March 30 in St. Theodore

Catholic Church with interment at Restlawn Cemetery, Port Charlotte, Fla. Officiating was the Rev. Michael Molnar. Arrangements were made by Uht Funeral Home.

Mrs. Canterbury died March 26 in Dearborn. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are: sons, Lee Reese, John Jr. and Robert Jares; daughter, Judy Bush; brothers, Ralph Bragg and Doug Bragg; and four grandchildren.

Mrs. Canterbury is preceded in death by her husband, John.



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S'craft hires consultants for business center project

Schoolcraft College has hired a team of an architectural firm and food services consultant to complete drawings for its new Business and Industry Training Center and the renovation of the Waterman Campus Center.

Trustees approved a \$103,858 contract March 22 with Ghafari Associates Inc. of Dearborn and E.F. Whitney Inc.

Trustees heard presentations from three different architectural/food service consultant teams on Feb. 28. They met again March 22 to hear recommendations from Butch Raby, Schoolcraft's vice president of business services, who had researched previous jobs completed by the bidders.

"All three teams were very good and very capable, but this team came across as the most organized and they had already begun to mesh," Raby said. That team also was the low bid for the design phase.

Raby visited Henry Ford Community College and University of Michigan-Dearborn to check on Ghafari's architectural work and the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village to research E.F. Whitney.

Raby was unaware of any

Trustees approved a \$103,858 contract March 22 with Ghafari Associates Inc. of Dearborn and E.F. Whitney Inc.

work that Ghafari and Whitney had completed together as a team, but contacted officials at each of the facilities he visited, and found that most were pleased with the architect's work.

"At University of Michigan-Dearborn, they designed a building for the physical plant staff. It was a very utilitarian building, but sparse in terms of design," Raby said. "At Henry Ford, they designed a building for Nursing and Allied Health programs. Functionally, it was very well designed, but not the kind we wanted."

Raby recommended to Ghafari that Schoolcraft wanted a "groundface" block in the new facilities that was used in the corridors at the McDowell Center because it requires low main-

tenance and is more durable.

Raby was impressed with Ghafari's arrangement of a conference room at its headquarters in Dearborn, a design of what Schoolcraft would want. "The technology is hidden, but available," Raby said.

The room contained a "closet" with projection and personal computer equipment. Raby expects Schoolcraft to have rooms at the conference center with "break-out" rooms for smaller groups to use with similar equipment.

E.F. Whitney designed an inn at the Henry Ford Museum-Greenfield Village complex, which created the feel of an inn, yet accommodate the masses of people that visited whether it was a conference or groups of tourists, Raby said.

Raby suspects the two buildings will be approached as one project. "But whether or not it will shake out that way, I can't tell you," Raby said. "That's why we have feasibility studies."

Schematic diagrams will not be completed until late summer, Raby said. Depending on when state funds are approved, ground breaking could be as early as 1999 or as late as 2001.

Balanced budgets, high bond rating win praise for county

Wayne County has been awarded the certificate of achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 1996 comprehensive annual financial report.

The certificate was issued by the Government Finance Officers Association, the highest form of recognition a governmental agency can obtain in accounting and financial reporting.

"This award recognizes the high standards achieved by the county," said Edward McNamara, Wayne County executive. "Its

WAYNE COUNTY

attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the county and its management."

In the last 10 years the county's financial health has improved.

The \$140 million general fund deficit from 1986 has been eliminated. In 1996, the general fund showed a \$20 million fund balance. Since 1987, the county has recorded 10 straight balanced budgets and received nine straight bond rating increases.

The county also received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its annual appropriated budget for fiscal 1996. For this award, Wayne County's budget was reviewed by a panel of judges of accountants, government officials and others.

County officials expect the recognition will help market securities to investors by informing them about the county's financial condition.

DAR offers \$1,000 scholarships for students at Schoolcraft

Schoolcraft College students with serious financial needs are encouraged to apply for the John Sackett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution scholarship.

The DAR is offering a

\$1,000 scholarship for the entire 1998-99 academic year to a Schoolcraft student who can demonstrate he or she is deserving of financial assistance.

Applications are available in the Office of Financial Aid

in room 260 of the McDowell Center. Applications are due May 11.

Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, between Six and Seven Mile roads, just west of I-275.

To make sense of the new Roth IRA, plug in these numbers: 1-800-292-1300.

With all the confusion out there over the Roth IRA and the impact of the new tax law, it should be comforting to know there's a hot line you can call to help answer some questions you may have. Comerica Securities' Investment Consultants can show you investment alternatives for Roth IRAs, including stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Or they can put you in touch with Comerica bank's Private Banking Relationship Managers who can set up a customized plan for you in regard to the impact the new tax law changes may have on your investments. All you have to do is pick up the phone and call. That number again is 1-800-292-1300.

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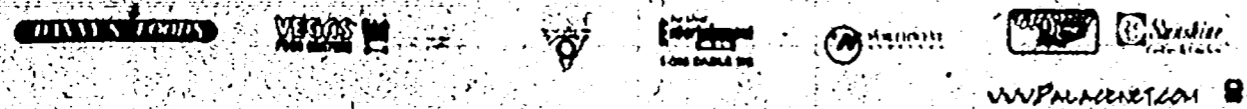
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Newburgh Lake

Project on track, November wrapup set

Wayne County officials are now saying that the Newburgh Lake restoration should be finished by late November.

Contractors and work crews are expected to complete this year the lake's excavation, the resurfacing of Hines Drive between Newburgh and Haggerty roads, fish kill and restocking and plantings of trees, according to Roger Van Omen, a chief engineer of Wayne County's Department of Public Works.

"The lake excavation is expected to be completed by Labor Day," Van Omen said. "The road and park restoration will follow that work this fall. We hope this is completed by late November."

Excavators from John Carlo of Clinton Township are removing soil and sediment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the lake. The soil is being transported to a landfill in Salem Township.

Most PCBs removed

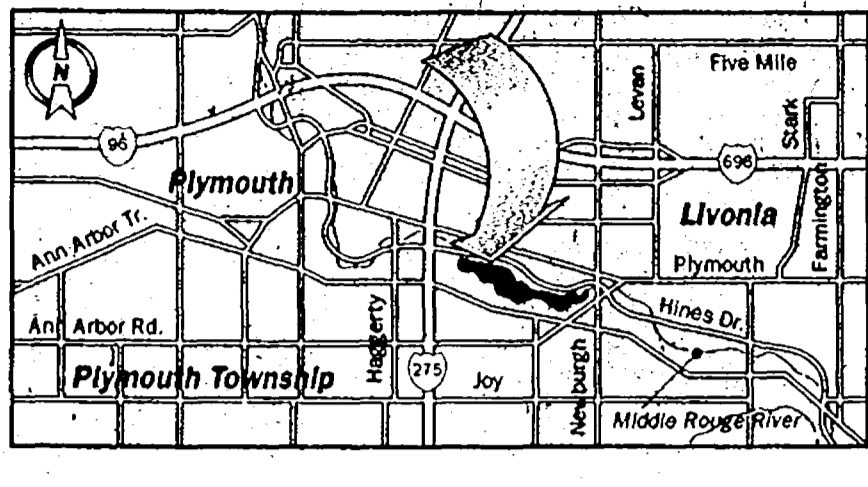
About 370,000 tons or about 95 percent of contaminated soil has been removed. About 685,000 total tons of contaminated and noncontaminated soil needs to be removed.

The excavation will make Newburgh about 8 feet deep, Van Omen said. The excavation phase is scheduled for completion by Sept. 7.

Van Omen said as recently as December the lake would not be completed until 1999, but officials now are revising that schedule. Contractor John Carlo

Newburgh Lake

Contractors and work crews are expected to complete this year the \$10 million Newburgh Lake restoration project. Wayne County officials expect completion of the lake's excavation by Labor Day, Hines Drive resurfaced between Newburgh and Haggerty roads by Nov. 15, a fish kill and lake refilled with water in September and fish restocked in October. The lake is expected to be ready for public use in late November, according to a county official.



will remove less than the expected 700,000 tons because the soil that was to be removed weighed less than was first believed.

"The contractor didn't know exactly what it weighed," Van Omen said. "As the lake is lowered, and the soil dries, it consolidates. The tonnage isn't as much as we thought." Van Omen said soil samples are being collected continually throughout this phase by the firm of Environmental Consulting & Technology of Detroit.

Van Omen said many of the contractor's costs for equipment use in dredging are fixed costs, so he was uncertain whether the

county would save money in the excavation contract.

"They've been hauling 3,000 tons a day," Van Omen said.

A busy lake

Here is a summary of the 1998 schedule:

- A new sluice gate at the dam near Newburgh Road was installed in February.

- Hines Drive between Newburgh and Haggerty roads will be resurfaced between Sept. 30 and Nov. 15.

- A second fish kill - the first was completed last June - is scheduled for September.

- The new sluice gate will be

closed to refill the lake between Sept. 25 and Oct. 10. A temporary cofferdam used at the site will be removed with a crane at the end of the project.

The site restoration is scheduled between August and October. Lake plantings and fish restocking will take place in October.

Van Omen doesn't expect a repeat of last year's fish kill when several thousand fish were killed downstream in a river impoundment, Nankin Lake, along with the ones planned for Newburgh Lake.

Rotenone, a natural pesticide, was used last year, but too much was applied too close to the dam at Newburgh Lake, which allowed less time and lake volume for workers to neutralize the rotenone with potassium permanganate. Both chemicals break down naturally depending on their concentration levels and water temperatures.

Most of those fish in New-

Please see LAKE, A13

Northwest to add new routes to Japan June 2

Northwest Airlines has started a new "Motown Express" service between Detroit and Nagoya, Japan, which begins on June 2.

The new route connects the two largest automotive manufacturing centers in the world.

Nagoya is in the Chubu region of Japan which has a population of more than 18 million. Toyota, Honda and Yamaha have large manufacturing facilities in the region, and there are numerous auto parts suppliers.

"The economic impact of international air service is enormous," said Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara. "When business and industry are scouting locations for headquarters, plants or branch offices, air service, especially international air service, is always near the top of the list."

"Detroit Metro Airport's superior airfield, which includes runways designed for

long-haul international departures and sophisticated instrument landing systems, provides the infrastructure which allows our air carriers to take advantage of destinations such as Tokyo, Osaka, Beijing and now Nagoya. Such air service generates jobs and economic opportunity for our local communities."

Wayne County, Northwest Airlines and the Federal Inspection Services dedicated an expanded international arrivals area last month, which increases the airport's arriving international passenger processing rate from 800 to 1,200 passengers per hour. A new international departures building was dedicated in September.

Northwest will operate the Detroit-Nagoya service three times a week with Boeing 747-400 aircraft, with enough cargo capacity to ship parts and supplies, as well as pas-

Please see ROUTES, A10

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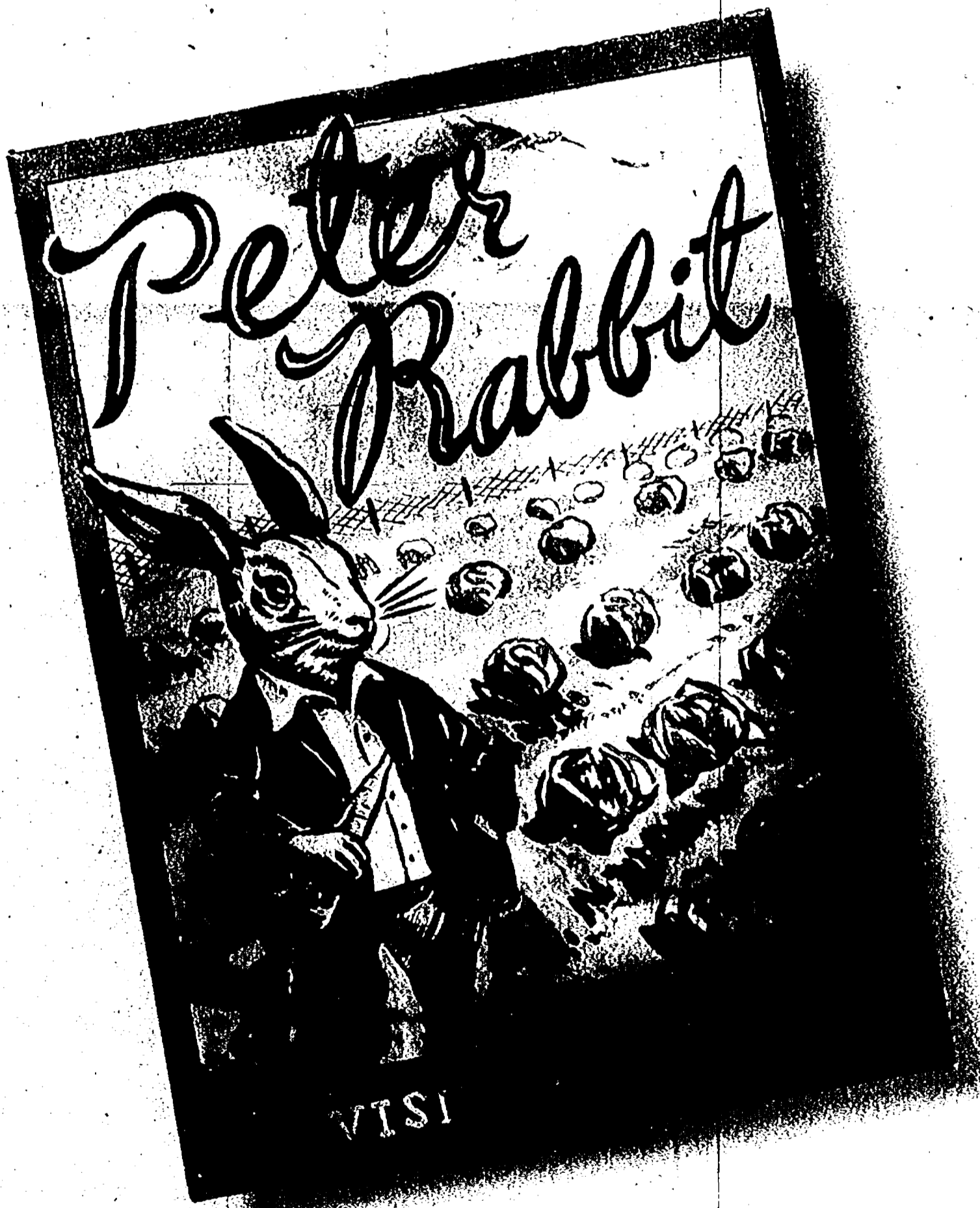
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Youth prison is state's first

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Rejoice or cry?

State lawmakers did both as ground was broken for the first "punk prison" near Baldwin in Lake County.

Privately built and run, the 480-bed maximum security prison will house violent offenders under age 19. Its programs will feature drug therapy, alcohol therapy, impulse control therapy, general education and vocational training.

"It's unfortunate you have to make an occasion and a press kit out of building a children's prison," said Sen. Jim Berryman, D-Adrian, an outspoken liberal. "I think it's a sad day."

Berryman called it "a prison patterned after what, I think, is a failed adult correctional system ... Early intervention programs, prevention programs - that is the key."

Berryman also deplored that the prison was privatized, which "makes the administrators of

that facility and the guards not accountable to elected officials but accountable to a CEO."

Sen. Mike Bouchard, R-Birmingham, a former police officer, said the groundbreaking ceremony last month "is not a celebration but an affirmation of the policy of the state. That policy (toward) violent offenders - be they young or old - is punishment for their actions."

Bouchard said the majority recognize the need for early intervention and at-risk programs. He saw the use of a private company "as a cost-effective means of doing business" that will free up state money for other programs.

"These children who were mentioned (by Berryman) are criminals!" said Sen. Joanne Emmons, R-Big Rapids. "They have committed crimes against the weaker members of this society. To pretend that they are only children and not criminals is missing the point."

"This is a day I have long

waited for," said Gov. John Engler at groundbreaking ceremonies for the prison, being built by Granger Construction of Lansing and managed by Wackenhut Corrections. It's due to be finished in 1999.

"It will save taxpayers more than \$33 million in construction-related costs and \$4.5 million per year in operating costs," Engler said. "Michigan now has one of the toughest juvenile justice systems in the nation, and this prison another step to keep it that way."

Sen. William VanRegenmorter, R-Jenison, said the prison's purpose is to protect citizens from violent offenders.

"This prison will help citizens on the outside feel secure from the threat of violent criminals, while helping those inside to face up to the personal problems which led to their crimes," said VanRegenmorter, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee which reported out the "punk prison" bills.

'We're squeezed'

Sending Michigan inmates to a federal prison in West Virginia isn't cost-effective, so the Department of Corrections is bringing back 31.

"We're squeezed to the limit," said Ken McGinnis, director of Corrections.

He said Michigan was unable to persuade the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to accept more state inmates. After reviewing nearly 1,000 inmate files, the federal bureau accepted only 39 - all for minimum-security facilities.

McGinnis said Michigan has space only in its own minimum-security prisons, including camps, "so sending them to a federal facility is just not cost-effective."

Michigan has a prison population of 44,000. More than 42,000 need to be in secure facilities. Gov. Engler's budget proposes construction prisons to house 5,400 inmates.

Scholarship helps her spirit live on at Madonna

Julienne Hoff died March 18, 1997, but her spirit lives on at Madonna University.

A scholarship has been established in her name at the university.

Hoff came to Madonna (College) University in 1987 as the newly-appointed dean in the Division of Nursing and Health. In addition to her role as a division dean, she was chairperson of the nursing department which included both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Under her leadership, the Division of Nursing and Health continued to excel. Each year, more than 96 percent of the nursing graduates passed the State Board Examinations on the first attempt. Previous to her position at Madonna College, Hoff was a professor and dean in the Division of Nursing at Mercy College.

Her formal education included a doctorate in academic administration of higher education from the University of Michigan. She did post-graduate study at Boston University and completed her master's degree in nursing education at Teachers College at Columbia University, New York. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Mercy College in Detroit.

Throughout her years as a professor and dean, Hoff was recognized on numerous occasions for her commitment and dedication to nursing and education.

Julienne Hoff resigned from Madonna College in 1990 to spend time with her husband, William R. Hoff, a 1977 Madonna University graduate, who had then



In memory: Throughout her years as a professor and dean, Julienne Hoff was recognized on numerous occasions for her commitment and dedication to nursing and education.

recently retired from his position as deputy chief of the Livonia Police Department.

"We treasured her very much," said Mary Wawrzynski, who succeeded Hoff at Madonna. "I knew her as a deeply caring woman with a supportive personality who helped people achieve their goals."

In her memory, a scholarship has been established in her name. Contributions may be made to the Dr. Julienne Hoff Memorial Nursing Scholarship, Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

For information, call (734) 432-5589.

Routes from page A9

sengers. Northwest has also timed its flights from cities such as Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., for easy connections to all international flights from Detroit. Northwest will tai-

lor its Airlink schedules to important automotive cities in the Ohio Valley, such as Lexington, Ky., to provide superior elapsed travel times.

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ty's Detroit Metro Airport include: Amsterdam, London (on two carriers), Frankfurt, Grand Cayman, Mexico City, Paris; Puerto Vallarta, St. Maarten, Zihuatanejo, Mexico and five cities in Canada. Detroit Metro

is the only airport in North America which provides non-stop service to mainland China on a U.S. flag carrier.

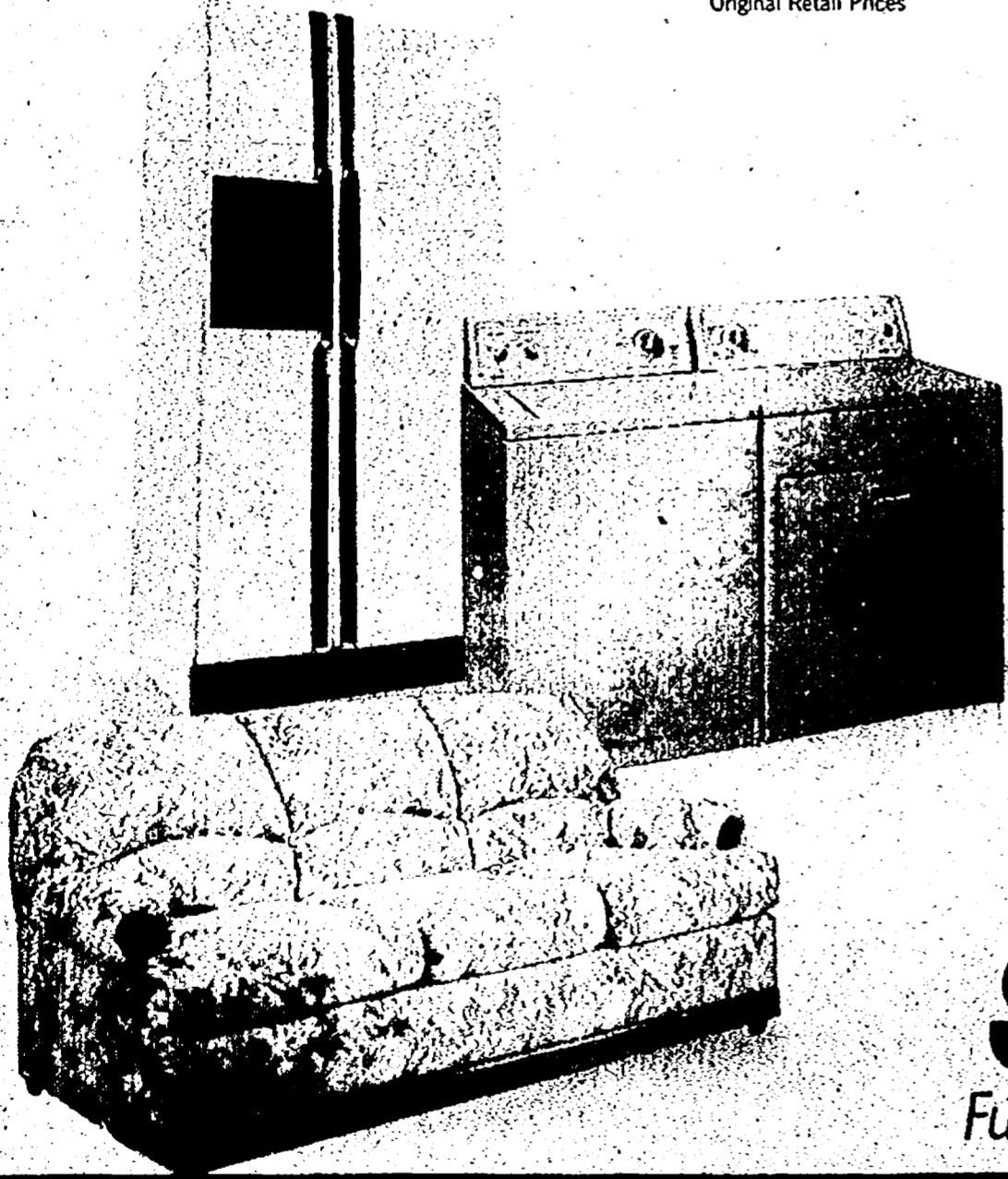
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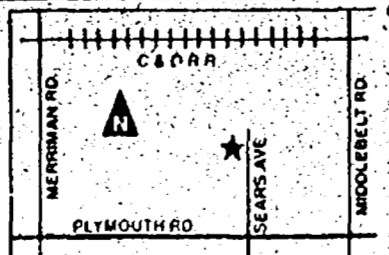
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SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 10am-10pm
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 10am-7pm

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- Home repair and remodeling demonstrations
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HEADLINES AROUND OBSERVERLAND

Observer News Roundup provides a summary of headline stories throughout western Wayne County.

