



# No contest from page A1

hit even if Escobar had been sober.

"Mr. Escobar is not a bad person. He has a child, and he works," Moss said. "He's not a bum."

Although Escobar may have had a drinking problem in the past, Moss said, "he is trying to help himself."

A Livonia man who said he saw the accident contacted the Observer Tuesday to speak out on Escobar's behalf.

"I'm not condoning what Mr. Escobar did; I don't think anyone would. But these kids were

walking across Joy Road like God was next to them," witness Dave Matthews said. "It was almost like they were taunting the cars. They were almost arrogant about it."

Escobar's return to jail Monday came after he had been released partly because of jail overcrowding — even though March 7 marked his third alcohol offense.

His release angered families of the victims and drew criticism from judges of Westland District Court, where an original \$100,000 cash bond had been set.

On Monday, however, Judge William Leo Cahalan ordered Escobar jailed in lieu of a \$25,000 cash bond until a sentence is imposed May 19.

Escobar had tested positive for marijuana on three occasions since the accident, but Officer Gilliam said marijuana levels actually rose between March 23 and March 31.

Moss said the increase was negligible and didn't prove that the defendant had smoked marijuana after the accident. He said the marijuana could have been detected even if Escobar had

smoked it weeks prior to the accident.

"He has been clean since this incident," Moss said.

Moss said Escobar is being held up as an example of what can happen to someone who drinks and drives when, according to Moss, the defendant couldn't have avoided hitting the girls even if he had been sober.

Moss said Escobar has been reluctant to speak out on his own behalf because his case has been pending. But he said Escobar may speak out after his sentencing.

# Ex-Huron Valley educator charged

A former Garden City resident has been arraigned in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges of fondling two students he was counseling.

Thomas Johnston, 36, currently of St. Joseph, is charged with two counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, a two-year misdemeanor.

Both complainants were students at Huron Valley Lutheran High School in Westland where Johnston was a teacher and counselor. One youth is an Ann Arbor resident; the other lives in Westland.

Johnston's wife and children were away at the time one incident was reported to have occurred, according to Detective Sgt. Paul Kiselica. The family was in another part of their James Street home when the second boy said he was fondled, according to police.

The first complaint against Johnston was filed last July, Kiselica said, but the teenaged victim was unwilling to pursue the complaint. That changed when the second complainant came forward several months

later.

"I got a call from the school principal about other subjects (who allegedly had been molested)," said Kiselica. "The first boy wanted to know if he could change his mind. He was alone before. There is a little more strength in numbers."

Although the first complainant didn't immediately pursue the case, Kiselica said the boy's father did inform the school about the incident.

"He (Johnston) no longer is employed by the school. The legal counsel we are using advised us to make no further comments," said Huron Valley Lutheran High School principal Timothy Plath.

As part of their case, Kiselica said they have a printed copy of an Internet chat between Johnston and one of the victims discussing what happened.

"He told the boy God had forgiven him and he hoped the boy would forgive him, too," Kiselica said.

Johnston is free on \$2,000 personal bonds set on each case.

# Mayor from page A1

becoming more polished due to its new library, Westland Center improvements and plans to spruce up commercial corridors along Ford and Wayne roads.

A better image is crucial to luring more businesses and more residents, he said.

"We can be a great community and a first-class community," the mayor said.

Thomas reiterated plans for using Tax Increment Finance Authority dollars — collected in a special taxing district — to pay for a new municipal complex and a new recreation center similar to Canton Township's Summit.

"I want that to happen," Thomas said. "I know it needs to

happen for the community.

"The opportunity is there," he added later, "and it's a golden opportunity."

Officials have hinted that they want to construct the buildings near the library on Central City Parkway. Thomas didn't include a new police station or 18th District Court in his address.

Thomas said the current City Hall is old and deteriorating. Moreover, he said a lack of room forces the city to rent space to store many records.

Thomas announced that the county has agreed to let the city capture \$1 million a year in tax revenues to pay for a new recreation center, although county

funds wouldn't be allowed for a new City Hall.

Thomas praised the support Westland has received from county officials such as County Executive Ed McNamara, who was among the dignitaries present and who was given a plaque by the mayor.

"I know of no other community that has improved itself more than this community of Westland," McNamara said.

Thomas said he wants homebuyers to look to Westland when they go shopping for houses.

The mayor also noted that the Wayne-Westland school district's image will begin to improve in coming years due to a voter-

approved \$108.3 million bond issue for building repairs and classroom technology.

Thomas' address coincided with his Salute to Excellence Awards, which honored Father of the Year Terry Papay, Mother of the Year Patricia Garrett, Teacher of the Year Patricia Colligan and High School Student of the Year Amy Reynolds. Colligan teaches at Schweitzer Elementary and Reynolds attends Wayne Memorial High School.

All four winners, featured in an earlier Observer series, received standing ovations as they accepted their awards Wednesday.

# No citations are filed in patrol car accident

An investigation into a Feb. 28 accident that injured three people has found a Garden City woman responsible for causing the collision.

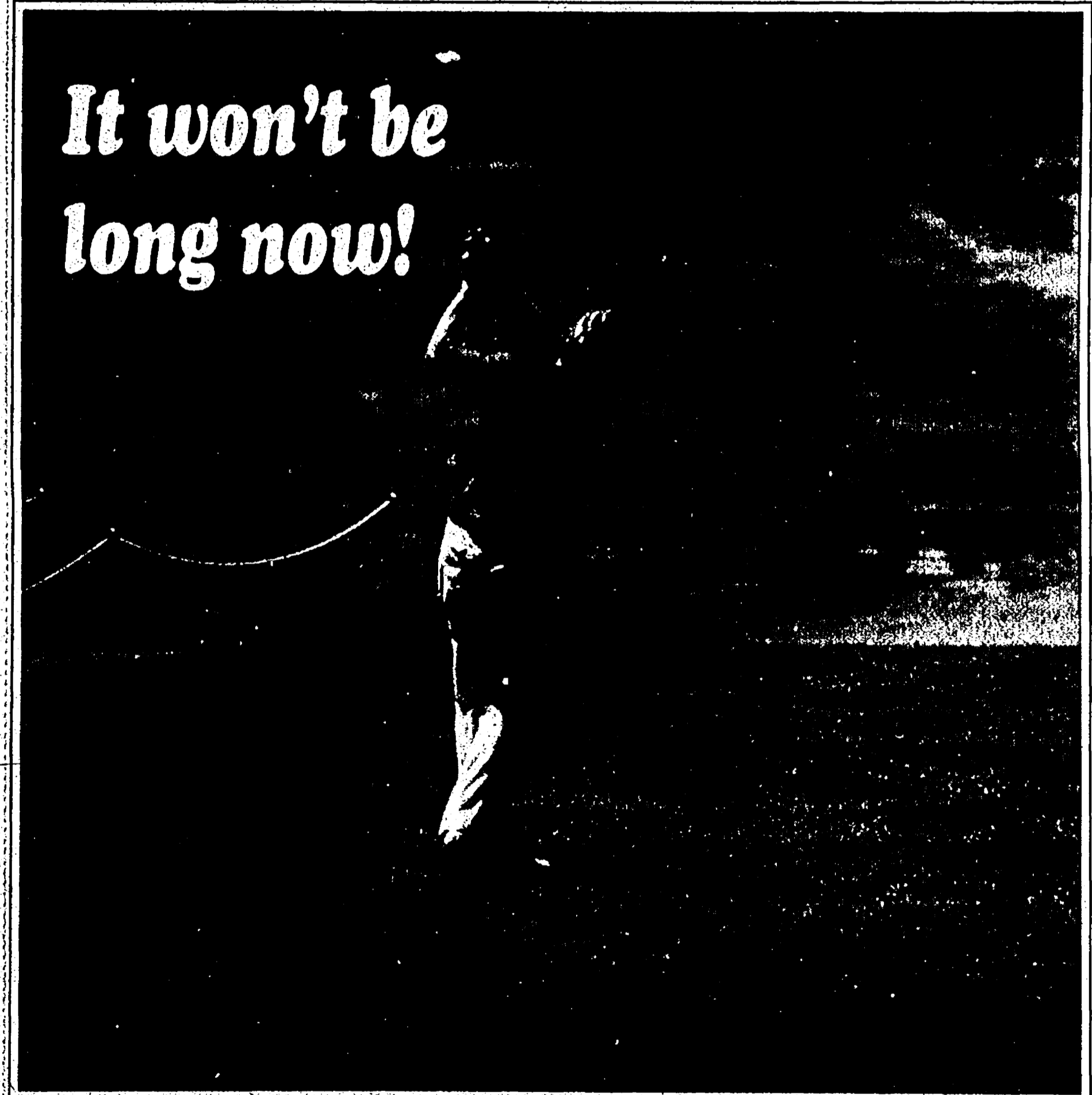
Two Westland police officers and a prisoner they were transporting, a 15-year old Garden City girl, were injured in the accident.

The patrol car was headed east on Ford and passed through a flashing yellow light at Harrison when it was hit by a pickup

truck driven by the woman. Harrison has a red flashing light and the investigation found the Garden City woman failed to stop.

The woman was not cited for any violations.

"She was found responsible but not cited. Not everyone is issued a citation," said Garden City police Deputy Chief Michael Bertha. A Michigan State Police reconstructionist helped with the accident investigation.



**Westland Observer**

USPS 663-530  
Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Periodical postage paid at Livonia, MI 48151. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3569) to P.O. Box 3004, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-0500.

	Carrier Delivery	SUBSCRIPTION RATES	Mail Delivery
Monthly	\$3.95	One year	\$55.00
One year	\$47.40	One year (Sr. Citizen)	\$44.00
One year (Sr. Citizen)	\$38.00	One year (Out of County)	\$65.00
Newsstand	per copy 75	One year (Out of State)	\$90.00

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**THE Observer**

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If you're a golfer, you've undoubtedly been out there on those 80-degree days.

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The first will be published Sunday, April 26, followed by a second on Sunday, June 7.

Both will be filled with interesting information, feature stories and enticing advertisements.

We're going to check out "glow-in-the-dark" golf balls, the Senior Golf Association, and Michigan's public links.

We're planning a feature on Women's PGA pro, Terri Anthony, and we're going to tell you how to get tickets to the Pro tournaments.

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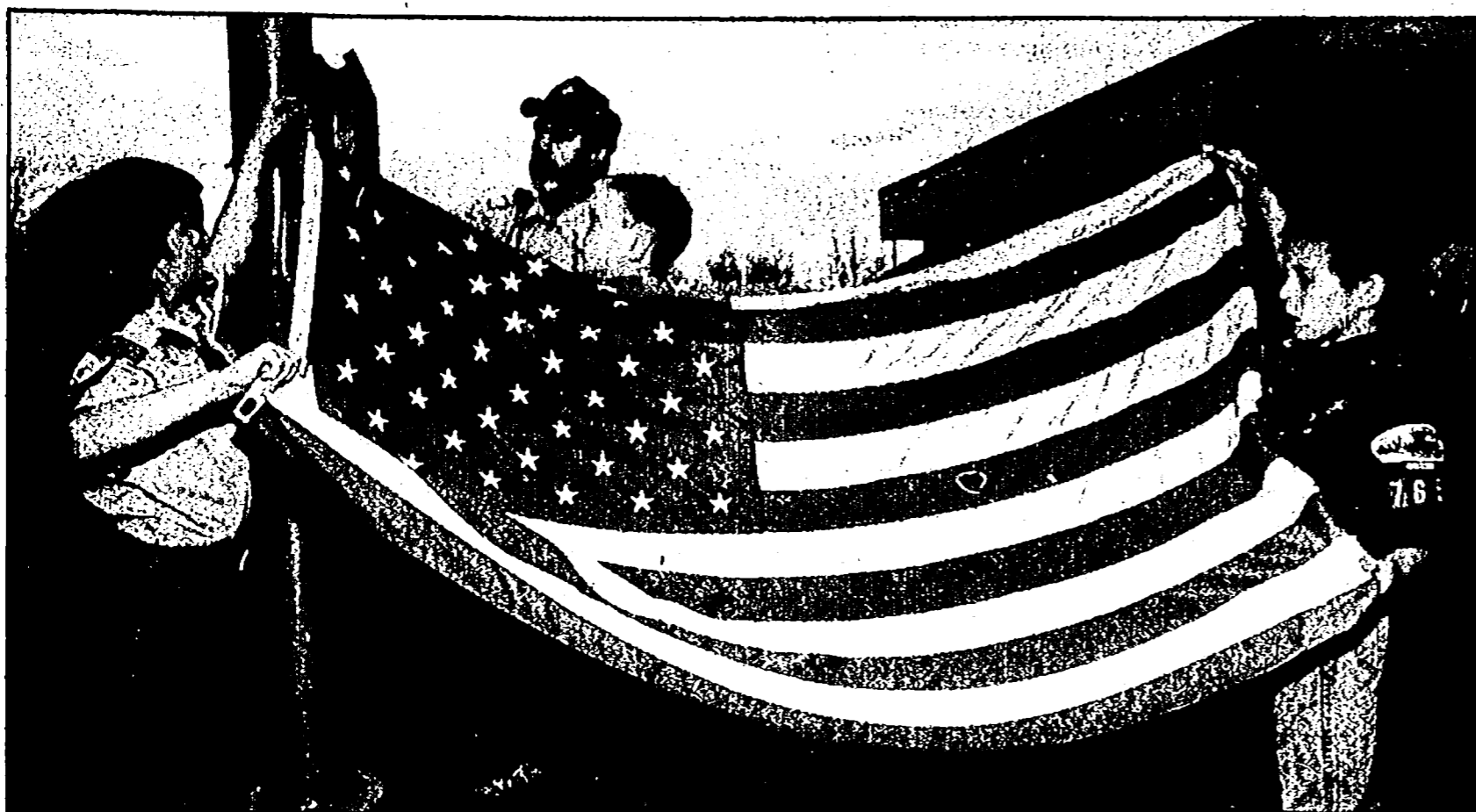
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**Retiring a flag**



**Lowering flag:** Cub Scouts from Pack 765 (left) Sean Candela, Jeremy Brown (center), Justin Shay, Scout leader Joe Barone and (right) Brian Piacentini lower the flag at P.D. Graham Elementary School. The flag was then burned as part of retiring the flag. This was the first time for 22 Scouts to take part in this ceremony to earn a citizens' badge.



**Ceremonial:** Bugler Tommy James, eighth-grader at Stevenson Middle School and a Boy Scout with Troop 775 in Westland, plays at the lowering of the flag at P.D. Graham.



**Flag retired:** The American flag was retired at P.D. Graham Elementary School in Westland as part of the Cub Scout Pack 765 ceremony. They also presented a new flag to principal Don Chastain.

**Filing** from page A1

involved in issues such as protecting Sassafras Trails - a school district-owned nature area - from residential development.

■ A fourth candidate, Marshall Wright, filed as a candidate but then withdrew from the race prior to the deadline today (Thursday).

At varying times, all three remaining candidates have been at odds over certain issues. Consider:

■ Fowlkes drew criticism from Brown supporters for voting to reverse a district policy that, for a brief time, listed sexual orientation among non-discrimination policies.

■ Fowlkes and other board members have been criticized by Robbins and other Friends of Sassafras Trails supporters for allowing a strip of the woods to be included in a pending development, although the bulk of the land is protected.

■ At some board meetings, Robbins has applauded critics of the sexual orientation policy, placing her at political odds with Brown and other gays who support the policy.

Despite their differences, all three candidates this week told the Observer they want to wage campaigns that focus on substantive issues and not personal attacks.

Fowlkes cited as her No. 1 issue the implementation of a \$108.3 million bond issue that district voters approved in February for building improvements and classroom technology.

"I want to see it through," she said. "I want to see the buildings get new books, new computers, new gym courts and new tracks."

Fowlkes also said she wants to bring more diversity to Wayne-Westland administration offices and classrooms by trying to recruit - and retain - top minority educators.

Fowlkes has served on Westland's Dr. Martin Luther King celebration committee and the Jack and Jill of America program for black teens. She has been active in Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Romulus and in Wayne-Westland schools.

"I'm not looking for a mud-slinging campaign," she said. "I will let my record stand for itself."

Brown is trying to return to the board following a one-year absence. She has voiced hope that voters will focus on her stance on issues rather than her

**SCHOOLS**

sexual orientation, although she said she has prepared for a possible attack against her.

Brown's attorney couldn't be reached Tuesday to comment on a lawsuit that she said she is filing against some who attacked her.

Brown said she wants to be elected because the current board has failed to be responsive to students, employees and the community.

"There needs to be more openness and more efforts to let the people in the community have a voice," she said.

"You can't just listen to the community when you want taxes," she said, referring to board members who sought votes for the bond issue.

Brown also said she wants to oversee the \$108.3 million program.

Brown said she has served on the Westland Local Development Finance Authority, Wayne County elections scheduling commission and Wayne County Community College's strategic planning committee. She is a member of the United Methodist church.

Robbins said her top concern is fighting for equity among school districts. "I'm willing to petition for (state) legislation to get that done," she said.

She also said she wants to play a watchdog role for implementing the \$108.3 million bond issue.

"I'm also real concerned about curriculum issues and MEAP (test) scores," Robbins said.

Although Robbins is seeking her first public office, she has been active in Friends of Sassafras Trails, which convinced the school board to protect the area from residential development.

She also has been involved in Citizens for Good Government and the Ethics Committee of Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis Center-Wayne, where she has volunteered as a patient advocate.

Robbins also said she has served as an Elliott Elementary mentor, among other volunteer work.

Robbins said she wants to focus on other issues rather than continue a longtime debate over sexual orientation policies.

"That's done and over with," she said.

**PLACES & FACES**

**Trip to Holland**

Westland senior citizens will travel to Holland, Mich., on May 13 for the city's annual tulip festival.

The cost is \$115 and includes meals and a bus ride. The bus will leave the senior citizen Friendship Center at 7 a.m. and return around 11 p.m.

Activities include seeing tulips, shopping, eating lunch, attending a parade, eating dinner in Saugatuck, taking a boat cruise and, finally, returning home.

Those wanting to attend, including those who have spe-

cial needs, may call 722-7632.

**Flower power**

The annual Westland Rotary Club Flower Sale is Friday through Sunday, April 10-12, at the intersection of Wayne and Warren roads and Ford and Central City Parkway. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Proceeds go to the Rotary scholarship fund for Westland students. Flowers available include Easter lilies, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, azaleas and centaurea.

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# Skene from page A1

he embezzled thousands of dollars to support a purported gambling habit.

Skene's suit claims gross negligence, defamation and malicious prosecution. It also claims he was placed in a false light and denied a job that he expected to keep.

The suit further claims that Skene was denied his due process and that emotional distress was intentionally inflicted on him.

The suit contends that a criminal investigation was launched against Skene "without any basis in fact that funds were missing."

In part, city officials contended during the trial that several days of parks department rev-

enues never got deposited at the City Hall treasurer's office.

The suit charges that the mayor abused his executive authority by directing Gorman, Duggan and Sikorski to investigate Skene.

Moreover, the suit claims that Thomas, Gorman, Duggan and Sikorski acted in a negligent manner by:

- Failing to determine that money was missing before requesting that Skene be charged.
- Failing to see if personal checks that Skene cashed in city funds would be honored at a bank.
- Failing to investigate others who had access to supposed missing funds.

Skene's suit claims that he lost his job "and any prospect of being hired in a similar position," resulting in "humiliation, embarrassment, emotional distress" and attorney fees.

The suit singles out Gillies for allegations that the deputy mayor made statements about Skene being "guilty" even before the trial began. Skene claims the situation caused him to lose sleep and suffer anxiety and emotional distress.

The suit also alleges that Thomas and others pursued charges against Skene "for personal reasons," resulting in Skene's professional and community reputation being damaged.

Not only did Skene lose his job, the suit claims, but he also

suffered "economic injury" due to loss of pension, salary and future earnings.

Moreover, the suit alleges that Skene was never given any reasons for his firing.

Thomas has said he briefly fired Skene once before but gave him a second chance to improve his job performance.

The suit claims that the defendants engaged in conduct that was "extreme" and "outrageous" and that they had "an ulterior motive or purpose."

Attorney Boak predicted Wednesday that Skene will win his civil suit. Boak had said all along that Skene would be found innocent of the criminal charges.

# Reality from page A1

than they had ever imagined," said teacher Rick Minard. The simulation was part of a lesson in finance being taught by both Minard and teacher Jill Adamczyk.

**Life experiences**

The simulation started at 8:40 a.m. and ended at 1:45 p.m.

Word quickly spread from the first group of students who went through it to the later groups: pick a higher-paying career or you'll quickly end up in the red.

"Seventy-five percent of them had run out of money at some point," said Minard as he led his fourth hour students through the simulation.

"So we're now getting more professional occupations because the earlier students saw just

how far their money goes. Even with these better occupations, they're still finding they're not able to make ends meet.

"We hope they get a greater appreciation of the cost it takes to raise a family in our society."

The students went from booth to booth, each marked with a different aspect of family finance: housing, utilities, food, child care, transportation, insurance, clothing, unexpected expenses, medical/dental, personal care, savings, and travel and entertainment.

Some monthly costs were fixed, depending on their family status. Other expenses they could bypass, if they chose to do so.

For example, a single parent with a child has to at least rent a

two-bedroom apartment. And a bachelor could turn down a trip to Las Vegas and put the money into savings, instead.

Students picked an occupation, got a starting salary for that job and then rolled dice to determine both their marital status and whether they had children.

Students with children found out they had a tougher road to walk.

In fact, in her evaluation of the "Reality Store," junior Zepure Aghobjian said she was surprised at how much child care cost. In her roll of the dice, she wound up single with two children and had to pay \$460 a month for child care.

Aghobjian started "reality check" as a doctor, earning \$2,917 a month. After taxes, her total take home salary is \$2,411.

Besides child care, her monthly expenses for her family of three turned out to be: Housing, \$800; utilities, \$235; food, \$445; car and gas, \$175; auto and life insurance, \$126; clothing, \$100;

the unexpected expense of drawing up a will, \$50; medical insurance co-pay, \$10; personal care, \$18; savings, \$20; and one rented video, \$2.50. Her company paid her medical insurance.

But she met the challenge of the simulation, ending up with enough money to pay all her bills. At the end of the month, her bank account read: \$8.50.

Looking at this nearly empty account, Aghobjian said she wished she hadn't signed up for a satellite dish.

Going from booth to booth during the "reality check," students got to make choices: Rent or own? Store-brand food or major brands? Big car or little car? Hair cut once a month or every other month? Mutual fund or savings account?

Some students — probably careful spenders — more than met the challenge.

Sophomore Nicholas Stage, started as a chemist with a doctoral degree and wound up with \$889.39 in the bank.

Sophomore Andrew Delafrañier became an FBI agent and ended \$572.08 in the black.

Junior Debbie Balls started as a mechanical engineer and ended the month with \$244.10 in her bank account.

Junior Tammie Groth became a psychologist and managed to hang on to \$1,326.79 of her monthly salary.

Junior Robert McGilvrey took a job as high school coach and saved \$1,622 for the month.

And sophomore Matt Murdock, a police commissioner, ended up with a whopping \$2,779.75 left over.

How'd you do that, Matt?

## OBITUARIES

**ROBERT WAARALA**  
Funeral services for Robert Waarala, 72, of Westland were April 5 in John N. Santeu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Road, Garden City. Officiating was the Rev. Jay Samonie.

Mr. Waarala, who died April 3 in Westland, was born in Franklin Township, Houghton County. He was a machinist.

Surviving are: wife, Beatrice; son, Dean Waarala; daughter, Sandra Funk; sister, Hilda; and three grandchildren, Scott, Kimberly and Jason.

**HAROLD C. BAXTER**  
Funeral services for former Westland resident Harold Baxter, 83, of Ypsilanti were April 8 in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland. Officiating was the Rev. Edward Mason.