CANTON TOWNSHIP

DDA TABLES MEGA-PLAN

Canton's Downtown Development Authority isn't sold yet on a partnership with private backers of a \$150 million mega-development at the southeast corner of I-275 and Ford Road.

In fact, the DDA may not have the extra \$3.2 million in bond capacity to get the project off the ground.

A multiplex theater, several hotels, restaurants, retail center and apartment complex are proposed for the 124-acre site.

DDA members debated for two hours March 25 whether to kick in \$3.2 million in public assistance. Burton Katzman Development Company would use the money for an interior roadway network and waterway management system.

The issue was tabled once again, despite a recommendation from a DDA subcommittee to go ahead with the financial contribution.

"This could be the park that sets off your office and research segment of the community... it will put Canton on the map," Peter Burton told the DDA board.

Burton-Katzman Development Company and partners, Phoenix Land Development, have been working for two years on the 124-acre project, which involved assembling 17 pieces of property from various owners.

BRIDGEWORK ON I-275

the embankments of the I-275 bridge overpasses on Michigan Avenue or Ford Road.

The Michigan Avenue overpass is scheduled to be rebuilt this summer, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

However, the Ford Road bridge isn't on the list of repairs - at least not yet. A wood support beam has been installed on the embankment of the east-bound lanes in an apparent attempt to stop the concrete from falling onto the road.

No injuries have been reported at either location, she said. The bridges are inspected every other year by the state.

The construction is expected to cost about \$48,000 and will begin sometime around Memorial Day.

The bridge repair will be coordinated with the \$17.7 million overlay and resurfacing of I-275 from Northline Road in Romulus to Five Mile in Livonia, which is also set to begin this spring.

GARDEN CITY

MONITORING WATER METERS

In an effort to get an accurate account of water use by some homes and business, the Garden City administration has proposed hiring the Plante & Moran auditing firm to study the cost and feasibility of upgrading the water meters and automated meter reading.

"We budgeted \$100,000 last year in capital outlay for a water meter project," said City Manager Jon Bayless. "Over several years, it will probably cost \$500,000 to \$1 million ultimately. We need a cost analysis of the impact on the water-sewer fund."

Over the last several years, some exterior meter reading

devices have failed.

When the inside meter, which was working accurately, was read homeowners were shocked with catch-up water bills for hundreds of dollars.

The water meter study is scheduled to be discussed further at Monday night's meeting.

LIVONIA

MEIJER EYES THEATER

A longtime Livonia landmark, the George Burns Theater, could be demolished if plans to build a Meijer store at Farmington and Plymouth take root.

Southfield-based Schostak Brothers & Co. Inc. and city officials met about a month ago to talk about redeveloping the 23-acre site for a top-of-the-line Meijer store, complete with garden center, said Mayor Jack Kirksey.

The developers are expected to present conceptual plans for the megastore shortly to the Plymouth Road Development Authority.

The building formerly housed the Mai Kai Movie Theater.

It reopened twice to live theater. Both ventures failed, and the parking lot is now used to store vehicles for Bill Brown Ford.

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

BODY FOUND

A dead man and the weathered, rusty gun likely used to end his life were found Monday

in a wooded area east of I-275 in Plymouth Township.

A nearby resident called police after finding skeletal remains and clothing "that tends to make us believe it was a male," said police Detective David Hayes.

"It was just clothing and bones," Hayes said. "The skull appeared to have a gunshot wound to the head." He declined to speculate how long the man had been dead.

The body is being examined by the Wayne County Medical Examiner's office. Police are also checking missing persons records.

The body was found behind houses along a strip of Eckles. The houses face east on the road, which marks the Livonia-Plymouth Township border.

The man had no identification on him, police said. They found \$11 and some change in his pocket.

WESTLAND

10 WORST INTERSECTIONS

The Wayne-Ford intersection kept its long-standing No. 1 ranking for accidents even though the number of crashes dipped from 110 in 1996 to 90 last year, Westland police Sgt. Peter Brokas said.

Overall, the number of roadway crashes in Westland climbed from 2,094 to 2,247 during the two-year period.

"People have too much to do in a car," Brokas said. "They're using cell phones and fiddling around with CD players. Men are shaving in the car and women are putting on makeup."

"A lot of our accidents are occurring because people are speeding and not paying attention," he added.

Other intersection rankings were:

- No. 2: Wayne and Cherry Hill
- No. 3: Warren and Newburgh
- No. 4: Ford and Newburgh
- No. 5: Wayne and Warren
- No. 6: Wayne and Hunter
- No. 7: Wayne and Cowan
- No. 8: Warren-Central City Parkway
- No. 9: Cherry Hill and Merriman
- No. 10: Merriman and Ann Arbor Trail

Former Township Treasurer and longtime State Rep. John Bennett, a Democrat, died March 29. He was 85.

"He really was close to people. He always took time to take a phone call," said Carol Marra, his daughter.

He attended Wayne State University and Walsh College. He worked as an accountant at Ford Motor Co. In 1955 he was elected Redford Township treasurer.

He was later elected to the 34th state House seat, serving for 26 years. The district also served part of Livonia.

His accomplishments in the legislature include a law that can be used to stop hostile takeovers of small or individual businesses.

He was also instrumental in getting legislation passed that requires drivers and front seat passengers to wear their seat belts.

REDFORD TOWNSHIP

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of Public Hearing for Review of a Housing and Community Development Annual Consolidated Plan Action Plan for Fiscal 1998/99 Including Proposed Housing and Community Development Goals, Strategies and Proposed Use of Funds for Program Year XXIV (7-01-98 - 6-30-99)

BACKGROUND

As required by U.S. Congressional Statutes, the City of Westland has prepared a Five Year Consolidated Plan Strategy for the period July 1, 1995-June 30, 2000 as a prerequisite to receiving funds from a variety of Federal and State sources...

The Five Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan are designed to be integrated documents for identifying and meeting the needs for Community Development and Affordable Housing within the City of Westland. Further, they include a review of the total resources expected to be available to assist in the provision of Community Development and Affordable Housing needs...

1998/99 ANNUAL CONSOLIDATED PLAN ACTION PLAN REVIEW PERIOD

This publishing shall serve as notice that the (30) day Consolidated Plan Public Comment period shall begin April 3, 1998 and end on May 4, 1998. The Five Year Consolidated Plan Strategy document and 1998/99 Annual Action Plan Summary will be on review at locations throughout the City listed at the end of the notice...

1998/99 CONSOLIDATED PLAN ACTION PLAN NARRATIVE

The 1998/99 Consolidated Plan Action Plan will provide information regarding the financial resources which are expected to be available in Federal fiscal year 1998 for Community Development and affordable housing programs including new construction, rehabilitation, rental assistance, homeless programs, home purchase assistance programs, etc. The Consolidated Plan reviews various Federal, State, County, and local resources as well as those of the private and non-profit sector.

The Consolidated Plan Action Plan also discusses implementation for the City fiscal year 1998/99 (7/1/1998-6/30/1999) in terms of the number of households to be assisted by Federal, State or Local programs and which family types the assistance will be targeted to. For fiscal 1998/99, the City anticipates programs and projects which were already projected under the 1997/98 Consolidated Plan Action Plan...

No significant new programming or increase in the availability of assistance is predicted at the present time due to Federal and State budget reductions and the general anti-tax mood of the country. Housing rehabilitation for owners; rehabilitation of rental property in the Norwayne and Carver Subdivisions; and the provision of Section 8 rent subsidies to all family types will continue at levels provided during the five-year period 1990-1995. The City has begun a demonstration Home Buyer Program in both the Norwayne and Carver Subdivisions to encourage a greater interest in homeownership amongst families who currently rent...

The City will continue with the implementation of its Carver Subdivision Revitalization Plan starting with the designation of a non-profit housing provider, People's Community Hope for Homes, to start affordable housing initiatives including in-fill housing on vacant, tax reverted lots and an acquisition, rehabilitation and resale program for vacant homes. PCHFH has prepared a Neighborhood Preservation Program application that has been submitted to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. MSHDA has reviewed and approved this plan. Request for Proposals were received from developers in regard to constructing one or more new subdivision streets in the Carver Subdivision south of Powers St. New subdivision development should begin in the upcoming fiscal period since a developer has been given a designated developer status with the City.

Homeless shelter programs will continue as is, with Wayne County and local governments needing to plan for transitional and permanent housing for the homeless. Supportive housing programs for special needs individuals will continue to be provided by county-wide non-profit organizations who may possibly be subject to budget cutbacks. It is assumed that Wayne County will continue to support the operation of the Wayne County Family Center which provides (23) units of emergency shelter. The shelter is operated through a contract with Lutheran Social Services of Michigan.

The Westland Department Housing and Community Development will monitor the progress and implementation of the Consolidated Plan and provide reports to various commissions, HUD, and the local legislative body on a regular basis.

CITY OF WESTLAND CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROCESS

To meet the Consolidated Plan Citizen Participation requirements, the draft summary document must be available for public examination and comment for a period of thirty (30) days. The 1998/99 Consolidated Plan Action Plan will be available for the public to review beginning April 2, 1998 through May 4, 1998. Copies of the complete Five Year Consolidated Plan Strategy document including all narratives and tables, and the proposed 1998/99 Consolidated Plan Action Plan will be available for public examination for a thirty-day (30) period at the locations listed below:

- 1) Department of Housing and Community Development, 32715 Dorsey Rd., Westland
2) Westland City Hall (Clerk's Office) 36601 Ford Rd., Westland
3) William P. Faust Westland Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland
4) Westland Senior Resources Department, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland

To coincide with the above-mentioned thirty (30) day comment period, public hearings on the 1998/99 Consolidated Plan Action Plan will be conducted to obtain citizen and organizational input as listed below:

- April 16, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. Westland Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee 32715 Dorsey Rd., Westland, MI 48186
April 20, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. Westland City Council Meeting 33601 Ford Rd., Westland, MI 48185
April 21, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. Westland Housing Commission 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, MI 48186
April 28, 1998 at 4:30 p.m. Westland Rehabilitation Review Board 32715 Dorsey Rd., Westland, MI 48186

PROPOSED YEAR XXIV COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME PROGRAM

The City of Westland anticipated receiving approximately \$1,078,000 in Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the Year XXIV Program which begins July 1, 1998, from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This represents a \$181,000 or 14.4% cut in Federal funding from that received during the prior fiscal period (Year XXIII; \$1,260,000). It is proposed to utilize \$78,000 in program income returned to the City from loan and grant repayments from the CDBG funded Housing Rehabilitation Program to provide an increased level of capital improvements and public service activities in the Year XXIV Program. The City also anticipates receiving a slight increase in the amount of HOME funds as received in the prior fiscal period from both Federal and State resources. The total expected HOME funding is \$378,000.

NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The CDBG program was enacted by Congress in 1974 to address the problem of deteriorating cities and neighborhoods. In order to achieve this goal, revitalizing the nation's communities, the federal government established three broad national objectives to which the City of Westland has certified it will give maximum feasible priority. These objectives include:

- 1. Activities which benefit low and moderate income families.
2. Activities which aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.
3. Activities which address an urgent threat to the health or safety of the community.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

- 1. Preserve and/or expand the existing housing stock through housing rehabilitation and code enforcement programs.
2. Conserve and upgrade the neighborhoods of low/moderate income families through capital improvements and the installation of new public infrastructure.
3. Improve and expand the recreational facilities for low/moderate income families, including senior citizens and the handicapped.
4. Provide for and expansion of a varied program of social and community services to low/moderate income persons including senior citizens.
5. Provide for the expansion of job opportunities for low/moderate income persons.

- 6. Alleviate conditions which are detrimental to the health and safety of the residents.
7. Undertake planning studies for the future provision of capital improvements and expansion of social and community services.
8. Barrier-free accessibility projects for physically handicapped and disabled persons.
9. Expand housing opportunities for low income families with special initiatives including new construction single family homes; multi-family or senior citizen residential rental project; homebuyer program with incentives for new and existing housing; in-fill housing for vacant lots in existing neighborhoods; and, an acquisition, rehabilitation and resale program.

1998/1999 PROPOSED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Consistent with the above-stated objectives, the Administration is proposing the following list of projects/programs for the City's Year XXIV Community Development Block Grant Program.

Table with 6 columns: Project, Funding Level, Classification, Objectives (National, Local), Location. Includes entries for CD Administration, Rehab Admin, Senior Programs, N.S.A. Trans- portation, Community Comm- ision on Drug Abuse/ Hegira Programs, First Step, Child & Family Neighborhood Program, Youth Assistance Program, Friendship Center, Rehab Code Enforcement, Easement Removal, Carver Subdivision Infrastructure Phase III, Carver Subdivision Fire/Police Sub-Station, and REPROGRAMMING OF CDBF FUNDS.

1998/1999 PROPOSED USE OF HOME FUNDS

Table with 5 columns: HOME, Funding Level, Classification, Objectives, Location. Includes entries for HOME Rental Rehabilitation Program, HOME Funds Administration/ Planning, Set-Aside to Non-Profit Housing Organization Assistance, and Special HOME Project.

*TOTAL PROPOSED CDBG BUDGET - \$1,157,000

Regular Block Grant Allocation: \$1,078,000

*Program Income: \$78,000

TOTAL PROPOSED HOME BUDGET - \$378,000

U.S. Dept. Of Housing & Urban Development \$378,000

The above amount includes \$78,000 in program income received in the prior fiscal period 7/1/96-6/30/97 and the current fiscal period, 7/1/97-6/30/98 returned to the City from loan and grant repayments from the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Fund. Total program income received during the 7/1/96-6/30/97 fiscal period was \$78,886. We anticipate receiving \$70,000 to \$80,000 in program income for the fiscal period which runs July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998 and a similar amount for the Year XXIV CDBG Fiscal Period which runs July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999.

LOCATIONS:

- A. City-wide impact for low/moderate income persons
B. 1119 N. Newburgh Road between Ford and Marquette
C. 32715 Dorsey Road (Norwayne)
D. Census Tract 5685 (Norwayne) - Wildwood, Palmer, Glenwood, and Merriman
E. 8623 N. Wayne Rd., Suite 156
F. Civic Complex at 36601 Ford Road
G. 5820 Lilley Rd., Canton, MI 48187
H. City-wide impact for handicapped/disabled persons
I. Community Development target area's exceeding HUD low/mod threshold
J. Census Tract 5690 (Annapolis, Inkster, Van Born, Middlebelt)
K. Census Tract 5689 (Annapolis, Van Born, Middlebelt and Henry Ruff)
L. East half of Census Tract 5685 (Norwayne) - Venoy, Palmer, and Merriman
M. Census Tract 5690, Carver Subdivision (Annapolis, Harrison, Van Born, and Middlebelt)

ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL 1998/1999 (07/01/98 - 6/30/99)

Listed Below Is the Total Anticipated Funding to Be Received by the City of Westland from Federal and State sources:

- 1. Community Development Block Grant - Estimated funding to be received by City of Westland from HUD Time Period for Expenditures - (12 Months) \$1,079,000
2. Program Income Allocated to New CDBG Projects and Programs. Time Period for Expenditure - (12) Months. \$78,000
3. Participating Jurisdiction HOME Funds received directly from HUD. \$378,000
This funding will be utilized to fund the following programs: A \$75,600 set-aside to People's Community Hope for Homes, Inc. A non-profit housing organization; HOME Rental Rehabilitation Program (Norwayne and Carver Subdivision) at \$284,600; and \$37,800 for Administration. Time Period for Expenditures - (24) Months
4. State HOME funds allocated to the City of Westland based upon grant request. Since these amounts have not yet been approved by MSHDA, they are NOT included in the above program activity totals. Not anticipated since MSHDA is following a policy of restricting HOME funding to communities that received HOME funds directly from HUD. Time Period for Expenditures - (12) Months
5. Annual Contract Authority from HUD for 118 Section 8 Housing Certificates for existing, participating families or those on official waiting list at 50% of median income or below. Section 8 funding is being cut back as new project contracts are approved on an annual basis. Time Period for Expenditure - (12) Months \$637,960* (Est.)
6. Annual Contract Authority from HUD for 265 Section 8 Housing Vouchers for existing, participating families or those on the official waiting list at 50% of median income or below. None anticipated due to Congressional budget cuts, but projected if available. Section 8 funding is being cut back as new project contracts are approved on an annual basis. Time Period for Expenditure - (12) Months \$1,298,339* (Est.)
7. Annual Contract Authority from HUD for Section 8 Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator. Wages and salary only. Contracted out; no new permanent staffing. Time Period for Expenditure - (12) Months \$28,840
8. Funding for New Incremental Section 8 Housing Vouchers (or Certificates). None anticipated due to Congressional budget cuts but projected if available. Time Period for Expenditure - (12) Months \$150,000* (Est.)
*Indicates potential funding not yet approved by Congress or the State of Michigan.

DISPLACEMENT

No displacement is anticipated for any Year XXIV proposed project or program. Consistent with the historical use of CDBG funds and the proposed projects listed above, the City of Westland will not allocate monies where it would result in the involuntary and permanent displacement of residents. However, if displacement should unexpectedly occur, the city is prepared to assist residents so displaced in any of the following ways:

- 1. Payment for replacement housing;
2. Payment of reasonable moving expenses;
3. Payment of reasonable cost of rental housing;
4. Referrals to housing agencies;
5. Benefits and procedures for displacement will be carried out in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Act.
A complete statement of the City's Displacement Plan is on file in the Community Development Department at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey Rd., for citizen review during normal business hours M-F, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

The Westland City Council will receive public comments at a public hearing on April 20, 1998, at 7:00 p.m. on the One Year Action Plan for Fiscal Year 1998/1999. Citizen review and comments shall also be taken at the April meetings of the Westland Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee (CDCAC), Westland Rehabilitation Review Board, and Westland Housing Commission, as listed above. Anyone who is unable to attend the official public hearings and wishes to comment or make suggestions can do so by submitting their comments in writing to the Department of Housing and Community Development at 32715 Dorsey Rd., Westland, MI 48186. Technical assistance will be provided on a limited, as needed basis to low, very low and extremely low income resident groups that require assistance in developing proposals for eligible projects, approved by the City under the consolidated submission. A full copy of the revised Citizen Participation Plan is on file in the Housing and Community Development Department during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

ROBERT J. THOMAS, Mayor City of Westland

Nursing students help scouts earn badge



Be Your Best: Madonna University nursing student Anita Williams discusses the importance of keeping your teeth clean to scouts at the "Be Your Best - Developing Health and Fitness" program at Madonna University. Amy Cronk, 7, (left) and Bethany Smith, 6, from Brownie Troop 1469 draw a picture to illustrate how to say no to drug use.

Students from Madonna University's nursing program instructed Brownies and Girl Scouts last Saturday morning on the components of the badge "Be Your Best: Developing Health and Fitness."

The components of the merit

badge include: looking your best, avoiding harmful substances, physical fitness, nutrition, environmental factors and reducing stress.

The 13 girls moved from session to session throughout the four-hour workshop receiving information and participating

in an activity specially planned by the nursing students.

Madonna nursing school faculty and staff from St. Mary Hospital Community Outreach Department collaborated on the planning for this special program.



Lake from page A9

burgh Lake were carp, Van Omen said.

The lake will be restocked with several species of fingerlings, which are small fish less than a year old, including bluegills, largemouth bass, chan-

nel catfish, walleye, black crappie, northern pike and pumpkinseed sunfish.

The county also will restock bluegills, catfish, largemouth bass and northern pike at the Nankin impoundment of the

Rouge River, located downstream from Newburgh Lake between Stark and Merriman roads in Westland.

The fish restocking must take place within 30 days of the completion of the restoration project, according to an administrative order between Wayne County and the Michigan Department of

Environmental Quality.

Fish advisories remain in place for Rouge River fish. The state Health Department will need to lift that same advisory on Newburgh Lake, possibly in the year 2000, before any restocked fish can be caught and consumed by anglers there.

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Westland Observer

OPINION

A14(W)

36251 SCHOOLCRAFT, LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48150

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1998

Busy time

Activities humming at schools

Students and teachers in the Wayne-Westland Schools have been keeping busy with outside activities - some with award-winning results.

News of activities and awards has been difficult to miss lately, and we would like to congratulate participants and honorees from across the district.

In some cases teachers have gone out of their way to get students involved in competing in outside competitions - with successful results. The competitions have also brought students lessons that they may not have learned in just classroom work.

The activities range from designing dream vehicles to flag corps competition to the arts. Following are just some of the recent activities.

Teams from Wayne Memorial High School and the William D. Ford Career Tech Center recently competed as finalists in the Chrysler "Build Your Dream Vehicle Competition" - with Wayne Memorial placing second after making presentations at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit.

Meanwhile, the Ford Career Tech Center student-designed electric truck in the Chrysler competition won a Detroit Edison mini-grant. The Detroit Edison Foundation awarded the grants, of \$250 each, in Wayne, Huron, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe,

Oakland, St. Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola and Washtenaw counties.

In the area of color guards and drumlines, more than 600 students in 34 units participated in the first John Glenn High School Winterguard & Drumline Show at the school. The show was sponsored by the John Glenn Music Boosters. John Glenn's 20-member Flag Line took second place in its category for its performance of "What's Up." Rocket Explosion, with 24 members, took fourth place in the Scholastic A Winterguard category with an interpretation of "Return to Pooh Corner." The 27-member John Glenn Drumline, G-Force, won the Percussion Independent Open category for its rendition of "Riverdance."

On the arts front, art students from Wayne Memorial, John Glenn and the William Ford Career Tech Center won awards in the recent Scholastic Art Awards Michigan Regional Art Competition. The competition was established 1923 to encourage and recognize student achievement in the creative arts.

Other activities include a local principal involved in an upcoming national forum and area students chosen to attend space camp at Cape Canaveral, Fla., in May.

These, we're sure, are just some of the interesting activities and honors happening in the school district. Congratulations to all, and we know there's more to come.

Beware of gun bills package

Guns. Next to abortion and assisted suicide, it is one of the most emotionally-charged public issues in Michigan.

While many people are split on whether there should be more or less control on handguns, the public should be aware of an innocent-looking package of bills proposed by state legislators that threatens to do much more harm than good.

On the surface, the package of related bills, whose chief sponsor is state Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, has some advantages. It would standardize statewide the rules for people applying for a concealed weapons permit and require that applicants complete a 12-hour firearms training course. One bill also allows government to revoke a permit of anyone with a blood alcohol level of 0.02 percent while carrying the pistol.

At present, each county has a board which reviews requests and approves them if the applicants can prove a reason to have the permit.

But the bill package in Lansing starts at the opposite end - requiring that the boards "shall issue" permits unless there are problems with the background of the applicant.

If approved, the bills will put more weapons in the hands of persons going about their daily business and pose a serious public safety threat to everyone.

While many believe that "law-abiding" citizens don't pose a threat while carrying a handgun to protect themselves outside their homes, the increase in the accessibility of handguns has a potential for misuse in a variety of situations.

The proposal to liberalize the concealed weapons permit laws, supported by a majority of the state House, is poor public policy and a clear public safety threat.

It should be rejected by the Legislature with support from the public.

There are several good reasons for opposing the bill.

One bill gives gun boards potentially abusive discretion to go in to closed-door sessions when discussing applications.

Michiganians should heed the warnings of two well-informed organizations which have voiced strong opposition to the bill.

While the bills seem harmless enough on the surface, the Observer agrees with the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and the American College of Physicians in opposing the package of bills.

The prosecutors' association made the public policy position clear in a letter to a state representative.

"Every effort should be made to reduce the level of violence in our communities and to protect the lives and safety of our citizens," it said. "We are convinced that the move to liberalize the issuance of concealed weapons permits, if successful, can only serve to increase the number of tragedies that we witness daily from the misuse and accidental discharge of handguns," the association said.

The medical organization went one step further.

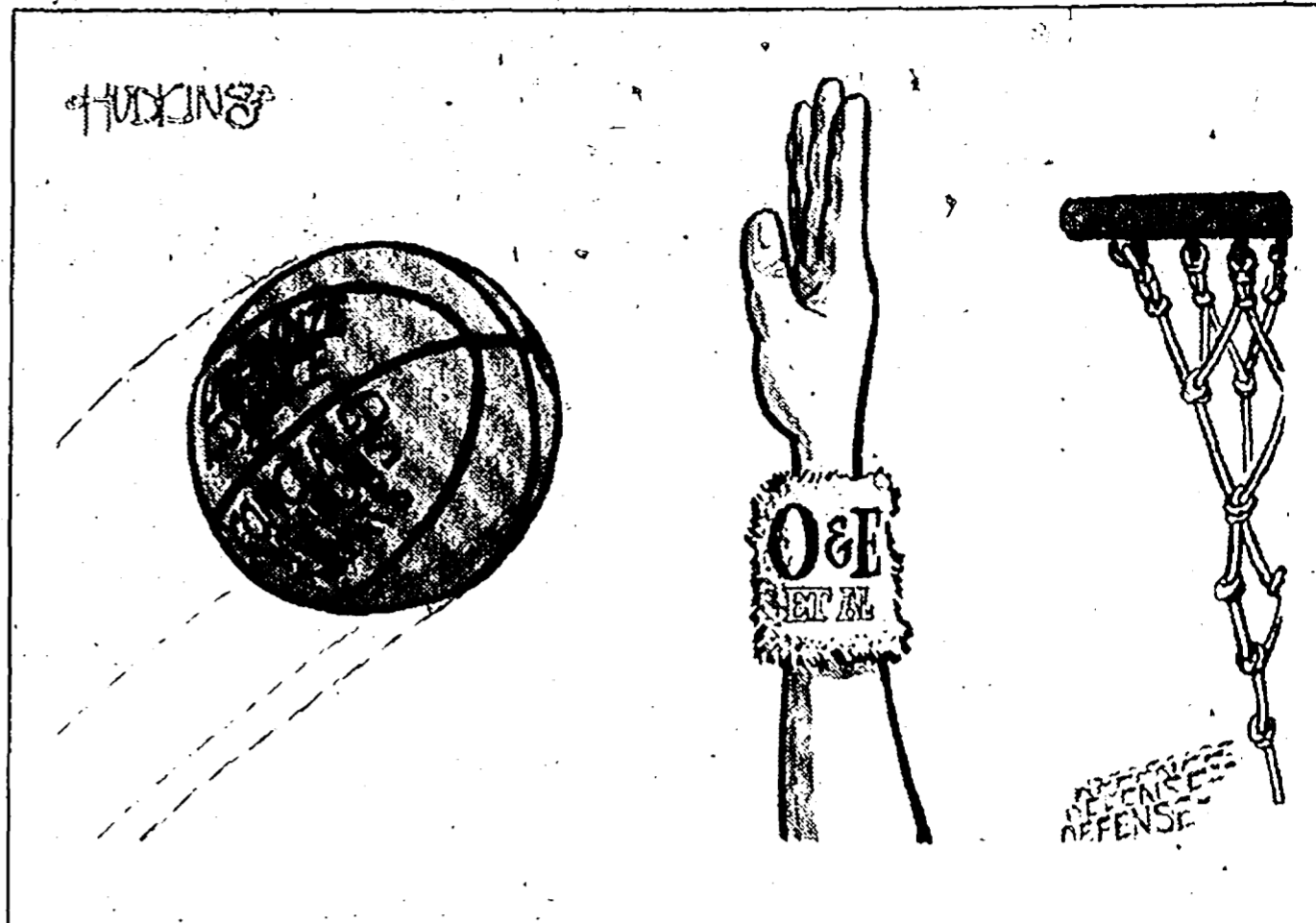
"The growing incidence of firearm violence has reached epidemic proportions. Members of the college overwhelmingly agree that firearm violence and the prevention of firearm injuries are public health issues of increasing concern and that physicians should be involved in counseling patients and support community actions to reduce injuries and deaths involving firearms."

Under Michigan law, a person with a permit to own a gun may carry that gun; he or she just may not carry it concealed. Michigan already has common-sense rules on carrying handguns. To roll back these restrictions and make Michigan a "shall issue" state would be a mistake.

The bottom line is that the life you save may be your own.

If writing to your state legislator, refer to House Bills 5551 through 5559, inclusive.

ARKIE HUDKINS



LETTERS

Harassing president

A person of source is liable to a suit for malicious prosecution if a criminal action is brought against another, without probable cause or without reasonable grounds for such actions. The same is true if one starts a civil action that has no object other than to damage and harass the defendant. Example: A bank accused a woman of embezzling bank funds. A warrant was issued for her arrest and she was summoned to appear in court. The magistrate dismissed the case. The woman then brought action for malicious prosecution and got a judgment for damage.

Why? The bank made the accusation on suspicion alone, with no facts to justify the accusation. There were no reasonable grounds of a kind that would lead a prudent person to believe the woman was guilty. It is a principle of law that the absence of such grounds is enough to show malice.

This is a facsimile of what is happening to President Bill Clinton and I will always believe it was initiated by racism, thus perpetuated and maintained by the press, talk shows, television, the racist, radio, the Republicans and some Democrats.

I sincerely believe that if we lose Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, civil rights will be set back for not less than 25 years. Therefore, I implore you to take a stand for the man, President Clinton.

John Franklin Westland

Likes Internet edition

My name is Sgt. Kenneth L. Hellmer. I am from 38580 Mason in Livonia and went to Randolph Elementary School, Holmes and Frost junior highs, then graduated from Churchill High School. I joined the Air Force in 1985.

This is the first time I have read the newspaper over the Internet. It is great to be able to read news from my hometown. Thanks for making my day enjoyable by providing me with this service.

Right now I am in Tazsar, Hungary, supporting Operation Joint Guard. I will be here until June 15, 1998. Thanks again and God bless.

Ken Hellmer

Too much testing

I want to object strongly to Philip Power's March 5 op-ed page column on (school) testing. The overemphasis on testing, it seems to me, is misplaced. There are a lot of other skills besides academic skills that are important in the job world and life in general - people skills and teamwork skills - and a lot of things that go into success in the world of work and the world of life.

I think testing detracts from that broader picture and puts an overemphasis on academic skills to the detriment of everyone.

Richard Lieberknecht Garden City

Go away

Walter Warren - Please go north, south, east or west. You won't be missed.

You have never been a supporter of Wayne-Westland schools. As a matter of fact, have you ever visited any of the schools to see or to help with anything? No, you are negative whenever you open your mouth or use your pen.

What do you know about test scores? Nothing.

What do you know about Wayne-Westland? Nothing.

Go, Mr. Warren, just go.

Miriam Zeidman 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.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

What do you think is the worst intersection in Westland?

We asked this question at the Kroger store in Westland.



"I'm not real fond of the Warren-Newburgh corner."

Karen Miller



"Ford and Wayne ranks right up there."

Keith Champagne



"I don't know. I don't know if there is one."

John Schertzer



"Palmer and Newburgh."

Janet Luke

Westland Observer

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- Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Emergency room visit lacks TV drama

I have to admit that I never watched hospital TV dramas. The closest I got to TV and hospitals is watching congressional committees on C-Span debate the minutiae of health care reform and its impact.

But twice in the past two months I got a closer look at the health care industry and how an emergency room operates - make that works.

The bottom line is that I gained an additional appreciation for the professionalism that ER staffers displayed as well as the smooth organization in place. While they take a bit longer than the actors on TV, they move quickly and efficiently.

On a Friday night in mid-January, I had to use the ER at Fairlane Clinic in Dearborn, part of the Henry Ford Health System.

I have to admit that the problem I was experiencing wasn't life-threatening

at the time, but a doctor told me the next morning that it could have worsened to that point.

At Fairlane, I was in discomfort but not any great pain. The admitting clerk took my name, medical record number and symptoms.

The waiting room was occupied by about 15 to 20 people, ranging from small children to retirees.

Within 45 minutes, I was assigned to an examining room where a doctor and a registered nurse who I learned received his associate degree from Schoolcraft College started to take care of my medical concerns.

From what I remember from TV medical shows 30 years ago, there were plenty of sirens of ambulances rushing to the ER entrance, hurried doctors and nurses scurrying around in a wild frenzy. There was none of that in real life.

After being treated for several hours, I was told about midnight that I was to be "transported" by ambulance to Henry Ford Hospital's main campus.

During the 15-minute trip in my first ambulance trip in my 61 years, I learned the hard way that the suspension system in the vehicle could be vastly improved. In arriving at one of the busiest ERs in Detroit, I expected a continuous line of patients bloodied from family fights or barroom brawls. Maybe I have been watching too much local TV news programs.

Since I remained in a non-life threatening situation, I didn't expect to be seen by a physician soon.

While the ER had just enough space for six patients, if you placed two in a small walkway, the Detroit EMS vans and private ambulances never stopped their steady stream of

fresh arrivals.

My "neighbors" in the crowded hallway included an elderly woman with a respiratory problem, a teenager injured in an auto collision, and a woman, 40ish, rushed to the ER by her son after she fell down stairs.

The only "TV" ER case was a young man who was covered with blood after his girlfriend went after him with a broken beer bottle.

Clearly, my problem didn't seem that serious. The staff agreed.

Before I decided to try to sleep, I observed the smooth communications and professional skills of ER staffers and the people they dealt with.

I thought it was fairly busy, but a nurse told me that it's less hectic than most early Saturday mornings.

A nurse checked my blood pressure and pulse rate several times before I was taken to a small room down a



LEONARD POGER

hallway from the ER entrance.

Since it was about 2 a.m., I decided to take a nap. I was finally awakened about 8:30 a.m. - some eight hours, after my arrival - to be taken to a room on the fourth floor.

I was happy with my treatment. I will also have a much better understanding of those otherwise dull congressional hearings on cable TV on reforming the health care system.

Garden City Observer editor
Leonard Poger can be reached at his e-mail address:
lpoger@oe.homecomm.net

Ameritech, fairness tough to put in same sentence

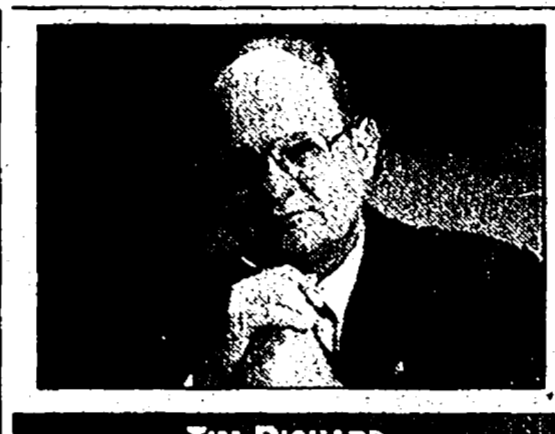
Every time I open the mail, Ameritech has a new opponent. Not just a competitor, but someone who thinks the telephone-tag company is evil.

Attorney General Frank J. Kelley has joined the fray. And if you think this columnist has been tough on Ameritech's badly-written and unreadable legal notices, you should read Kelley's attacks on the monopoly.

Next week is a big one in Judge Randall Bono's courtroom in Madison County, Ill. The judge is scheduled to approve or reject Ameritech's offer to settle a lawsuit for \$78 million. It's a class action case brought by Line Backer customers who said they were cheated.

"Plainly, this settlement is a complete ripoff for Ameritech customers," said Kelley as he objected to approval of the settlement. He cited these grounds:

- The amount is inadequate. The original suit sought \$226 million. Ameritech is trying to settle for one-third of that amount plus the customers' attorneys' fees.
- Ameritech isn't offering to pay cash but more of its dubious services. "Class members who are current IWMP (Inside Wire Maintenance Plans, or Line Backer) subscribers will receive a limited number of pay-per-use services (three-way calling, automatic dial back and repeat dialing), prepaid cards for Ameritech pay phones and expanded IWMP coverage," Kelley said.
- "Since customers paid cash, they should get cash back, not additional services," said the attorney general.
- Class members would be forced to release Ameritech from liability for all deceptive practices which the company might have used since 1987. As I pointed out in an earlier column, Ameritech, even when caught and



TIM RICHARD

brought to court, refuses to admit it did anything wrong.

The attorney general of Wisconsin and Ohio joined Kelley in objecting to the settlement. The Illinois attorney general filed a separate objection.

FYI, besides denouncing Ameritech in this column, I filed my own objection to the settlement. I asked Judge Bono to require Ameritech to re-send out notices of the settlement in the same-size headline and body type that

it used on its mailed advertising.

I also asked that the notice be written with sentences of 30 words maximum. The Ameritech notice had a sentence with 170 words and was virtually incomprehensible. I suspect Ameritech's lawyers deliberately made it unattractive and unreadable.

The knaves want you to buy more and more devices so that you have to play telephone tag rather than complete calls, but they don't want you to know about your legal rights in a lawsuit.

A second piece of mail comes from the Michigan Competitive Telecommunications Providers Association - that is, Ameritech's competitors.

MCTPA said Ameritech just jacked up some of our rates nearly 6 percent. As of March 1, when we make local toll calls (within our own area codes), the charge went up nearly 6 percent to 18 cents a minute.

"Last August it raised rates on

local toll calls - such as calls from Detroit to Mount Clemens - from 16-cent to 17 cents a minute. Interestingly, in Chicago, where Ameritech faces real competition for these calls, Ameritech charge only 4 cents a minute!" said MCTPA's president Richard McLellan.

McLellan, by the way, is a close political pal of a Republican named Engler.

McLellan goes onto detail three more places where Ameritech is jacking up rates. It is hard to explain them because Ameritech deliberately makes them difficult to understand; why else would it use such an obscure term as "intraLATA"?

One gets bruised knuckles beating up on Bob Cooper and his company's knavery, but it looks as if Ameritech doesn't want to do anything fairly.

Tim Richard's voice mail number is (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1881. He reports on regional issues.

Modern snake oil comes to town

In the 19th century, there were traveling medicine shows. A snake-oil salesman would stand on the back of a wagon, claiming his tonic was a cure-all.

Folks living in the jerkwater towns of America sometimes believed and often bought the snake oil. Other times, the salesmen were discovered for what they were and run out of town.

But this quaint form of employment hasn't gone away in our modern age. To borrow a popular phrase used in all the up-to-date business books, they've "reinvented" themselves. They now call themselves developers.

The snake oil is Millennium Park, the proposed development for Ladbroke Detroit Race Course.

Developers claim the park will boost a booming local economy whose major problem seems to be a lack of room to expand. Just the phrase rings of claims that the tonic will cure "aches, pains, female complaints and snake bites."

But let's go further. The other claim is that Millennium Park will invigorate Livonia's older sections, particularly the Plymouth Road commercial corridor.

I live just off of what they call the "Plymouth Road corridor" in Livonia. If that corridor gets anymore invigorated I won't be able to make a turn on Melrose, my street.

The point here is that when any developer stands up and uses the right buzz words, such as "Millennium Park," "upscale restaurants," or "campus" setting, Livonia officials turn into 19th-century farmers buying snake oil.

One Chinese restaurant on the corner of the DRC property has already come and gone. It makes me wonder if Millennium Park shouldn't be called Jurassic Park.

This comes at expense of racing fans. Several weeks ago, I sat listening as two lamented the eventual closing of the race track at the end of the season. Thoroughbred horse racing in Detroit has become the victim of casino gambling.

"People just want instant gratification these days," said one fan. "You have to know something to bet on horses. It's not like playing slot machines."

He went on to blame younger gamblers for not supporting the race track.

Ho made a good point. The baby-boom generation, of which I'm a reluctant member, can't wait more than two minutes for anything. They clog their arteries with fast food, ignore the sport of kings - horse racing - and buy designer clothing as though for a few bucks they can instantly become a member of the upper-middle class. Even the state of Michigan cashes in on instant gratification with its lottery tickets.

Horse racing is a 19th-century activity. It's



JEFF COUNTS

like baseball or classical music. All three are complicated and require that fans have knowledge and intelligence.

They also require patience. The race track is a complex symphony of odds, track conditions, the abilities of jockeys and horse breeding.

But perhaps the most beautiful and elusive part is finding a horse in which you can see the spirit in its eyes. That's one that wants to win.

It's obvious Mayor Jack Kirksey and his crew have no understanding of anything more than a tax base. The move to push DRC out of the community has been relentless.

A race track is as much of a community asset as a symphony or a baseball team.

Race track crowds are integrated ones. There are blacks and Hispanics.

One argument used is the cost of police protection at DRC. Kirksey and other city officials claim it costs the city about \$80,000 to provide police protection.

It begs a question: When the race track closes, will the Livonia police budget be reduced by that same amount?

Will my property taxes go down?
No they won't. It's a false issue. Where would the cops who direct traffic at the race track be, if they weren't there? Chances are they'd be drinking coffee at the Looney Bakery.

Livonia has lost its chance to encourage both social and cultural diversity in the community and has fallen for the Millennium Park snake-oil pitch.

Gone will be horse racing and in its place will be nothing more than another development which will clog traffic, and cause more congestion in our already-crowded community.

Millennium Park will produce more tax money for city hall officials to spend and that's about it.

Jeff Counts is the editor of the Redford Observer and a Livonia resident. He can be reached at (734) 953-2114 or at e-mail address: jcounts@oe.homecomm.net

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Supporters work to revive bilingual teaching

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Teachers and parents from area school districts have started an uphill battle to revive bilingual teaching in public schools.