Mr. Baxter died April 4 in Ypsilanti. He was a sheet metal fabricator.

Surviving are: wife, Margaret; sons, William, Daniel and Thomas; daughters, Betty Makowski and Karen Morley; sister, Gertrude Cady; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Mr. Baxter is preceded in death by his brother, Maurice.

**WAYNE B. CARMICKLE**  
Private family services for Wayne Carmickle, 69, of Westland were held recently. Arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

Mr. Carmickle, who died April 2 in Farmington Hills, was born in Paragould, Ark. He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He was head grocer for Kroger Food Stores for 45 years, retiring in 1987.

Surviving are: wife, Carol; daughters, Cindy Driver of Garden City, Carla Minisale of Novi, Carrie Denkins of Wilmington, N.C.; brother, Arthur Carmickle of Plymouth; and eight grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills.

**LELA D. PROCTOR**  
Funeral services for LeLa Proctor, 70, of Westland were April 6 in Vermeulen Funeral Home with burial at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia. Officiating was the Rev. Chris Richards of The First Congregational Church of Wayne.

Mrs. Proctor, who died April 2 in Taylor, was born in Dearborn. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are: daughter, Kelly Jones of Westland; niece, Kara Hatfield of Westland; two brothers, two sisters; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Michigan Humane Society, P.O. Box 214182, Auburn Hills 48321-4182.

**RUSSELL S. WESTFALL SR.**  
Funeral services for Russell Westfall Sr., 84, of Westland were April 6 in Vermeulen Funeral Home with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland. Officiating was the Rev. Leland Flaherty of the Good Shepherd Church, Westland.

Mr. Westfall, who died April 1 in Wayne, was born in Northville Township. He was a mechanic for an automobile dealership.

Surviving are: sons, Russell, Jr. of Westland, Donald of Texas, William of Battle Creek, and Gerald of Westland; daughters, Jean Cundiff of Belleville, and Donna Raines of Westland; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Westfall is preceded in death by his wife, Mildred (1998).

Memorials may be made to American Heart Association, P.O. Box 721129, Berkley, 48072.

**LUELLA M. PATTERSON**  
Funeral services for Luella Patterson, 80, of Westland were April 6 in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Parkview Cemetery, Livonia. Officiating was Sister Pat Hergenroether.

Mrs. Patterson died April 2 at her Westland residence. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are: sons, Steve, John and Terry; daughters, Nancy Allen, Kathy Killingbeck, Margie Pierson and Carol Wedge; brothers, John, Jim, Gary, Clarence and Donald; sister, Mary Lark; 22 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Patterson is preceded in death by her husband, Donald.

**NINA G. BURGAN**  
Funeral services for Nina Burgan, 51, of Fort Wayne, Ind. were April 6 in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Knollwood Memorial Park Cemetery, Canton. Officiating was the Rev. Albert Pettet.

Mrs. Burgan died April 2 at her home. She was a former resident of Inkster.

Surviving are: husband, Frederick; sons, Wesley and Malcolm; daughter, Charlotte Little, mother, Nina Randolph; brother, Malcolm Randolph; sisters, Faye Randolph, Kathy Lowery and Debba Mucke; and three grandchildren. All of Mrs. Burgan's survivors are from Wayne and Westland. Her husband resides in Fort. Wayne, Ind.

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# Secretary of state hosts Gift of Life 'Buddy Day'

Volunteers from the Gift of Life Agency of Michigan will visit 72 Secretary of State branch offices throughout the state from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, April 20, to answer questions about organ and tissue donations as part of the agency's and Secretary of State's partnership for the fifth annual Buddy Day.

Secretary of State Candice Miller said the Secretary of State's office has a long tradition

of working with the Gift of Life Agency.

"In addition to our participation in Buddy Day, we have a long history of distributing organ donor labels and information in our branch offices and with the driver's licenses we mail," Miller said.

"With the new Michigan driver's license, we have taken the initiative of making organ donation even easier. We have designed the new license and

state identification card so that space for writing organ donor and medical alert information is prominently featured on the back."

Gift of Life volunteers, also known as "Buddies," are either organ recipients, individuals waiting for an organ donation, or family or friends of a recipient or donor.

While at the branch offices, Buddies will provide organ donor information, donor reg-

istry cards, stickers, pencils and other educational materials about organ donation. Branch offices without Buddies will have information available from the Gift of Life Agency.

With the introduction of the new Michigan driver license and ID card this spring, residents will write their organ donor wishes in the space provided on the back of the card rather than on a label. Labels will still be available at all branch offices for

those with the old style driver license and ID.

More than 2,400 Michigan residents are waiting for an organ or tissue transplant. Individuals wishing to become an organ donor should first discuss their wishes with their family.

Prospective donors can indicate intentions to donate organs by signing the back of the driver license, an organ donor registry card and, most importantly, discussing their wishes with their

family. Signing an organ donor label or card does not make the decision legally binding. It is the family that ultimately makes the final decision to allow organ donation once all efforts to save a life have been exhausted.

The Gift of Life Agency is Michigan's only certified, full-service organ recovery organization. The agency acts as an intermediary to provide educational resources about organ and

Please see BUDDY, A8

**Shop early this Saturday starting at 9:00 am**

(all stores except Downtown Birmingham, Alabama)



# easter sale

# 25-50%

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Misses', petites, Parisian Woman, juniors:

• **Save 30%** on casual linen and garment-washed knit separates from Hot Cotton and Kiko. Reg. 28.00-108.00, **sale 19.60-75.60**. Also in Petites and Parisian Woman. 078,95,415

• **Save 30%** on Parisian Signature single-breasted three-button suits exclusively at Parisian. Misses' sizes 4-18. Reg. 148.00. In Misses' Suits, D431

• **Save 30%** on Parisian Signature soft rayon/linen separates. Misses' and petite sizes reg. 48.00-98.00, **sale 33.60-68.60**. Parisian Woman sizes orig. 68.00-110.00, **sale 47.60-77.00**. In Career D084, Petite D080, and Parisian Woman D094

• **Save 30%** on one- and two-piece Sunday-best dresses made of linen, silk shantung, crepe, and other fabrics. Prints and solids in misses', petites and Parisian Woman sizes. Reg. 88.00-160.00, **sale 61.60-112.00**. In Misses' Dresses, Petite and Parisian Woman, D02,05,06,09,300

• **Save 30%** on a great selection of junior Easter dresses in prints and solids. Reg. 48.00-74.00, **sale 33.60-51.80**. In Juniors D80

Intimate Apparel:

• **Save 40%** on all bras, panties and shapewear from Olga and Warner's. Reg. 6.00-38.00, **sale 3.60-21.60**. 021,22,225, all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL. Women's also not at North Point Mall.

• **Save 30%** on all bras, panties and shapewear from Vanity Fair and Bali. Reg. 6.00-28.00, **sale 4.20-19.60**. 021,22,225, all stores except Downtown Birmingham (Alabama). Bali also not at North Point Mall.

Accessories:

• **Save 50%** on selected famous-maker styles, including bracelets, earrings and necklaces. Reg. 20.00-60.00, **sale 10.00-30.00**. Selection varies by store. In Accessories D03

• **Save 25%** on selected straw, leather, vinyl and microfiber handbags. Reg. 12.00-68.00, **sale 9.00-51.00**. In Handbags D31

Men:

• **Sale 149.99-204.99**

Spring sport coats from Bill Blass and Daniel Hechter. Two- and three-button styles made of wool, silk/wool or silk/linen. Reg. 225.00-295.00. In Men's D5

• **Save 25%-50%** on Preswick & Moore dress shirts. Solid colors, patterns and denim. Reg. 39.50-55.00, **sale 19.75-33.75**.

In Men's D6. Selection varies by store.

• **Save 25%** Calvin Klein underwear, loungewear and socks. Reg. 9.00-19.00, **sale 6.75-14.25**. In Men's D1

Kids:

• **Save 25-40%** on Easter clothes for infants, toddlers, girls and boys. From House of Hatten, Goodlad, Jonathan Martin and more. Reg. 36.00-52.00, **sale 21.60-39.00**. In Children's D16,18,62,63, 64,67,68,218, all stores, except Downtown Birmingham, AL.

• **Save 50%** on Best Friends plush ducks and bunnies in adorable Easter costumes. Reg. 8.00-40.00, **sale 4.00-20.00**. In Children's D600, all stores except Downtown Birmingham (Alabama). The Summit and North Point Mall.

• **Save 25%** on Jockey underwear for girls and boys. Reg. 3.75-12.00, **sale 2.81-9.00**. In Children's D17,65, all stores except Downtown Birmingham, AL.

• **Save 25%-40%** on playwear and swimwear for kids. Creepers, shortalls, short sets, one- and two-piece swimsuits and sun dresses from Healthtex, Little Me, Buster Brown and others. Reg. 19.00-34.00, **sale 14.25-20.40**. In Children's D18,62,63,64,218, all stores except Downtown Birmingham (Alabama). The Summit and North Point Mall. Selection varies by store.

Shoes:

• **Sale 49.99** Women's selected dress shoes from Enzo, Nina, J. Renee, Van Eli, Nine West and more. Reg. 65.00-79.00. In Women's Shoes D25,27,423,424

• **Sale 49.99** Men's Bass bucs. Reg. 72.00. In Men's Shoes D09

• **Sale 17.99-33.75** A great selection of kids' dress shoes from Little Capezio, Nina, Stride Rite, Bass and more. Reg. 30.00-45.00. In Children's Shoes D00, all stores except Downtown Birmingham (Alabama) and North Point Mall. Selection varies by store.

# P·A·R·I·S·I·A·N

get a good look at parisian

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

The Westland Chamber of Commerce 1998 Membership Directory & Community Guide was recently released. The publication was sent by direct mail to more than 35,000 residents and businesses. Every chamber member is listed alphabetically and by category. The directory also contains a community profile with sections covering the city's history, educational opportunities, quality of life, recreation, health and safety, senior activities, business community profile with demographics, important area phone numbers and chamber of commerce information. For information, call (734) 326-7222.



cheon. Outgoing President John Toye will outline the year's accomplishments and give a sneak preview of next year's plans. Toye has offered a drawing for the first 100 members who make reservations for the event to enter. These members will be eligible to win a \$100 prize. Toye will donate this prize for every luncheon this year. In addition, there will be a drawing for those who fill out the luncheon survey. The winner will win a free lunch.

The chamber invites area businesses to attend this event. For reservations, call the chamber office at (734) 326-7222 by 3 p.m. Monday, April 13.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

The Westland Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 14, at Joy Manor at the monthly business lun-

**JOBS AND CAREERS FAIR**

The deadline is Friday, April 10, to sponsor a table at the Westland Chamber Jobs and Careers Fair.

The fair is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Westland Shopping Center. More than 2,000 job seekers are expected to attend the event, which is in its second year.

The event's major sponsor is the Observer Newspapers. WYCD, Young Country, 99.5, will be sponsoring radio advertising.

Westland Car Care manager Scott Morrocco recommends the fair to employers. "We hired four employees at last year's fair, and they're still with us," he said.

Businesses may choose from three levels of participation. The premium level at \$300 offers \$50 off a table at the fair and a listing in the fair's promotional material, Observer advertising, direct mail, signs at the mall prior to the event and a listing on the chamber's Internet home page.

The basic level at \$150 for members and \$200 for non-chamber members provides a 6-foot skirted table at the fair. The supporting deal at \$200 gives all of the benefits of the premium level, minus the table.

Premium sponsors include: Accountants Connection Inc., Ameritech, Comerica Inc., Distinctive Maintenance, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, FCI Automotive Group, McDonald's, North Brothers Ford, Oakwood Health Care Systems, Plastipak Packaging, Preferred Contract Personnel Inc., Premier Fitness Center Inc., Prudential Pickering Real Estate, RDS, Sears at Westland Center, Shurgard Storage Centers, Snelling Personnel Services, Staffing Services of Michigan Ltd., Steel Industries Inc., Tempform Corp. and William D. Ford Career/Technical Center.

For details on the fair, call (734) 326-7222 or visit the chamber's Web site at [www.westland.org](http://www.westland.org) on the Internet.

**NEW MEMBER COFFEE**

A new member coffee will be held on 9 a.m. Wednesday, May 6, at Marquette House, the senior facility on Marquette across the street from John Glenn High School.

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# Communities to benefit from grant program

Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara has designated April 6-12 as Community Development Week in Wayne County in conjunction with the national celebration of the grant program.

The block grant program was created through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. It was designed as a tool to assist communities in improving the physical, economic and social conditions in their environs. Wayne County's 30 participating communities have received more than \$30 million in funding since 1987, including \$3.6 million this year.

The nine communities that make up the western part of the consortium will share \$776,000. The communities are: Belleville,

\$51,000; Garden City, \$114,000; Northville, \$50,000; Northville Township, \$90,000; Plymouth, \$61,000; Plymouth Township, \$100,000; Sumpter Township, \$82,000; Van Buren Township, \$108,000; and Wayne, \$120,000.

Since 1987, these communities have received more than \$9.1 million in funding through the block grant program.

Northville Township and the city of Northville have initiated a shared services agreement in support of their joint funding of a new senior citizens center which serves residents of both communities.

Wayne is renovating its current library for use as a senior citizen activity center and a new library is under construction.

# Auto insurance rebates examined

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

**Q. If I believe the publicity releases, both Democrats and Republicans have done me a huge favor on the "catastrophic claims" part of my car insurance. Any dissent?**

**A. Some.** Both parties in the House joined forces to approve, 104-3, House Bill 5491 requiring the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association to refund \$1.2 billion of the fund "surplus," or \$180 per vehicle.

All lawmakers from this area voted yes.

One dissenter was Rep. Mike Green, R-Mayville, who filed

this protest in the permanent House Journal: "This bill is nothing but political posturing. I believe we should leave this fund alone and continue letting reserves build up and not change any premiums until it is needed."

**Q. Any evidence Green was right about "political posturing"?**

**A. The Democratic view, as stated by Rep. Bob Brown of Dearborn Heights:** "This issue wasn't on anyone's political radar until Democrats came out with a plan to give the money back. If not for the House Democratic plan, there would be no refund."

The Republican view, from a news release: "Under pressure from Republicans and the public, Democrats crossed party line to support Gov. Engler's proposal to refund \$1.2 billion of the fund's \$2.5 billion surplus."

**The facts:**  
■ HB 5491 was Democrat Brown's bill, pushed by his caucus.

■ Republicans won 90-15 approval of their amendment to deny claims to anyone convicted twice or more of drunk driving since Jan. 1, 1998. All local lawmakers voted yes. It was opposed by one Republican and 14 Democrats, including Speaker Curtis Hertel of

Detroit.

■ Republicans also won 75-33 support for their amendment to cap catastrophic claims premiums at \$6 a year for the next two years. Democrats cast 32 of the "nay" votes. "Unfortunately," said Rep. Howard Wetters, D-Kawkawlin, "this proposal would place at risk the fund which pays catastrophic claims."

**Q. So where do we auto owners stand?**

**A. The Senate still must act on these bills, and there's no telling whether it will.**

Please see REBATES, A8

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## Committee to review SMART millage

Wayne County commissioners referred the SMART transportation millage proposal last Thursday to its Committee on Ways and Means.

Richard Kaufman, general manager of Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, sent a suggested resolution to commissioners calling for a ballot proposal to ask voters on Aug. 4 to approve a four-year, 0.33 mill.

Suburban Wayne County residents will be asked to renew a 1/3 mill for SMART's public transportation system of buses, possibly for four years. That

### WAYNE COUNTY NEWS

property tax will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$18.65 a year.

Kaufman said SMART will seek the four-year term so election renewals will fall on county ballots and not cost taxpayers and communities more money for special elections. The current SMART millage actually reached its third year in December 1997, so it must be renewed some time this year to collect property taxes in December

1998.

At the same meeting, commissioners approved, 8-7, a "super-majority" proposal asking voters on the same August ballot whether they wish to require a 60 percent support of millage increases before they are effective. If voters approved it, it would not be effective until January 1999.

The Committee on Ways and Means is scheduled to meet Monday, April 13, at 11 a.m. in

room 402 in the Wayne County Building, 600 Randolph, in Detroit.

### Fees to committee

Annual greens fees for Inkster Valley Golf Course — which included a \$2 charge for users who live outside Wayne County — also were sent back to the commission's Committee on Roads, Airports and Public Services.

Inkster Valley's proposed green fees range from \$20 to \$35 for nine or 18 holes on weekdays with a cart, to \$23 to \$40 for weekends.

## Buddy from page A5

tissue donation for donors, recipients, physicians and hospital staff.

For more information about organ and tissue donation, contact the Gift of Life Agency at 1-800-482-4881.

### 'Buddies' appear

Buddies will appear at the following Secretary of State offices:

■ Canton: 44948 Ford Road, branch manager Joseph Kraus, buddy volunteers Ronald Hawkins, Betty Morgan and Patrick Pruitt. Phone: (734) 453-8211.

■ Farmington Hills: 35576 Grand River Road, branch manager Bobbie Holmes, buddy vol-

unteers Jerry Berkesch and Mike Cogriff. (248) 478-4538.

■ Livonia: 29598 W. Seven Mile Road, branch manager Joseph Hayes, buddy volunteer Cynthia Lewis. (248) 476-4538.

■ Livonia South: 36131 Plymouth Road, branch manager Ruth Ben, buddy volunteer Stacey Trevino. (248) 476-4538.

■ Livonia West: 19229 Newburgh Road, branch manager Ronald Dorogi, buddy volunteer Marie Van Vleck. (248) 476-4538.

■ Westland: 6090 N. Wayne, branch manager Deborah Dayton, buddy volunteers Jack Spitz and Teri Zakrian. (734) 721-3813.

## Rebates from page A7

Meanwhile, the MCCA on March 18 (one day after the House vote) announced it would rebate \$1.2 billion on its own. So it looks as if no law will be necessary to pay the rebate and hold down costs. But Democrats will claim credit for forcing the issue.

The Democratic rejoinder two weeks later was a bill requiring insurers to pay the rebates by Oct. 1.

**Q. Refresh me - what is this "catastrophic claims" issue?**

A. Sorry if the politicians and press talk in legal shorthand.

Michigan in 1972 enacted no-fault auto insurance. It required insurers to pay lifetime medical benefits - no dollar limits.

But there arose a class of losses called "catastrophic claims," more than \$250,000 and usually involving brain or spinal cord damage and years of therapy. To calculate insurance, you need defined losses; you can't "insure" to an unlimited amount. That's actuarial science.

So in 1978 the state enacted

the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) act to cover losses greater than \$250,000. MCCA is an unincorporated, non-profit association of private insurers. Its board sets rates and levies mandatory assessments against member insurers.

**Q. Democrats keep referring to a "car tax."**

A. It isn't a tax, according to the Michigan Supreme Court when the rate was challenged. "We find that the monies sought to be collected by the MCCA are assessments, and not taxes," wrote Justice Michael Cavanagh in a 7-0 opinion.

**Q. So how did the fund swell to \$2.5 billion?**

A. Catastrophic claims are hard to predict, just like earthquakes and tornadoes. When a person suffers a catastrophic injury, there's no telling if he will live one year or 50.

For some years, the board was very conservative and built up a fund to cover future claims. Con-

ventional think today is that the fund got too big.

**Q. Democrats have other bills (HB 4993-4996) to open up MCCA operations. They would expand board membership, require state audits, and make the MCCA board subject to the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Acts. What are their chances?**

A. Slender to zero. MCCA is not a state agency...

**Q. Not even if it was created by the Legislature in state law?**

A. Right. "Taken as a whole, the characteristics of the MCCA lead us to recognize it as a private association," said the Supreme Court.

Since it's not subject to the Administrative Procedures Act (center of the 1990 lawsuit), MCCA is not likely to be made subject to the "sunshine" laws, FOIA and OMA.

It's like the comic Shakespearean character, "neither fish

nor fowl." MCCA was created by law; the insurance commissioner appoints the board and serves as an "ex officio" non-voting member; and it can make assessments that insurers and drivers must pay.

But it's still not a state agency. It isn't even listed in the Michigan Manual, the so-called "red book" in every library reference shelf.

**Q. If we didn't have a catastrophic claims program, what would happen?**

A. Many families of injured people would go broke and wind up on welfare. That's why no one wants to get rid of MCCA.

**Q. What happens next?**

A. House and Senate Republicans are seeking attention for their latest round of bills to crack down on drunk drivers as Democrats raise civil rights objections. But that's another story.



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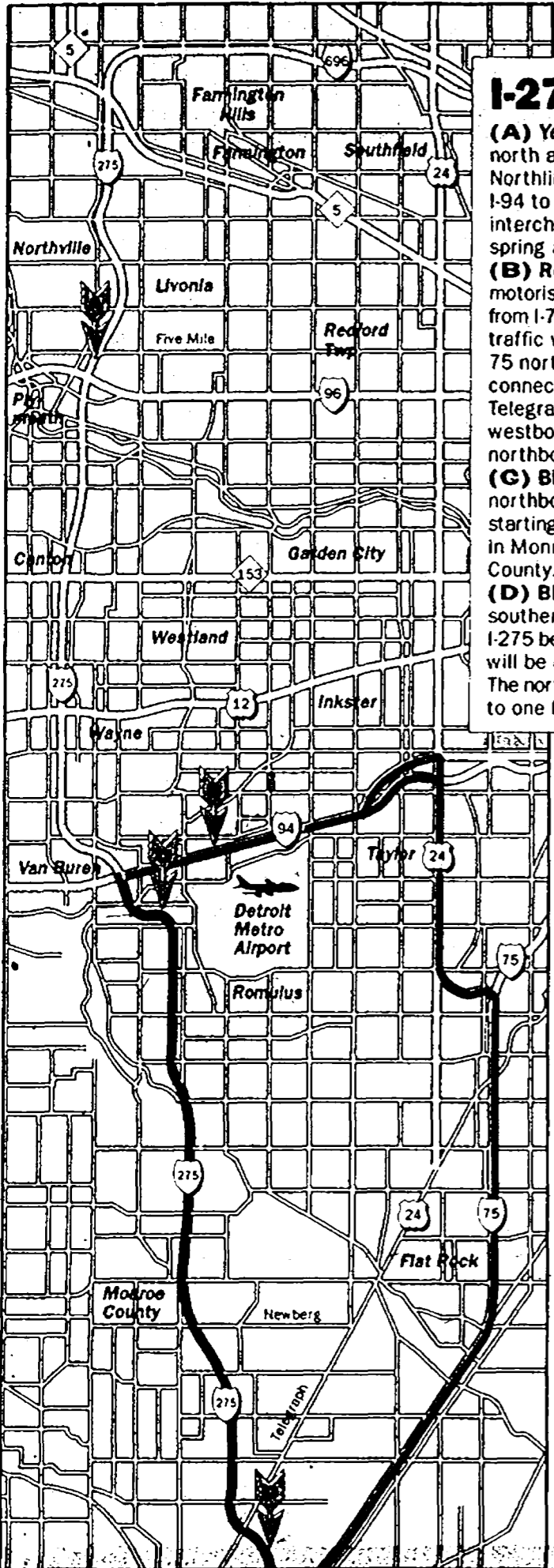
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HITTING THE PAVEMENT

# Travelers can expect delays on I-275



### I-275 Roadwork

**(A)** Yellow line indicates sections of north and southbound I-275 between Northline and Five Mile (just south of I-94 to just north of the I-96/M-14 interchange) to be resurfaced this spring and summer.

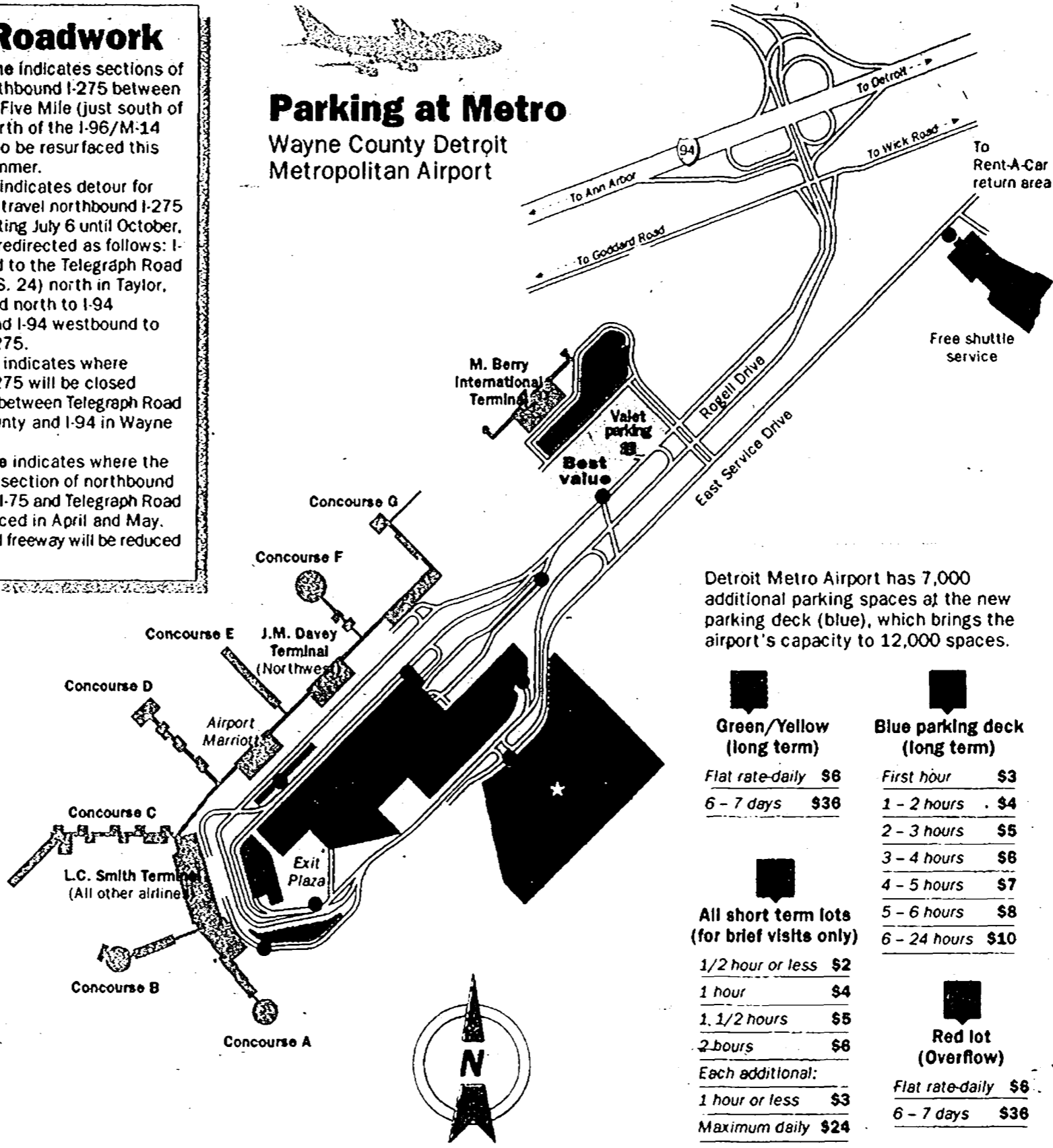
**(B)** Red line indicates detour for motorists who travel northbound I-275 from I-75. Starting July 6 until October, traffic will be redirected as follows: I-75 northbound to the Telegraph Road connector (U.S. 24) north in Taylor, Telegraph Road north to I-94 westbound, and I-94 westbound to northbound I-275.

**(C)** Blue line indicates where northbound I-275 will be closed starting July 6 between Telegraph Road in Monroe County and I-94 in Wayne County.

**(D)** Black line indicates where the southernmost section of northbound I-275 between I-75 and Telegraph Road will be resurfaced in April and May. The northbound freeway will be reduced to one lane.

### Parking at Metro

Wayne County Detroit Metropolitan Airport



Detroit Metro Airport has 7,000 additional parking spaces at the new parking deck (blue), which brings the airport's capacity to 12,000 spaces.

<b>Green/Yellow (long term)</b>	<b>Blue parking deck (long term)</b>
Flat rate-daily \$6	First hour \$3
6 - 7 days \$36	1 - 2 hours \$4
	2 - 3 hours \$5
	3 - 4 hours \$6
	4 - 5 hours \$7
	5 - 6 hours \$8
	6 - 24 hours \$10
<b>All short term lots (for brief visits only)</b>	<b>Red lot (Overflow)</b>
1/2 hour or less \$2	Flat rate-daily \$6
1 hour \$4	6 - 7 days \$36
1 1/2 hours \$5	
2 hours \$6	<b>Valet parking</b>
Each additional:	Flat rate-daily \$18
1 hour or less \$3	
Maximum daily \$24	
Short term parking is intentionally expensive and not recommended for long term or overnight parking	

If you're planning on driving on I-275 to Detroit Metro Airport for a long-awaited Easter holiday vacation, you better bring some patience and extra travel time along.

Not only will air travelers need to deal with an airport busy with holiday and spring break-vacationers, they will need to cope with construction crews on I-275 working on road repairs and resurfacing projects.

"For the next two months, southbound I-275 traffic between I-96 and I-94 will be reduced to two lanes in some areas," said Robin Pannecouk, spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Transportation. During the next two weeks, MDOT does not anticipate any work that will affect the northbound lanes, Pannecouk said.

The I-275 resurfacing project will cost an estimated \$40-\$45 million, funded through state and federal money.

Other work on the freeway is scheduled for later this spring and summer as well:

- The southernmost section of northbound I-275 between I-75 and Telegraph Road in Monroe County will be resurfaced in April and May. The northbound freeway will be reduced to one lane.
- Starting July 6, motorists who travel northbound I-275 from I-75 will take a detour of I-75 northbound to the Telegraph Road connector exit (U.S. 24) in Taylor, Telegraph Road north to I-94 westbound and I-94 westbound to northbound I-275.

This year's historic \$1 billion road and bridge program is bound to affect travel in some areas, but we are doing everything we can to reduce driver inconveniences," said James DeSana, state transportation director. "A great deal of the work on I-275 will be accomplished during off-peak hours such as weekends and midday times.

"We are getting in, fixing the road, and getting out of the way

Please see DELAYS, A14

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### FORECASTERS PREDICT

# SPRING

IS BLOOMING

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For more information call: (313) 241-4813  
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POINTS OF VIEW

Editorial disappoints

I was extremely disappointed in the recent editorial on gun bills, published April 2, 1998.

Like many other newspapers across the county in the recent past, the Observer has decided to go for the emotional outcry rather than the truth.

The truth is that states that have improved concealed carry laws for honest citizens have all seen a decrease in violent crime of all types. Improved concealed carry laws make states safer.

The truth is also that today's laws are much more "abusive" than the proposed laws. Today, it is nearly impossible for an individual to get a concealed carry permit in most counties is to have political connections. Only the wealthy, famous or politically connected are fortunate enough to obtain one.

The current law is abusive and arbitrary while the proposed laws are fair and reasonable.

The truth regarding the proposed close door sessions is hardly abusive. In fact, it is a big improvement, allowing the citizen a chance to appeal to the concealed carry board and to discuss concerns with them in private. The current law provides no appeal. The new laws remove abuse from this system.

The truth is that the new laws require more training and contain tighter restriction than the current political patronage system. The current law has no provision for alcohol abuse. The new laws are an improvement in every area.

The truth needs to find its way into the Observer. Well-respected studies in recent years have stated that guns in the hands of the honest citizen prevent crime over one million times a year across the United States. Some estimates are even higher! States like Florida have shown a continuous decrease in violent crime. States like Texas show that concealed carry permit holders are over three times less likely to be arrested than others. Ver-

mont allows its citizens to carry without any bureaucratic interference. Is Michigan, with its severe restriction on concealed carry, safer than Vermont?

The anti self-defense editorial closes with the line "... the life you save may be your own." Supporting these bills may be the best thing anyone could do to save their life or that of a loved one.

Dan Rakoczy  
Livonia

Support gun ownership

Your editorial of April 2 is full of misleading information. It is obvious that you support gun control laws. It is also obvious that you really don't think that law-abiding individuals can be trusted to act appropriately with the ownership of guns.

You state that the "shall issue" provision in the current proposed gun bills will "pose a serious public safety threat to everyone," "has a potential for misuse in a variety of situations" and "is poor public policy and a clear public safety threat." You also cite a Prosecutors Association and a Medical Association who support gun control laws. The quotes from these organizations provide no factual information whatsoever. They simply state that there is a growing incidence of firearm violence reaching epidemic proportions.

You really ought to consult FBI statistics which clearly show that in areas of this country where there are the fewest gun laws, there is also the lowest incidence of violent firearm crime. Conversely, in the areas where there are the most stringent gun control laws (take Washington, D.C., for example) violent gun crime is at those epidemic levels you so indicated.

It really doesn't take a great deal of brain power to figure out that criminals will choose as victims those people who are the most vulnerable. And

let's face it, a disarmed citizenry provides one hell of a lot of sheep for the wolves to prey upon.

You also said, "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." This is very misleading. Under current Michigan law, unless you are at the gun range or somewhere on your back 40 acres, when carrying this gun, it must be in a locked case, unloaded, and if being transported in your car, must be kept in the trunk. Tell me what use an unloaded, double locked-up gun will be when a carjacker or a rapist assaults you or your loved ones? No less than Thomas Jefferson said, "Laws that forbid the carrying of arms ... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes ... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

And lastly, the most important reason that individuals should be allowed to own and carry guns is summed up quite nicely in the following few quotes from some rather famous historical characters:

"The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is at the last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government." Thomas Jefferson.

"Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution. They are the American people's liberty teeth and keystone under independence ... From the hour the pilgrims landed, to the present day, events, occurrences, and tendencies prove that to insure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable. Every corner of this land knows firearms, and more than 99 percent of them by their silence indicate that they are in safe hands. The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere and everywhere restrains Evil interference ... they deserve a place of honor with all that's good. When firearms

go, all goes ... we need them every hour." George Washington.

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed, as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword because the whole body of people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States." Noah Webster.

"(The Constitution preserves) the advantage of being armed which America possesses over the people of most every other nation ... (where) the governments of Europe are afraid to trust its citizens with firearms ... (The American people shall remain armed to) form a barrier against the enterprises of despotic ambition." James Madison, Federalist Papers No. 46.

I will leave you with this last thought-provoking question: How will you defend the right to a free press, to free speech, to freedom of religion, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, etc. (if you in fact believe in such), if you don't have the means to defend those rights from tyrants?

Jeffrey Hartzel  
Livonia

took a police report from a woman in her 30s about an attempted carjacking. One of the bad guys pulled in front of her car on a deserted road. He drove very slowly to a stop sign and would not pull away from the sign. The woman was stuck. Sensing something was wrong, the woman, who had a permit to carry a pistol, removed her pistol from her purse.

Shortly afterward, a young man sprung from a creek that was next to her car and ran to her driver's side window. The movement attracted the woman's attention, as she had been watching the car in front of her. As she spun to face the window with the gun in her hand also pointed at the window, the attacker's facial expression changed to horror as he noticed the gun already drawn on him. He immediately turned and ran.

I'm glad to let you know that is the report I took, instead of the report that could have been taken if the woman had not had a gun. Hopefully, the bad guys would only have stolen her car, not hurt her or worse.

If the police can not protect the citizens, then the citizens should be able to protect themselves. The police do a fine job, but the criminals keep getting bolder.

Also, what happens to a criminal when the possibility exists the person he's attacking may be armed? I'd like to think maybe some will decide to get into another line of work.

To be fair, I have heard of two instances in my seven years in Indiana where the permit to carry did endanger innocent people. Both cases involved people with guns shooting at criminals that had already committed crimes.

The bill being considered by Michigan would have eliminated those shootings by requiring 12 hours of education before issuing the permit. Currently, no training is required in Indiana.

Tell your representatives to vote yes on House Bills 5551-5559.

Dave Homyak  
Plymouth

Support gun bills

I wanted to share my experience with "right to carry" gun legislation. Seven years ago, I moved from Michigan to Indiana. Once there, I found that Indiana was a "right to carry" state, meaning if one applied for a gun permit, the only reasons for denial were conviction of a felony or a history of drug or alcohol abuse. I had my doubts that everyone would behave themselves with this sort of privilege.

Many men and women where I worked had permits to carry. I figured shortly I'd be reading horrible stories of gun mishaps. I waited and waited.

Four years ago, I became a deputy sheriff. I had never owned a gun before that time. While a deputy, I

Read Arts & Leisure Sunday

Before you have a baby, talk to a woman who's had more than 1000.

The female obstetricians and certified nurse midwives of Providence Hospital and Medical Centers have delivered thousands of babies between them. And they've had a few of their own, as well. So if you think a woman's touch would make your birth experience a better one, then you've come to the right place.


Of course, no matter which gender you prefer (for your doctor, that is) all of Providence's obstetricians and certified nurse midwives are highly skilled and experienced. And they work in some of the most accommodating, comfortable, family-centered birth facilities in Michigan. Providence Park in Novi and the New Life Center in Southfield offer the comforts of home, with the reassurance of state-of-the-art equipment standing by. For low-risk births, the Family Birthing Center in Southfield offers a safer alternative to home birth, providing queen-size beds, Jacuzzi tubs and sleeping accommodations for family members.

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# Heslop's

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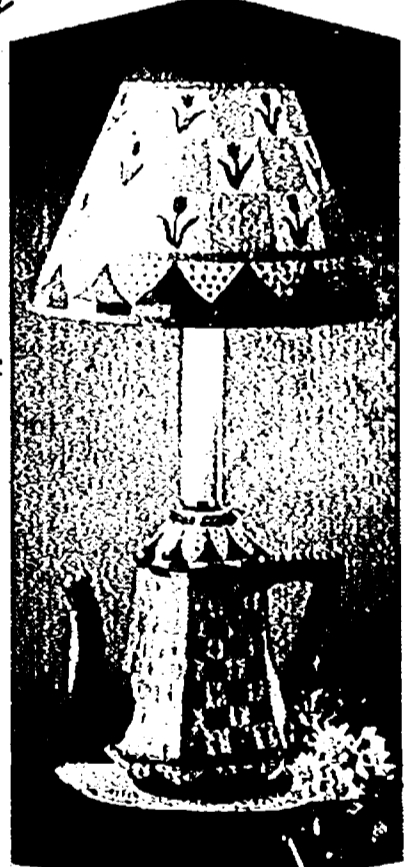
## April Showers Sale

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9-SUNDAY, APRIL 19

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# Westland Observer

## OPINION

A12(W)

36251 SCHOOLCRAFT, LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48150

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1998

## Salute to Excellence

### Award winners deserve praise

They are Westland's winners. Four Westland residents were honored for their achievements last night and congratulations are in order.

The city honored its Salute to Excellence award winners for 1998 at Mayor Robert Thomas' State of the City address last night at the Hellenic Cultural Center, and the Observer would like to take this opportunity to salute them as well.

This year's winners include four people who make valuable contributions that haven't gone unnoticed by those around them. Patricia Garrett is mother of the year, Terry Papay is father of the year, Patricia Colligan is teacher of the year and Amy Reynolds is senior high school student of the year.

The winners have made a difference in the community in their own ways.

Colligan, a teacher at Schweitzer Elementary, is in her 11th year of teaching. Nominated by Schweitzer colleague Carol Osterling, Colligan was chosen by a committee of judges that reviewed 236 candidates.

"I can't imagine doing anything but teaching," Colligan said. "I love working with the kids. It's so nice to see them get excited and to see them really try to learn. They grow so much in a year."

Mother of the Year Garrett, who was chosen from among 365 nominees, is the mother of three daughters, Alicia, Fenstermacher, 21, Corrine, 15, and Mallory, 12. Her contributions range

from her church volunteer work, to helping friends and neighbors, to her daughters' school field trips, to family outings. "She's such a wonderful woman," her daughter Alicia said.

Papay, Westland's Father of the Year, was chosen from 226 nominees based on an essay that Paula, his only child, submitted. Paula's essay described a giving father who always places family first.

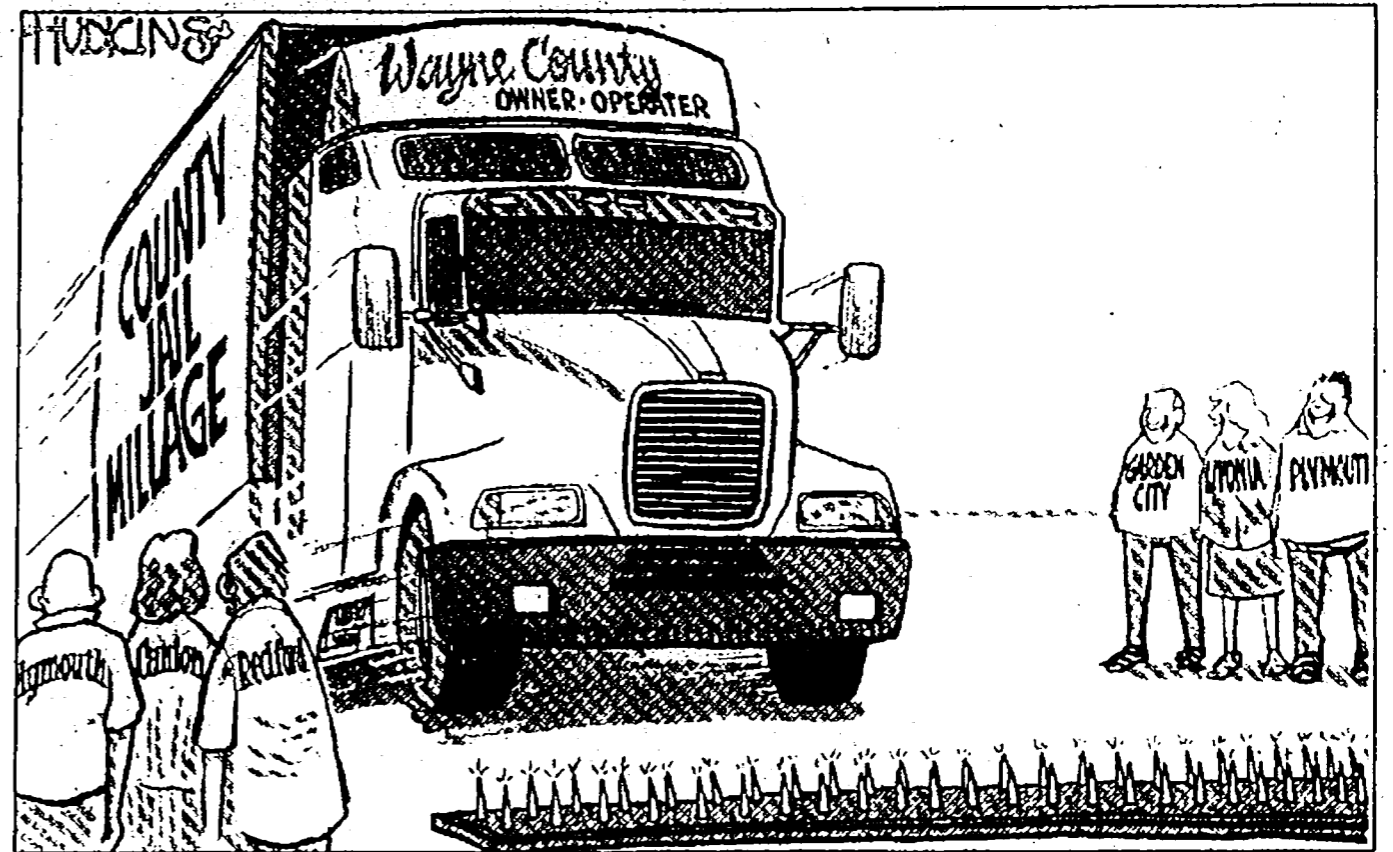
The Papays say they are happiest when they are spending time together at home. "We don't do that much, but we're together," Terry Papay said.

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. A selection committee chose Reynolds from 99 nominees.

The four make an impressive group. It is also impressive to note the number of nominees in each category. The city's program offers the chance to honor people who don't get nominated every day. It also gives the chance to showcase those who make the world a better place in their own corner of it. Congratulations to all the Salute to Excellence winners.

ARKIE HUDKINS



## LETTERS

### Epidemic of vacancies

Here in Westland we have a growing epidemic of empty store buildings. New strip malls have been springing up everywhere, and they're just adding to the already huge number of vacancies. Many recent store developments just stand empty like ghost towns. They've become a cancer. It's out of control and it's very doubtful that all of these new store spaces will ever be filled. We haven't even filled up all the old ones yet. Enough is enough. We already have too many retail stores in the city as it is. The markets are all oversaturated and there is far too much competition. More is not better. They cannot all survive. More and more of these businesses go belly-up all the time. What we're doing is creating urban blight. It's depressing to see and once these vacant buildings have attracted vandalism, they'll have to be torn down. So, why do we continue to overbuild? Westland is quickly becoming a wasteland. We're being strip-malled to death.

Joseph J. Braun  
Westland

### Nothing is Impossible

I write this letter to inform you of an unusual event that took place approximately a month ago. We have a vehicle donation program that has proved to be very beneficial for veterans. We have supplied much-needed transportation to vets from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. To date we have given away 37 cars, trucks or vans to benefit vets.

A month ago I was contacted by phone by a man named Dinh Gia Tran. At first, knowing the accent of the Vietnamese I thought it was a friend of mine fooling around. This call was no prank. This man was calling to donate two vehicles to our organization. As you can imagine, I was quite surprised.

This encounter with this man called Dinh brought back many memories, both good and bad, of my tour of duty in Vietnam. At the time I was 19, this man called Dinh was 6. Ironically enough, 28 years later we would meet in America, the land of opportunity.

You see, in 1978 this man called Dinh escaped from Vietnam after the fall of Saigon in 1975. It's now called Ho Chi Minh City but still very communistic. Dinh was a boat person, and, after landing in Thailand, he came to America in 1981. When he came to this country he went to live with his brother in Ohio. His brother fled Vietnam during the end in 1975.

After arriving in this country, Dinh spoke no English. He went to school, worked hard and was awarded a scholarship for college. After graduation he went to work for a compa-

ny testing jet engines in the desert. He now holds a master's degree in automotive electronic engineering and is currently going to school for his second master's degree. He now works for Ford Motor Co. at their Tec Center in Dearborn.

A couple of week ago I had lunch with Dinh, and he explained to me that since his departure from Vietnam, he has been back twice. Once in 1994 to get married and again in February of this year. He is currently going through the process of bringing his wife here. To complete the paperwork he needed a copy of his marriage certificate. This could not be done by mail, fax or other wire services. He had to be physically present to sign for a copy of this marriage certificate. Dinh is an American citizen.

The only family Dinh has here is his brother, mother and father who came here within the past six years. His father is disabled and paralyzed on his right side, after spending 10 years in a concentration prison camp when Vietnam was lost. This man spent 20 years of his life in the South Vietnamese army, before the fall of Saigon.

The reason I tell this tale is simple. Nothing is impossible - if you're willing to work for it. There are no free rides in this life, and no one ever promised any of us a rose garden. The kids today already have an advantage over Dinh, they are Americanized and speak fluent English. All they have to realize is how lucky they are to be living in a free society and how important an education is so they can compete in the world tomorrow.

With all of the new programs available for higher education, they need to know how to make the system work for them and let nothing get in the way of their dreams and reach out and go for it.

Vince Berna  
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 and brevity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a daytime contact telephone number. No anonymous letters will be published.

The week prior to an election, this newspaper will not publish letters that discuss new issues, since last-minute attacks don't allow a chance for rebuttal. Responses to already published issues will be accepted.

Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Westland Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150; faxed to (734) 591-7279; or e-mailed with your name, city of residence and phone number to bsjachman@oe.homecomm.net

## Make Web sites 'user useful'

**Inter-active adj.** 3. of or involving a mode of operation in which there is a continual exchange of information between the computer and the user at a video screen.

That's the dictionary's third definition for a word that has become more and more a part of the average person's vocabulary. The increasing use of the term can no doubt be traced to the growth of the Internet and the virtual (no pun intended) explosion of the World Wide Web.

Just about everyone today seems to have a Web site, from the White House to perfume makers to the fly fisherman who lives down the block.

As the growth continues, more and more local communities and governmental units are adding their own sites. And that's what brings us to a discussion of "interactive."

A Web "site" can be as simple as a one-page, text-only document with biographical information about the page "designer," but with little information of use to anyone else. An "interactive" site, on the other hand, allows you to seek out useful information or perform necessary tasks right from your home computer. You can buy airline tickets online, invest in mutual funds or learn more than you ever wanted to know about the Titanic.

Many of the local Web sites we've visited are somewhat similar to the one-page biography: text and pictures describing the community and its services with welcome messages from the local head of government (mayor, county executive, township supervisor). Such sites are interesting but not particularly useful.

Some communities, however, have developed truly "interactive" sites that make use of the potential of the Internet and offer valuable information or material to local residents. Rochester Hills has such a site at metronet.lib.mi.us/ROCH/RH/index.html.

Users can view and download press releases, information on city parks, recycling, election information (including a list of precincts by number and address), official fire incident reports, a municipal directory with address and phone numbers for all departments plus the usual list of officials and commission members. There's more, including a downloadable form to enroll in the city's automatic water/sewer bill payment program.

Certainly one of the most "user-useful" sites we have found is the Washtenaw County Web site ([www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/](http://www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/)). Among the services it offers is an extensive online recycling guide with links to local recycling agencies plus specific information on how to dispose of anything from ammunition to yard waste. A "forms" link allows users to print out official forms requesting birth, marriage and death records, concealed weapons affidavits and parks and recreation forms.

It's a site worth visiting just to experience the potential of the Internet for providing useful, local information to residents. And it's a site that other communities could well emulate.

We'd like to see Wayne County officials do some serious upgrading of their Web site ([www.waynecounty.com/](http://www.waynecounty.com/)). Its offerings are limited and some of the material that is available, such as departmental telephone directories, is not formatted in such a way as to allow a home user to simply hit the "print" button and print out a usable copy on a standard printer.

We know that developing and maintaining a state-of-the-art Web site is not an easy task and that such a site requires constant updating. But we think the benefits to the community are worth the cost and the effort.

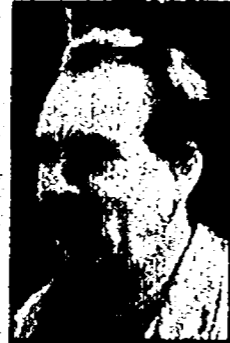
We encourage local communities and governments to develop genuinely "interactive" Web sites that, while they may serve as public relations vehicles for community officials, also provide useful services for local residents.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

**QUESTION:**  
Have you sent in your taxes?



"I mailed mine just now."  
Elizabeth Franczek



"No. They are done, but I'm waiting for my accountant to call me to pick them up."  
John Booker



"Yes, today."  
Kathy Sullivan



"Oh, yeah. I get my state back to pay my federal. I'm done."  
Maurice Dunphy

We asked this question Monday at the Westland post office.

## Westland Observer

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— Philip Power

**POINTS OF VIEW**

**Do your homework**

After reading your April 2 editorial on gun bills, I read your mission statement at the bottom of the page where you describe yourselves as accurate journalists and caring citizens of the communities where you work.

I didn't see much accuracy in your editorial, and any caring citizen would not deny a law-abiding citizen the right to defend himself from some thug who is illegally carrying a concealed weapon already.

If you really want to be accurate, print the entire letter from the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and let your readers make up their own minds. Draw the readers' attention to the sentence, "Common sense dictates that when a handgun is available in explosive situations, or when it is accessible to children, there is a strong likelihood that it will be misused."

To me, common sense dictates that a handgun in my possession is not available to children, and statistics show that a handgun is properly used every 13 seconds in the U.S. in justifiable defense. And that a shot is fired in that defense less than 2 percent of the time.

Further down the letter, we read "Is what is perceived as consistent with public safety in one county appropriate in other counties with totally different circumstances?" Are they referring to Macomb County, where residents are allowed to defend themselves, versus Wayne County, where you have to know somebody to get a CCW?

This isn't the first time that Eight Mile Road has been used as the line of demarcation between good and evil. This elitist attitude of the county gun boards is one of the main issues the Cropsey bill would rectify.

Your editorial also stated that the medical community considers gunshot wounds as a "public health issue." You would do well to mention that when Congress found out that the Center for Disease Control spent \$3 million tax dollars to make that determination, their budget for the following year was slashed \$3 million dol-

lars. And, although more gunshot wounds are in fact being seen in the emergency rooms, the number of criminals being shot is rising while the number of wounded citizens is falling. Attribute that to the ever-growing number of states that realize that a police officer cannot be assigned to every citizen.

An "accurate journalist" should do his homework before deciding what is right for his community.

**Thomas Paczwa  
Westland**

**Editorial opposed**

Those who value freedom and liberty should take great exception to the Observer's stance against Second Amendment rights, as stated in the recent editorial regarding House Bills 5551-5559.

These bills do not create a Vermont-style "shall-issue" policy, as was implied. If anything they would increase the gun boards' power to deny law-abiding gun owners their rights, while requiring them to state a reason for doing so.

The reference to one bill giving "potentially abusable discretion" to gun boards is laughably ironic. To find abuse, one need only look at the current system. The gun board in the county with the highest crime rate (and, by the way, the highest ethnic minority population) routinely denies permits to all but the most elite and/or politically well-connected applicants, while across Eight Mile Road, suburbanites enjoy a de facto shall-issue policy.

The Observer not only endorses it, but propagates the charade, declaring "each county has a board which reviews requests and approves them if the applicant can prove a reason to have the permit." Talk about arrogance!

In Wayne County, there are basically three "good reasons": (1) You're a police officer. (2) You're an elected official or politically well-connected. (3) You're a business owner who carries a lot of cash. What if you're, say, an abused woman in mortal fear of

the man who said he would kill you if you left him? You get a restraining order.

What if you once looked down the barrel of a robber's gun and fear that the next robber might not be so kind as to just cock it, watch you sweat, laugh and walk away? Not a "good reason."

The editorial also makes the absurd claim that "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." There's a minor problem called the Brandishing Act, which recently took away even that right. Look it up. The great injustice here is the very existence of county gun boards, which these bills do nothing to eliminate.

Gun control advocates exploit the uninformed among us, who think safety is derived from laws that only affect the law-abiding. Just look at the reduction in crime in the 30-odd states which have granted concealed-carry rights to the law-abiding citizen. I say: If guns cause crime, matches cause arson.

**Ted Gomulka Jr.  
Livonia**

**Support Cropsey bill**

I read with amazement your article on gun bills. The article shared many thoughts that are totally unfounded, statements of opinions, not facts.

Here are the facts and why most of our state representatives support the Cropsey Bill.

The Cropsey Bill (or CCW, as it is often referred; CCW stands for Concealed Carry Weapon) is intended to prevent crime, statistics from Florida clearly demonstrate this.

Why Florida? Florida has had "shall issue" since 1987 when CCW went into effect for that state and provides statistically sound data aged over time.

Florida homicide since 1987 is down a whopping 34.4 percent! Professor John Lott of Chicago University has been studying the 31 states that already have CCW laws and his conclusions support with statistics that

not only are homicides down but rape and assaults as well.

Informed and trained citizens are our best defense in reducing crime. CCW is further supported by the Michigan Constitution, which states "Every man has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the State."

Let's stop making decisions based on emotions and make them based on fact. If criminals don't know who is carrying a weapon they will think twice before they commit a crime.

Every year, 1.4 million violent acts are foiled because of armed citizens and you will be glad when that person is there for you.

By the way, most of these foiled criminal acts are prevented by merely the presence of a weapon and not by shots being fired. The life that is saved could be yours.

Please write your representative in support of the Cropsey Bill.

**Andy Brandt  
Plymouth**

**Editorial off base**

The editorial (Observer, April 2) opposes the current Cropsey legislation, in the form of House Bills 5551-5559, that would require all county-gun boards to operate using statewide, uniform standards.

As an area representative for the Law Enforcement Alliance Of America (LEAA), I take issue with the editorial's comments regarding how the proposed legislation, should it become law, would pose a serious threat to public safety. The fact is, the editorial couldn't be further from the truth.

I doubt that whoever wrote this editorial actually spoke with any of the officers on the streets or in the prisons regarding how they feel about a law-abiding citizen's right to self-defense.

Readers of the Observer are being "tricked" into believing that by allowing law-abiding citizens the right to self-protection, that somehow more crime would result. The LEAA doesn't subscribe to the attitudes of high level

"political" prosecutors and attorneys general. Our organization is the largest, non-union, professional law enforcement organization in the U.S.

The LEAA represents the views of those officers who work the "streets" and in the prisons and jails of this country. We speak on behalf of those who know, firsthand, that removing the citizens' right to bear arms is not an effective form of crime control.

Rep. Cropsey's legislation does give a great deal of control to the county gun boards. What it does remove, is the atmosphere that has been past practice that allows gun boards to discriminate against people and refuse them their lawful right to self defense under both the Michigan State Constitution and the Second Amendment.

Michigan citizens as well as the law enforcement community know all too well that they have nothing to fear from a law-abiding citizen who carries a concealed firearm. These citizens will still be required to pass the scrutiny of the county gun boards.

Police officers know that criminals will not take the time to purchase firearms legally. Police officers also know that criminals will carry concealed firearms without permission. Apparently the editorial staff at the Observer Newspapers is having trouble differentiating between law-abiding citizens and criminals. The good news is that the law enforcement community knows the difference, and does support a citizens right to carry a firearm for protection.

The truth is that Michigan citizens have a right to protect themselves. And protecting each individual is something that courts have proven police departments are not legally obligated to do (see Warren vs. DC).

Michigan legislators who do not support a law-abiding citizen's right to self-defense have either not read the Michigan State Constitution, or they have neglected their Oath of Office.

I'm confident that Observer readers, like all Michigan citizens are more intelligent than the Observer editors have given them credit for.

**Frank Finch  
LEAA area representative  
Canton**

**Affirmative action debate hits home**

Responding to an aggressive national campaign against affirmative action, California voters in 1996 passed Proposition 209, a law that banned use of race, sex, color or ethnicity as factors in university admissions.

Since then, the concern has been over just what kind of impact the new law would have on minorities seeking access to the state's fine public university system. According to data released last week, the impact is devastating.

The number of African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans offered places in this year's freshman class at the University of California's flagship campus at Berkeley dropped 61 percent compared to a year ago. Places offered at UCLA fell 36 percent, and similar declines were reported at other system campuses.

University officials expect further declines this fall, when those few minority students actually accepted go to college out of state or at private universities unaffected by Prop 209.

The evidence from California is important to us here in Michigan, where the debate over affirmative action in admissions is proceeding.

A conservative Washington-based legal advocacy outfit, Center for Individual Rights, alleges the University of Michigan is using unconstitutional race-based weighting in its admissions practices and has brought suit. A petition drive is under way to get a Prop 209-type affirmative action ban onto the ballot. Bills to the same effect have been introduced in the legislature.

Should courts or the voters ban use of race, sex, color or ethnicity in university admissions decisions, I can see only two outcomes:

As in California, the first almost certainly would be to re-segregate the campuses of public universities in Michigan. What a sad and perverse outcome for our public higher education system that is among the finest in the nation!

The second, oddly, would be to eliminate the use of any academically-based factor (such as high school grade point average or standardized test results) in admissions decisions. Already, some people in California are arguing that ACT or SAT tests are intrinsically unfair to minority students and that a fairer system would be to admit kids to college by random lottery. What an equally sad outcome for a wonderful university like the U of M, which has gained its stature by being highly selective in admissions!

One of the reasons I cherish serving on the U of M Board of Regents is my conviction that when the historians get around to writing up the history of 20th century America, they will conclude that the signature contribution of our society has been the creation and support of seriously excellent public universities.

The ultimate purpose and special claim to moral distinction of these great universities has



**PHILIP POWER**

been to provide the widest possible access for the greatest diversity of students.

That is why attempts why to restrict great public universities from taking into consideration factors such as race or ethnicity are so unfortunate. Wouldn't it be odd if the job of making the full opportunity of America maximally available wound up in the hands of the same private universities that not so long ago were citadels of bias?

There will be a lot of argumentation about all of this, most of it probably couched in legalisms.

I find more compelling examples like that of Donald R. Deskins Jr., a professor of urban geography and sociology at the University of Michigan and an African American. Raised in Brooklyn, Don was drafted after high school and served in the infantry in the Korean War. After his discharge in 1957, GI Bill in hand, Don had to decide where he was going to go to college.

He chose Michigan. Why? "I always saw Michigan as a place offering unlimited opportunity for all kinds of kids - blacks, middle-class whites, poor whites, Jews, immigrants. Michigan was known as a place that was open all kinds to bright people from all over, a place where kids got a chance to show what they would do on their own."

Don did pretty well in Ann Arbor. Played starting tackle on the football team; graduated with honors; eventually became a full professor; married and had three girls, respectively a physician, a lawyer and an electrical engineer.

Don Deskins is a living example of what public universities are all about in providing opportunity to the full diversity of our people and why they are so enormously precious if our society is to truly to offer opportunity to all.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He also serves as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan. This column expresses his individual opinion, and not that of the university or its Board of Regents. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@oeonline.com.

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# Panel sends new teacher sub bill to House

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

School districts would be able to hire college juniors as short-term substitutes under a bill headed to the full state House of Representatives.

The House Education Committee reported it out April 1 on a 10-2 vote.

"I want the bill amended so that a candidate would have to be 'enrolled' in an approved teacher education program, not just 'admitted' to one," said Rep. Bob Brown, D-Deerborn Heights, who voted no.

"It's a technical thing, but important. I could be 'admitted'

to a program and never have any intention of enrolling and finishing it," he said.

Rep. Rose Bogardus, D-Davison and a former public school music teacher, also voted no. "This will degrade the quality of teaching. We should go the other way - provide incentives for teachers."

The current school code permits a school board to hire a substitute teacher with at least 90 semester hours of college credit (at the senior level). Purpose of House bill 5481 is to allow boards to hire subs with 60 hours credit (junior level).

Educators got the sponsor,

Rep. Clyde LeTarte, R-Jackson, to amend it will these safeguards:

- The bill "sunset" (expires) in mid-2003.
- It covers kindergarten through grade 9 only.
- The district must first try to hire a sub with at least 90 credit hours.
- The person must be at least 21 years old.
- The person may be engaged for no more than two consecutive days in the same classroom.
- The person "has been admitted to an approved teacher education program leading to a provisional teaching certificate."

"It's a bad idea whose time has come," quipped Rep. James Agee, D-Muskegon, a former superintendent who voted yes reluctantly. Agee wants to amend the bill to move the sunset forward to 2001 and to ask the Department of Education for a detailed plan to deal with substitute teachers.

Supporters included the Michigan Association of School Administrators and Oakland Intermediate School District. Opposed was the Michigan Federation of Teachers.

The Michigan Education Association supported the bill with amendments.

# Parliamentarians to meet

The Michigan State Association of Parliamentarians will sponsor a parliamentary procedure workshop on April 26 for people interested in learning more about or refining their parliamentary skills.

The workshop, "Take a Trip on the Motions Express," will be held from 1-4 p.m. in the Holiday Inn Livonia West at I-275 and Six Mile Road. Special emphasis will be placed on ways to alter or revisit a motion.

Speakers and topics include Josephine Horn, first vice president of Michigan State

Association of Parliamentarians, "Change Your Itinerary"; Marjorie Weber, National Association of Parliamentarians District Four director, "Revise Your Actions"; and Nola Pursiful, NAP third vice president.

The workshop fee is \$20 for adults or \$10 for high school or college students. Make checks payable to the 1998 MSAP Convention - Dorothy Haslett, and mail to: Virginia E. Place, 35300 Woodward Avenue, No. 306, Birmingham, MI 48009.

# Delays from page A9

as quickly as possible."

## Road work begins

Lane closures began Friday night as southbound I-275 received some preliminary repairs between Five Mile Road and Ann Arbor Road to prepare for resurfacing this summer. North and southbound I-275 between Northline and Five Mile - or just south of I-94 to just north of the I-96/M-14 interchange - will be resurfaced over the next five to eight months, depending on the weather.

Traffic in that area was narrowed down to one lane at times last weekend, but at least two lanes were open to traffic by Monday's rush hour.

"These closures will impact traffic traveling through the I-275, M-14/I-96 interchange," said John Sanford, engineer with Michigan Department of Transportation. "We are doing everything we can to minimize this impact, but fixing roads that carry high traffic will undoubtedly cause some inconvenience." The actual paving work must be completed when the night-time temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees.

Some of the construction work will be completed on off-peak hours on weekends.

During the northbound resurfacing project, contractors will be closing two lanes, one that will be paved and the other for maneuvering the contractor's equipment and trucks and provide workers' safety. That work is slated to start April 20 or April 27.

Motorists should use caution through these construction areas.

"It's really important for people to slow down," Pannecouk said. "Number one, we have construction workers out there ... and number two, accidents are more often between vehicles in work zones."

"The construction and lane closures mean your ability to judge distance and width is reduced. (Slowing down) is really impor-

tant, not only for the workers, but for yourself and other motorists."

Updates on the construction progress can be accessed through radio traffic reports and the MDOT 24-hour construction hotline at 1-800-641-MDOT. A meeting will be scheduled in one of the affected communities in June to update residents, Pannecouk said.

## Holiday crunch

Anyone traveling to the airport should listen to the radio for traffic updates and determine where the delays are, said Mike Conway, spokesman for Wayne County Detroit Metro Airport. If they are advised of traffic backups, possible alternate routes in western Wayne and southwest Oakland County suburbs include Merriman and Middlebelt roads, which can

take motorists directly to Metro Airport.

Air travelers not only should account for road construction, but for the heavier holiday air traffic in and out of Detroit Metro. Conway said the schedule of chartered international flights on Friday, Saturday and Sunday is "very busy."

"Easter tends to be a holiday where people fly, and on Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays, they tend to drive," Conway said Monday.

"Easter is a heavy holiday travel period. The airlines have sales on air fares and the economy is good. We're already busy."

Travelers should plan to arrive at the airport early, Conway said.

"Give yourself plenty of extra

time. For domestic flights, they ought to allow two hours (to arrive before departure), and at least three hours for international flights."

Travelers who wish to obtain a parking update can call the airport's parking hotline at 1-800-642-1978. Long-term parking is available in the green and yellow lots at \$6 a day, or \$36 a week, where motorists can park for six days and receive the seventh for free. Those rates also apply to the red and blue overflow lots.

## Detour reinstated

Northbound I-275 will be closed from July 6 through October between Newberg Road in Monroe County and Northline


Road in Wayne County, so motorists must take the same detour they drove last year.

Southbound traffic will continue to have access to southbound I-275. During the spring, crossovers will be built for the southbound traffic. Northbound lanes will be used by the southbound motorists because southbound lanes will be resurfaced this spring and summer.

Northbound motorists will be detoured because those lanes will be used for "crossover" traffic by southbound motorists.

"We're not doing the actual crossover traffic until July 6," Pannecouk said. This construction project is expected to last three months.

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**TEDD SCHNEIDER**

## Flora's more than haircut 9 times a year

Will I go to Hartland just to get my hair cut?

This 60-mile round-trip has been on my mind for the last couple of years, ever since Flora announced she hoped to find work closer to her family's new home in Livingston County. Every six or seven weeks it inches closer to reality. The home was finished last fall, Flora is all moved in, but so far (thank goodness), she hasn't been looking for a job in her new neighborhood.

Flora is Flora (Gomez) Sparks — and she's been cutting my hair for about 17 years, even before it started getting thin on top, in back.

In fact, I trusted my hair to Flora before I was ready to commit to a lot of other things. Like marriage or having a family, owning a home or even reliable transportation.

It goes beyond the fact that she knows her craft. Certainly, I like that she never really teased me about the black blotch (birthmark) on the side of my brown-haired head. Well, not much after the first visit, anyways, when she made sure every stylist in the shop had a chance to move in for a close look.

### Regular customer

What made me one of Flora's "regulars," I think, was the easygoing conversations we enjoyed while she snipped and clipped her way around my scalp. Ten or 15 minutes out of my day — and hers — where what really mattered was the movie you just saw or the vacation you were planning. This serious stuff of careers and relationships, that could wait until later, when a new haircut would allow a fresh perspective.



**Milestones:** Flora Sparks has shared haircuts and life's special moments with the Schneiders.

Then too, Flora and I have always been around the same place in our lives. Our relationship has been through her marriage to Kline and mine to Lori. She bought a home in Livonia around the same time we were looking in Farmington Hills. Her two children — Colleen, 9, and Logan, 6 — preceded my 4-year-old by a few years, so at least I knew what to expect.

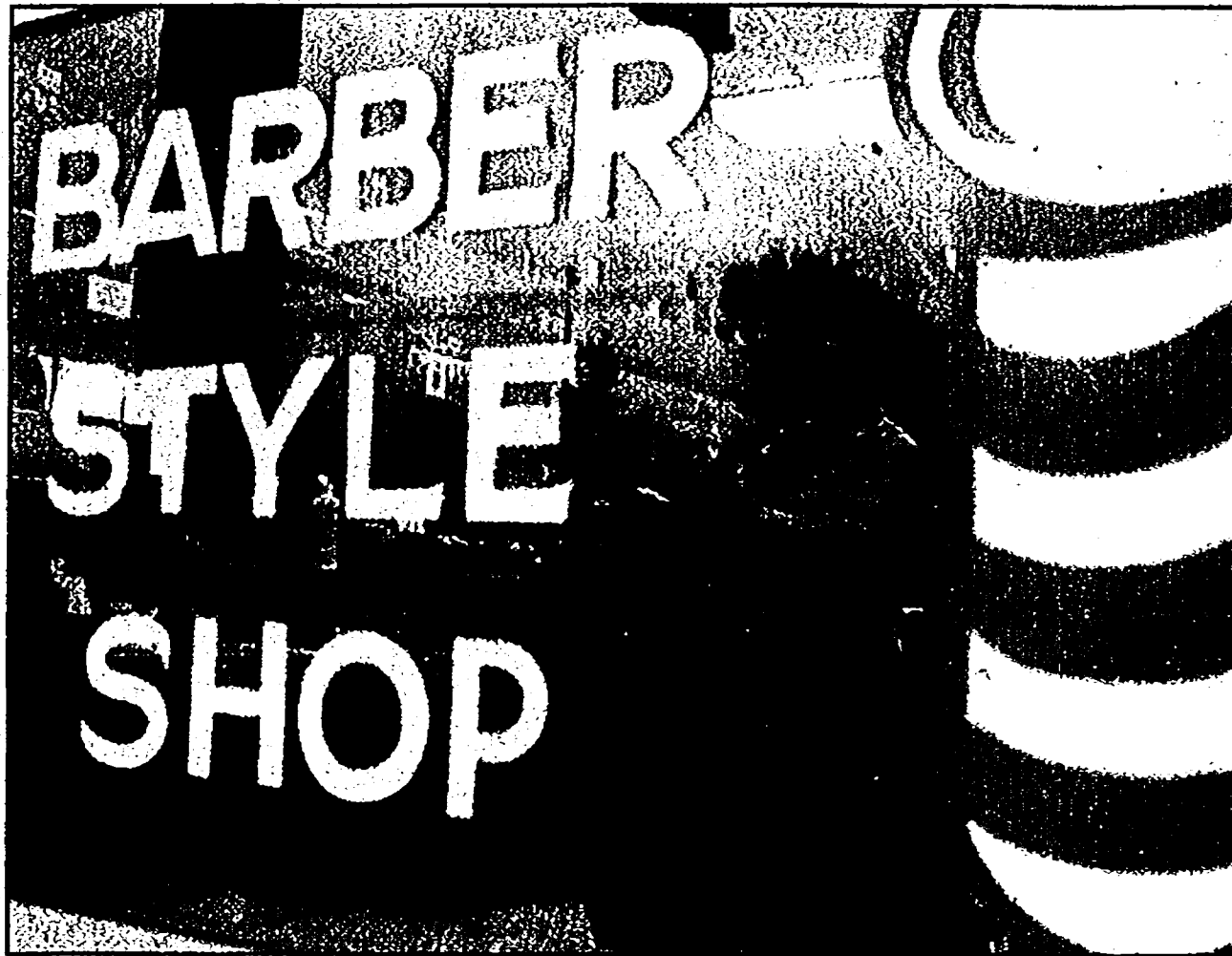
Through the years, we've exchanged baby gifts, holiday presents and dog stories — her 8-year-old cocker spaniel vs. our 7-year-old golden retriever.