"In Southfield, the commitment is there. We need a commitment from the state," teacher Nidahl DeCesare told the House Education Committee last month.

"There are many, many success stories of people who came here speaking Russian, Arabic, Spanish."

Rasnia Kassab, a Southfield mother wearing a Vandenberg School sweatshirt, credited bilingual classes for teaching her

English.

Professor Phyllis Noda, of the Eastern Michigan University faculty and president of the Michigan Association for Bilingual Education, said Michigan looks at bilingual teaching as a burden when it should look at bilingual kids as "a precious resource — they all have a second language. We're a free-trade zone, folks."

"We don't want that money. (\$4.2 million from the state in the last year of the program). We want that mandate. The only thing that motivated some districts was the stick (state mandate)."

Bilingual education means teaching pupils in their native

language for three years or until their English proficiency is great enough to allow mainstreaming. Michigan mandated it for more than 20 years until 1996 when the School Code was revised to eliminate as many rules as possible.

Michigan spent \$4.2 million a year for bilingualism's last 11 fiscal years, with no inflation adjustment. With the new School Code, the money was folded into the school aid budget. The money is there, but school districts have no mandate from Lansing to continue bilingual instruction.

Rep. Martha Scott, D-Highland Park, is sponsor of a bill to restore bilingual instruction.

"There is an allegiance to the flag that includes all persons. There is no better way to give them an opportunity than this," she told the panel.

Scott's bill would require a school district with 20 or more children of "limited English-speaking ability" in grades K-12 to operate a bilingual instruction program. If fewer than 20 had limited English in a district, the county intermediate district would determine whether to operate a countywide program.

Education chair Sharon Gire, D-Macomb County, took testimony but hasn't scheduled a vote.

Committee members prodded Professor Noda about costs. "If we mandate it," said Rep. James

McNitt, R-Midland, "we have to fund it."

Noda said "nebulous estimates" placed the number of eligible students at 66,000 to 75,000 statewide. At \$289 per pupil, the minimum cost would be \$16 million a year.

Deborah Vargas, a Rochester Hills resident teaching in Pontiac, recalled that when her parents came from Puerto Rico, "I couldn't speak a word of English. After kindergarten, I was looked at for special education because they thought I was dumb."

Now in charge of bilingual education in Pontiac, Vargas said a second language should be looked at as an asset.

Javier Garibay, a Detroit

father, said, "My wife and I have made a decision to teach our children in Spanish. This (bill) will protect bilingual education." He estimated 9,500 Detroit children have limited English proficiency.

The battle is uphill because the mood in Lansing is against writing mandates into law that may contain growing costs down the road.

No one spoke against the bill — a sign that many education lobbyists saw no need to fight a bill that probably isn't going anywhere.

Refer to House bill 4196 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, PO Box 30014, Lansing 48909.

Gov. Engler headlines Wayne County GOP dinner

Gov. John Engler will be the featured speaker at the Wayne County Republican Committee's annual Eisenhower Day Dinner at 6 p.m. Monday at the Crystal Gardens in Southgate.

State Supreme Court Justice Clifford Taylor also will be speaking.

Tickets are \$45 per person or \$75 a couple.

Anyone who wishes to attend can contact Wayne County Republican Committee Chair Thaddeus McCotter at (734) 464-6492.

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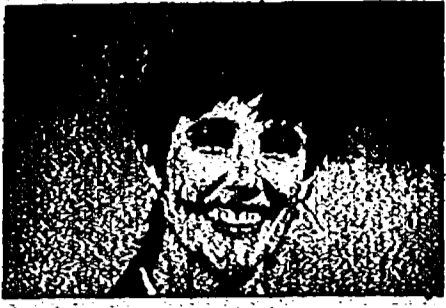
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COMMON SENSORS



JACQUE MARTIN-DOWNS

Pride gets in the way sometimes

John and Sue were in the car, driving to a party on the other side of town. As they got closer to their destination, John realized that he wasn't exactly sure about where he was going.

Sue noticed his hesitancy and piped up with, "John, if you don't know where you're going, why don't we stop and ask?" This infuriated John.

"I know exactly where I'm going," he shot back.

Why did her question make John so angry? What gets in the way of our taking a suggestion?

That ugly old four-letter word called pride does. Pride can get in the middle of more relationships than we can count, wreaking havoc on them. A client came into the office several years ago and could not stop raving and ranting about how her husband never took her advice.

"He just won't listen to me. Just yesterday he was trying to fix the garbage disposal. I tried to tell him that he was using the wrong tool, but his pride got in the way and he'd sooner shoot the messenger than do it the right way. I don't get it."

As John Gray points out in "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus," men have a need to be autonomous and achieve on their own. This proves their competence and gives them power. When they hear someone giving them advice it makes them feel like, "You don't trust me ... you think I'm incompetent." Then their prideful nature takes over. "I won't succumb to her ... I'm going to do it my way."

Does this mean women are exempt from being prideful? No, it's an equal opportunity ailment. Women's possessiveness to their principles can also override truth, as in the lady who insists on driving 60 miles per hour in the left lane. "I have a right to drive in the left lane."

Pride can be boastful. Pride can be arrogant, self-righteous. As Webster's Dictionary says, "pride makes one feel like they possess a high and unreasonable opinion of their own excellence."

Can it be good?

Can pride ever be good? Yes, when you speak with pride about how your child won the soccer tournament. Yes, when you passed that extremely hard test. Yes, when you conquered something that took massive willpower like losing weight. But pride can also eat at your relationships with family and friends.

If you're serious about having meaningful, fulfilling, productive relationships you can't afford to let the "bad" pride get in the way. You know pride has reared its ugly head when self-defensiveness and self-protection emerge. You know your prideful self has come out when you've done something wrong and you cannot admit to it. That darn old pride just gets in the way of eating crow.

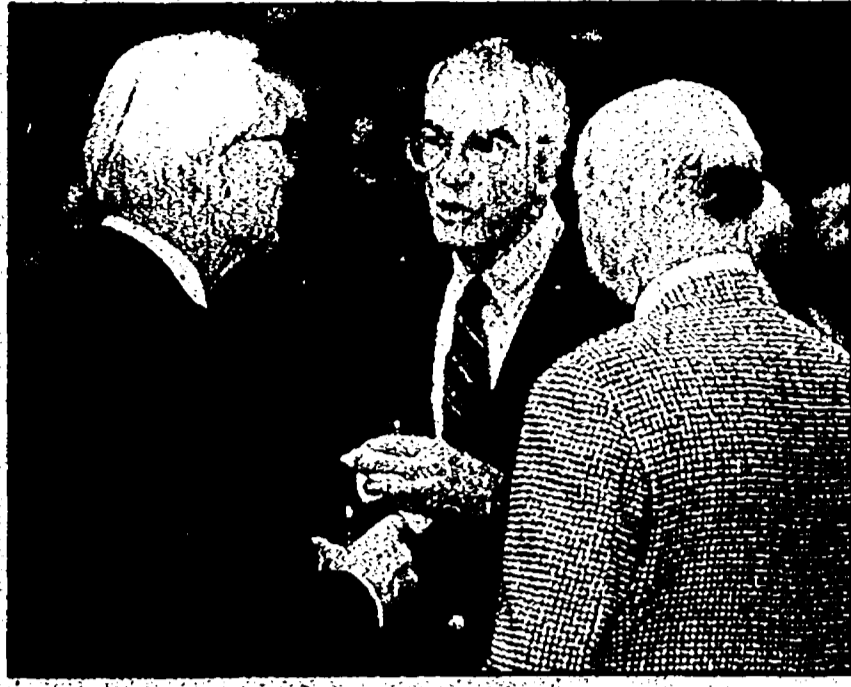
Sammy was a 12-year-old boy. When he arrived in the counseling office, he looked like an average sixth-grader, though he acted quite brash and cocky. The therapist suspected that he might be on the verge of getting into trouble.

His suspicions were confirmed when he heard Sam's latest escapade. He told stories to the therapist about how he started smoking cigarettes when he was 11, and how last weekend he and his friends had stolen beer from the party store and downed all 12 beers in rapid succession.

When the therapist later shared the information with mom, recommending a drug assessment be done on the boy, he suspected appearance was everything to that mother.

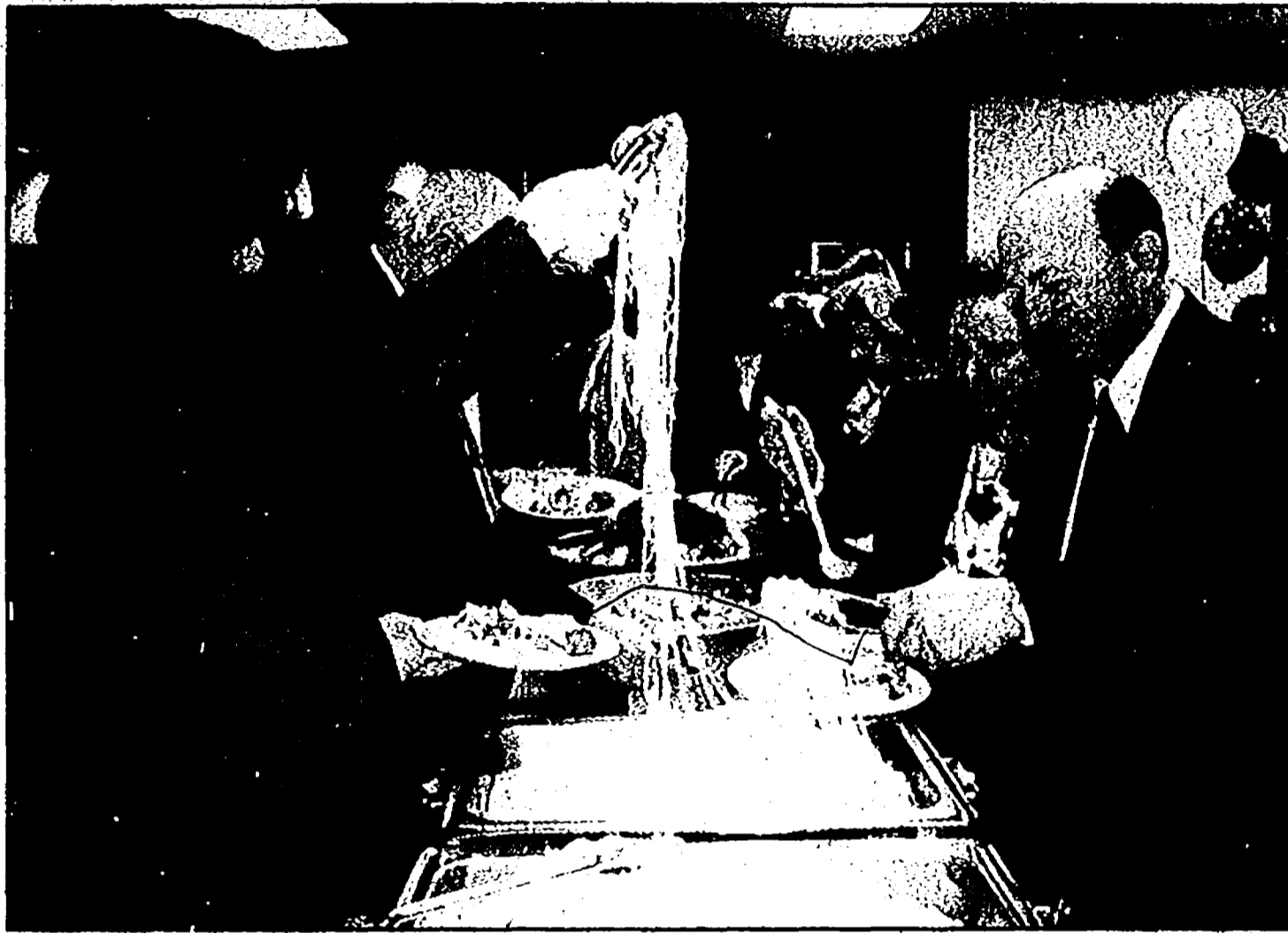
"Well," she commented, "you know how boys experiment with all kinds of things. I really don't think a drug assessment is necessary. I'll just tell him I won't tolerate that behavior."

Please see **SENSORS, B2**



Ah, pasta

Spaghetti dinner celebrates women



Pass the pasta: Left: Elizabeth Johnson of Plymouth (left), a member of the Women's Resource Center Advisory Board, and Robert Vuk-mirovich of Livonia found themselves at the front of the line when it was time to eat. Swapping stories during the Wine Glow were Jim Callow of Livonia (top photo, from left), Jim Campbell of Northville and Ray Green of Northville and June Kendall (photo above, left) of Westland and Trudy Pinto of Livonia.



There was plenty of pasta and pleasantries when supporters of Schoolcraft College's Women's Resource Center gathered for its 15th annual Spaghetti Dinner.

"Women don't roast, boast or toast themselves enough."

That wasn't the case March 24 as supporters of Schoolcraft College's Women's Resource Center turned out for its annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow Fundraiser.

In its 15th year, the sold-out spaghetti dinner celebrates the work of the center and Women's History Month.

"It was an absolutely full room, there was no space for anyone else," said center director Nancy Swanborg, who said she hopes the dinner will bring in \$6,000 for use as scholarships for center clients.

Participants were wine and dined and treated to the National Women's History Project's video, "A Fine and Long Tradition."

Swanborg also used the event to toast the quality of work being done by the center's staff and volunteers.

The staff includes Marlene Kershaw, who coordinates From Chocolate Chips to Micro Chips program for displaced homemakers, Barbara Campau, the director of volunteers who came to the center as a volunteer, Elaine Tomalty and Barbara Bellaire. Working with them are 50 volunteers.

"There is not enough words, nor is the enough depth to the words to toast the work being done at the Women's Resource Center," said Swanborg. "The staff and volunteers have well over a century of years dedicated to working with the clients of Schoolcraft College."

With recent changes in welfare programs, the center has seen requests for its service increase. Last year, it had 301 clients enroll in its Single Parent Grant Program and another 22 in its Sex Equity Grant program, not to mention those taking

advantage of its From Chocolate Chips to Micro Chips program for displaced homemakers.

"That (301 clients) represents 9 percent of that population served in the state and is the largest percentage in the state among the 28 community colleges with single parent programs," Swanborg said. "Of that number, 64 percent are displaced homemakers and 76 percent had total incomes of less than \$15,000."

Attesting to the success of the "From Chocolate Chips to Micro Chips" program were Brenda McPherson and Kaitlyn Sandberg, who shared their experiences with the audience.

Better known as "Chips," the program helps displaced homemakers in the transition from home work to entering or re-entering the workforce and in finding a job and becoming financially self-sufficient.

It was her "first speech" ever for McPherson, who came to the center five years ago in need of housing. Instead of housing, she found the "Chips" program and with the help of the staff she completed college and went on to test for and land a job as a corrections officer.

For Sandberg, it was a chance to speak louder than the whispered tones she talked in initially. The victim of domestic violence, she attended a "Chips" program with a friend three years ago. The friend dropped out, but McPherson stayed with it.

As the result of "Chips," she is enrolled in college, has discovered she "loves everything about computers," has a 3.6 grade point average and plans to graduate in May.

The center has been recognized by the State Board of Education for its work with men as part of its sex equity program, which provides tuition grants for men and women pursuing degrees in nontraditional careers.

The center's Thinking About College seminar has been honored by the state board for its innovative approach in meeting the needs of mature women.

The day-long program, which will be July 22 at the college, introduces prospective older students to the college and provides answers to questions like how to afford college and fit in with the younger student population.

Please see **SPAGHETTI, B2**

Holy Week: God's people ready for Easter

Palm Sunday, April 5, marks the beginning of Holy Week as area churches celebrate the passion of Christ. His journey to the cross begins with this festival and continues through to His resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 12.

The Christian life is a journey of faith in God's love through Christ. The season of Lent - "springtime" in Middle English - is a time for growth in faith that is a work in love.

During the 40 days of Lent, Believers make their own journey to Jerusalem with Jesus, determined to leave behind the "old self," equally determined to put on the "new self," to borrow terms from St. Paul.

Traditionally, this journey has included such practices as fasting, giving up personal pleasures, giving extra time to prayer and special services of worship.

During Lent, Jesus beckons people to join Him as He travels towards death and resurrection. With that journey in mind, local churches are putting the finishing touches on their Holy Week and Easter observances.

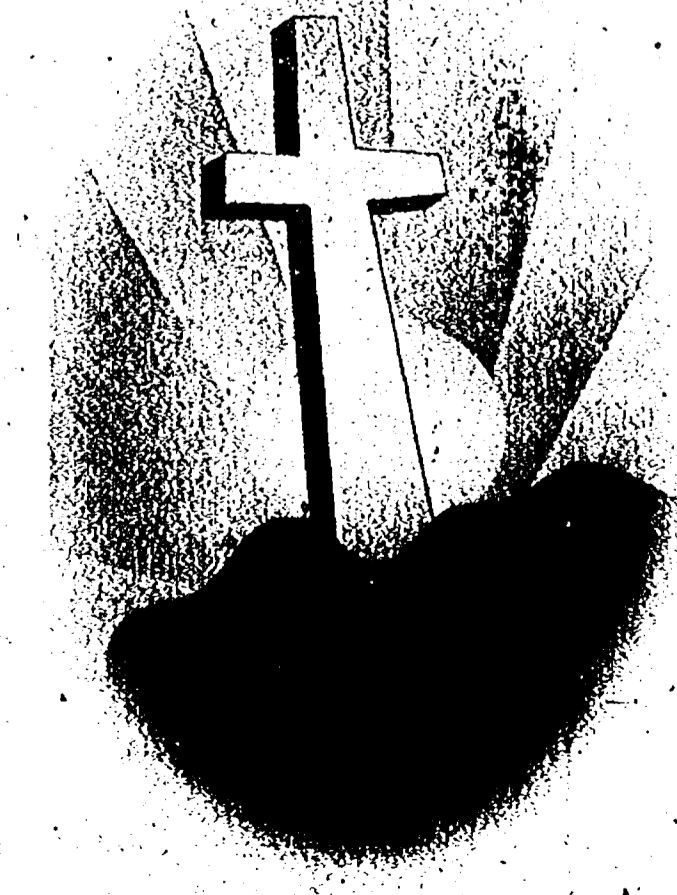
St. John's Lutheran Church, 13642 Mercedes Ave., east of Inkater Road and south of I-96, Redford, (313) 538-2660

Holy Week at St. John's will begin with Palm Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.

On Maundy Thursday, April 9, worship will be at 7:30 p.m. The service will include the ritual foot washing, Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar, while worship on Good Friday, April 10, will be a candlelight Tenebrae service at 7:30 a.m.

An Easter Vigil will start at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11, and include music, Holy Communion and a prelude to the Resurrection.

Easter Sunday will start off with an Easter break-



fast at 9 a.m., followed by worship with Holy Communion, handbells, special instrument and choir music at 10:30 a.m.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, and the Canton Campus, 46001 Warren Road, Canton (734) 522-6830

Festival Palm Sunday services will be at 8:30 and 11 a.m. The Christ Our Savior Choir and handbell choirs will perform "All Glory Laud and Honor," while the Cherub, Choristers, Handbells, Brass and Christ Our Savior choirs will join in singing "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" by Timothy Mayfield. Palm crosses will be distributed to all worshippers.

Special music will highlight the 9:30 a.m. service at Christ Our Savior-Canton, and each worshipper will receive a palm cross.

On Maundy Thursday, worship will be at 7:30 p.m. with Holy Communion at both the Livonia and Canton campuses.

Special music from the Christ Our Savior Choir and Woodwind Choir will enhance the Livonia worship, and there will be a drama, "Rock Like," in which a remorseful Peter, whose faith was rock like, denies Christ but is remembered by Him. As part of the service, the altar will be stripped of all cloths, candles and furnishings in preparation for Good Friday.

The Good Friday service of the cross will be at 12:30 p.m. in Livonia with special music. There also will be a drama involving the Roman Centurion who nailed Christ to the cross and then realizes He is truly the son of God.

At the Livonia campus, a Tenebrae service of "The Deepening Darkness" with scripture and music will unfold the story of Christ's crucifixion and death.

Please see **HOLY WEEK, B8**

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

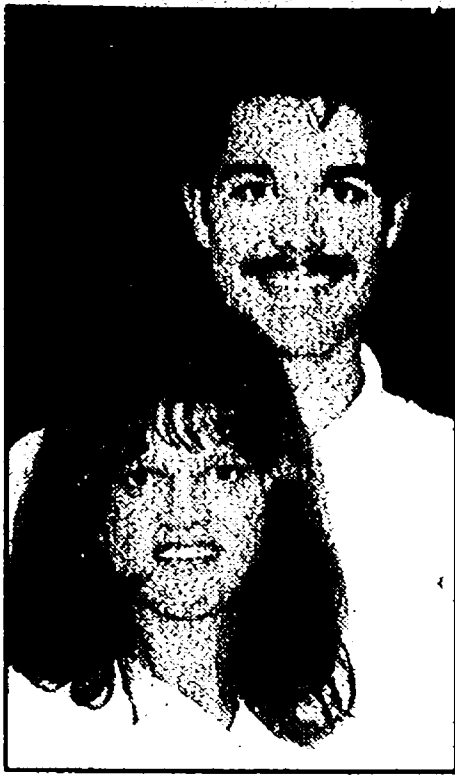
Luty-Whyte

The parents of Linda R. Luty and James A. Whyte announce the engagement of their children from Livonia and Redford.

The bride to be is a 1991 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School. She works in management for a major car rental company.