Flora is modest, another quality in short supply these days. It wasn't until I called to ask her about this column that she mentioned she cut Tim Allen's hair once or twice — before the "Home Improvement" star made it big in TV or movies. "He was doing standup and Midas (muffler shop) commercials," she said. All these years sitting in her chair and I never had a clue my hair stylist also coiffed the soon-to-be rich and famous.

### Something comforting

Although not really friends in the truest sense, Flora and I nonetheless have something tangible and

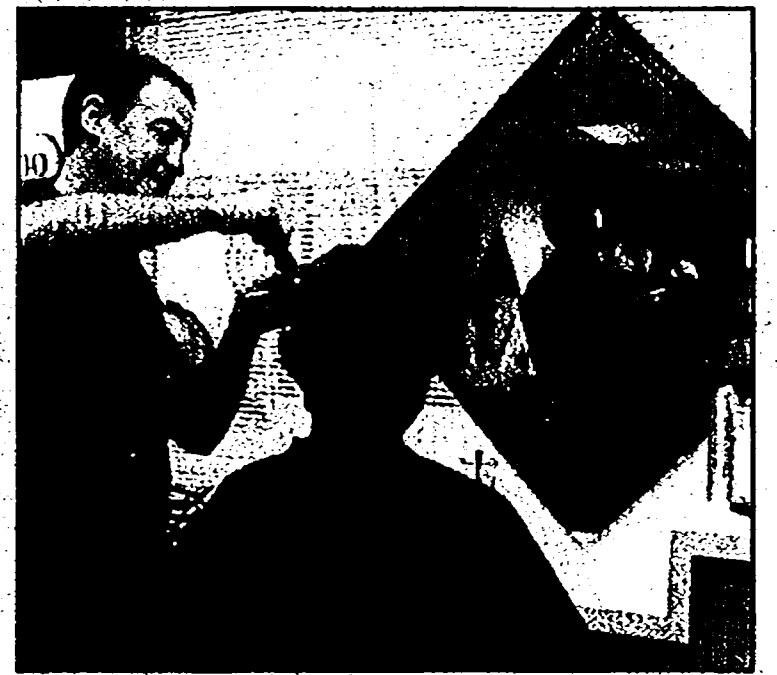
Please see **FLORA, B2**



**Clip, clip:** (Above) The barber pole is on the window on Naimola's Barber and Style Shop on Plymouth Road in Livonia, started by Mike Naimola's father in 1957. (Photo at right) Nancy Austin of Canton has been a regular of Bill Coatta at Coatta's Unisex Salon in Livonia for 30 years.



**Loyal customer:** Al Tanski has been getting his haircut at Naimola's since he was 3 years old.



# HAIRSTYLISTS

A CUT ABOVE THE REST

A good hairstylist, it seems, is more than a talented pair of hands. He or she is a confidant(e), a sharer of good news and bad, is tolerant of clients' petty complaints, ignores their irritating habits and can boost their fragile egos to bouffant heights.

In turn, customers are forgiving of the occasional slip of the scissors, anemic perm or off-the-chart color that threatens to stretch a bad hair day into a month.

Indeed, clients are willing to follow their favorite stylists from salon to salon, city to city, pledging their undying loyalty along the way.

Nancy Austin of Canton has followed her stylist, Bill Coatta, owner of Coatta's Unisex Salon in Livonia, for 30 years. She said she'll become a "lost soul" when he retires.

"We know each other so well now, that our lives have become intertwined," she said. "We know about family weddings, funerals, births, joys, tragedies and everything else life deals us."

It's more than a great haircut — "Every hair is measured during the cut" — that keeps Austin coming back.

"That shop is so comfortable; that's where I go and hide for three hours once a month."

Every Wednesday for the last 19 years, Marty Wise of Livonia has placed herself in the capable hands of Diane Timmerman, owner of The Tangerine Room of Beauty in Livonia.

"She's just a wonderful person. I call her my miracle worker because I feel so good when I come out," said Wise.

Timmerman appreciates Wise's devotion.

"Marty is a very sweet person. She walks



**Drying out:** Arlene Turner of Canton has been a customer at Diane Timmerman's Tangerine Room of Beauty in Livonia for 14 years.

here every week, no matter what the weather."

Wise said her hair is a bit thin and Timmerman always makes sure everything is covered "just perfectly." Wise also appreciates Timmerman's knack for suggesting rather than pushing new products, like the

Please see **HAIRSTYLISTS, B2**

## Hair-praising tales

There are plenty of "hair-raising" stories out there, stylists who won't listen and customers who won't follow advice. Our readers got right to the "root" of what makes the ideal customer and hairstylist.

### Customer from heaven:

"An ideal customer is a person who lets you style their hair to suit their face and their occupation. When you get a person like that you enjoy your job, you create."

— Joannie "I'm stylin' today" Khoury Steiger • Joannie's Hair Salon, Livonia

"One who is very social. I like to have someone talking all the time. Someone not stuck in a rut. If someone's open to change, you have a much better relationship. And, of course, loyalty."

— Christine Campbell • Rumorz Hair Salon, Westland

"Probably a satisfied customer. A customer who likes change. A customer who's dependable. We like loyalty, but we can't demand it."

— Cheryl Bias • C J's Hair Stop, Canton

"A customer who keeps an open mind. Talkative. One who's not afraid to tell us what they like. That's how we learn. One who treats us like family because that's what we're like here."

— Sue Berger • Reflections, Garden City

"Someone who's funny. Someone who's cooperative and ready to change, not afraid to dive in."

— Dennis Schuster • Headstart, Plymouth

### Stylist from heaven:

"I want them to do exactly what I want. Also, I want them to remember what they did with my hair the last time."

— Karin Keim • Canton

"When you walk out feeling happy because you had come in. When he or she doesn't deviate from you're own personal image of yourself. When your hair doesn't turn orange."

— Maria Kosonski-Chestney • Plymouth

"Listening to what the client wants rather than just hearing."

— Debra Fitzgibbon • Garden City

"Someone who gives a good haircut. I don't mind the chit-chat, but I can live without it. I will talk, but I'd just as soon sit there, get my hair cut and go."

— Bill Casper • Redford

"Somebody willing to give you ideas, but listen to what you want. My hairdresser and I work together. I'll come up with an idea, but she'll say, 'No, it won't work. We'll do this.'"

— Karen Schiffman • Livonia

# Re-enactors bring authenticity to 'Lincoln'

**Extra special:** Waiting to be summoned for filming of scenes in a replica of Ford Theater for "The Day Lincoln Was Shot" were "living history background artists" Becky Turza (left) and her mother, Beth, of Canton.



Beth Turza tripped the light fantastic with Hollywood director Ron Maxwell Saturday night. Amid period music, period desserts and period clothing, she savored the chance to contra dance with the director of highly acclaimed film, "Gettysburg."

"I feel he was there scouting," said the Canton resident. "He talked in-depth about his new film, 'Gods and Generals.' The rumor mill has it that he's approached some of the stars from 'Gettysburg' to revive their roles."

The dancing was part of a special movie premiere at the Antietam National Battlefield Park Visitor Center in Sharpsburg, Md. Turza was among a group of more than 100 "backgrounders" treated to a screening of the TNT Original film "The Day Lincoln Was Shot," which premieres Sunday, April 12, on TNT.

Turza and her daughter Becky, Lynn Callil of Royal Oak, Glenna Rost Christey of Warren, Jackie Wakeling of Taylor and Elizabeth Potos of Dearborn Heights were among 35 re-enactors hired by Pat James, in charge of the film's living history casting, to work as extras for the production.

James negotiated re-enactor fee for the production and was allotted 135 slots for re-enactors

during the filming. Turza and her daughter were hired for seven days of filming in Richmond and Petersburg, Va., while the rest of the group worked for four days in Richmond.

"Pat wanted to make a difference; she talked to the director about paying a decent fee to get quality people," said Turza. "Background people or extras are furnishings in a movie, so Pat wanted to make sure the furnishings fit in with the period."

Based on the Jim Bishop's best-selling book of the same name, "The Day Lincoln Was Shot" chronicles the days and hour leading up to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln from the perspective of the president and his murderer, John Wilkes Booth.

The facade of the White House was created at the Millenium Studios in Virginia, while the interior of Ford Theater was created inside a theater in Richmond. The outdoor scenes were filmed on a street in a warehouse district in Petersburg that still has some of its original cobblestone.

"The Day Lincoln Was Shot" is the first film work for Turza and her daughter. She has been a

Please see **RE-ENACTORS, B3**

# Re-enactors from page B1



Places, please: Jay Guerra (left), the second second assistant director, positions the backgrounders, including Becky Turza and Andrew Brenner, for a shot of the crowd waiting outside the house where Lincoln died.

## Flora from page B1

comforting. We are tied to life's challenges by those eight or nine visits each year. The bond is firm enough that I have followed her all over the western suburbs - from Southfield, to Livonia (two stores) to Novi - since that day in 1981 when I walked in to Super Clips (now BoRics) for a trim.

Now Lori and our daughter, Sarah, often come in with me. So Flora cuts our hair and is by extension almost part of our family.

Flora doesn't know this. But I used to love hearing about the

endless construction delays on her new house. Oh, I would commiserate with her when I went in for my haircut. Secretly though, I walked out knowing there would be at least one or two more visits before decision time.

You know, maybe Hartland isn't so far after all. My car gets good mileage, I can always free up some time on a Saturday ...

Tedd Schneider is the community editor of the Canton Observer. He likes his hair cut short, but not too short.

re-enactor for 22 years and Becky got her first taste of it at Gettysburg in 1981 when her mother was seven months pregnant.

Their backgrounder work follows in the footsteps of husband Jim whose movie credits include "Gettysburg," "Glory" and "Antie-tam," an independent film currently in production. He made his "acting debut" in the television mini series, "North and South Book II."

A budding thespian, Becky just finished a stint as Franchie in Plymouth Salem High School's production of "Grease" before taking on assistant stage manager and costumer for the Wyandotte Community Theater's production of "Camelot."

The family's penchant for acting started with the troupe and with daughter Jessica, a student at Michigan State University, who appeared in its production of "Ann of Green Gables" and in "Crazy for You" with Becky.

Told in advance what the director was looking for, Turza packed six period outfits for the filming. Her choice of a brown silk dress with a gathered bonnet landed her a seat in the front row for filming inside the theater. Becky, who wore a dark mauve silk dress with a black jacket and gathered bonnet was seated four rows back.

"The director was so pleased with the quality of the re-enactors, that they were seated in the front rows of the theater before the extras they had hired," Turza said. "As re-enactors, we're not as highly paid as professional actors, but we come with our own wardrobe of period clothing. And we policed each other so we portrayed the period authentically."



PHOTO BY DOUG HYUN

Something noble? Titus Welliver (left) and Jaimz Woolvett (right) join Rob Morrow as conspirators in the plot to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

## Waiting around

There was a lot of waiting involved in the filming and the backgrounders marked time in a banquet room where one day piano playing led to dancing and complaints about their bouncing around by the "hair Nazis."

Some days started at 6 a.m. and on one occasion ran until 1 a.m. And on the fourth day, much of the time was spent in the theater as the assassination scene was shot "over and over again" before the stunt was set up for Booth's jump onto the stage.

The film stars Lance Henriksen as Lincoln, Donna Murphy as Mary Todd Lincoln and Rob Morrow as Booth. After seeing the film, Turza praised the performances of Henriksen, Murphy and Doug O'Leary who played Doctor Leale, the physician who

cared for Lincoln at the theater and accompanied him to the house across the street from the theater.

"We called him Doctor Dougie; he was really friendly, a personable, nice guy," Turza said. "We didn't realize he had such a big role until we saw the film."

Her photo album includes snapshots of the work on the TNT film. There's a photograph of John Wilkes Booth (Morrow) talking on his cell phone - "I thought it was amusing." - Becky with her movie partner Andrew Brenner, a re-enactor from Stanley, Va., and Turza check-to-check with director John Gray.

"I had a camera hidden under my shawl in the theater and on the third day I got brave enough to take some pictures during the down time," Turza said. "The

director walked by and asked who had the camera and I figured I was in trouble. He took it, sat down beside me and held it out to take a picture of us."

Turza is already talking about future roles. She'd like a spot re-enacting in Maxwell's "Gods and Generals," while Becky would like to step up to a speaking role.

And she gladly adds a few tips for watching the film. Number one, there is a gratuitous sex scene, and ...

"You can pick out Becky in the open air scenes because of her yellow bonnet, and my bonnet stands out in the theater scene."

"The Day Lincoln Was Shot" will air at 8 p.m. April 12, on TNT, with encore presentations at 10 p.m. April 12, midnight April 13, 11 p.m. April 14, 5 p.m. April 18, 1 p.m. April 19, 10 p.m. April 21 and 6:30 p.m. April 26.

# Hairstylists from page B1

shampoo Wise recently started using to promote hair growth.

"It's done wonders," she said.

## 'Not just a service'

When Tracey Darabon of Canton wanted a new look after her son was born five months ago, she made an appointment with Christine Campbell, owner of Rumor Hair Salon in Westland. Campbell, who's been Darabon's stylist for five years, chopped off Darabon's long, blonde tresses.

"I love it," said Darabon. So does her husband, who first covered his eyes when Darabon came home with her new do.

Darabon just plain likes Campbell: "I like her as a person. She talks and I talk. I feel she's not just giving me a service. We've become friends. She's warm and friendly. You tell her things you wouldn't tell other people."

Mary Ann Snodgrass of Garden City most likely sets the record of remaining faithful to a hair stylist, 37 years.

"I followed her from beauty school to a shop to her home when she had children to another shop, which she now owns," Snodgrass said of Janine Wood, owner of Charles & Co. Hair Design in Dearborn Heights.

"She is very knowledgeable. She's a stylist to whom you can say do something different. I've always been pleased."

Only once was Snodgrass forced to go to another stylist.



Curls, please: Diane Timmerman, owner of the Tangerine Room of Beauty, rolls perm rods into the hair of long-time customer Arlene Turner of Canton.

**NOTICE OF HEARING  
CITY OF WESTLAND  
COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPROVAL OF  
AMENDMENTS TO THE TAX INCREMENT  
FINANCING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
OF THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY  
OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF WESTLAND:

TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, will hold a public hearing on the 4th day of May, 1998 at 7:00 o'clock p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in the City Hall located at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, to consider the adoption of a resolution approving amendments to the existing Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan of the Tax Increment Finance Authority of the City of Westland pursuant to Act 450, Public Acts of Michigan, 1980, as amended.

**DEVELOPMENT AREA BOUNDARIES**

The boundaries of the development area (Development Area No. 1) in the City which is the subject of the Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan including the proposed amendments thereto, are generally described as follows:

Land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan generally described as beginning at Newburgh Road, an area south of the William P. Holliday Parkway, and includes the parcels adjacent to Newburgh Road from Warren Road to Ford, then east along Ford Road to the east side of Carlson Avenue, then north along the eastern boundary of the parcels adjacent to Carlson Avenue to Elmwood Avenue, then east to Yale Avenue, then north along Yale Avenue to Warren Road, then east along Warren Road including the parcels on the south side of the street to the Warren/Wayne Road intersection, then east along Warren Road to include the Westland Crossing Mall, then north and west to Wayne Road, then north along Wayne Road to a point 340 feet north of Nankin Boulevard, then west to the southern boundary of the William P. Holliday Parkway, then west along the southern boundary of the William P. Holliday Parkway to Newburgh Road, the point of beginning.

No persons will be displaced as a result of the improvements contemplated in the proposed amendments to the Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan.

Maps, plats, and the Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan, including the proposed amendments thereto, will be available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk of the City of Westland and at the City's Department of Economic Development, 37095 Marquette, Westland, Michigan during regular business hours.

All aspects of the proposed amendments to the Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan relating to the development area described above will be open for discussion at the public hearing.

Persons requiring reasonable accommodation to disabilities in order that the hearing be accessible to them are requested to notify the City Clerk no later than five (5) business days prior to the date of the hearing of such disability.

This notice is given by order of the City Council of the City of Westland, Michigan.

DIANE J. FRITZ, City Clerk

175012

**CANTON TOWNSHIP  
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley  
ADA Coordinator  
Charter Township of Canton  
1150 S. Canton Center Road  
Canton, MI 48188  
(734) 397-5435

175012

**CITY OF WESTLAND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On Tuesday, April 14, 1998, the Westland Police Dept. will conduct Public Auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 AM at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
'88	PONTIAC	2 DR GRAND AM	BLACK	1G2NE27U7GC608168
'89	BUICK	2 DR REGAL	RED	2G4WB14TKK1444289
'93	CHEVROLET	2 DR CAVALIER	BLUE	1G1JC1446P7138229
'78	PONTIAC	2 DR FIREBIRD	GRAY	2W8728N189881
'81	BUICK	4 DR SKYLARK	GOLD	1G4AC9599B104253

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

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

175012

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the City Clerk, in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135 (Telephone: 734-525-8814) on or before APRIL 22, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. for the following item(s):

**PUMP EQUIPMENT  
SWIMMING POOL PAINT AND THINNER  
POOL CAULK**

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

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

ALLYSON M. BETTIS  
City Clerk-Treasurer

175012







**NEW VOICES**

**Michael Marant and Mistie Young of Redford** announce the birth of **Raven Ashli Young** Dec. 26 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Steve Marusso, Tanya Young and Cindy Marant. **Christopher and Mary Kay DeBrito** of Canton announce the birth of **Marianne Christine** Jan. 28 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She joins a sister, **Renae Marie**, 18 months. Grandparents are Mary and Syl Noetzel of Canton and Marifa and Joe DeBrito of Monroe. Great-grandparents are Sylvester A. Noetzel of Livonia. **Kevin and Amy Radtke** of Dearborn Heights announce the birth of **Marissa Marie** Dec. 30 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She joins a sister,

**Jenna Lynn**, 19 months. Grandparents are Steve and Nanette Fulayter of Allen Park and Ann and John Radtke of Garden City. **Dan and Nancy Schaffer** of Livonia announce the birth of **Bryan Daniel** Nov. 8 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He joins a brother, **Kevin Matthew**, 3, and a sister, **Nicole Lynne**, 22 months. Grandparents are Ed and Pauline Praizner and Dan and Joyce Schaffer, all of Livonia. **Eric and Renee Selix** of Westland announce the birth of **Patrick Todd** Jan. 4 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Patrick and Joan Naughton and Beverly Selix, all of Westland. **Joel and Lori Dean** of Taylor announce the birth of **Jessup**

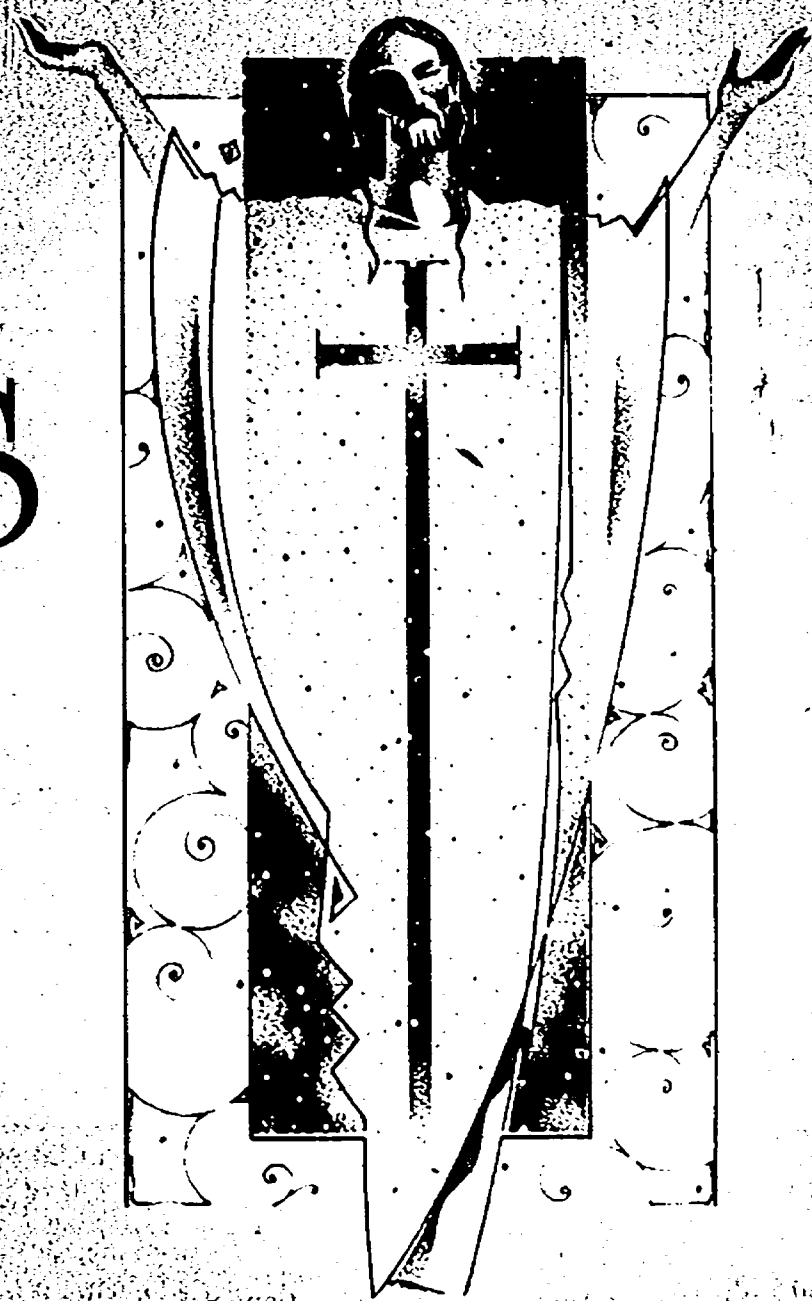
**Aaron** Feb. 19 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. He joins a sister, **Alicia Marie**. Grandparents are Ronald and Grace Dean and Henry and Janet LaGrow, all of Westland. **Andy and Marla King** of Garden City announce the birth of **Cooper Blake** Jan. 5 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Pat Evans, Jim King and Louise King, all of Garden City. **Joel Minzey and Brenda Reed** of Romulus announce the birth of **Paigen Genae Earhart** Feb. 14 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Donald and JoAnn Earhart of Romulus and John and Genae Glover of Livonia. **Richard Barton Jr.** and

**Roseanna Dobbins** of Westland announce the birth of **Jeremy Edward Barton** Jan. 7 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins a brother, **Anthony Dobbins**, 3, and a sister, **Kayla Barton**, 1. Grandparents are Phillip Dobbins Sr. and Richard Barton, both of Westland. **Robert and Debra McClain** of Westland announce the birth of **Sandra Jeanne** Feb. 24 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She joins two brothers, **Sean** and **David**. Grandparents are Sandra Pineau of Royal Oak and Bob and Phyllis McClain of Sylvania, Ohio. **Dan Allen and Therese Ann Harris** of Taylor announce the birth of **Andrea Therese** Jan. 7

at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She joins a sister, **Amanda Marie**, 6, and a brother, **Dan William**, 3. Grandparents are William and Charlotte Sheffer of Garden City and David and Diane Harris of Webster Springs, W.Va. **Ricky and Dana Allison** of Belleville announce the birth of **Ricky Gene** Jan. 1 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. He joins a sister, **Deanna Raquel**. Grandparents are Dennis and Nancy Allison of Garden City and Carolina Miller of Southgate. **Gouthy and Lori Wagner** of Canton announce the birth of **Kayle Nicole** Jan. 10 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She joins a brother, **Ryan**, 7. Grandparents are Les

Klein of Canton, Nancy Klein of Dearborn Heights and Renee Wagner. **Christopher Bouton and Michelle Hunt** of Garden City announce the birth of **Brandon Howard** March 1 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Howard and Vivienne Hunt and Eric and Brenda Bouton, all of Garden City. **Mark and Joy Dickinson** of Garden City announce the birth of **Eric Kyle** March 18 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. He joins a sister, **Angela Faith**. Grandparents are George and Wanda McIntosh of Canton, Bernie and Sandy Luther of Plymouth and Bob and Carol Dickinson of Allen Park.