Her fiancé is a 1991 graduate of Thurston High School in Redford. He is an automobile sales representative at a local Ford dealership.

A May wedding is planned.



Isaac-Quenneville

Larry and Sally Loser of Holland, Mich., announce the engagement of their daughter, Sandra Kay Isaac, to Mark Thomas Quenneville, the son of Bob and Phyllis Beusterien of Plymouth and the late Thomas Quenneville.

The bride-to-be is an accounting assistant for Uniform Color Company in Holland.

Her fiancé is an apparatus salesman for River City Electronics of Grandville.

A May wedding is planned for Dimnent Chapel in Holland.



Kravez-Franklin

Bill and Chris Kravez announce the engagement of their daughter, Tracy Jeanette, to Philip Doran Franklin, the son of Mary Franklin.

The bride-to-be will complete work on a bachelor of education degree in April at Eastern Michigan University. She is working as a substitute teacher in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

Her fiancé is studying business at Eastern Michigan University. He is employed at the Society of Manufacturing Engineers in Dearborn.

A May wedding is planned at St. Thomas a' Becket Church in Canton.



Wescott-Farren

John and Carol Gambotto of Redford and John and Karen Wescott of Hale announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Lynn Wescott, to Frank Albert Farren, the son of Francis and Nancy Farren of Naples, Fla.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Redford Thurston High School and Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic. She is in practice at Wescott Chiropractic in Livonia.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Livonia Bentley High School and Control Data Institute. He is employed by U.S. Web.

A July wedding is planned at St. Aidan's Catholic Church in Livonia.



Dishmon-Richter

Lou Ann Richter and Banks M. Dishmon Jr. were married March 20 at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Livonia by the Rev. Emory Gravelle.

The bride is the daughter of Rosella Cox of Southgate. The groom is the son of Banks and Paty Dishmon of Frisco, Texas.

The bride is an administrative assistant for the Enhanced Media Department for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. The groom is publisher of the Observer Newspapers.

The Dishmons, who proudly boast of being the parents of six, asked their children - Amanda Richter, Amber Dishmon, Ashley Richter, Joshua Dishmon, Andrew Richter and Jonathan



Dishmon - to serve as their attendants.

Poirier-Pace

Lynn M. Cullen of Livonia and Harold A. Poirier of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Renee L., to Karl A. Pace, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Pace of Westland.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Livonia Franklin High School. She is a senior at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Westland John Glenn High School. He is employed by Browning-Ferris Industries.

A May wedding is planned at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth.



Sunderman-Demko

Dan and Jeanne Sunderman of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Theresa Marie, to Richard Edward Demko, the son of Tom and Nancee Demko of Highland.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and is completing work on an office administration degree at Schoolcraft College. She is employed by Hines Park Ford Mercury in Milford.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Lakeland High School. He is employed by Stu Evans Lincoln Mercury in Garden City. An October 1999 wedding is being planned.



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Family trip puts pioneers' treks West in perspective

HOOKED ON HISTORY



VIRGINIA PARKER

Twenty-five years ago, we took an extended family trip out West. At the end of each day, six of us plus our dog, Dandy, piled into our cozy, self-contained trailer. We traveled in relative luxury compared to the pioneers whose basic trail we followed.

The first leg of the trip - Michigan, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska - was a long haul, especially the drudgery of Nebraska's flat terrain. Everyone was tired of traveling and we had not yet even reached Colorado and Wyoming. "Imagine how weary the pioneers must have been by this point," we kept saying.

Each of us was awed when we finally approached the foothills of the Rockies. They rose in mag-

nificent contrast to the tiresome landscape around us. Our first thought was again of the pioneers. "Think how they felt, having come this far - then to see the Rockies loom up before them and realize, 'Now we have to cross those mountains!'"

I have since read many pioneer journals and diaries. Every time, I recall our trip. It gives me a frame of reference to fix their experiences in my mind.

I thought of Nebraska when I read about a woman who settled in the bleak western half of Kansas. She lived in a soddy - a dwelling that gave real meaning to the saying, "Sleep tight, don't let the bedbugs bite." She had not been away from the desolate prairie in two years. Finally, she accompanied her husband to the nearest town east of them. It was a considerable journey, undertaken only once every six months.

I can only imagine this poor woman's isolation when I read that she hugged a tree and wept

because it was the first one she had seen in two years!

Fraught with danger

No matter where the wagon train was bound, the westward trek was fraught with danger, discomfort and grief. The sojourners lacked protection from the summer's blazing sun and intense heat, winter's snow and numbing cold and nature's fickle unleashing of rainstorms at times in between. A good day's travel was 20 miles. For most people, that meant walking across the entire country beside the wagon.

Accounts from the Donner party tell of traversing the mountains in snow so deep that mules fell in their steps. Women, exhausted from carrying children, could not go on. One mother laid a buffalo robe on the ground beside the fire for her children, and then spread something over them. By morning, the makeshift bed was covered with a foot of snow. The road

was now totally impassable, so the party had to set about building cabins to last out the winter.

Burdened by breakdowns, many pioneers unloaded their belongings beside the trail to lighten their load. Many also buried their loved ones there, children and spouses alike. Diarists commonly noted the passing graves dug by earlier travelers. Each must have been a grim reminder of the newcomers' own vulnerability.

Rivers took a fair share of lives. Not infrequently, wives and children were left to their own devices after the trauma of watching their men drown, often while trying to retrieve cattle that had swum to the other side.

Such losses were oft times recorded in tandem with daily notations about the weather. Occasionally, however, the grief and trepidation spilled forth.

Elizabeth Dixon Smith holed up in a shed in Portland, Ore. - with two widows and their chil-

dren - while she tended her dying husband. Soon, the others moved on and left Smith alone to fend for her family in what she called their "leaky concern." The flimsy lean-to, tacked onto a cabin, admitted enough rain to put out their fire.

Smith's husband was so debilitated that she could only move him by lifting each corner of the sheet. For six weeks, she never even changed her clothes to sleep. The demands of parenting in the midst of this crisis must have been frazzling because, she wrote, in addition to all the sickness, she had to contend with an irritable baby.

Finished the journey

After the sad task of burying her husband, like pioneer widows before and after, Smith continued on. She was penniless and friendless, but Smith packed up her seven children, the belongings they could manage and finished the harrowing journey.

Personally, I don't think I could have been a pioneer. Still, circumstances have a way of shaping one's choices. Adventure drew some westward - women included - but it was desperation and hope for a better future that drove the majority of settlers. Most had no idea what they were getting into. Somehow, though, these resilient people did what they had to do, when faced with adversity. I marvel that any were able to survive the hardships.

Following part of their trail 25 years ago gave me strong and lasting images. These allow me, in some small measure, to relate to where our pioneer ancestors went and what they saw. That experience helps bring the pages of each pioneer diary I read to life.

Historian and author Virginia Bailey Parker has a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in historic preservation. She lives in Canton Township.

ANNIVERSARIES

Arrington

Robert and Bonnie Arrington of Plymouth will celebrate their 50th anniversary with family and friends in Kansas City, Mo., in April.

The couple married March 26, 1948, in Osawatimie, Kansas. She is the former Bonnie Showman.

They have one married daughter, Deborah McLaughlin and husband James of Plymouth.

He retired 15 years ago from Ford Motor Company, and she retired from Hallmark gift store five years ago.

They are active members of Memorial Church of Christ in Livonia.



Rogers

Gerry and Patricia Rogers of Bad Axe celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a family dinner on Dec. 6 at Bill Knapp's in Livonia.

The couple graduated from Franklin High School in Livonia in 1969. She is the former Patricia Waling.

They have two children, Jason, 18, and Clayton, 15.

He is employed as a police officer for the Bad Axe Police Department while she works as a secretary in the pathology department at Huron Memorial Hospital.



Prosyk

Michael and Doris Prosyk of Plymouth Township celebrated their 25th anniversary at a small gathering of family and friends.

The couple married March 16, 1973, at Newburgh Church of Christ. She is the former Doris J. Guindon.

They have three children - Barbara, Mike and Karen - and three grandchildren.

He has been employed as a quality analyst at Delphi Chassis for 30 years. She is employed as a word processor for the law firm of Wood, Kull, Herschfus, Lay and Kull P.C.

They are members of the First Methodist Church of Plymouth and are active in the American Legion. They also enjoy hunting, fishing, camping and growing old together.

ERA advocate speaks to Farmington OWL

Laura Callow, the Michigan ERA representative to the ERA Summit, will be the guest speaker when Farmington OWL (Older Women's League) meets at 7 p.m. Monday, April 6, at the Farmington Community Library, 23500 Liberty St.

Callow will report on the latest activities in the ongoing struggle to gain constitutional equality for women.

The Livonia resident served as chairwoman of the Michigan Reamer from 1976 to 1988 and was an advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment and other women's rights issues on WJR Radio's "Point of View" program for eight years.

She is a founding member of the Northwest Wayne County Chapter of the National Organi-

zation for Women and was honored by Detroit NOW with the Alice Paul Award in 1977.

Callow also is a member and past president of the League of Women Voters of Livonia, and the American Association of University Women and a recipient of the Livonia AAUW branch's annual Salute to Women Award in 1978.

She also is a member and past chairwoman of the Livonia Human Relations Commission, and since a Livonia City Council appointment in 1996 has served on a committee charged with drawing up an Ethics Ordinance for the city.

Callow also is a member of the Women's Advisory Board of Schoolcraft College's Women's Resource Center.

Arbor Hospice sponsors grief support programs

A new young adult grief support group will begin meeting 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at the Arbor Hospice Resi-

Scouts 'scout' for donations

Local Boy and Girl Scouts will once again conduct the "Scouting for Food" drive in selected neighborhoods Saturday, April 25.

Scouts will distribute food collection bags April 20-24 and return on April 25 to collect the canned food and other non-perishable goods.

Suggested canned donations include soups, vegetables, beef stew, chili and fruit. Other donations can include dry food, baby formula and personal care items.

All food donations will go to local agencies that feed families and individuals in need.

For more information call Scouting for Food chairwoman Linda Owczarzak at (734) 429-5108, Dave O'Leary at (734) 664-2843 or Dean Williams, Exploring executive for the Great Sauk Trail of the Boy Scouts of America, at (734) 971-7100.

dence, 2366 Oak Valley Drive, across from the Ice Cube, Ann Arbor.

The six-week recovery group will deal with the process of loss and offer young adults an opportunity to share their experiences with sadness, guilt and anger with others who understand.

The group is for young adults, ages 18-25, who have experi-

enced a loss of any kind - loss of parent, sibling or close friend.

For more information and upcoming summer sessions and dates, call Arbor Hospice at (734) 662-5999 and ask for Fariba.

Arbor Hospice also is offering seven-week grief support series, beginning in April, in Northville, Wayne, Ann Arbor, Saline and Allen Park.

The groups are recommended as a "first step" for men and women who have experienced a loss of any kind - a spouse, parent, sibling, child or close friend, whether the loss occurred recently or not.

For more information, call Arbor Hospice at 1-800-783-5764 or Arbor Center in Northville at (248) 348-4980.

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Michigan Department of Community Health

Holy Week from page B1



Featured will be the Christ Our Savior, Cherub and Chorister choirs and congregation singing the church's commissioned

day. There will be singing, led by the Rev. Les Hardin, a message by the Rev. Mark McGilvrey on Golgotha, and an opportunity to participate in the Lord's Supper. On Resurrection Sunday, the high school youth group will lead a sunrise service at 8:30 a.m. in the auditorium. A continental breakfast will be served in the main foyer after that service and those at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. (734) 464-0211

The Passion history, choirs and a palm procession will be part of the Palm Sunday services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. And at 7:30 p.m., the Adult Choir and Trinity Bells with Chamber Orchestra will present the original 1893 version of Faure's Requiem. The Bells also will perform Faure's Pavane.

On Holy Wednesday, a healing service with lessons, meditation, prayers and individual anointing with oil for those who desire it will be conducted at 7:30 p.m., while on Maundy Thursday the 7:30 p.m. Communion service will include individual absolution and a stripping of the altar.

On Good Friday, Holy Trinity will join the St. Matthew's United Methodist, Church of the Savior, Reformed, Nativity United Church of Christ, Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian, St. Edith Catholic, St. Paul of the Cross Monastery and St. Timothy Presbyterian for a combined service at 1 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church. The Rev. Church Sonquist of St. Matthew's will be the speaker, and an interchurch choir will perform.

Good Friday evening there will be a dramatic service of readings with increasing darkness, climactic moment of Jesus' death and solemn closing at 7:30 p.m.

There will be three festival Communion services, with choirs, instrumentalists and a joyful Eucharist, at 8, 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. Easter Sunday.

Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt Road, Garden City. (734) 421-7620

The Holy Week observance will begin with Palm Sunday worship services with Communion will be at 9:15 and 11 a.m.

On Maundy Thursdays, there will be a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by a Tennebrae Service of Shadows and Commu-

nion at 7:30 p.m., while an ecumenical service will be held noon to 3 p.m. Good Friday at Garden City Presbyterian.

On Easter Sunday, there will be a sunrise service at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast at 10:15 a.m. Worship services also will be conducted at 9:15 and 11 a.m.

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia. (734) 422-6038.

The Palm Sunday service will be at 10 a.m. The Sunday School children will grace church goes with palms.

On Maundy Thursday, there will be a 9:30 a.m. breakfast, followed by a 10:15 a.m. service. Marsha Woolley, associate pastor of the Ann Arbor First Methodist Church, will speak. The soloist will be Kathy Roseanne with accompanist Mickey Fiegel. Tickets are \$4 and are available in the church office.

The Easter Sunday worship service will be at 10 a.m.

Canton Community Church, 41600 Ann Arbor Trail, Canton. (734) 455-6022

The Palm Sunday services will be at 9:15 and 11 a.m. and feature a modern-day re-enactment of the Last Supper, while the Good Friday service will be at noon and feature a dramatized version of the folk tale, "The Tale of Three Trees."

Easter will be celebrated in song and drama at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia. (734) 422-1470

A Maundy Thursday communion service at 7:30 p.m. will feature the one-man play, "Pontius Pilate" with Ron Smeenge.

Good Friday services will be noon to 3 p.m. Participants are invited to stay for the entire service or drop by and leave at any time.

Easter Sunday services will be at 7, 8:30 and 11 a.m. A pancake breakfast will be served 7:45-11 a.m. with proceeds benefitting the St. Paul's Habitat for Humanity mission trip to Americus, Ga.

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. (248) 348-7600

Holy Week at First Church will begin at the 11 a.m. Palm Sunday service when the orches-

tra, drama, adult and children's choirs combining to present "He's Alive," a theatrical-musical celebration that will bring the sacrifice of Good Friday and the joy of Easter home to participants' hearts. Don St. John, director of music ministries, will direct the sanctuary choir and orchestra.

The Easter celebration will

include early Easter Baptism and Communion service at 8 a.m. Easter Sunday, a free Easter fellowship breakfast at 9 a.m. and worship with music, orchestra, compelling drama and inspiring Easter message by Dr. Carl Leth at 10:30 a.m.

There also will be an children's worship service, free child care and a gift for guests.

Northville Christian Assembly, 41855 Six Mile, Northville. (248) 348-9030

Northville Christian Assembly is inviting the community to communion services at 12:30 and 7:30 p.m. Good Friday. The Rev. Otis Buchan will lead worshippers in the memorial and celebration of Christ's death and resurrection.

choral piece, "There Is a Green Hill Far Away" by Charles W. Ore.

Easter Sunday will be celebrated at the Livonia campus with a 6:30 a.m. sunrise devotion and festival Communion services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. The Christ Our Savior, Cherub, Choristers, Handbell and Brass choirs will join together in performing "On the Third Day" by Allen Pote at each festival service. A staffed nursery will be available throughout the morning.

An Easter breakfast will be served by the church youth 7-10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children 4-10 years and free for children 3 and under.

Special music will highlight the Easter festival service at 9:30 a.m. at the Canton campus. An Easter brunch will be held after the service.

Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, (734) 422-0149

Palm Sunday services will be at 9:15 and 11 a.m. The Cantabile Bells, Cherub, Children and Youth Choirs will perform special music.

On Maundy Thursday, the Tennebrae service will be at 7:30 p.m. and include a dramatic portrayal of the Last Supper and Holy Communion. The Good Friday service will be at 12:15 p.m. Music for both services will be by the Chancel Choir, and child care will be provided.

On Easter Sunday, the sunrise worship service will be at 7:30 a.m. at Newburg Church at Greenmead Historical Village. A sunrise breakfast, sponsored by the United Methodist Men, will be served 7:30-10 a.m. in Guthrie Hall. The also will be worship services at 9:15 and 11 a.m. and Sunday School.

Memorial Church of Christ, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia, (734) 464-6722

The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus will begin at 7 p.m. Good Friday with a service focused on the events of that

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1997-98 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM



Jenny Trott Plymouth Salem Jenny Young Livonia Ladywood Amanda Abraham Plymouth Salem Stephanie Duiz Livonia Stevenson Brooke Hensman Livonia Franklin Angie Sillmon Plymouth Salem MaryLu Hemme Livonia Ladywood Erin Fitzgerald Farm. Hills Mercy Heather White Redford Thurston

Observerland's best spikers gain high marks

1997-98 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Sarah Poglits, Sr., Liv. Ladywood
Jenny Trott, Sr., Ply. Salem
Jenny Young, Jr., Liv. Ladywood
Amanda Abraham, Sr., Ply. Salem
Stephanie Duiz, Jr., Liv. Stevenson
Brooke Hensman, Sr., Liv. Franklin
Angie Sillmon, Jr., Ply. Salem
MaryLu Hemme, Sr., Liv. Ladywood
Erin Fitzgerald, Sr., F.H. Mercy
Heather White, Sr., Red. Thurston

SECOND TEAM

Katie Brogan, Sr., Liv. Ladywood
Danielle Wensing, Sr., Liv. Franklin
Jackie Kibilko, Sr., Liv. Clarenceville
Michelle Berry, Sr., Liv. Clarenceville
Krista Kelley, Sr., F.H. Mercy
Jenny Lechappelle, Sr., Liv. Ladywood
Irena Blankova, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
Christie Koester, Sr., Red. Thurston
Jessica Sherman, Sr., Liv. Churchill

THIRD TEAM

Stephanie Cheran, Sr., Ply. Canton
Anna Schwecke, Jr., Luth. Westland
Chrissy Chavez, Jr., F.H. Harrison
Andrea Kmet, Soph., Liv. Franklin
Katie Callahan, Sr., N. Farmington
Kelly Street, Sr., Ply. Salem
Lindsay Pfeifer, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
Karl Flynn, Sr., Ply. Salem
Kasie Mathena, Sr., Redford Union
Jamie Barker, Sr., Westland Glenn

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ann Hutchins, Liv. Franklin

HONORABLE MENTION

Livonia Ladywood: Natalie Rozell, Tracey DeWitt, Leslie Orzech; Plymouth Salem: Laine Sterling, Ellen Stemmer, Andrea Prusett; Livonia Franklin: Jackie Ziem, Sarah Gush, Nicole Boyd, Tera Morilli, Lyndsay Sepko; Livonia Stevenson: Katie LeBlanc, Sarah Willrock; Livonia Churchill: Jenny Duncan, Jennifer Laidlaw, Susan Hill, Lisa Fabrikiewicz; Bath Rutkowski; Westland John Glenn: Noelle Swartz, Jessica LeTourneau; Livonia Clarenceville: Agnieszka Palasz, Melissa Berry, Kristina Skreia; Lutheran Westland: Sarah Hoffmeyer, Kristen Rae; Westland Haron Valley Lutheran: Stephanie Graves, Stacie Graves, Rachel Zahn; Farmington Hartwood: Becky Vosler; North Farmington: Diana Gustkey, Rita Hinds; Farmington: Emilie Villemonte, Kelly DePotter; Farmington Hills Mercy: Mary Gignac, Amy Miller, Carrie Brankiewicz, Shayla O'Mara, Liz Dillon; Redford Union: Debbie Christensen, Jamie Matesic, Shannon McCuean; Redford Bishop Burgess: Etelsha Charles, Tanique Brumfield, Esha Moody; Redford Thurston: Renee Montano, Lisa Moore; Redford St. Agatha: Carrie Shinske, Katie Miller, Christina Ferbert; Garden City: Kelly Stone, Julie Fehner and Crystal Young; Plymouth Canton: Angie Germain, Amy Pfagens, Elizabeth Eisner, Christy Even.

Observerland's top two volleyball teams were once again state Class A quarterfinalist Livonia Ladywood and regional runner-up Plymouth Salem.

Ladywood (53-9-1) won its seventh straight Catholic League playoff title and repeated as regional and district champions. The Blazers were ousted in a thrilling three-game match in the state tournament by eventual champion Temperance Bedford.

Salem (47-6-1) completed a perfect season in the Western Lakes Activities Association and went on to win a district title.

This year's All-Observer girls volleyball team reflects the strength of those two schools, each landing three on the first team.

It was also a breakthrough season for Livonia Franklin (26-16-7), which captured the Western Division title in the WLAA under coach Ann Hutchins.

The Patriots also pulled a surprise by knocking off WLAA runner-up Livonia Stevenson in the district semifinals.

For her efforts this year,



Sarah Poglits, Sr., Livonia Ladywood

Hutchins, who just completed her seventh season, came away with Observerland Coach of the Year honors.

Introducing the 1997-98 All-Observer Girls Volleyball Team as selected by the Observer sports staff.

Her greatest value to the team, according to Salem co-coach Ailie Suffety, was "her leadership. I thought that was pretty indicative against Ladywood. She was the guts and glue that kept things together."