**Has Risen**



**ST MATTHEW LUTHERN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
5885 VENOY RD. • WESTLAND, MI 48185 • 734-425-0260  
**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**  
MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 9 - 7:00p.m. with Holy Communion  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES, April 10 - 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Vigil beginning Friday Evening after the Good Friday Service at 8:00 p.m. and ending on Sunday, April 12 at 6:30 a.m.  
**Easter Sunday Services**  
6:30 a.m. - SUNRISE SERVICE • 7:30 a.m. - EASTER BREAKFAST  
9:00 a.m. - FAMILY SERVICE • 11:00 a.m. - FESTIVAL SERVICE

**CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
9300 Farmington Road, Livonia MI  
Rev. Richard Martzolf, Pastor  
**Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion**  
8:15 & 11:00 a.m.

**PEACE EV LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
9415 Merriman Rd., Livonia, MI • (734) 422-6930  
**Maudy Thursday Service**  
April 9 - 7:00 p.m.  
**Good Friday Service**  
April 10 - 1:30 p.m.  
**Easter Sunday**  
April 13 - 7:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Join us Holy Week at **Faith Lutheran Church**  
30000 Five Mile Rd. (1/4 mile west of Middlebelt) Livonia 734-421-7249  
April 5th: Palm Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 worship  
April 9th: Maudy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Service  
April 10th: Good Friday 12 noon Service 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae  
April 11th: Easter Vigil 8:00 p.m. Service  
April 12th: Easter Celebration 8:00 & 11:00 Service 9:30 Breakfast

Maudy Thursday worship 10:00 am & 7:30 pm  
Good Friday afternoon worship 1:00 pm  
Good Friday tenebrae (darkness) 8:15 & 10:45 7:30 pm  
Easter Services 7:00 am & 10:00 am  
Easter Breakfast 8:00 pm  
Our Easter Service will be broadcast on WLQV 1500 AM from 10:30-11:00 am

**Lola Park Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)**  
14750 Kinloch Redford MI 313) 532-8659  
Pastor Gregory Gibbons (313) 261-5422

**Risen Christ LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
46250 Ann Arbor, Plymouth, MI 313-453-5252  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**.....7:30 p.m.  
**GOOD FRIDAY**.....7:30 p.m.  
**EASTER SUNDAY**.....7:30 p.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Message: "Celebration on the Way"  
**EASTER BREAKFAST** will be served from 8:30-10:30 a.m. All most welcome!

**ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
16360 Hubbard Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154 • 734-421-8451  
The Rev. Robert A. Clapp The Rev. Willet J. Herrington The Rev. Alan W. Brundjmhil  
**Maudy Thursday**  
April 9 7:30 p.m.  
Foot Washing, Eucharist, Stripping of Altar  
**Good Friday**  
April 10 Noon & 7:30 p.m.  
Good Friday Liturgy  
**Easter Eve**  
April 11 7:30 p.m.  
Easter Vigil, Baptism  
First Eucharist of Easter  
**Easter Sunday**  
April 12 7:45 & 10 a.m.  
Flowering of Cross, Eucharist  
Easter Egg Hunt for Children at 9 a.m.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
9083 Newburgh, Livonia 734-591-0211  
The Rev. Emery F. Gravelle, Vicar  
**HUBBARD THURSDAY - 6:30 p.m.** Agape Meal & Holy Eucharist  
**GOOD FRIDAY - 12:15 & 7:30 p.m.** Prayer Book Liturgy  
**HOLY SATURDAY - 7:30 p.m.** The Great Vigil.  
Holy Baptism, Holy Eucharist  
**EASTER DAY - 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.** Holy Eucharist  
& A Barrier Free Facility for the Handicapped

*Come! Join us for a Resurrection Celebration!*  
at the **FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH**  
Come: Where Love Abounds, Where God is Ever Present!  
When: Easter Sunday - April 12, 1998 at 11:00 a.m.  
Where: 291 E. Spring, N. of Plymouth/Main, E. of Mill/Lakes across from Starbuck/School  
*Come! Worship and Celebrate Our Risen Lord with Pastor Frank Howard*  
*Come Expecting...* **734-453-0323**

**First United Methodist Church of Plymouth**  
1700 N. Ford Road, Plymouth, MI 48178  
(313) 453-5280  
**You're Welcome At All Of Our Holy Week Activities:**  
April 9 Maudy Thursday Communion Service 7:30 p.m.  
April 10 Good Friday Worship Service 12:30 till 2:00 p.m.  
(Shared With First Baptist Church)  
April 12 Easter Sunrise Service 7:15 a.m.  
Easter Worship 8:00 a.m.  
Easter Breakfast Service 9:00 a.m.  
Easter Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
(Childcare available at all services)

**RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
48755 Warren Rd., Canton, MI 48187  
734-451-0444  
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK: 9:00 a.m. Mass  
HOLY THURSDAY: April 9th, 7:30 Mass - Adoration until Midnight following Liturgy  
GOOD FRIDAY: April 10th Noon - Seven Words of Christ, 12:45 p.m. Rosary, 1:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross, 1:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion  
HOLY SATURDAY: 1:00 p.m. Food Blessing, 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil  
EASTER SUNDAY: 8:30 a.m. Mass & 10:30 a.m. Mass - Church & 10:30 Mass All Saints School (Blessing of Easter Food after all Masses)

**WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church**  
Come and join us as we celebrate Holy Week at our new location in Northville  
40000 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan (248) 374-7400  
Dr. James N. McGuire, Senior Pastor  
April 8-12  
Palm Sunday Services 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 a.m.  
Message by Dr. James N. McGuire 7:00 p.m. - "An Easter Worship Concert"  
Maudy Thursday 7:30 p.m. - Service of Shadows  
Good Friday 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. The Ore Services "Faces Around the Cross"  
Easter Services 7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service in the Chapel 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 a.m. Message "If A Man Dies, Will He Live Again?" by Dr. James N. McGuire 7:00 p.m. Concert of Prayer in the Chapel

**ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**SOCIETY OF ST. PIUS X - TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS**  
23310 Joy Road, Redford, MI 48239 313-534-2121  
**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**  
4/9 Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. - Solemn Evening Mass - Followed by the procession to Altar of Repose - The Stripping of the Main Altar - And Adoration at the Altar of Repose until midnight.  
4/10 Good Friday: Confessions 11:00 a.m. / 12:40 p.m. & 3:00 / 5:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. - Solemn Afternoon Liturgy, with the Latin Chant of the Passion of Christ and Solemn Adoration of the Cross.  
4/11 Holy Saturday: 8:00 / 9:45 p.m. - Confessions 10:00 p.m. - Paschal Vigil and High Mass of The Resurrection at Midnight  
4/12 Easter Sunday: 8:30 a.m. / 9:25 a.m. Confessions 9:30 a.m. - Mass of The Resurrection

**Join us for Easter dinner.**  
Celebrate Easter with us. There's no better time to experience the joy of communion with Jesus Christ. And, of course, no reservations are necessary.

**New Life Lutheran Church**















WEEK AHEAD

LIVONIA WESTLAND SPORTS GARD... LUTHERAN WESTLAND QUAD... WYANDOTTE ROOSEVELT 88...

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TRACK RESULTS

LUTHERAN WESTLAND QUAD April 7 at Lutheran Westland... TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Lutheran Westland, 149; 2. (tie) Plymouth Christian Academy...

Lutheran Westland's dual meet record: 6-0 overall. LIVONIA LADYWOOD 84 FARMINGTON HILLS MERCY 44 April 7 at Mercy...

LIVONIA STEVENSON 108 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 29 April 6 at Stevenson... Shot put: Danielle Wensing (LF), 33 feet; discus: Emily Yambasky (LS), 105-8...

Clarenceville girls win short course relay title

The Clarenceville Swim Club recently finished its short course season with a first place relay finish for Girls 10-and-under at the state championship held March 6-8 in Rockford...

BOYS TENNIS

NORTH FARMINGTON 8 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 0 April 6 at John Glenn... No. 1 singles: Brad Jaffe (NF) defeated Danny Kovacs, 6-0, 6-0...

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS TRACK RESULTS

LUTHERAN WESTLAND QUAD April 7 at Lutheran Westland... TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Lutheran Westland, 145; 2. Plymouth Christian Academy, 48; 3. Dearborn St. Alphonsus, 24; 4. Harper Woods, 13...

Hubert (RCC), 4:41.2; 3,200: Matt Shannon (RCC), 10:12.0; 400 relay: Redford CC (Woehlike, Derek Anderson, Slankster, Gary Starasinch), 48.0; 800 relay: Redford CC (Woehlike, Starasinch, Cessante, Slankster), 1:39.4; 1,600 relay: Redford CC (Cessante, Barrick, Brigee, Jason Abrazaldo), 3:58.0; 3,200 relay: Redford (Shannon, Hubert, Brigee, Brian Kuszyński), 8:47.0...

Wayne Memorial 81 April 7 at Wayne... High Jump: Taron Smith (WM), 5 feet, 6 inches; 100-meter dash: Terrance Thomas (WM), 11.4; 800 relay: Wayne (Joe Jinnett, David Bell, Jermaine Fletcher, Kwame Hampton), 1:38.0; 400: Jinnett (WM), 54.3; 1,600 relay: Wayne (Jinnett, Bell, Sean Bomar, Thomas), 3:50.0...

OTHER O'VILE FISHERS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS... Boys 15-and-over: Joe Bublitz — sixth, 100 backstroke (55.49); 10th, 200 backstroke (2:01.3); Keith Falk — sixth, 400 IM (4:14.4); seventh, 100 butterfly (no time available); Matt Kowalski — third, 400 individual medley (4:11.68); fourth, 200 IM (1:58.26); sixth, 200 freestyle (1:45.32); 500 freestyle (4:54.79); Ryan Meekins — fourth, 100 freestyle (48.23); 10th, 50 freestyle (22.39); 12th, 200 freestyle (1:47.23); Michael Porth — second, 200 freestyle (1:44.25); seventh, 100 backstroke (55.63); ninth, 200 IM (1:59.0); 400 IM (4:13.48); 11th, 100 freestyle (49.76)...

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 1998-1999 BUDGET

In compliance with "Act No. 43", State of Michigan Public Acts of 1963, and "Act No. 2", State of Michigan Public Acts of 1988 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 1998-99 college budget...

The property tax millage proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

JILL F. O'SULLIVAN Executive Director of Financial Services

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Ways and Means Committee of the Wayne County Commission will consider the continuation of the Wayne County Transit Authority and the SMART system. The hearing will be held on:

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1998 Hearing Room 402, 11:00 a.m. Wayne County Building 600 Randolph, Detroit, MI

Copies of the above item may be obtained or reviewed at the Commission Clerk's Office, 406 Wayne County Building, 600 Randolph, Detroit 48226. (313) 224-0903.

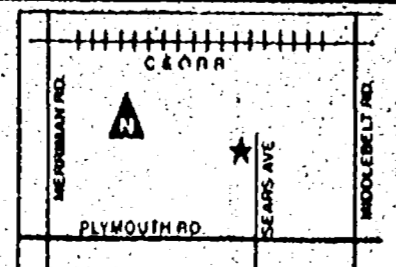
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## THE WEEKEND

### FRIDAY



Felix Unger (Jack Lemmon, left) gestures pointedly at Oscar Madison (Walter Matthau) in "The Odd Couple II" opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

### SATURDAY



Swing your partner: Mary Leiger of Westland (left) and Ross Berman of Farmington Hills (right) have been taking lessons and swing dancing at the 24-Karat Club, formerly the Mosquito Club, in Westland for six weeks. Swing has become the rage within the last two years.

Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre and Dance presents "Children Of A Lesser God," featuring Matt Hammond and Kimberly Lucius, 8 p.m., Varner Lab Theatre, on the campus in Rochester. Tickets \$10 with discounts for seniors and students, (248) 370-3013.

### SUNDAY



"Rent" musical drama by Jonathan Larson continues at the Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit. Performances 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$24-\$60, call (248) 645-6666.

## HOT TICKET



Hot Tix: Royal Hanneford Circus comes to the Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Thursday, April 9-Sunday, April 12. Performances 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 10, 10:30 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 11, and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, April 12. Tickets \$12 and \$8 reserved, \$5 general admission, call (248) 377-0100 or <http://www.palacenet.com>

# MUSIC FOR THE CATS SWINGERS INTO CLUBS

On an overcast afternoon, The Velvet Lounge in Pontiac is dark, empty and cool. Posters of the band Pulp, from "Brit Pop" night, sit on a bench and ripple like the ocean when the door is opened.

A mug with "hepcat" painted on it sits near the bar. Mirrors reflect the DJ booth from which music by Frank Sinatra, Royal Crown Revue and the Cherry Poppin' Daddies resonate.

The evenings aren't so quiet and peaceful. Twentysomething young men donning slick suits and fedoras spin, dip and toss their dates, many of whom are wearing USO-era dresses. Cigar smoke battles with swing music to fill the room. Dripping in sweat, dancers constantly fuss with their hair to keep the pompadours in place.

"On Friday nights that area over there is filled with regulars," Velvet Lounge owner Rob Potter said of the seated area closest to the dance floor. "They usually don't come on Saturday because they're here four nights a week," he added with a laugh.

Thanks in part to the indie film "Swingers," swing music has been the rage. The punk-dominated Warped Tour tapped into the trend by including Royal Crown Revue, Jim Carrey's back-up band in "The Mask," on its tour. This year, selected Midwest dates

include Detroit's Atomic Fireballs. This weekend, however, is probably the biggest for the swing scene with at least five scheduled shows. Big Bad Voodoo Daddy has two area appearances on Saturday at Borders in Ann Arbor and the Mill Street Entry in Pontiac.

The band, who appeared in the closing scenes of "Swingers" when star Jon Favreau dances with his new beau, is one act that is reaping the benefits of the trend. A fan of swing, Favreau "discovered" the band at The Derby in California.

"It's amazing the power that the movie actually has," said drummer and former Pontiac resident Kurt Sodergren. "Last night when we played in Washington, D.C., we played a 2,000-capacity venue and it sold out weeks in advance. That movie was a real break."

Katie Grand, a 17-year-old Canton resident who works at Repeat the Beat in Plymouth, said CDs by Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and the Mighty Blue Kings are easy sells to customers ages 19 and older.

Her sales skills are bolstered by the fact that she is a swing music fan who takes lessons at the 24-Karat Club in Westland.

"Have you ever swing danced? It's awesome. It's the happiest, funnest music. The funnest thing you can do is swing dance. You don't feel like you're in the '90s anymore."

Singer Ross Bon of the Chicago-based Mighty Blue

Kings said the popularity of swing has always lingered.

"I don't believe it ever went anywhere. There's just a new audience listening to it. As much as a trend comes, it goes out. I'm more concerned just about our own longevity," he explained.

The Mighty Blue Kings are a part of the diverse lineup of the "Kings of the Road Tour," which comes to the State Theatre in Detroit on Friday, April 10. The band is joined by the punkabilly act The Rev. Horton Heat and straight-up punkers Face to Face.

"We wanted to get out with these two bands so we could get to a new audience. We'd go out and play with Yanni if we had to. It's all about getting our music out to new people and letting people see what The Mighty Blue Kings are all about," said guitarist Gareth Best, whose band will record its debut for Sony Music's The Work Group this summer.

While the Mighty Blue Kings are trying to dodge the "swing" label, the Ann Arbor-based 11-piece Imperial Swing Orchestra saw the trend in early 1997 and went for it.

"The guitar player Chris Neal and a couple of his friends were talking about doing a band with a horn section. They were saying how swing is really popular on the west coast and how it was a trend right at the moment. They asked me if I wanted to

Please see SWINGS, E2

## UPCOMING SWING SHOWS

- The Mighty Blue Kings open for The Rev. Horton Heat and Face to Face at 7 p.m. Friday, April 10, at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. For more information about the all-ages show, call (313) 961-5451 or visit <http://www.961melt.com>.
- The Cherry Poppin' Daddies open for Los Fabulosos Cadillac on Friday, April 10, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets are \$15 in advance. Call (313) 961-MELT or visit <http://www.961melt.com> for more information.
- Big Bad Voodoo Daddy has two area appearances. It will perform a free show at Borders Books and Music, 612 E. Liberty St., in Ann Arbor during the afternoon of Saturday, April 11, and later that night at the Mill Street Entry below Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, in Pontiac. Tickets for the Mill Street show are \$5 in advance for the 21 and older show. Doors open at 9 p.m. Call (248) 333-2362 or visit <http://www.961melt.com> for more information about the Pontiac show. Borders' phone number is (734) 668-7553.



Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

- Imperial Swing Orchestra has several local shows. It will perform during the afterparty for the Detroit Music Awards, 9 p.m. Friday, April 24, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$10 in advance. (313) 961-5451. Other shows include: 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, May 9 and June 20, at the Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (734) 996-8555; 9 p.m. Saturday, May 23, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-P00L; and 9 p.m. Saturdays July 18 and Aug. 29, at the Mill Street Entry below Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron St., Pontiac, (248) 333-2362 or <http://www.961melt.com>.
- The Atomic Fireballs will celebrate the release of its debut CD with an all-ages show Saturday, May 23, at The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Call (313) 961-MELT or visit <http://www.961melt.com> for more information.
- The H-V-I Orchestra, who recently released the CD "In the Lounge," performs Thursdays at the Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans) in Detroit, (313) 257-2643, and Sundays at the Heidelberg, 215 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, (734) 663-7888.
- Royal Crown Revue, the band featured in the Jim Carrey movie "The Mask," is expected to return to the area in June.
- Phil Collins Big Band performs big band and swing versions of his and Genesis' hits on Monday, June 22, at Meadow Brook Music Festival, Oakland University, Walton Boulevard and Adams Road, Rochester. Ticket information soon. For more information, call (248) 377-0100.
- The Brian Setzer Orchestra will perform at the Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre, 10 Water St., Pontiac, on Saturday, July 11. Ticket information soon. For more information, visit <http://www.961melt.com>.

## SWING DANCE LESSONS/NIGHTS

- The Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, hosts "Swing-a-billy" nights with DJ Del Villareal on Sundays. Dance lessons are held 8-9 p.m. with dancing afterward. There is a \$3 cover charge before 9 p.m. and \$5 afterward. (734) 996-8555
- Beginner swing dance lessons are held from 8-10 p.m. Tuesdays, and intermediate and advanced lessons held from 8-10 p.m. Mondays at The Velvet Lounge, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Dancers can practice at swing nights Friday and Saturday. (248) 334-7411
- Swing and Latin dance is taught from 7:30-9:30 p.m. followed by an open dance 9:30 p.m. to close Wednesdays at Bacchi Abracci's upstairs bar and ballroom, 40 W. Pike St., (the former location of the Ultimate Sports Bar), Pontiac. (248) 263-1300
- DJ Sonny spins at JD's Entertainment Center's swing nights from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Wednesdays. Lessons are offered 8-10 p.m. at the club, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. The best dancing couple receives a \$100 prize. The bounty is increased to \$1,000 on Wednesday, April 29. Call (810) 465-5154 for more information.
- The 24 Karat Club, formerly the Mosquito Club, 28949 Joy Road (between Middlebelt and Inkster roads) in Westland, offers swing dance lessons 8-10 p.m. and dancing afterward on Wednesdays. It is free and open to those 21 and older. Call (734) 513-5030 for more information.
- Illusions Bar and Grill, in the former location of the Metro Musc Cafe, 326 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak, hosts salsa and swing night on Wednesdays. (248) 586-1313.

## COMEDY

# Stevenson class of 1971 clown still clowning around

Comedy is tough — "it's just you and your material, there's no back-up, no orchestra," said Bill Hildebrandt who will be at Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia April 9-11.

But Hildebrandt, who traded his briefcase for a mic 10 years ago, is having fun.

"I recently had a lawyer heckle me by shouting 'I make three times the money you do,' to which I replied, 'Sure but I only work four hours a week so who's the idiot?'"

After graduating from Livonia Stevenson High School in 1971, Hildebrandt, an admitted class clown, went to Eastern Michigan University where he majored in communications.

He really wanted to do something in radio or TV, but there weren't any jobs. A buddy told him about an auto supplier who was hiring, and when they learned he had a college degree he was bumped from the line to front office.

**What:** Comedian Bill Hildebrandt  
**When:** 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9; 9 p.m. Friday, April 10; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11.  
**Where:** Joey's Comedy Club, upstairs at Kickers All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 261-0555.  
**Tickets:** No charge Thursday; \$12 Friday and Saturday.  
**Also of interest:**  
 ■ Bill Hildebrandt hosts the Sunday amateur night. Local amateur comedians perform 8-9 p.m. followed by the Third Level Improv Troupe 9-10 p.m.  
 ■ Bill Hildebrandt's Comedy Boot Camp begins in May and meets for eight hours over two Saturdays. The cost is \$100 per person. Call Kickers (734) 261-5500 or Bill Hildebrandt, (248) 476-1121 for information.

"I was seduced by the money, and it spiraled from there," said Hildebrandt who spent 13 years as an executive. Then the auto supplier was purchased by a giant conglomerate, and he was out of a job.

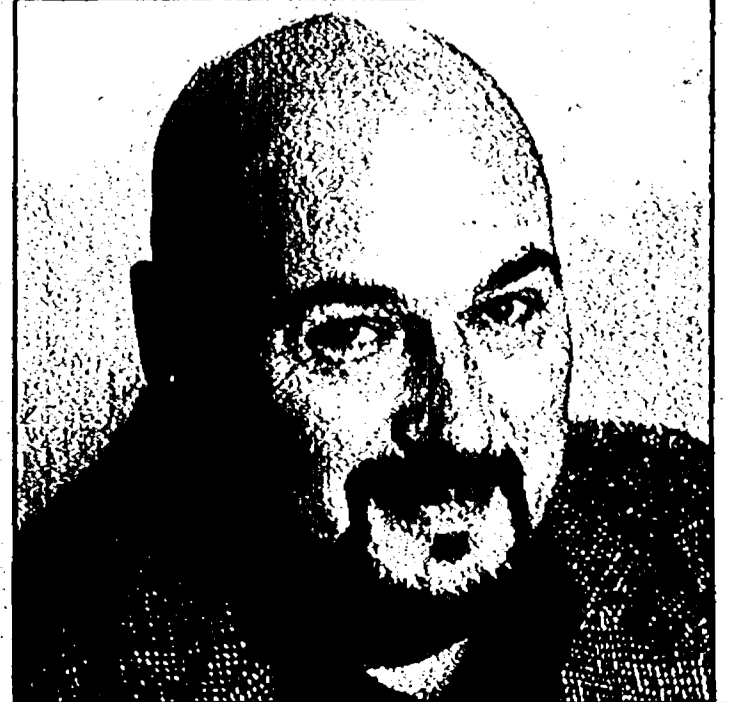
A buddy talked him into going to a comedy club in Ann Arbor. He didn't want to go. "I thought man this guy's funny, I can do that."

The guy on stage was Tim Allen, and while Hildebrandt isn't yet a household name, he's working on it.

There's a sitcom being developed for Canadian comedian Leo Dufour called "Strange Customs," based on his comedy about the differences between Canadians and Americans," said Hildebrandt. "It's really quite funny and the pilot will be taped in Toronto. I'm waiting to hear if I got the part of the sleazy strip club owner."

Hildebrandt has also appeared on Comedy Central and written for Dick Clark's practical jokes.

He spends about 20 weeks on the road performing, and 20 weeks in metro Detroit. According to



Please see CLOWN, E2 Bill Hildebrandt

# Swing from page E1

play piano with them," said Tom Loncaric, the band leader and classically trained pianist.

John Bunkley and his band the Atomic Fireballs, on the other hand, weren't aware of the trend when they formed.

"I didn't know this was going on when the band got together. It was something that I thought

was going to be completely different," said Bunkley, a 1987 Oakland University graduate. The Atomic Fireballs will release its debut CD in May.

Newcomers aside, the II V I Orchestra is the elder statesman of the genre having played together for 25 years.

"I couldn't believe it when I

first started to notice that stuff. We've done the same thing since the early '70s. People have always liked it when they come to see it. Now, the whole thing is people of all ages are being more enthusiastic with it these days," said saxophone player David Swain, 44.

"It's wonderful to see all the people having a good time with it. Young people who are in peak physical condition and don't know the steps are out there dancing. Some of the oldsters who have trouble getting up the stairs, once they hear the music they're showing the kids a thing or two. It makes the old folks look young and graceful, and it makes the young kids realize they have something to learn."

The schedule of the band - which includes trombonist Tony Lorts of Lake Orion, saxophonist Harry Demirgian of Farmington Hills, and trumpeter Cary Heller of West Bloomfield - has only gotten busier since swing has moved into the mainstream.

"When we were the only kids on the block, we were sitting there kind of lonely. Now, the more the merrier. We're keeping busier now than there's 10 other bands like us in this area," Swain said.



Learning to swing: Instructor Bobby Black formerly from Westland (left) demonstrates with Jennifer Miller of Taylor steps to swing dancing at the 24-Karat Club, formerly the Mosquito Club, in Westland. Swing has become the rage within the last two years.

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## Bringing it home

The Velvet Lounge's Potter, a Rochester resident and 1996 Oakland University graduate, is often credited with starting the swing music scene in the Detroit area.

A former bartender at the neighboring Industry nightclub, Potter brought swing music here after witnessing the genre's resurgence in cities like New York and Chicago. It was apparently a good hunch. He fielded 45 calls about dance lessons in one day. The Velvet Lounge will celebrate its second anniversary in May with the opening of a second-floor dance and bar area.

Since then swing nights have popped up all over the Detroit area. The Mosquito Club, what was the home of heavy metal music, baseball hats, jeans and flannels, switched over to The 24-Karat Club and a dress code. Abandoning live music, the new format includes swing on Wednesdays, and salsa and mambo on Thursdays. Swing nights bring in about 60-80 dancers, said owner John Anton.

JD's Macomb Theatre in downtown Mount Clemens forayed into swing at the end of February. Illusions in Royal Oak also adopted a swing night. The Velvet Lounge is still one of the biggest draws in town. Rochester

**■ 'It's wonderful to see all the people having a good time with it. Young people who are in peak physical condition and don't know the steps are out there dancing. Some of the oldsters who have trouble getting up the stairs, once they hear the music they're showing the kids a thing or two.'**

David Swain  
II V I Orchestra

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## Clown from page E1

Hildebrandt there are more comedy clubs per capita in Michigan than any other state including California.

"California is where the TV

opportunities are, but the good paying live gigs are here in the Midwest," he said. "Detroit is a great place to play. The audience is a hardworking, hard partying

group. Detroit likes entertainment. People go out on week-ends."

What makes people laugh? "A common denominator. Things

Mack said about her musical tastes.

"Some people are only into one thing - alternative or indie or whatever their thing is. Swing just happens to be what I'm excited about right now."

"Still, I am all over the place,"

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about work, parents, relationships," he said. "You know those messages on freeway overpasses," he asked. "I went to buy a card for this girl Glory. There was a Hallmark for \$5.50, and across the aisle a can of black spray paint for 78 cents. Do the math, what's more cost effective? It's observational comedy."

He counts Jonathan Winters and Bill Cosby among his heroes. "Bill Cosby is one of the greatest story tellers. George Carlin and Richard Pryor broke new ground."

On Sundays he runs amateur night at Joey's. He relates to the young comedians who walk up to the mic.

After going to his first amateur night, Hildebrandt went to amateur night every Tuesday at Main Street Comedy Showcase for six months and just watched. "One day I got up the nerve and went up, and it was horrible. I got off. It's a lot different than it looks. The manager told me the thing I said about Ypsilanti being a hillbilly theme park was funny and that I should build on it. That's what I did and it worked."

Like any business, there are rules in comedy, and if you want to succeed it helps to know them. Hildebrandt shares what he knows in Comedy Boot Camp, a class offered at Joey's Comedy Club for eight hours over two Saturdays.

"This business eats their young," he said. "There are only so many available slots, stages to perform on. It's fun imparting knowledge. When you teach you learn more yourself, I find myself saying - 'you ought to practice what you preach.'"

"It's interesting to see new comedians, even if they don't do well it's funny. Sometimes they make me cringe."

For a comedian, performing is the easy part, the hard stuff is sending out tapes, making phone calls to get booked into clubs across the country, and following up.

"Sometimes I run into people that I used to go to school with, who are not the least bit surprised that I ended up in this profession," he said. "You wouldn't believe the number of people who wrote in my yearbook, 'I never would have made it through algebra if you weren't there. I was a teaching aid, but the teachers didn't know it.'"

SPECIAL EVENTS

# Hanneford cat tamer gets excited taming wild ones

Big cats and little cats are a lot alike - "they could care less about me," said animal trainer Lance Ramos who is coming to the Palace of Auburn Hills this weekend with the Royal Hanneford Circus.

Ramos, 29, follows in the footsteps of his father, Manuel Ramos, and represents the sixth generation in his family of circus artists. His family is known as "The Great Ramos Family of Mexico," but Lance was born and raised in the United States.

He took over his uncle's cat act when he was 16, but lions and tigers weren't exciting enough, so Lance added a few more big cats to his act.

During the Royal Hanneford Circus he performs in the ring with 11 big cats - two black leopards, two jaguars, two male lions, two Bengal tigers, two white tigers and a Tabby tiger.

"They all have different personalities," said Ramos. "They're natural enemies in the jungle

**Royal Hanneford Circus**  
**When:** Eight performances, Thursday-Sunday, April 9-12. Performances 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Friday; 10:30 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday.  
**Where:** The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills.  
**Tickets:** All seats opening night \$4. Tickets for Friday matinee are \$5. Children 12 and under, and seniors 65 and over will receive \$2 off \$12 and \$8 tickets for all shows except the April 9 performance and 11 a.m. April 10 performance. Call (248) 645-6666. Groups of 15 or more, can call (248) 377-0100.

and would kill each other if left alone in the ring."

Would they kill him?  
 "It's a high, it's exciting," said Ramos explaining why he's chosen this dangerous profession. "I want to see if I can control and present these animals and come out in one piece."

He's had his group of big cats together since February. So far, "it's been smooth sailing," he said. "They had one big fight. You can't read their minds. Everything is challenging. In the beginning of our act we do a

pyramid where they sit up. They're about a foot apart from each other, and it's pretty tense."

While he's had plenty of close calls, Ramos said he's never been hurt by his cats. When they're not performing with the circus, Ramos runs them through the act once a day. He works with them one by one to teach them tricks, and gradually adds other cats. "They snarl and growl at each other," he said. "It gets a little rough."

Ramos tours with the circus for nine months, and is off

December, January and February. Home is Riverview, Fla.

Besides the cats, Ramos also trains elephants and horses. He's an accomplished acrobat, bareback rider and teeterboard artist.

With the big cats he has to always be on his toes. "The cats don't feel remorse or love. I can pet them, and a couple of minutes later they'll try to bite me."

Elephants are different.

"Once they get to know you, you're fine," he said. "Elephants are very intelligent. They care about the person who takes care of them, and they're excited to see me. Elephants go through their routine fine."

It's the applause that makes this job gratifying. "It makes you smile when someone says you did a great job. It keeps me going."

To people who say it's cruel to train animals for the circus, Ramos says "animals in captivity live longer and are healthier. They don't have to worry about their next meal, they're beautiful animals and in good shape."

Showcasing animals in the circus "shows the public wild animals and what ability the animal has," said Ramos. "How agile they are and how you can teach

them. People think we use them to make money. We live with them 24 hours a day. They're well cared for."

Married and the father of a boy who's 2, and daughter, 4 months, Ramos said he would like one of them to follow in his footsteps, but you never can tell.

He's looking forward to performing at the Palace. "Come out and see it," he said. "You've probably never seen an act with so many cats."

This year, the Royal Hanneford Circus presents a tribute to the Old West in a circus rodeo featuring Turvey's Trick Riding and Roping and dozens of performers from around the globe.

Mark Karoly, the "King of Comedy" and The Karoly Riders will celebrate 300 years of equestrian excellence. Dania Kaseeva, "The Queen of the Hulu Hoops," returns with her husband, David Maas, the singing ringmaster, to present their astonishing magic. Miss Kimberly Smith, the youngest woman ever to be shot out of a canon, follows in her father's footsteps, Guinness Book of World Records holder David Smith.

## Farmington Players host barnraising party

Farmington Players invites you to join them for some "Laughter on the Ground Floor" April 18 as they scramble to raise money to build a new theater.

The benefit features a premier performance of Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor," opening at the theater April 24, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, live music, and afterglow reception.

No building plans have been finalized, but the Players have begun discussion with Sunrise Assisted Living, Inc. of Fairfax, Va., which plans to build a senior assisted living facility on property next to the Players Barn on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Farmington Players have called the white dairy barn home for 45 years, but it is in need of updating, and stands in the way of Sunrise's plans.

**Farmington Players**  
**What:** "Laughter on the Ground Floor," a benefit for the Farmington Players Theater 6 p.m. Saturday, April 18.  
**Where:** The Players Barn, 32332 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.  
**Tickets:** \$75, elegant attire, call (248) 553-2955.  
 Farmington Players presents Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 24-25; May 1-2, May 8-9 and May 15-16; 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26, May 3, May 10 and 8 p.m. Thursday, May 14. Tickets \$8, call (248) 553-2955.

"In a planned unit development, the barn would be rebuilt on the other side of our property to allow Sunrise room to build their facility," said Cynthia Tupper, president of Farmington Players. "Sunrise has proposed exchanging some land with us to allow room for their building and to improve our parking space."

The two organizations have discussed their plans with the city, and site plans are being developed.

For the past year, the Farmington Players have been discussing the feasibility of either renovating their existing facility, or building a new one. The opportunity to work on a project with Sunrise is a recent and unexpected development.

"We originally planned our fund-raiser with the idea of starting a building fund," said Tupper.

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Making contact: Please submit popular music items for publication to Christina Fuoco; all others to Linda Chomin, two weeks in advance to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150 or by fax (734) 591-7279

**Continued from previous page**  
ing Jere Stormer, Vint and Mathilda, Jennifer Jean Smith, Richard Lawrence, Michael Wagner, and Liz Mombiano of Farmington, 7 p.m. Saturday, April 18, the U-Club in the Michigan Union, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. \$10. \$7 with ID students/seniors, available at the door. (734) 763-3202/327-2041

**DEE CARSTENSEN**  
7:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$11. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or <http://www.e2ark.org>

**JULIE FOUNTAIN**  
9-11 p.m. Friday, April 17, at the Coffee Studio, 600 West Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. Free. The Coffee Studio is looking for musicians and poets to read their works and perform during Open Mic nights every Wednesday. Sign up time is 7:30 p.m. (734) 416-9288

**JAN KRIST**  
10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 10-11, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Friday, April 17, Matt Brady's, 1820 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 861-8101/(248) 584-4242

**ANNIE RAPID**  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, Borders Books and Music, 612 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Free. All ages. (734) 668-7100

**SPECIAL CONSENSUS**  
With The RFD Boys. 8 p.m. Friday, April 10, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$11. 10 members, students, seniors. All ages. (bluegrass) (734) 761-1451

**DANCE**

**ANN ARBOR DAWN DANCE WEEKEND**  
Three-day spring music and dance party featuring contra, swing, squares, Scandinavian, English country, Scottish, singing, jamming, and a concert by Jive at Five. Friday-Sunday, April 10-12, Scarlett Middle School, 3300 Lorraine, Ann Arbor. \$7-\$20. (734) 665-8863

**ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING**  
With the Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance, callers Eric Arnold and Don Theyken, and music by David West and Donna Baird. 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Road (north of Plymouth Road), Ann Arbor. \$4. (734) 663-0744/(734) 662-5158

**WOLVERINE SILVERSPUR DANCERS**  
7:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 11, St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus Hall, 44425 Utica Road (west of Van Dyke Avenue), Utica. \$6 members, \$7 non-members. (313) 526-9432/(810) 573-4993

**COMEDY**

**BIG RED'S COMEDY CLUB**  
Pete George and John McDonald, Friday-Saturday, April 10-11; Keith Ruff and Chris Syper, Friday-Saturday, April 17-18, at the club in Mr. B's Roadhouse - Oxford, 595 N. Lapeer Road (M-24), Oxford. (924) 628-6500

**GREAT AMERICAN DINER AND COMEDY CLUB**  
Kevin Burke, Frank G. and Jim Hoke, 8 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 10-11, at the club, formerly known as Gadzooks, 9531 Highland Road (three miles west of Oakland Pontiac Airport), White Lake Township. \$5. \$18.95 dinner and show package. \$36 dinner and show package for two. (248) 698-2414

**JD'S ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**  
Open mic night hosted by MaryAnn DeMoss and an acoustic jam session with Ernie Douglas "The Acoustic Terminator." 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, at the center, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. 18 and older. (810) 465-5154

**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB**  
Bill Hildebrandt and Joey Bielaska, 9 p.m. Friday, April 10, and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11 (\$10); Leo Dufour, Tim Rowlands and Joey Bielaska, Thursday, April 16 (free), and Friday-Saturday, April 17-18 (\$12), at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 8 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 8 p.m. Sundays for new talent/Third Level improv. (734) 261-0555

**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S**  
Alturo Shelton, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9 (\$5), 9 p.m. Friday, April 10 (\$8), \$18.95 dinner show package), and 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Saturday, April 11 (\$10), \$20.95 dinner show package); Joe Piscopo, Friday-Saturday, April 17-19, cancelled; Bob Golub, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16 (\$8, \$18.95 dinner show package), and 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 17-18, (\$12, \$24.95 dinner show package) at the club, 6070 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885

**MAINSTREET COMEDY SHOWCASE**  
Glen Super, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9 (\$9), and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 10-11 (\$12); Totally Unrehearsed Theatre, 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15 (\$6); Chris Titus, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16 (\$9), and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 17-18 (\$12), at the club, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 998-9080

**MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE**  
Totally Unrehearsed Theatre and Spike Rizzo, Thursday-Saturday, April 9-11; Jeff Stillson and Tim Costello, Wednesday-Sunday, April 15-19, at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays (\$5), 8:30 p.m.

Wednesdays-Thursdays (\$8), 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays (\$12), and 7:30 p.m. Sundays (\$6). Prices same unless otherwise noted. (248) 542-9900 or <http://www.comedycastle.com>

**SECOND CITY**  
"Down River Dance," 8 p.m. Wednesdays (\$10), Thursdays (\$10) and Sundays (\$10), and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays (\$17.50) and Saturdays (\$19.50), through spring, at the club, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (313) 965-2222

**JOHN WITHERSPOON**  
As part of FM 98 WJLB's CoCo's House of Comedy, 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9, Royal Oak Music Theatre, Royal Oak. \$27.50 in advance. 21 and older. (248)

**MUSEUMS AND TOURS**

**DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM/SOCIETY**  
"Remembering Downtown Hudson's" exhibit, a nostalgic look at what made the Hudson's downtown Detroit store an icon of the city's prosperous era, runs through December: "A Community Between Two Worlds: Arab Americans in Greater Detroit," exhibit focusing on Arab Americans and their daily life after settling in the Detroit area, runs through the end of September, at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Free admission Wednesdays; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 seniors and children aged 12-18, free for children ages 11 and younger Thursdays-Sundays. (313) 833-1805

**DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER**  
IMAX movies showing indefinitely include: "Super Speedway," 10 a.m. and 11:10 a.m. Mondays-Fridays; and "Special Effects," 12:20 p.m. and 1:20 p.m. Mondays-Fridays; at the museum, 5020 John R (at Warren Road), Detroit. \$6.75 for adults, \$4.75 for youths 3-17, and seniors 60 and older. Hours are: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. (313) 577-8400 or <http://www.sciencecenterdetroit.org>

**GREENFIELD VILLAGE**  
American Girls Museum Program based on the character of Samantha Parkington, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 9-10, and Monday-Friday April 13-17 at the village, Dearborn. \$40 includes light refreshments and the 2-hour and 45-minute program. (313) 982-6180

**MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY**  
"A Communion of the Spirits: African-American Quilters, Preservers and Their Stories" exhibits featuring 175 photographs of varying sizes, a selection of the surveyed quilts, interpretive panels, and a limited amount of other artwork related to the quilters, through Sunday, June 7, 315 E. Warren Ave. (at Brush Street), Detroit. Museum hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays. \$3 for adults and \$2 for children aged 12 and younger. (313) 494-5800

**POPULAR MUSIC**

**ALBERTA ADAMS**  
9 p.m. Friday, April 10, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 259-2643

**ALL HAIL ME**  
With Stun Gun, 9 p.m. Thursday, April 9, JD's Entertainment Center, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. \$6. 18 and older. (rock) (810) 465-5154

**JOEY B. AND THE DETROIT STREET PLAYERS**  
9 p.m. Friday, April 10, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 543-4300

**THE BANDITOS**  
9 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800

**JOHNIE BASSETT AND THE BLUES INSURGENTS**  
9 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 259-2643

**BUGS BEDDOW BAND**  
8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, April 10, Corradi's, 1050 Rochester Road, Troy. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday-Saturday, April 17-18, Bachelor's, 1987 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 588-3471/(248) 682-2295 or <http://www.bugsbeddow.com>

**NORMA JEAN BELL AND THE ALL STARS**  
9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays through June 27, Baccl Abbracci, 40 W. Pike St., Pontiac. Free. All ages. (variety) (248) 253-1300

**BENNY AND THE JETS**  
9 p.m. Sundays in April, Buck's Place, 23845 W. Warren Road (one block east of Telegraph Road), Dearborn Heights. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 274-6005.

**BETTER DAYS**  
9:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, Bo's Bistro, 51 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 338-6200

**BIG DAVE AND THE ULTRASONICS**  
9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16, Mar's Cabin, 9779 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (jump blues) (734) 458-8450

**THE BIZER BROTHERS**  
8 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays in April, The Rattlesnake Club, 300 River Place, Detroit. Free. All ages. (pop) (313) 567-4400

With Ken Murphy, 9 p.m. Friday, April 17, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800

**BLUE EYED SOUL**  
With Caustic Pop, 9 p.m. Friday, April 10, Rivertown Saloon, 1977 Woodbridge, Detroit. Cover charge. 18 and older. (rock) (313) 567-6020

**BLUE RAYS**  
9 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty St., Plymouth. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (734) 451-1213

**BLUE SUIT BLUES BAND**  
9 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Carriage House Blues Alley, 24200 Grand River Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Friday, April 17, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St. (at Orleans), Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 535-3440/(313) 259-2643

**BONNE TEMPS ROULLE**  
With Leonard Moon, 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 17-18, Smitty's, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (R&B) (248) 652-1800

**BRAN VAN 3000**  
7 p.m. Thursday, April 16, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$8.50 in advance, \$10 at the door. All ages. (hip-hop/pop) (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com>

**BRIDGE**  
9 p.m. Thursday, April 9, Bullfrog Bar and Grill, 15414 Telegraph Road (one block north of Five Mile Road), Redford. \$3. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 533-4477

**BUSTER'S BLUES BAND**  
10 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Mount Chalet, 4715 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues/funk) (248) 549-2929

**CD3**  
With Almighty Groove, 9 p.m. Friday, April 17, Grif's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 334-9292

**CHISEL BROS. WITH THORNETTA DAVIS**  
9 p.m. Thursday, April 9, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 543-4300

**CLOWN POUNDERS**  
With Khaki Warriors, 9 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Grif's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 334-9292

**DANNY COX**  
8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, Royal Oak Brewery, 215 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (acoustic rock) (248) 544-1141

**With Cool for August and Samiam, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$16 in advance. All ages. (rock) (313) 961-5451 or <http://www.961melt.com>**

**C-TEC**  
With Rorschach Test, 8 p.m. Thursday, April 16, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$8 in advance. All ages. (techno) (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com>

**DAMON AND NAOMI**  
Formerly of Galaxie 500, perform with Masaki Batoh and Michio Kurihara of the band Dogt, 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 13, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 18 and older. (acoustic) (313) 832-2355

**DETROIT COBRAS**  
With The Fells and The Hentchmen, 8 p.m. Sunday, April 12, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$6 in advance. 18 and older. (garage rock) (313) 833-P0OL or [MagicStick@aol.com](mailto:MagicStick@aol.com)

**DIVESPIRE**  
With Sunday Afternoon Trio and Nailing Betty, 9 p.m. Friday, April 10, Grif's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 334-9292

**DR. JOHN**  
7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$20 in advance, \$23 day of show. All ages. (blues) (734) 761-1451

**DUKE TOMATOE**  
8 p.m. Thursday, April 16, Carriage House Blues Alley, 24300 Grand River Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (blues) (313) 535-3440

**GLEN EDDIE**  
9 p.m. Thursday, April 9, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 644-4800

**EGROUSTIC HOOGAH**  
With Guster, 8 p.m. Friday, April 17, Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor. \$12.50 in advance. 19 and older. (Deadhead) (734) 668-8397

**EL-K-BONG**  
With The Crossing, 9 p.m. Friday, April 17, JD's Entertainment Center, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Ladies free before midnight. 18 and older. (70s hard-core covers) (810) 465-5154

**EXTORTION**  
8 p.m. Thursday, April 9, The Palladium Music Club, 17580 Frazho Road, Roseville. Cover charge. 18 and older. (rock) (810) 778-6404

**THE FELLS**  
With The Hentchmen and Detroit Cobras, 8 p.m. Sunday, April 12, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$6. 18 and older. (garage rock) (313) 833-P0OL or [MagicStick@aol.com](mailto:MagicStick@aol.com)

**TON CREEK**  
10 p.m. Thursday, April 16, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (rock/funk) (248) 349-9110

**4 DEGREES**  
With Slight Return, 9 p.m. Thursday, April 9, Peppi's, 3270 W. Huron St., Waterford. Cover charge. 21 and older; 10 p.m. Friday, April 17, Scallie's

Underground Lounge, 6650 Allen Road, Allen Park. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 682-6200/(313) 438-0029

**JULIE FOUNTAIN**  
8 p.m. Friday, April 17, Coffee Studio, 600 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. Free. All ages. (acoustic) (734) 416-9288