"When she went out, the team didn't adjust very well. She's one of the best athletes I've ever coached."

Trott, a second team all-state selection who's accepted a scholarship to play at Central Michigan, led Salem in serve reception, handling opponent's serves 48 percent of the time. She also served at 96.4 percent with 39 aces, had a team-high 304 digs, 29 blocks and 261 kills (second on the team).

"She deserves the opportunity to play (at CMU)," said Suffety. "Jenny is very motivated. She'll come back and play if she's physically able."

Jenny Young, Jr., Livonia Ladywood: Developed this season into one of the area's most dominating attackers leading the Blazers with 3.68 kills per game.

The 6-1 Young was one of the main reasons Ladywood reached the state Class A quarterfinals and finished 53-9-1 overall. She was also named to the All-Catholic League squad.

Young had 450 total kills hitting at a .301 clip.

"Jenny is a leader by example and has developed defensively as well as offensively," Teeters said. "Jenny has a bright future ahead of her. Her role at Ladywood will change as more responsibility is added."

Stephanie Duiz, Jr., Livonia Stevenson: The 5-10 Duiz, despite missing two weeks and 20 games with tendonitis in her shoulder, set several two new standards this season including a team record for total kills in a season (340)

and kills per game average (10). She also had 73 solo blocks and averaged 88 percent on serve reception.

"Stephanie was a big impact player for us this season," Stevenson coach Kelly Graham said. "She did a terrific job everywhere on the court, especially with her hitting."

"She was a very exciting player to watch. It is nice for me to know that I will have her talent, experience and leadership for another year. She was definitely one of the best middle hitters in our conference and will be again next season."

Duiz was All-Western Lakes, team MVP, All-Academic for the region and nominated for the All-State team.

Amanda Abraham, Sr., Plymouth Salem: Although she led one of the best teams in Observerland in kills, Abraham will not receive a scholarship to play volleyball at the next level. That's because she's already accepted one to play basketball, at Holy Cross.

The 6-foot-2 middle hitter led the Rocks in kills (299) and blocks (88, solo, 79 block assists). She also served at 91 percent with 34 aces and had 126 digs.

"I wouldn't be at all surprised if (volleyball) wasn't something she went into later," Suffety said. "Amanda was a great player to coach, an amazing athlete. She's always been that way."

"She's really very coordinated and she works very hard to become better. She always took it as a challenge to be a better player."

Abraham was a first-team all-WLAA selection.

Brooke Hensman, Sr., Livonia

Please see ALL-AREA, C5

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All-Area from page C4

Franklin: The 5-10 middle hitter was a three-year varsity starter. She won several honors this year including All-Western Lakes Activities Association, All-Region (Wayne County) and All-University of Michigan Dearborn Tournament.

Franklin's top offensive player racked up 293 kills in 103 games played (2.85 per game) with an attack percentage of .325.

She also averaged 1.18 blocks per game and finished with 139 total digs on the year.

"Brooke has been a major factor in the success of Franklin volleyball," Patriot coach Ann Hutchins said. "She was a very unselfish player with a very mature presence."

"She excelled in the front row and had the ability to dominate the net and thus a match. She led the team in many attacking categories as well as being a tremendous captain to her teammates."

•Angie Sillmon, Jr., Plymouth Salem: Sillmon did not post the same kind of numbers her teammates. Trott and Abraham, did. But that didn't stop her from drawing more attention.

"She is a great, great athlete," said Suffety. "And I think she'll be a great volleyball player. Whoever gets her will be very happy."

"She's incredible."

Although she has a year left, Sillmon is already atop Western Michigan University's recruiting list, and several other NCAA Division I schools — like Michigan State, Auburn, Ball State and Penn State — have shown interest.

"She's got a lot of people's attention," said Suffety.

Sillmon was third among the Rocks in kills with 205, and ranked second in blocks (52 solo, 52 block assists). She also had 154 digs (third on the team) and 26 service aces.

"She came in as a ninth grader, never having played volleyball before," said Suffety.

Sillmon, a 5-foot-11 middle hitter, was also a first team all-WLAA selection.

•MaryLu Hemme, Sr., Livonia Ladywood: The 5-10 middle-hitter was often the heart-and-soul of a talented Blazer squad.

Hemme was second on the team in solo blocks, third in passing and in digs. She hit a .232 clip with 88 total kills.

"I am very proud of MaryLu for the way she handled her role as co-captain and team motivator," Teeters said. "Her contributions in these areas and her ability to be a primary passer and middle hitter as a combination gave our team a player essential for its success."

Hemme was also an All-Catholic League choice.

•Erin Fitzgerald, Sr., Farmington Hills Mercy: The 5-foot-7 senior outside hitter was the most consistent and best all-around player for the Marilins, who won their ninth consecutive Class A district championship this year.

Fitzgerald was Mercy's percentage leader in serving (95.56) and serve-receive (89.98). She was third on the team with 254 kills and had a 21.78 kill percentage. Fitzgerald also had 48 aces out of 461 total serves.

"She's the kind of player who probably wouldn't stand out if you watched her for just one game," Mercy coach Ed Moeller said. "But, if you watched her over 10 games, she would realize she was a standout player for us."

"She's extremely quick to the ball, one of the quickest I've coached. She has excellent jumping ability; she's the best jumper on our team."

Fitzgerald was a team captain, an excellent defensive player and a vocal leader who demonstrated strong leadership on the floor, according to Moeller.

"She was always rallying the girls for the big games," he said. "At the end of the season, we came up big in some games due to Erin's leadership. She was very, very consistent. I can say she had no more than two bad games the whole year."

•Heather White, Sr., Redford Thurston: Current Redford Thurston varsity coach Laura Gruenwald was the Eagles' freshman coach in 1994-95, the year White was a freshman.

Gruenwald knew she had no chance of coaching White at that level.

The 5-foot-8 outside hitter was a four-year member of the varsity and she was part of the starting lineup almost from Day 1. Thurston won four districts and one regional in White's career — a feat made more remarkable when it's noted that the Eagles have had three coaches during that stretch.

This year, White excelled all-around, averaging 3.5 kills per game, receiving at an 85 percent and serving at 89 percent. A student with a 3.3 grade point average, she will play at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"I can't say enough about her," Gruenwald said. "She's an all-around player, not just athletically and skilled, but smart player. She's an all-around nice person, very easy to coach. She's improved her court sense, knows where to put the ball, when to tip, doesn't always try to hit the ball hard. She's played for three coaches in four years and the fact she made it through that is pretty impressive."

WEEK AHEAD

- LIVONIA-WESTLAND SPORTS CARD**
- PREP BASEBALL**
- Thursday, April 2
Redford Union at Franklin, 4 p.m.
Wayne at Taylor Truman, 4 p.m.
Luth. W'ld at SF Christian, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 3
Churchill at Franklin, 4 p.m.
Farmington at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
John Glenn at H. Farmington, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, April 4
(all double-headers unless noted)
Redford Union at Stevenson, 11 a.m.
Berkley at Churchill, noon.
Notre Dame at Redford CC, 2 p.m.
Thurston at Wayne, 2:30 p.m.
- GIRLS SOFTBALL**
- Thursday, April 2
Franklin at Redford Union, 4 p.m.
Thurston at Wayne, 4 p.m.
SF Christian at Luth. W'ld, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 3
Franklin at Churchill, 4 p.m.
Stevenson at Farmington, 4 p.m.
N. Farmington at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Ladywood at Mercy (2), 4 p.m.
- Saturday, April 4
(all double-headers unless noted)
Stevenson at Redford Union, 11 a.m.
- BOYS TRACK**
- Thursday, April 2
Salem at Churchill, 3:30 p.m.
W.L. Central at Franklin, 3:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Harrison, 3:30 p.m.
Redford CC at Thurston, 3:30 p.m.
Country Day, S'field Christian at Lutheran Westland, 4:30 p.m.
John Glenn at Carleton, 5:30 p.m.
- GIRLS TRACK**
- Thursday, April 2
Churchill at Salem, 3:30 p.m.
Franklin at W.L. Central, 3:30 p.m.
Harrison at Stevenson, 3:30 p.m.
Carleton at John Glenn, 3:30 p.m.
Country Day, S'field Christian at Lutheran Westland, 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 4
Spartan Relays at MSU, TBA.
- GIRLS SOCCER**
- Friday, April 3
John Glenn at Dearborn, 4 p.m.
Wayne at Grosse Ile, 4 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Fairlane, 4:30 p.m.
Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Northville at Franklin, 7 p.m.
- COLLEGE BASEBALL**
- Saturday, April 4
Madonna at St. Xavier (2), 1 p.m.
- Sunday, April 5
Madonna at St. Xavier (2), 11 a.m.
- COLLEGE SOFTBALL**
- Thursday, April 2
Madonna at Cornerstone (2), 3 p.m.
- Friday, April 3
Madonna at Concordia (2), 3 p.m.
- Saturday, April 4
Madonna vs. Siena Heights at Ladywood H.S. (2), 1 p.m.
- Sunday, April 5
Madonna vs. Rochester College at Ladywood H.S. (2), 1 p.m.
- TBA — time to be announced.

Series victory

Goaltender Esche hot as Whalers lead Bulls, 2-0

The Plymouth Whalers have the upper hand in their best of seven Ontario Hockey League playoff series with the Belleville Bulls.

Before 2,867 fans Tuesday in Belleville, the Whalers took a 2-0 series lead Tuesday with a 3-2 victory.

Goalie Robert Esche, the game's first star, stopped 38 of 40 Bulls shots.

It was 1-1 after one period.

Paul Mara, Jesse Boulerice and Randy Fitzgerald scored goals for the winners. Steve Waaylko and Yuri Babenko assisted on Mara's goal, a power-play at 11:16 of the opening period.

Eric Gooldy assisted on Boulerice's at 8:54 of the second, while Babenko had his second assist on Fitzgerald's game-winner at 2:05 of the third.

Daniel Cleary had a goal and assist for the Bulls. Jim Midgley had the other Belleville goal.

•WHALERS 6, BELLEVILLE 5: The Whalers should have been better rested. They should have been ready and raring to go. And yet, they had to battle back from behind to beat Belleville Saturday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena in the

OHL PLAYOFFS

best-of-seven series opener.

Certainly Andrew Taylor and Fitzgerald did their share decisively for Plymouth.

Taylor scored three first-period goals, the first two on power plays, both assisted by Nik Tsellos. He scored his third goal with five seconds left in the first period; Harold Druken got the second of his three assists in the game.

But the Bulls also scored three times in the first, with Rob Trotter and Ryan Redy getting a goal and an assist each in the period.

The Whalers' third power-play goal of the game, this one by Julian Smith, came 3:09 into the second period, Midgley tied it 42 seconds later, and 27 seconds after that Trotter scored for the second time in the game to put the Bulls in front, 5-3.

Fitzgerald brought the Whalers back, scoring the tying goal with 10:23 left in the second, then getting the game-winner with just 28 seconds to go in the period. David Legwand got his second assist of the game on the winning score; Mara also had two assists in the game.

Esche made 32 saves for the Whalers.

Fighting Crusader bats come alive in sweep over Concordia

Finally — bustin' out.

Madonna University's baseball team hasn't had much trouble scoring runs. In their last four games, the Fighting Crusaders scored 35 runs (for the season, they're averaging nearly eight runs a game).

But they lost the first three in that string before breaking out with 20 runs in the fourth, beating Concordia College 20-1 in the second game of a double-header Sunday in Ann Arbor.

The problem with Madonna has been pitching and untimely errors. The Crusaders have given up 23 runs in those four games, five of them unearned (they have committed six errors). For the season, they have a 5.81 team earned run average, but they have also surrendered 42 unearned runs (on 42 errors), an average of 2.33 per game.

Last Sunday at Concordia, Mitch Jabczenski improved to 2-1 with the win in the second game, tossing three scoreless innings; he allowed one hit and no walks, striking out one.

J.R. Taylor led the offensive assault with a double and a single, scoring four runs and driving in four more. Brandon Jaskolski added three hits, scoring three runs with one run batted in; Neil Wildfong (from Plymouth Canton) and Todd Miller (Farmington Hills/Brother Rice) contributed two hits and three RBI apiece; Bob Hamp had a double and three RBI; Dave O'Neill had two hits and two

COLLEGE BASEBALL

RBI; and Mike LaPointe had two hits.

The win gave Madonna a 7-11 overall record.

In Sunday's first game, the Crusaders rallied with a run in the top of the seventh to tie it at 4-4, but the Cardinals got the game-winner in the bottom of the frame to collect a 5-4 triumph.


Jason Carter (Livonia Churchill), pitching in relief of starter James O'Connor (Redford Catholic Central; 4th innings, two earned runs, two hits, three walks), took the loss for Madonna, slipping to 0-2. He surrendered a run on five hits and a walk (with three strikeouts) in 1¹/₃ innings. Scott Heron was the winner for Concordia.

Kevin Foley led the Crusader attack with a double and two RBI.

•AQUINAS 9-8, MADONNA 5-6: Last Friday in Grand Rapids, Madonna was beaten twice by Aquinas. Mark Serra (0-3) gave up nine earned runs in five innings to absorb the loss in the first game; Bob Mason (1-3) took the loss in the second, allowing six earned runs in six innings.

Jeff Warholik had two hits in each game, driving in four runs in the second game with a double and a home run. He scored two runs in the first game.

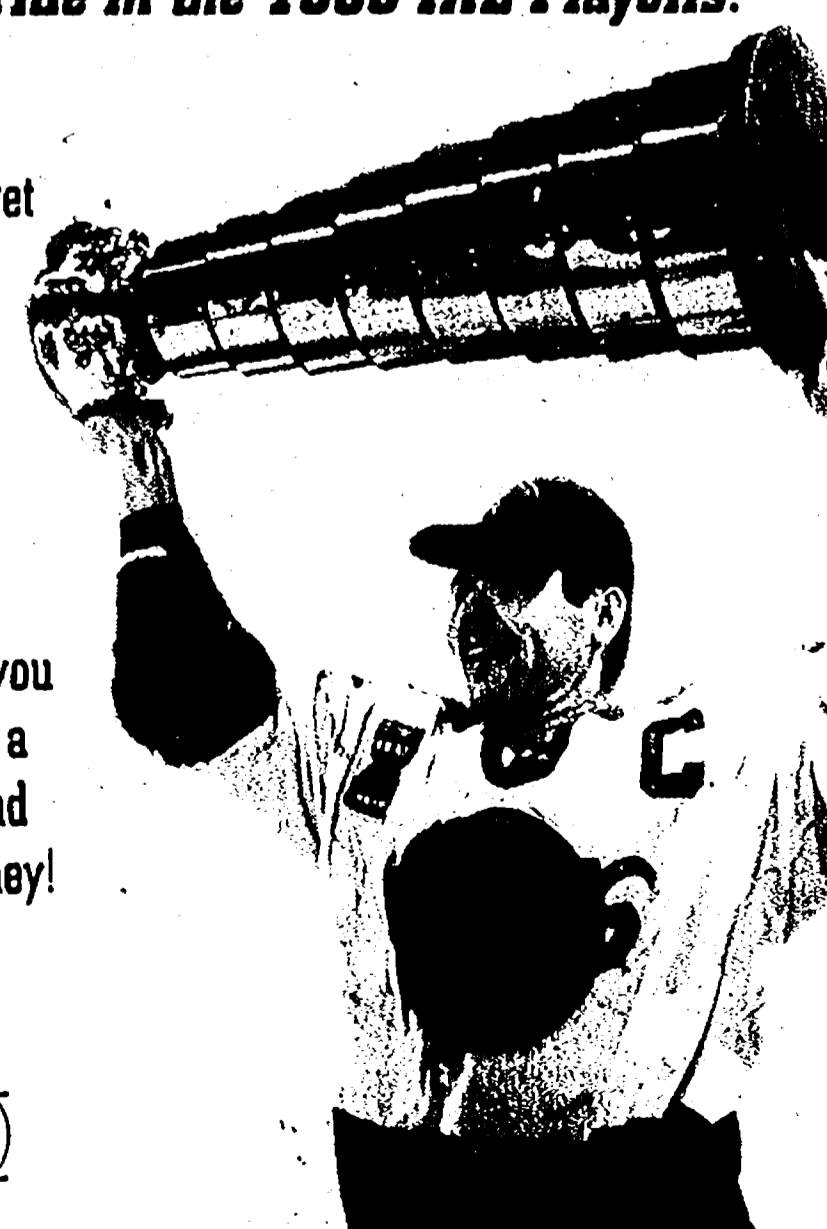

Eric Marcotte (Plymouth Canton) had two hits and two RBI to lead Madonna in the first game.



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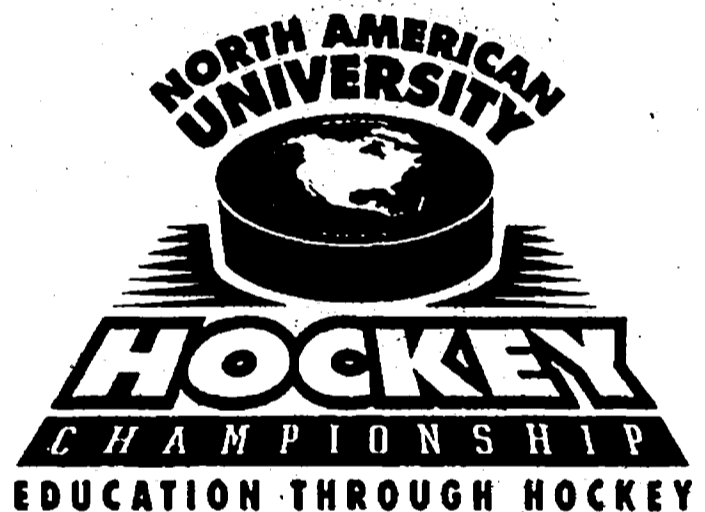
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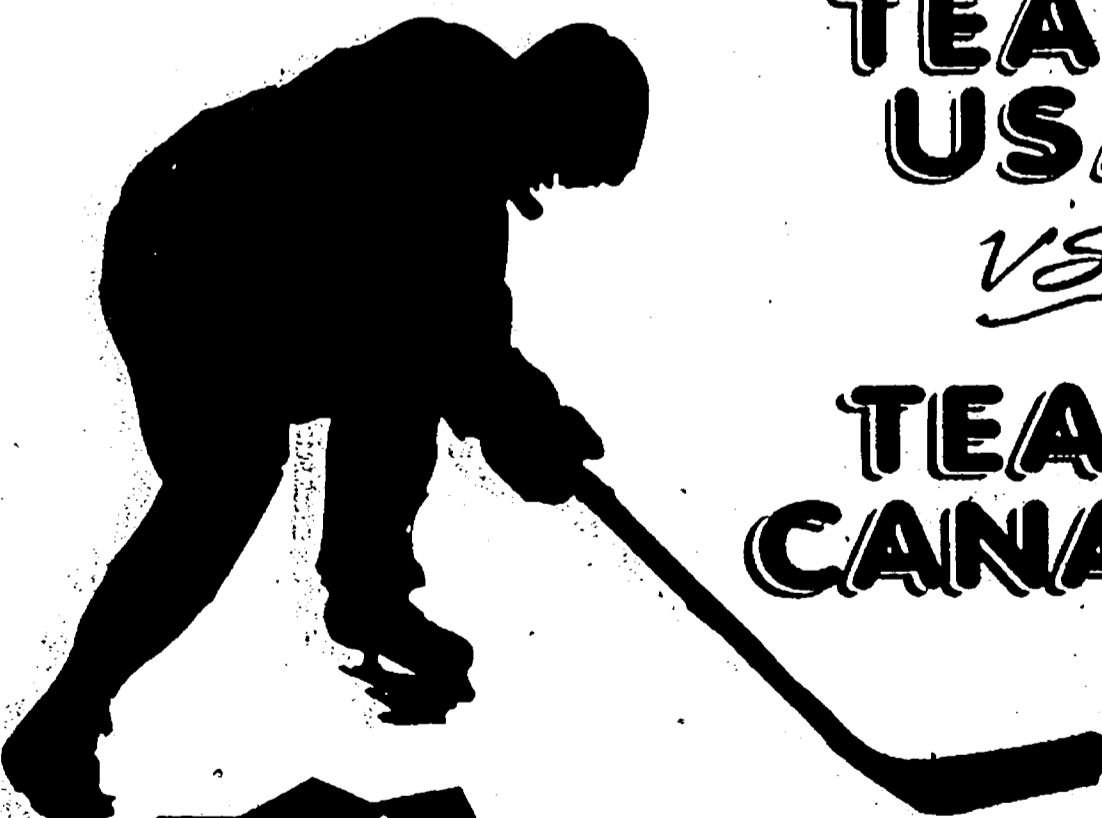


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BOYS TRACK

Shamrocks set to defend title

Redford Catholic Central has 130 boys on its track team and only 10 are seniors.

That's the usual scenario at CC, where the team seems to be top heavy with underclassmen year in and year out. CC coach Tony Magni would like more to stick around for four years - but it's usually just wishful thinking.

Even without a big senior class, the Shamrocks always rank among the Catholic League's best and challenge for the Observerland Relays championship and one of the top three spots at the Class A regional.

"We have a lot of freshmen, unfortunately, we don't keep all of them," Magni said. "If they give it a chance a lot could contribute by the time they're seniors."

The Shamrocks lost a hand-

PREVIEW

ful of state qualifiers to graduation: Brian Teehey, John Griffin, Chris Laney, John Faunce, Brian Douglas and Dan Dominguez.

Teehey was fourth in the state meet at the 400 meters. Douglas and Dominguez qualified in the shot put and Griffin, Laney and Faunce teamed with returnee Wayne Briggie to qualify for the 3,200 meter relay.

"They'll be missed," Magni said.

The top individual returning appears to be senior Dave Popiel, a first-team All-Observer choice in the high jump. He has a chance to qualify for the state meet, clearing 6-foot-5 in a recent indoors meet.

Other top returnees include

senior long distance runners Joe Hubert and Matt Shannon. Hubert has run the 1,600 meters in 4 minutes, 35 seconds and Shannon has run a 10:20 3,200 time.

Senior Tim Finnerty runs the 100 and 200 dashes and is a valuable member of the 800 relay, running a 55.0 split. Briggie, a senior, is a strong 800 meter performer, while junior Chris Woehlke has run the 110 hurdles in 15.3 and junior Brent Barrick has jumped 19-10 in the long jump.

Senior Don Slankster runs the hurdles and the relays, too.

"We're going to be very young and those seniors are going to have to step up," Magni said.

The Shamrocks are usually strong in the throwing events but experience isn't a strength there this year.

The top returnees are sophomores Mike Morris and John Kava. Junior Nick Brzezinski has come out for the team for the first time.

Morris has thrown 45 feet and Brzezinski, a standout tight end in football, has thrown the shot 47 feet, Magni said.

The Shamrocks open the season Monday against Harper Woods Notre Dame at Redford Thurston.

"We're at the point right now that it's early, a lot are hurting, didn't do much this winter," Magni said. "Hopefully by the time the middle of the season and end we'll be much better. (Orchard Lake) St. Mary's has a lot of speed, skilled people."

"But we'll wait and see. That's why they don't give a trophy out at the beginning of the year."



Scrambling: Tuesday's lacrosse match between Redford Catholic Central and Brother Rice got a bit congested.

Rice drills CC, 12-1

Birmingham Brother Rice showed Redford Catholic Central on Tuesday why it's the two-time defending Division I lacrosse champion.

The Warriors defeated the host Shamrocks 12-1 after rolling to a 5-1 halftime lead.

Matt Mueller scored four goals for the winners. Dan Burns and Phil Vincenti added two goals each for Rice, 3-0 overall.

Brian Beardsley had the lone CC goal, unassisted.

The goaltending duties were split by Matt Venning and Joe

Belanger. "Without them it would have been 20-1," CC coach Scott Tynan said. "Nothing went right for us."

The Shamrocks are now 1-1, opening the season with a 6-1 victory over East Grand Rapids on Saturday.

Eric Tessier led the Shamrocks with two goals. Bryan Cox, Brian Beardsley, Matt Secord and George Madias had one goal each. Madias had one assist.

Venning and Belanger split the goalkeeping duties.

EASTER BARGAINS advertisement featuring illustrations of rabbits and Easter eggs.

Professional Dry Cleaning Shirt Laundry Same Day Service advertisement with 50% off and 79¢ shirts on hangers.

ALBIE'S PASTIES • SUBS • SALADS • BURGERS advertisement with 'BUY 1 PASTY, Get 1 for 99¢' offer.

sunny j's lingerie & leisure wear advertisement featuring a woman in a swimsuit.

EASTER PLANTS advertisement with Easter Lillies, Large Premium Plants, and Flowering Bulb Plants.

KOWALSKI'S TASTY TRAY advertisement with various food items like baked goods, hams, and pierogi.

Tina's DANCE COMPANY advertisement for Spring and Summer Classes including Tap, Pom, and Ballet.

'HOP IN FOR SAVINGS' advertisement for W.P. FLOORCOVERING with a 30% off coupon.

DANCE STEPS advertisement for classes at 8967 Wayne Road, Livonia.

MOLLY MAID advertisement for household cleaning services with a \$20.00 value offer.

30% off All Incoming Cleaning advertisement with a coupon.

IT'S TIME TO GET GROWING! Springtime Seminar advertisement for BARSONS Greenhouses.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

CASAZ 5K RUN

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) will stage their annual Run From the Heart Caryn Casaz 5-kilometer run Saturday, May 16 at the Nankin Mills Picnic Area, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the race starting at 9 a.m.

The entry fee is \$15 per person.

The race also includes walkers, wheelchair competitors and disable awards.

For more information, call (313) 721-8181.

LOCAL ROCKERS STAR

Jeff Gold knocked in the game-winning goal 6:52 into overtime Saturday to enable the Detroit Rockers to beat the Buffalo Blizzard 17-15 at Joe Louis Arena.

The victory ended a streak of 11 losses in 12 games for Detroit, which improved to 13-27. Buffalo slipped to 21-18.

Gold, from Plymouth, got the game-winner on an assist from

Dennis Brose, who scored three goals himself in the game — one of them assisted by Gold, just 4:38 into the first period.

Travis Roy and Lars Richters, both from Livonia Stevenson, also scored goals for the Rockers.

YOUTH SOCCER CHAMPS

The Canton Impact under-13 boys soccer team finished on top in their age division at the Sonny Therrien Memorial Tournament, March 28-29, in Cincinnati.

The Impact, coached by Tom Masters and assisted by Bob Klump, held their opponents goalless (scores were 1-0, 1-0 and 4-0) to win their division. Against Team Cincinnati in the championship game, the Impact prevailed by a 3-1 margin.

Brad Westlund scored for the Canton team 13 minutes into the title match, but Team Cincinnati came back to tie the score before half time. Westlund scored again five minutes into the second half, and the Impact put the game

away after Brent Clodgio's direct kick was mishandled by the Cincinnati keeper and Evan Baker, following the shot, pounded it into the back of the net.

Members of the Canton Impact are Evan Baker, Jain Bryant, Brent Clodgio, James DeLos Reyes, John DeVries, Kyle Grenfell, Justin Hajduk, Steve Kacala, Brian Klump, Mike Masters, Tim Oswald, Jeff Packard, Tim Strabbing, Brad Westlund, Matt Wielechowski, and Steve Cox as a guest player, all from

Canton; Charlie Carlson from Plymouth; and Paul Giordano from Westland.

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES

The Canton Parks and Recreation Services still has a few openings for its men's adult softball leagues. League play begins late this month.

Cost is \$290 per team. Sign up at the Parks and Recreation office (located at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton) or call (734) 397-5110 for more information.

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- **Save 40%** on a large assortment of career, casual, and social occasion spring dresses for misses, petites and Parisian Woman. Reg. 88.00-160.00, **sale 61.60-98.00.** Photos not available at Five Points West. D02,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,300,301
- **Sale 29.99**—August Silk solid-color and striped short-sleeve silk knit tops for misses and petites. Reg. 40.00. Also available in Parisian Woman sizes, reg. 50.00, **sale 34.99.** D65,90,390,398
- **Save 30%** on selected collections in Country Classics for misses', petite and Parisian Woman. Reg. 25.00-198.00, **sale 17.50-138.60.** D78,86,418,419, all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL, and Five Points West.
- **Save 30%** on a large selection of misses' Just Clothes knit separates and short-sleeve sweaters. Reg. 16.00-46.00, **sale 11.20-32.20.** D78,398
- **Save 40%** on famous-maker collections and separates in New Directions. Reg. 28.00-200.00, **sale 16.80-120.00.** D79,93,94,438. Selection varies by store.
- **Save 30%** on casual linen and garment-washed knit separates from Hot Cotton, Marc Wear and Kiko. Reg. 28.00-108.00, **sale 19.60-75.60.** Also in Petites and Parisian Woman. D78,93,415
- **Save 30%** on our entire stock of famous-maker suits in misses', petite and Parisian Woman sizes. Reg. 148.00-298.00, **sale 103.60-208.60.** D431
- **Save 30%** on famous-maker career and casual collections in misses', petite and Parisian Woman sizes. Reg. 38.00-240.00, **sale 26.60-168.00.** D69,77,78,96,390,413,414,416,436

Take an extra **65%** off all already reduced ladies' fall clearance. Orig. 28.00-260.00, sale 14.00-130.00, **now 4.90-45.50.**

Juniors:

- **Save 30%** on selected junior dresses from My Michelle, All that Jazz, Byer and more. Reg. 28.00-68.00, **sale 19.60-47.60.** D80
- **Save 30%** on selected junior tops and bottoms from Coach & Camel, Creative Cotton, Palmetto's, Knitworks and Next Era. Reg. 12.00-26.00, **sale 8.40-18.20.** D75,98

Intimate Apparel:

- **Save 40%** on bras, panties, shapewear and daywear from Olga, Vanity Fair, and Warner's. Reg. 6.00-26.00, **sale 3.60-15.60.** D21,22,23,25 all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL
- **Save 30%** on our entire stock of bras from Bali, Playtex and Maidenform. Reg. 18.00-26.00, **sale 12.60-18.20.** D22 all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL
- **Save 40%** on our entire stock of sleepwear and robes from Chance Encounters, Earth Angels, Aria, and more. Reg. 26.00-48.00, **sale 15.60-28.80.** D24 all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL

Accessories:

- **Save 40%** on our entire stock of Monet jewelry. Reg. 10.00-40.00, **sale 6.00-24.00.** D33
- **Save 50%** on selected Easter gift collections. Reg. 4.00-60.00, **sale 2.00-28.00.** D41
- **Save 50%** on sterling silver jewelry. Reg. 20.00-150.00, **sale 10.00-75.00.** D176 (excludes designer styles)
- **Save 50%** on a large selection handbags from Nine West, Marco Avano, Esprit and Perry Ellis. Reg. 38.00-110.00, **sale 19.00-55.00.** D31
- **Save 50%** on sunglasses from Riviera, Solarico Drivers, Solargenic Designer Originals, and Davinci. Reg. 22.00-40.00, **sale 11.00-12.00.** D175

Men:

- **Save 40%** on Preswick & Moore patterned dress shirts. Reg. 55.00, **sale 33.00.** D6. Selection varies by store.
- **Save 40%** on Parisian Signature ties. Reg. 35.00, **sale 21.00.** D19. Selection varies by store.
- **Save 40%** on Natural Issue and Architect short-sleeve sport shirts. Reg. 28.00-38.00, **sale 16.80-22.80.** D645, all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL, North Point Mall, Macon Mall, The Summit, and Phipps Plaza
- **Sale 2 for 35.00**—Architect solid-color pique shirts or solid-color twill shorts. Shirts, reg. 26.00 each. Shorts, reg. 28.00 each. D7519, all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL
- **Save 30%** on Bill Blass dress slacks. Reg. 75.00, **sale 52.50.** D508

Kids:

- **Save 40%** on selected Easter dresswear for infants, toddlers, boys and girls. Reg. 20.00-80.00, **sale 12.00-48.00.** D16,18,62,63,67,68,218, all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL. Selection limited at The Summit and North Point Mall
- **Save 40%** on swimwear for infants, toddlers, boys and girls. (Excluding Tommy Hilfger and Ralph Lauren.) Reg. 16.00-42.00, **sale 9.60-25.20.** D18,62,63,64,67,68,218, all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL. Selection limited at The Summit and North Point Mall
- **Save 40%** on all playwear from HeathTex, Radishes & Roses, Baby Crest, Architect and Buster Brown for infants, toddlers, boys and girls. Reg. 12.00-28.00, **sale 7.20-16.80.** D18,62,63,64, 67,68,218, all stores except The Summit, North Point Mall and Downtown Birmingham, AL

- **Save 40%** on selected basics for infants, toddlers and girls including Duck Head twill shorts, Pk Blues denim shorts and Parisian Kids solid-color T-shirts. Reg. 10.00-22.00, **sale 6.00-13.20.** D62,63,64,218, all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL
- **Save 50%** on all our Easter plush toys. Reg. 10.00-40.00, **sale 5.00-20.00.** D660, all stores except The Summit, North Point Mall, and Downtown Birmingham, AL

Shoes:

- **Save 40%** on a large selection of women's casual shoes and sandals from Unisa, Enzo, Esprit, Pappagallo, Prima Royale and more. Reg. 25.00-72.00, **sale 15.00-43.20.** D25,27,423
- **Save 40%** on kids' dress shoes from Stride Rite, Jumping Jacks, Nina and more. Reg. 28.00-40.00, **sale 16.80-24.00.** D20, all stores except North Point Mall and Downtown Birmingham, AL
- **Save 40%** on a great selection of men's shoes from Bass, Nike, and Bostonian. Reg. 67.00-135.00, **sale 40.20-81.00.** D29,54. Base all stores except North Point Mall and Downtown Birmingham, AL
- **Save 40%** on kids' sandals from Stride Rite, Jumping Jacks, Sam & Libby and more. Reg. 10.00-24.00, **sale 6.00-14.40.** D20, all stores except North Point Mall and Downtown Birmingham, AL. Shoe selection varies by store

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Wayne State University's Studio Theatre presents "Speed the Plow," by David Mamet, 8 p.m. at the theater below the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$5 to \$7, call (313) 577-2972.

SATURDAY



18th century composer George Frederic Handel comes to life in "Hallelujah Handel! Angels in the Opera House," a Detroit Symphony Orchestra Young People's Series Concert 11 a.m. at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$18 to \$7, call (313) 576-5111.

SUNDAY



Junior Actors of Ridgedale present "Where is Spring?" 1 p.m. at the Ridgedale playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake Road, Troy. Admission \$6.50 includes meal, show, and visit with the Easter bunny. Reservations essential, call (248) 988-7049.

HOT TICKET



Hot Tix: Youtheatre at Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, presents "Tales of Beatrix Potter," Melikin Puppet Theatre's salute to spring 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, April 4, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 5. Tickets \$7 (advance) and \$8 (at the door). No one under the age of 3 admitted to theater, call (313) 963-2366.



Magical musical: Dorothy, portrayed by Birmingham-native Jessica Grove, in a scene from "The Wizard of Oz."

FROM BIRMINGHAM TO OZ

Dorothy

FOLLOWS THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Birmingham-native Jessica Grove, 16, is having no trouble slipping into Dorothy Gale's ruby red slippers. She didn't need any special preparation.

"I didn't have to do a lot. I'm a girl from Michigan and Columbus, Ohio, which has lots of farm land around it. And going to New York was like going over the rainbow for me, a place I've always dreamed about," she said.

Grove (pronounced Grow-vay) played the role last May at New York's Madison Square Garden in a stage version of the MGM classic musical "The Wizard of Oz." Roseanne played the Wicked Witch.

Now Grove is in New York rehearsing for a yearlong national tour with Mickey Rooney as the Wizard and Eartha Kitt as the Wicked Witch. The show comes to Detroit's Fox Theatre April 10 for a two-week run.

Grove was born at Beaumont Hospital and lived a year in Birmingham before her father was transferred to the Columbus area. She has already accumulated an impressive resume including performances in Columbus in "Really Rosie," "The Sound of Music" and her favorite, a musical version of "The Diary of Anne Frank," "Yours, Anne." She has also toured before in a production of "Oliver."

And she had experience playing Dorothy. So she was ready when her agent called to have her fly to New York last year with her mother.

"They had me sing and read some scenes. I felt good about it, so Mom and I went to Macy's to cele-

The Wizard of Oz

What: 90-minute stage adaptation of the classic MGM musical based on L. Frank Baum's children's books.

Where: Detroit's Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., downtown Detroit.

When: April 10-26, 7:30 p.m. April 10; 11 a.m., 3 and 8 p.m. April 11, 18 and 25; 2 and 5 p.m. April 12; 2 and 7:30 p.m. April 15 and 17; 1, 4 and 7 p.m. April 19; 7:30 p.m. April 21 and 23; 12:30 and 7:30 p.m. April 22 and 24; and 1 and 4 p.m. April 26.

Tickets: \$17.50 to \$45.50, on sale at the Fox, Joe Louis Arena and all Ticketmaster locations. To charge by phone, call (248) 433-1515.

brate," she said. "I called my agent from Macy's and she talked to Julie Hughes, the casting director, and she said they wanted me to come back right away because the producer wanted to see me."

The young actress is excited about coming to Detroit, which she has only seen a couple times since her family moved away. And she's excited about performing with such seasoned performers.

"It's really a wonderful experience. I know not a lot of girls my age get to have," she said. "Lara Teeter, the actor who plays the Scarecrow, said to me, how many kids of my generation will be able to say they worked with Mickey Rooney. I know that's true because he's getting on in years, but I know he'll keep performing as long as he can."

Rooney, 77, is a true American icon. In the late 1930s and early '40s his face and personality defined the youth of his time in the same way that Elvis and the Beatles would for later generations.

Through numerous Andy Hardy movies and Mickey and Judy musicals, Rooney and Judy Garland were presented by MGM as the ideal of American youth.

When Garland was making movie history as the most famous Dorothy of all in "The Wizard," she and Rooney were also making Andy Hardy comedies. Their friendship began in childhood and ended with Garland's early and tragic death in 1969.

"We talked a little about her, but he gets choked up talking about her. He really had a love and respect for her," Grove said. "But he complimented me a lot and that means a lot from him. He had Judy in the back of his mind, but he says I bring my own individuality to the role."

Rooney called his young co-star "marvelous," and said she was a true professional who needed no advice from him.

The veteran trouper was curly polite, barking answers in his familiar voice over the telephone from his room at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. Maybe it was because he was rehearsing his best Frank Morgan gruffness as the Wizard or maybe it was because he had just come from being on radio with Howard Stern, enough to unnerve anyone. In any case, he wasn't interested in giving long answers.

But then, when you've been performing since you were a toddler and your career spans practically the history of American movies, what's left to say. Rooney began appearing in movies when he was 6 years old in a series of "Mickey

Please see DOROTHY, E2

What: "Play By Play," a 12-hour marathon of short plays presented by Heartlands Theatre Company.
When: Noon to midnight Saturday, April 4
Where: Millennium Center, 15600 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield
Tickets: \$20, all-day; \$5, per hour; (248) 988-1094
■ Proceeds go to Heartlands Theatre Company, a nonprofit arts organization

Actors go distance for marathon

Every once in a while, Beverly Hainault-Buzinski gets to do some real acting. Something more than a restrained interpretation of a housewife for a sanitized industrial training film.

Yet for the first time in years a smile and a sense of relief spreads across her face when talking about opportunities in local theater.

Hainault-Buzinski of Rochester Hills will perform in "Leaving the Baggage Behind," one of the many short plays in the second annual "Play By Play" fundraising marathon presented Saturday by Heartlands Theatre Company at the Millennium Center in Southfield.

"We're bringing the theatrical community together under one roof," said Jan Radcliff, executive director of Heartlands. "No one really knows what anyone else is doing."

The prototypical American "have it your way" play festival showcases more than 50 actors and 29 playwrights, mostly from the metro area.

"Play By Play," a 12-hour theatrical deluge offers a steady flow of slice-of-life stories from five to 20 minutes, including monologues, skits, dramas and comedies.

"I thought the quality of plays last year was a fluke, but this year it seems even better," said Radcliff of Birmingham.

If one play doesn't catch your fancy, sit tight. In a few minutes another one will be on its way.

Ultimate networking

The format of continuous short plays is well suited to the contemporary attention span and remote-control sensibilities.

But in many ways, "Play By Play" is the ultimate insiders festival.

"We don't serve an audience as much as the artists in the theater community," said Radcliff, who organizes annual acting workshops with legendary thespian Uta Hagen, and a summer festival of new plays.

At "Play By Play," up-and-comers are given their due alongside the established names. And overall, the local theater community revels in a cathartic networking bliss.

"The only drawback is deciding whether the best place to socialize is in the theater or the lobby," said Gillian Eaton of Plymouth, who'll perform and direct her playlet, "Bread and Marge."

Please see ACTORS, E2



Rehearsing: Kirk Hanley of Farmington rehearses for Heartlands Theatre Company's "Play by Play."

MUSIC

Suicide Machines rages at a furious speed

The Suicide Machines subscribe to the belief that many albums suffer untimely deaths. They aren't satisfying all the way through.

"There's too much filler, not enough killer," singer Jay Navarro said.

On the punk band's latest album "Battle Hymns" (Hollywood Records), The Suicide Machines put up a tough fight against that theory. The album is a 22-song, 29-minute lesson on the band's thoughts on racism ("Hating Hate," "Black and White World"), friendships gone sour ("Give," "Pins and Needles"), war ("Confused"), the environment and pesticides' effects on it ("DDT"), and trust ("Empty Room").

With the help of racing guitars and machine-gun drums, The Suicide Machines quickly get to the point.

"We can put all the elements of a song into a small amount of time. Not very many bands can do

Who: The Suicide Machines
What: Perform with special guests Telegraph
When: Friday, April 17. Doors open at 7 p.m.
Where: Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac.
Why: To celebrate the release of its sophomore album "Battle Hymns," on the Disney-owned Hollywood Records, due in stores Tuesday, April 7.
How: Tickets are \$8 in advance for the all-ages show. For more information, call (248) 333-2362 or visit <http://www.961malt.com>. Hollywood Records' website is <http://www.hollywoodrec.com>.

OTHER EVENTS

Fans of The Suicide Machines will also get the chance to dunk singer Jay Navarro on 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at Record Time, 27360 Grotto Road, Roseville. When someone buys a CD or cassette copy of "Battle Hymns," he or she gets a shot at Navarro in the "punk tank." Call (810) 776-1550 for more information.

that," guitarist/vocalist Dan Lukacinsky said.

The tirade leaves listeners with one of two feelings, Navarro explained.

"You either want more or you're satisfied. Both reactions are good."

"Battle Hymns," which hits stores Tuesday, April 7, is much more political than The Suicide Machines' debut "Destruction By Definition" (Hollywood Records).

"I had a lot more to say about things in general," said Navarro, a Berkley resident who attended Livonia Franklin and Churchill high schools.

"The lyrics got more personal, and we admit that we're as confused and frustrated as everyone else when it comes to screwed-up politics. Being from Michigan, we all write from that local perspective. The factory down-the-river spills-out-pollution,

Please see MACHINES, E2



Celebrating release: The Suicide Machines - from left, vocalist Jay Navarro, guitarist/vocalist Dan Lukacinsky, drummer Erin Pitman, and bassist/vocalist Royce Nunley - celebrate the release of its sophomore effort "Battle Hymns."

THEATER

'Charlotte' spins a delightfully humorous web

"Charlotte's Web" continues through April 26 at the Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main St., downtown Northville. Show times 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays until April 26. Weekday performances 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, April 13-17. Tickets \$6.50, call (248) 349-8110. BY LIBBY PRYSBY SPECIAL WRITER

The classic story "Charlotte's Web" has warmed the hearts of many, so will the Marquis Theatre's latest production of this familiar tale. Twenty smiling faces, wonderful scenery, and lots

of audience participation will keep most of the youngest theatergoers entertained throughout the entire performance.

Once the lights have gone down, and the overture has ended, the audience is welcomed by the humorous and amusing rat, Templeton, played by Steve Tadevic.

Tadevic is such as natural, and immediately loved by all, although his character probably would hate to have anyone feel such a strong emotion for him.

Wilbur, the "radiant and humble" pig, is portrayed by Chris

Kirouac. Also a crowd pleaser, Kirouac has exaggerated gestures and some terrific movements. Not only is he some pig, but also some actor.

Charlotte, the sweet, yet strong spider, is performed by Kathleen Coleman-Lozelle. Her elegant and graceful moves, along with the aid of her costume, truly turn Coleman-Lozelle into a willow spider.

Barnyard friends, the Old Sheep, portrayed by Jackie Marns, and the Goose, portrayed by Emily Wilk, add a light-hearted touch which mixes well with

the music and choreography. Wilk, along with her Goslings, Elyanno Rosenthal, Jamie Somerville, and Jessica Menyhart, do a snappy little number, showing off how talented these cast members are.

Some other fine performances can be seen with Ken Haering portraying Uncle Zuckerman, Stacie Guerreso portraying Fern, Justin Wilk portraying Lurvey, the Indian Chief, the Fair president, and the gifted Children's Chorus.

Zuckerman's Barn has been created with precision and cre-

ativity. The web spun by Charlotte is cleverly crafted and serves its purpose well. The fair scene, a painted backdrop, takes the audience to a realistic state fair with a ferris wheel and ticket booths. Both are nicely constructed and transform the Marquis from a theater to a rural area.

Probably the best aspect of this musical is the audience participation. Dialogue, as well as lines, in the music draw everyone into the action on the stage, along with the action in the aisles. Not only does this grab

everyone's attention, but sustains it for over an hour. No one should be bored during this theater production.

If you are looking for a great performance with a meaningful story line, energetic actors, and lots of fun, plan to attend the Marquis Theatre's performance of "Charlotte's Web." Everyone will have a terrific time.

Libby Prysby, a junior at Groves High School in Birmingham, has been involved in community theater for over 10 years.

Redford singer performs Requiem

Dramatic soprano Julie Rose of Redford will be a featured soloist with the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra in the Verdi Requiem 3 p.m. Sunday, April 5, at St. Clare of Montefalco Church on Mack at Outer Drive.

Tickets are available at the door for \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and \$5 students. For more information, call (313)885-0744.

Rose has toured Europe seven times, giving more than 40 concerts in Germany, Austria,

Switzerland, England, Italy and Poland. She has also performed as a guest soloist with many local orchestras. She is soprano soloist and cantor at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit and has often appeared in the popular Cathedral Culture Series. She has also sung as a chorister with the University of Michigan Choral Union and the Michigan Opera Theatre Chorus.

Rose has performed in Fanshawe's "African Sanctus" at

Wayne State University, Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas" at Ford World Headquarters and Fauve's "Requiem" at Blessed Sacrament. Upcoming performances include the Mozart "Coronation Mass" in Salzburg, Austria in July.

Rose is also a master gardener, author of several textbooks and a chemistry teacher at Eastern Michigan University. She lives in Redford with her husband, Mark.

Rockettes looking for a few good legs

Radio City Productions will host an open casting call for all qualified performers including Rockettes Wednesday, April 8 at the Wayne State University Dance Department, 3317 Old Main Boulevard, third floor, Detroit. For more information, call the Audition Hotline (212) 632-3630.

The Radio City Rockettes are looking for dancers to join the troupe of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular which returns this holiday season to the Fox Theatre. In 1997, the legendary show was seen by a record 1.7 million people in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Missouri. The Detroit production, presented by Hudson's, was completely sold out.

Radio City Productions is looking for more Rockettes, more dancers, more singers, and more children to perform in this year's holiday extravaganza. All Rockettes, dancers and singers must be at least 18 years of age. Call backs will be held the day after audition. Christmas Spectacular rehearsals begin in mid-October with performances running from mid-November to December.

Auditions for Rockettes, who must be between 5 feet 5 1/2 inches and 5 feet nine inches, start at 10 a.m. Performers must be prepared to learn tap, ballet and jazz combinations.

Auditions for male dancers begin at 1 p.m., followed by female dancers at 2 p.m. Dancers should be prepared to learn ballet and jazz combinations. If you

also sing, bring music. All female dancers must work on pointe and have their pointe shoes with them to audition. There is no height requirement, though some costumes limit vision.

Auditions for singers begin at 4 p.m., children's auditions at 5 p.m.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

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MOVIES

'Lost in Space' needs someone at the helm



JOHN MONAGHAN

I spent way too much of my young life parked in front of the television set watching reruns of 'Lost in Space.' I liked it better than 'Star Trek.' It had more monsters.

them is Don West, the fighter pilot who grumbles about hauling the family across the galaxy. Enter the evil Dr. Smith, a resistance-led saboteur who programs the Robinson's robot to crush, kill, and destroy them shortly after takeoff. When that plot fails, he's stranded on the now runaway ship.

the first "Brady" movie, had a fondness for the material and knew how to poke fun at it while still being somehow reverent. There's no doubt that the forces behind "Lost in Space" (namely writer Akiva Goldsman and director Stephen Hopkins) genuinely like the show, but they never have a grasp on what made it special.

creature that looks even sillier than the Irwin Allen TV version (and that was just a dazed chimp with antennae glued to its head). The performances run the gamut, from Gary Oldman, desperate to camp it up even more as the fussy Dr. Smith, and William Hurt, steadfast in the role of patriarch John Robinson.



Family adventure: Jack Johnson (left to right), William Hurt, Mimi Rogers and Lacey Chabert star in "Lost in Space."

free-fall from a ghost space ship and attach to the Jupiter 2. And there's a nifty cryogenics tube that freezes the family in flight. The whole project ultimately goes the direction of the old series. What starts out as something genuinely cool panders more and more to the kiddie audience by the end. Still, when

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Table with 4 columns listing movie titles, ratings, and theaters. Includes sections for General Cinemas, HUSH, U.S. MARSHALS, TITANIC, BLUES BROTHERS 2000, etc.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan. Detroit Film Theatre - Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information (\$5.50; \$4.50 students/seniors).

lost) for their supporting roles. "Wag the Dog" (USA-1997). 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8. Prophetic, to say the least. When the President is found dallying with a young girl, Washington spin doctors try to avert media attention by staging a fake war.

1998). Two misfits meet while shopping at a store in upstate New York in this contemporary melodrama. Starts Friday. Redford Theatre - 17360 Lahser, Detroit. Call (313) 537-2560 for information. (\$2.50)

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, April 3 "BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE" Fun-filled musical adventure stars America's popular and lovable dinosaur. "LOST IN SPACE" Based on the popular TV series, the space traveling Robinson family wanders from planet to planet in their quest to return home.



Great adventure: The search for a magical egg lands Barney and his friends Marcella (Kyla Pratt), Abby (Diana Rice) and Cody (Trevor Morgan), in the middle of the Apple Valley parade.

"3 NINJAS: HIGH NOON AT MEGA MOUNTAIN" An action comedy about the unstoppable Ninja brothers. They're on vacation to Mega Mountain amusement park and find themselves up against the evil bandit queen Medusa when she takes over the park and holds it for ransom.

"THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION" Romantic comedy about a woman who leases a room in her apartment to a gay man and then finds herself falling in love with him. Stars Jennifer Aniston, Paul Rudd, Alan Alda.

STREET SCENE

Songwriter Marc Cohn returns from family break

Introspective singer/songwriter Marc Cohn earned a Grammy in 1991 for "Best New Artist," and had a hit single with "Walking in Memphis." Two years later he followed it up with "The Rainy Season" but realized that there was something much more important than music.

His children.
"I took four years off because I wanted to be with my children and have a little bit of my life as opposed to just life on the tour bus," Cohn explained. "Part of why I took such a long break is that's all I did was tour. I toured almost non-stop for almost 14 months."

His marriage also fell apart. All those elements inspired "Burning The Daze," his third effort which hit stores Tuesday, March 17.

"Being with my kids, it certainly had an effect on me. There's no songs here specifically about them. But I spent most of

my time with them, that impacted me in every possible way. This record would have been different had I not spent time with them," he said.

The confessional, emotional album tracks Cohn's need to find salvation and to understand love. On the album, he is joined by a variety of artists including Roseanne Cash ("Olana"), Patty Griffin ("Healing Hands" and "Already Home"), and T-Bone Wolk ("Valley of the Kings").

"I met them (the guest musicians) all different ways. Roseanne is a friend of mine and married to my producer and best friend. There was kind of a family atmosphere there. Patty was just somebody that I really admired and thought was a great singer. I was looking for a specific sound and Patty was that sound. She was nice enough to fly down and do it," he said.

In a rare move, he collaborated with someone to write a song.

"Turn to Me" was written with Kevin Salem.

"That's the fun part of the process. Songwriting for me is a pretty solitary process. I don't collaborate often. When you get into the recording stage of things, that is really a collaborative effort. I have the most fun doing that."

Although he worked with a family of musicians on "Burning the Daze," he will be joined only by a guitarist at his show Thursday, April 2, at Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac.

"That's always been the way I've liked it the most. It's the most intimate way to present the songs. In a way, it shows people a more authentic view of the song. It's as close as the way it sounded when it was written."

Ironically, this is his first performance in the Detroit area, he said.

"It's probably nothing person-

al," Cohn said with a laugh.

"Sometimes you go to a place and there's a certain radio station that's really been supporting you. Maybe there's not an appropriate venue on the night that you're nearby. You kind of have to set up a tour to find which places work on. I've never played Nashville, either, which is a major music mecca."

For this album, however, he's hitting as many cities as possible.

"It exceeded everyone's expectations," he said, about the album. "I'm committed to really giving this record everything I have."

Marc Cohn with special guest Kacy Crowley perform at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 2, at Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Tickets are \$22.50 in advance for the 18 and older show. For more information, call (248) 333-2362 or visit <http://www.961melt.com>.

The Livonia-based rock band Space Nelson plays Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck, on Saturday, April 4, in support of its debut CD "Cutting Edge. Pinball." Opening the show is the local prog rock band Discipline. For more information on the show, call (313) 875-6666. Those who can't make it to the show, can hear tracks off of "Cutting Edge Pinball" on radio station CIMX's "Homeboy Show" at 10 p.m. Sunday, April 5.



He's back: Marc Cohn spent time with his family and now he's back performing.

"OzzFest" will make its way to Pine Knob Music Theatre on Thursday, July 23. This year's lineup includes Ozzy Osbourne, of course, Tool, Megadeth, Coal Chamber, Incubus, Kilgore, Limp Bizkit, Melvins, Monster Machine, Sevendust, Snot, Soulfly, System of a Down, Two featuring Rob Halford, and Ultraspank. Look for ticket information soon.

'Antigone' raises old themes in new setting

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

It's nothing profound or anything, but here's my thought for the week: Not only is there nothing new under the sun, but the sun is really, really old. My little maxim responds to an observation that people's frame of reference encompasses only the most recent sliver of the timeline of human existence. Eavesdrop over breakfast at a Bob Evans some time. You can actually hear patrons claim that any story that can ever be told has already been done by "I Love Lucy." That may be true, but something had to have happened before Lucy started babalooing or she wouldn't have had any stories to tell.

This week on Backstage Pass on Detroit Public Television, we're stretching both ends of the cultural timeline. At the old end, we'll look at some classical Greek tragedy, which was probably based on something even older, like *The Honey Mooners*.

We sent our own Gary Anderson to the Trueblood Theatre on the University of Michigan campus to check out the Theatre and Drama Department's production of "Antigone." I asked for some background for those of us who didn't retain our Cliff's Notes. "Antigone" is a major classic, over 1,000 years old, written by

Sophocles, one of the oldest playwrights known to man."

So, what's it about? "The title character, Antigone, seeks to bury her brother, Polynices." How did he die? Gary had to really remedial me here. "Antigone is the third play in the Oedipus trilogy. Oedipus is both Antigone's father and brother. In the first play, "Oedipus Tyrannus," Oedipus killed his father, the king, and married his mother, the queen, thereby assuming the throne. Only he doesn't know that they're his mother and father at the time. When he finds out what he's one, he blots his eyes out and leaves the throne and becomes a wanderer.

"In the second play, "Oedipus at Colonus," we see Oedipus later in life, ready to die. He wants to find a resting place, but because of his tragic - and in some people's minds jinxed - past, he's not allowed to have rest. After some doing, he's finally buried at Colonus.

"In 'Antigone,' Polynices builds an army to destroy Creon, who replaced his father on the throne. He loses the battle and dies. Antigone brings her brother to the city gates of Thebes to be buried, and Creon refuses. Antigone fights the system." (Wasn't this an episode of 'My Mother the Car?')

Handy history lesson, but what does it mean now? "The play has relevance to modern days, especially in this production, which explores the relationship of women to power. The

director, Glenda Dickerson, has even added an element of the death of Princess Diana, and the way Diana was perceived while she was alive. In the prelude to the play, Antigone is mentioned as "the people's princess."

"The director had updated the interpretation. The play is set in 1930s Kenya, during British colonialism. In this setting, Antigone has become westernized in her speech patterns, dress etc. When she fights for the cause of burying her brother, she becomes more African - more in touch with her past, her ethnic culture. This play is a great opportunity. Glenda is forcing many of these students to aspire to something greater. The artistic vision is strong. It's very engaging theater."

From an ancient play, we move to the contemporary movement

of Elizabeth Streb. Though referred to as a contemporary dancer and choreographer, she's uncomfortable with the terms, according to Backstage producer Katherine Weider. "She prefers the term 'PopACTION,' because it's very popular action-oriented. She doesn't even want to call it 'dance' because she's interested in action. It's not representational, it doesn't tell a story. It's about the pure physical action - bodies through space and time - and exploring the limits of that."

Also on the Big Show, we'll get in-studio performances from the Arianna String Quartet and singer/songwriter Mark Cohen. That's on Backstage Pass, tonight at midnight on Detroit Public Television, repeated tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

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REGULAR ENGAGEMENT STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 10

DINING

Creative new chef makes a 'Landing' in Plymouth

Plymouth Landing has been around for a long time, but it's not the same since January when Chaz West left New York to take over as executive chef.

He and owner Jim Plakas, former mayor of Garden City, met through mutual friends. West left his job as executive chef for Ramada, moved here, and bought a house in South Redford.

Plakas has given West the license to "be as creative as he wants to be," and West is having a blast.

"We are here, and we're out to impress and give good service. I'm here, fresh out of New York," said West. "It's very creative cooking, something new. This is my first restaurant and I'm having a good time. It's a change of atmosphere, a slower life."

An animated chef, who enjoys making people laugh as much as he enjoys cleaning and cooking, West has a favorite saying - "Old is Gold."

The Plymouth Landing is located in the Markham Building, the oldest commercial building still in use in Plymouth. When the building was built in 1882. It's been a restaurant for 20 years, and Plakas is the second owner. He's operated it for the last nine-and-a-half years.

West begins his day at 6 a.m. cleaning. "I hate grease," he said. "You can eat off the floor, my kitchen is so clean."

Plymouth Landing reminds West of the first restaurant he ever worked at, a supper club in Niagara, New York.

His family lived near the club and West kept bothering the owners to hire him. "I went up to the door and said 'I want to be a chef.' I was 13, and the owners said I was too young."

He told him he could wash dishes, and when he turned 15 they hired him. A classically trained chef, West completed internships at hotels in Switzerland and Paris, and has won numerous awards for his cooking and presentations.

Cooking is an art, and West views every plate as a canvas. He recently made a peacock from a watermelon.

"Whatever our customers want, we have on hand," he said. "We can accommodate special dietary requests. Everything served is made fresh, with the highest quality ingredients. West uses fresh herbs and vegetables, and makes everything including desserts and soups from scratch."

For lunch, dinner, or just a snack, Plymouth Landing aims to please with an extensive dinner menu, which includes prime rib, seafood, veal, steaks, and pasta.

The lunch menu features a variety of sandwiches, salads, and lighter entrees such as Honey Lemon Chicken Linguini, Spinach Cheese Pie, and Orange Roughy Fish & Chips. Try the Greek Pizza, or a cup of Plymouth Landing's Signature Three Onion Soup. Be sure to ask about the daily specials, three are offered each day.

Customer favorites include prime rib, Jim's Whitefish, and Veal Frangelico served with



Plymouth Landing

Where: 340 N. Main St., Plymouth, (734) 455-3700
Hours: 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday (bar stays open until 1 a.m., limited Casual Fare menu after 10:30 p.m.); 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, brunch served until 2 p.m.
Menu: Creative cooking with Greek, Italian and French flare, American fare also.
Cost: Lunch ranges from \$6.50 to \$12.95, dinner \$7.95 to \$21.95; brunch \$10.95 adults, \$5.95 children ages 5-10; no charge children age 4 and under.
Reservations: Recommended
Credit cards: All majors accepted
Banquet Room: For up to 50 people
Special event:
Easter Buffet - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 12, \$12.95 adults, \$6.95 children ages 5-10; no charge children age 4 and under. Menu includes ham and turkey, pasta with tomato sauce, mixed vegetables, roast pork with gravy, Polish sausage, rice pilaf, dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet & sour cabbage, variety of salads, assorted pastries and desserts.
Ask about the VIP Club Membership for discounts for brunch, lunch and dinner.

salad and choice of baked potato, rice pilaf or garlic red skins and fresh vegetable of the day. Flaming "Opal" cheese is a popular appetizer.

There's also a Casual Fare menu with sandwiches and appetizers, such as Open Face Prime Rib Sandwich, Grilled Chicken Breast Sandwich, Traditional Shrimp Cocktail, Wild Wings or Buffalo Wings that's available later in the evening.

West's baby back ribs are also popular with customers, and will be added to a new menu now in the works.

"He's involved, he's a chef and a teacher, and it's made a big dif-

ference," said Plakas. "He instills confidence in everyone around him."

Metro Detroit seems an

unlikely move for a chef with West's experience, but he has found much to like since moving here in January.

"Your prices, everything is much cheaper here than in New York," he said. "I like the people, they're not plastic. They are real, wholesome people."

Fabulous fare:
Jim Plakas (left), owner of Plymouth Landing, and Executive Chef Chaz West, present some of the new, creative dishes the restaurant has to offer.

EATING OUT IN THE SUBURBS

Just in case you missed it, or lost the paper. Here are some of the restaurants we've recently visited:

Flying Fish Tavern - Where: 6480 Orchard Lake Road, (corner of Maple Road) West Bloomfield (248) 865-8888. Hours: 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. to midnight-Sunday. Menu: Casual neighborhood family eatery + serves comfort foods with special focus on fresh catches of the day. Cost: Appetizers and dinner salads \$4-8; sandwiches and burgers \$5.50-7; pastas \$7-9; big plates, specials and catch of the day \$9-15; desserts \$2-4. Reservations: For parties of six or more only. Credit cards: All majors accepted.

Flying Fish is about food; good food at modest prices. But it's more than that. It's a place families will enjoy. Kid Stuff has its own menu spot. Little Tavern Burger with Fries, Grilled Cheese with Fries, Chicken Tenders or Pasta Marinara are served with a bottle of root beer for kids 12 and under. A game room in back makes children of all ages happy. Sports fans won't miss a down, face-off, slam dunk or homerun. TV monitors carry Fox Sports programming.

Wood-Ruff's - Where: 212 W. Sixth St., Royal Oak, (248) 586-1519. Hours: Monday through Saturday 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., Sundays 4-9 p.m. Menu: Modern culinary twists on classics such as steaks, chops, duck and seafood served in a highly stylized, adult supper club atmosphere where jazz is king of sound. Cost: Starters \$3-7. Entrees \$14-24 accompanied by salad, starch as appropriate and vegetable garnish. Reservations: Recommended. Credit cards: All majors accepted.

Steve Woodruff believed downtown Royal Oak needed a restaurant catering to a mature audience who appreciate excellent food, exceptional service and great live jazz.

Mesquite Creek - Two locations, 45250 Ford Road, Canton (734) 414-0100; and 7228 Ortonville Road, Clarkston, (248) 620-9300. Open 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Menu: Steakhouse fare with great seafood. Mesquite Creek takes a Tex-Mex spin on everything they do, and uses Certified Angus Beef. Reservations: Sunday-Thursday for parties of eight or more. Credit Cards: All majors accepted. Cost: \$5-\$12 lunch; \$9-\$27 dinner. Children's menu available. Entertainment: Canton location - 7-11 p.m. Wednesdays, The Hits plays soft pop rock favorites.

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