**FRIENDS OF BOB**  
With Twist of Fate and Frank Buscemi of The Serfs, 9 p.m. Friday, April 10, JD's Entertainment Center, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. \$8. 18 and older. (rock/cover bands) (810) 465-5154

**FUNKTELIGENCE**  
With Uncle Booby, 9 p.m. Friday, April 10, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 19 and older. (funk) (734) 485-5050

**GOVERNMENT HONEY**  
9 p.m. Sundays in April, Bullfrog Bar and Grill, 15414 Telegraph Road (one block north of Five Mile Road), Redford. \$3. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 533-4477

**GRR**  
9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Union Lake Grill and Bar, 2280 Union Lake Road, Commerce Township. Free. 21 and older; 9 p.m. Sunday, April 12, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older; 10 p.m. Thursday, April 16, Library Pub, 35230 Central City Parkway, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 360-7450/(248) 543-4300/(734) 421-2250

**GYPSY TRIBE**  
10 p.m. Friday, April 17, Coyote Club, 1 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 332-HOVL

**JOHN HAMMOND AND LITTLE CHARLIE AND THE NIGHTCATS**  
7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$15 in advance, \$18 day of show. All ages. (blues) (734) 761-1800 or <http://www.99music.com>

**DAN HICKS AND THE ACOUSTIC WARRIORS**  
8 p.m. Friday, April 17, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$12 in advance. 18 and older. (rock) (248) 544-3030

**HOWLING DIABLOS**  
With Universal Stomp and 20 Dead Flower Children, 6 p.m. Friday, April 10, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$6 in advance. All ages: With Blue Eyed Soul, 9 p.m. Friday, April 17, Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 18 and older. (funk/rock) (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com> / (313) 832-2355

**HUFFAMOOSE**  
With Jill Jack, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$7 in advance. 19 and older. (roots rock) (734) 996-8555

**INCUBUS**  
With Ultra Spank, 7 p.m. Saturday, April 11, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$6 in advance. All ages. (rock) (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com>

**JILL JACK**  
With The Rivermen and Jo Serrapere, 8 p.m. Friday, April 10, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$6. 18 and older; 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, Captain Tony's, 30919 N. Woodward Ave., Royal Oak. Cover charge. 21 and older. (roots rock) (248) 544-3030 or <http://www.themagicbag.com> / (248) 288-6388

**NIKKI JAMES AND THE FLAMETHROWERS**  
10 p.m. Friday, April 10, Library Pub, 35230 Central City Parkway, Westland. Free. 21 and older; 10 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (734) 421-2250/(248) 349-9110

**KILLER FLAMINGOS**  
9 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (R&B/pop) (248) 543-4300

**MIKE KING**  
With his band, 10 p.m. Saturday, April 11, The Lodge, 2442 Orchard Lake Road, Sylvan Lake. Cover charge. 21 and older. (rock) (248) 683-5458

**KUNG FU DIESEL**  
9 p.m. Thursday, April 9, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 19 and older. (alternative rock) (734) 485-5050

**PRESTON**  
With Original Formula, Giant and Ich Bin Ein Berliner, 9 p.m. Thursday, April 16, JD's Entertainment Center, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. 18 and older. (rock) (810) 465-5154

**PROMISE RING**  
With Jimmy Eat World and Compound Red, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$7 in advance. All ages. (alternative rock) (313) 833-P0OL or [MagicStick@aol.com](mailto:MagicStick@aol.com)

**PULL**  
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 17-18, Union Lake Grill and Bar, 2280 Union Lake Road, Commerce Township. Free. 21 and older. (alternative rock) (248) 360-7450

**PURE**  
With the Gandharvas and Plain, 6 p.m. Friday, April 17, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress. Detroit. Free. All ages. (pop) (313) 961-MELT or <http://www.961melt.com>

**PURPLE FLY**  
10 p.m. Friday, April 17, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (rock/funk) (248) 349-9110

**Q**  
9 p.m. Thursday, April 16, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 19 and older. (rock) (734) 485-5050

**LAFAYETTE REED**  
With The Soulfil Elegance of Sarah, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11, JD's Macomb Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. 18 and older. (R&B) (810) 465-5154/(313) 965-8055

**THE REV. HORTON HEAT**  
With Face to Face and the Mighty Blue

Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (alternative rock) (734) 996-8555

**MEDICINE HAT**  
10 p.m.-2 a.m. Wednesdays in April, Bullfrog Bar and Grill, 15414 Telegraph Road (one block north of Five Mile Road), Redford. Free. 21 and older. (rock) (313) 533-4477

**MERGE**  
With Uncle Booby and Varac, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$6. 18 and older. (alternative rock) (248) 544-3030 or <http://www.themagicbag.com>

**"METRO SOUL" NIGHT**  
Featuring new R&B acts Lafayette Reed and Sarah, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11, JD's Entertainment Center, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Cover charge. 18 and older. (R&B) (810) 465-5154

**MR. B**  
With Bob Seelye, Jean-Pierre Bertrand and Philippe Lejeune, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$17.5. All ages. (blues/boogie piano) (734) 761-1451

**MOONPIE FONTANA**  
9 p.m. Thursday, April 16, Beaver Creek, 1609 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (classic rock) (734) 722-5330

**MIKE MORGAN AND THE CRAWL**  
9 p.m. Saturday, April 11, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (blues) (248) 543-4300

**MORSEL**  
With Godzuki and Bell, 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (alternative rock) (734) 996-8555

**MOJO RATTLE**  
10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Shield's Pizzeria, 25101 Telegraph Road, Southfield. Free. ("soulful blues") (248) 356-2720

**MYSTERY TRAIN WITH JIM MCCARTHY**  
9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 17-18, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main

MOVIES

Bruce Willis falls further in lame 'Mercury Rising'

TICKETS PLEASE



JOHN MONAGHAN

In "Mercury Rising," Bruce Willis plays an undercover FBI agent who takes it upon himself to protect a young murder witness. The kid has autism and appends half of the movie kicking and screaming, saying he's not supposed to

approach to any and all situations. His lines usually arrive with a taunting scowl or a droopy-eyed smirk. "Mercury Rising" begins with a puzzle book that nine-year-old Simon picks up and unravels - mazes, crosswords, and word searches prove a breeze for the boy. When he stares at a page of random letters and numbers, his mind kicks into high gear and, sure enough, you can hear his computer-like calculations on the soundtrack.

the kid. Alec Baldwin, as the movie's uncaring villain, says the death of a "retarded kid" is a small price to pay for protecting national security.

The score, by John Barry, recalls the veteran composer's work on the James Bond soundtracks, not so much in the action scenes as in the slower, plot-driven passages. It doesn't really help the standard issue action situations, including gunfights in busy Chicago streets with a blandly cast assassin.

If not for all the profanity and the blood, this could be a Disney movie. It would make the plot points a lot easier to swallow, especially when Willis involves a young woman to help harbor the kid.

The dialogue is worse than usual, especially when bad guy Baldwin says, "I conduct business the way my wife says I cook: quick and tasteless."

In one scene, he and Willis -

an uninvited guest at a fancy dinner party - square off in the wine cellar. The ever-cocky Willis wrenches the corks off of price-less bottles of wine, takes a sip, makes a wry observation, and then smashes them to the floor.

While Willis looks tired but fairly robust, Baldwin is starting to take on the paunchiness of

middle age. This is especially evident in the climax, where the wind from the helicopter blades plasters his usually-perfect hair over his face, making him look even worse.

For awhile there it looked like Willis was gravitating toward roles better than this. But mem-

ories of "Pulp Fiction" and "Twelve Monkeys" grow dimmer with each idiotic action movie like "Mercury Rising."

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

Classic Cinema Series - Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road, Southfield. Call (248) 424-9022 for information. (\$3)

"The Stranger" (USA - 1947). 7 p.m. Friday, May 15. Orson Welles' most conventional film - made in the hopes of appeasing the studios who found his films too weird - is still a cut above the rest. Welles plays a Nazi criminal hiding out in a New England college town, chased by irascible Edward G. Robinson.

Detroit Film Theatre - Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information (\$5.50; \$4.50 students/seniors)

"Love and Death on Long Island" (England - 1997). Fri-



Melodrama: Robin Tunney (Marcy) and Henry Thomas (Seth) in Bob Gosse's "Niagara Niagara."

day-Sunday, April 10-12 (call for showtimes). When a reclusive writer is persuaded to attend a stuffy movie premiere, he ends up instead at a screening of "Hotpants College II" and becomes obsessed with its hunky star (Jason Priestley).

"My Sex Life ... Or How I Got Into an Argument" (France - 1996). 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 13. In this classically French story, a young Parisian's

obsession with women lands him in hopelessly intertwined relationships.

"Magic Bag" - 22919 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248) 544-3030 for information. (\$2)

"Jackie Brown" (USA-1997). 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, and Wednesday, April 15. Most were impressed by the performances (Robert DeNiro, Samuel Jackson, Bridget Fonda, Pam Grier and Robert Forster) but unmoved by the story, which went on forever and nowhere at the same time. Ultimately, the only thing you can say for director Quentin Tarantino is that he's not predictable.

Main Art Theatre - 118 N. Main (at 11 Mile Road), Royal Oak. Call (248) 542-0180 for information. (\$6.50; \$4 students/seniors and matinees; \$3 twilight)

"The Real Blonde" (USA - 1998). From Tom DiCillo, director of "Living in Oblivion," comes this romantic comedy set in New York City about a group of characters whose lives intertwine in the superficial world of fashion and entertainment. Matthew Modine and Daryl Hannah star.

"Niagara Niagara" (USA - 1998). Two misfits meet while shoplifting in this contemporary melodrama set in upstate New York.

"The Apostle" (USA - 1997). Robert Duvall's tour de force as a preacher who has a crisis of faith and thus tries to get his life back in order. Farrah Fawcett co-stars.

Star Southfield - 23555 West 12 Mile Road (near Northwestern and Telegraph), Southfield. (\$7.50 \$5 adults; \$4.75 children/seniors before 6 p.m.)

"Mrs. Dalloway" (Britain - 1997). When a woman (Vanessa Redgrave) encounters a man she knew some 30 years earlier, it causes her to reevaluate the path her life has taken. Based on a novel by Virginia Woolf.

Windsor Film Theatre - 2135 Wyandotte Street, Windsor, Canada. Call (519) 254-FILM for information. (\$5.25 Canadian; \$4 U.S.)

"Underground" (France/Germany - 1995). 7 p.m. through Sunday, April 12. This Cannes prize winner reaches into the last 50 years of Yugoslavia's history as a man who goes underground during World War II and only surfaces in 1992.

"Succubus" (West Germany - 1987). 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 10-11. Perhaps the best from Jess Franco, director of European trash in the 1960s who takes an entertainingly Mod look at depravity.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Grid of movie listings for various theaters including General Cinemas, Canteen 6, and others, listing titles like 'Titanic', 'Grease', and 'The Iron Mask'.

'GREASE' 20th Anniversary advertisement featuring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, with showtimes and pricing.

'The Players Club' advertisement featuring a large image of a woman and listing showtimes and pricing.

Easter Sunday Brunch Buffet advertisement for The Redford Inn, Farmington Hills, \$19.95/person.

Family Weekends advertisement for an indoor heated swimming pool, video games, and Putt Putt Golf.

STREET SCENE

Bran Van 3000 looks forward to weird Detroit karma

James Di Salvo, the leader of Bran Van 3000, is anxious to come to Detroit.

"We've got this weird karma with Detroit. Sue Hynes did our logo and James Smolka did our photographs. I just met them in New York but they're from Detroit," the Montreal resident explained.

"I meet a lot of people from Detroit in Montreal too. It's kind of strange. I'm very anxious to go there. I feel very close to the city."

Di Salvo gets his chance Thursday, April 16, when Bran Van 3000 plays The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit.

Bran Van 3000 shipped its debut album "Glee" to U.S. stores Tuesday, March 10. The album

was released last year on Audiogram Records in Canada and already achieved gold status in that country.

Bran Van 3000 fans who own the Canadian version will have to make the trek back to the record store. Capitol Records has added three new tracks to the U.S. release - "Rainshine," "Carry On" and "Old School."

"Glee" is not only Bran Van 3000's debut album, but Di Salvo's first foray into music. Two years ago, Di Salvo was pursuing a career as a filmmaker and a music video director. On the side he was working as a DJ and remixing songs. Then the musical bug bit him.

So he took the money he made from directing a video for Branford Marsalis and bought studio

equipment to record "Glee."

Di Salvo recruited 20 Montreal musicians, producers, singers and rappers to work on "Glee" but whittled his permanent band down to eight - DJ/ keyboardist "Electronic-Pierre" Bergen, vocalists Jayne Hill, Sara Johnston and Stephane Moraille, rapper Steve "Liquid" Hawley, bassist Gary McKenzie, guitarist Nick Hynes and drummer Rob Joannisse.

His project has proved to be successful. The first single off "Glee," "Drinking in L.A." has become a certified hit in Canada and on urban and alternative stations in the Detroit area.

"I can't complain about the reception," Di Salvo said during a recent phone conversation from the Capitol Records build-

ing in Hollywood.

"You do this little album just kind of for fun, almost as therapy, in the living rooms of all kinds of people. Then all of a sudden people are listening to it. It's really freaky."

"Glee" kicks off with a frenetic sampling of music and public service announcements, and leads into the low-fi, hip-hop track "Couch Surfer" which couples vocals with a kazoo. On "Drinking in L.A." he trades off vocals with the soulful Moraille. The latter part of the CD dips into pure pop on "Everywhere" and "Exactly Like Me," during which Johnson and Di Salvo are paired with violins and acoustic guitars.

Buried in the middle of the CD is a stripped-down cover of

Slade's "Cum on Feel the Noise" sang by Johnston, Hill and Moraille.

Nearly every pop genre is addressed on "Glee."

"I wanted to make a record that spanned all my loves. I have the theory that you do it (an album) as if it's your last record. As a DJ you make mix tapes for friends. If one of my friends was only into punk, I'd sneak other things on there. When you have to hold a bar for four or five hours, you get pretty good at pacing."

Now that Di Salvo has dabbled in music and filmmaking, his next venture will be in comic books.

"I never thought I'd make a record, so maybe I'll make a comic one day. I can't even draw

my own foot, but I don't know how to draw a record."

Lilith Fair and Levi's are hosting an "Acoustic Talent Search" Friday, April 24, at the Mill Street Lounge, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Contestants must submit a two-song demo before Thursday, April 16, to Ritual Inc./ Lilith Contest, Attention: Maria Cukr, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, Mich., 48226. Female-fronted acoustic acts (three-piece maximum) are eligible. Finalists will be notified by phone and their names will be posted on the Ritual Inc. website at http://www.961melt.com. Runners up will win Levi's prize packages and Lilith Fair concert tickets. The winner will play this year's Lilith Fair show in Michigan.

Well-oiled machine keeps Backstage Pass humming along

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

We at the Backstage Pass offices at Detroit Public Television are in the dog days of production. Oddly, that doesn't mean we're sleeping for about 22 hours a day and turning around three times before lying down. It means we're in the thick of the production season, a week-to-week grind of putting together programs that showcase the best of Detroit's visual and performing arts.

Just how does this well-oiled machine work? Well, let's use this week's show as an example for one of those "behind the scenes making of" specials.

Every week, we have a production meeting. The production meeting is attended by any and all Backstage Pass contributors. Of course, we all have other gigs (I do a little radio show), so not everyone can make it every week. Not a problem. Their ears are to the rail for new artists, venues and exhibits in the area.

Our stellar roster of genre hosts is the real strength of the show. They're all tops in their fields, and their experience spreads a wide net over area happenings. In the visual arts, we have long time area art critic and Cranbrook archivist Marsha Miro and the curator of the

Wildlife Interpretive Museum at the Detroit Zoo, Gerry Craig. In theater we have Blair Anderson from the Wayne State Theatre Department faculty and Gary Anderson, the producing artistic director of Ploshares Theatre. In film, we have Elliot Wilhelm, curator of film at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the director of the Detroit Film Theatre at the DIA. WDET's W. Kim Heron helps us out with jazz, along with Kim Hunter, who is also immersed in the spoken word scene. Peter Sparling takes time from his own company to keep us up on Detroit's dance scene. WDET's Nkenge Zola covers just about everything, Paul Russell covers classical music, Gary Graff helps me cover pop music and rock and Lex Kuhne is our eyes and ears in pop culture.

Now, the producers know what's coming up, because they practically live under the deluge of press releases, letters, and demos that are sent in every week by artists, venues, promotions people, press agents, managers and record labels.

For instance, last season W. Kim Heron mentioned that pianist Mr. B has been on a one-man crusade to preserve the art of boogie-woogie piano. A few years ago at Detroit's Montreaux jazz festival, Mr. B played with Detroit-area boogie blues piano legend Bob Seeley. The set was so hot it instantly became the stuff of legend. How about we bring these guys in?

Well, Mr. B doesn't gig in the area all that often; we kept miss-

ing him. Finally, we saw that he had put together a show at the Ark in Ann Arbor, "Mr. B's First Annual Boogie Blues Piano Orgy." The show boasts four of the world's top boogie and blues pianists, among them Mr. B and Bob Seeley. Backstage Pass music producer Ron Pangborn (himself one of the area's top musicians) invited them to the Detroit Public Television studio

to play. They agreed, finally fulfilling W. Kim Heron's suggestion of almost a year ago!

A few months ago, Marsha Miro told us the art world was buzzing about Jane Lackey, a former Cranbrook student who had just been appointed to head up the school's fiber department. The producers thought this had something to do with cereal until Marsha Miro explained that

fiber is one of the key material disciplines in art, and that Ms. Lackey was one of the best fiber artist going. When Marsha told us that the Sybaris in Royal Oak was exhibiting Ms. Lackey's work, we contacted the gallery about taping the work, and Marsha sat down to talk about it

with Jane. The result is a statement that informs and heightens one's appreciation of some beautiful, layered work.

We're also covering the musical "Rent." All this on Backstage Pass tonight at midnight, repeated Friday at 7:30 p.m. on Detroit Public Television.

"A PERFECT DATE MOVIE! IF YOU LIKED 'GHOST' YOU'LL LOVE 'CITY OF ANGELS.'" DAN DINICOLA - CBS-TV. "A GREAT LOVE STORY... CAGE AND RYAN ARE CAPTIVATING... A MUST-SEE." ANN SHELLEY - UPN NEWS 13. "A ROMANTIC ENCHANTMENT THAT WILL LIFT YOUR SPIRITS." BARBARA & SCOTT SIEGEL - SIEGEL ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE. NICOLAS CAGE MEG RYAN CITY OF ANGELS

STARTS FRIDAY AT THESE THEATRES! AMC AMERICANA WEST, AMC STERLING CTR., GCC NOVI TOWN CTR., SHOWCASE, STAR GRATIOT, STAR SOUTHFIELD, AMC LAUREL PARK, BEACON EAST, SHOWCASE, STAR LINCOLN PARK, UNITED ARTISTS, AMC ABBEY, AMC SOUTHFIELD, BIRMINGHAM 8, SHOWCASE, SHOWCASE, STAR ROCHESTER, AMC BEL AIR, AMC STERLING CTR., GCC CANTON CINEMA, SHOWCASE, STAR JOHN R., STAR SOUTHFIELD, AMC EASTLAND, AMC WONDERLAND, SHOWCASE, STAR TAYLOR, STAR SOUTHFIELD, AMC EASTLAND, GCC CANTON CINEMA, SHOWCASE, STAR TAYLOR, STAR SOUTHFIELD.

THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA! "SIMPLY OUT OF THIS WORLD!" "BLAST INTO SPACE WITH A THRILL RIDE YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!" LOST IN SPACE

THERE IS LIFE ON MARS... AND NOW IT'S HERE. S P E C I E S II. STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH. AMC AMERICANA WEST, AMC EASTLAND, AMC STERLING CTR., GCC CANTON CINEMA, SHOWCASE, STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI, STAR SOUTHFIELD, UA OAKLAND, AMC LAUREL PARK, BEACON EAST, SHOWCASE, STAR LINCOLN PARK, STAR TAYLOR, UA WEST RIVER, AMC SOUTHFIELD, BIRMINGHAM 8, SHOWCASE, STAR ROCHESTER, AMC BEL AIR, AMC STERLING CTR., GCC CANTON CINEMA, SHOWCASE, STAR JOHN R., STAR SOUTHFIELD, AMC EASTLAND, AMC WONDERLAND, SHOWCASE, STAR TAYLOR, STAR SOUTHFIELD.

"THE BIGGEST COMEDY IN YEARS" "BIG LAUGHS, BIGGER HEART!" "SHARP AND FUNNY. BRILLIANTLY ACTED, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED." "A WINNER! A KING-SIZED CHARMER." My GIANT. STARTS FRIDAY! AMC AMERICANA WEST, AMC EASTLAND, AMC WONDERLAND, SHOWCASE, STAR SOUTHFIELD, AMC BEL AIR, AMC STERLING CTR., GCC NOVI TOWN CTR., SHOWCASE, STAR JOHN R., STAR SOUTHFIELD, AMC EASTLAND, AMC SOUTHFIELD, GCC CANTON CINEMA, SHOWCASE, STAR GRATIOT, STAR TAYLOR, STAR WINCHESTER, UNITED ARTISTS, FAIRLANE, WEST RIVER.

FELIX OSCAR. Some arguments stand the test of time. THE ODD COUPLE II. www.oddcouple.com. STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH. AMC EASTLAND, AMC STERLING CTR., AMC WONDERLAND, SHOWCASE, STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI, STAR TAYLOR, STAR SOUTHFIELD, AMC BEL AIR, AMC STERLING CTR., GCC CANTON CINEMA, SHOWCASE, STAR JOHN R., STAR SOUTHFIELD, AMC EASTLAND, AMC SOUTHFIELD, GCC CANTON CINEMA, SHOWCASE, STAR GRATIOT, STAR TAYLOR, STAR WINCHESTER, UNITED ARTISTS, FAIRLANE, WEST RIVER.

## DINING

## 'Arriba puts emphasis on 'authentic'

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

"All places go through a life cycle, some longer, some shorter. You fight to extend the life cycle, stay in touch with people and the market," said Dennis Serras.

After 21 years, Ann Arbor's Maude's had run its cycle and Serras and his partners in Mainstreet Ventures had to decide what to do with the downtown Ann Arbor restaurant that had once been "the place for ribs."

In March Maude's became Arriba, a Mexican restaurant with an emphasis on "authentic."

"Maude's was here 21 years. It reached its life cycle. It was successful and made money until the day we closed it," Serras said.

The first thought was to redo Maude's to help it fit into the ever-changing downtown Ann Arbor mix, which includes Mainstreet's other ventures Gratz's, Real Seafood and Palio's.

Maude's opened in 1977 as a "high-class" hamburger joint with specialty burgers at higher prices. Then the restaurant introduced baby-back ribs and became a downtown mainstay.

"We were thinking of a Michigan theme with apples, Michigan cherries, something, but no one was real excited by it," Serras said.

Then someone suggested Mexican.

"We said Mexican and we didn't understand Mexican at all, I was thinking refried beans and cheese," Serras said.

Serras, Executive Chef Simon Pesusich and others hit the road to find out what Mexican food was all about. They went to Texas, Mexico and California.

"Then in La Jolla, someone told us about this hole in the wall," Serras said.

Here was a different kind of Mexican food - quesadillas made of masa into turnovers, boat-shaped masa cakes called sopas, a variety of chile sauces, unusual cheeses and no Monterrey Jack. This was lighter, fresher than the Tex-Mex food served at chain Mexican restaurants.

The next step was to send

## Arriba

**What:** Mexican restaurant emphasizing authentic regional Mexican dishes.

**Alcohol:** yes  
**Cost:** Entrees, \$6.95-\$13.95; appetizers, \$4.95-\$5.75; salads, \$2.95-\$8.75.

**Where:** 314 St. Fourth St., Ann Arbor.

**Reservations:** For parties of six or more. (734)662-8485.

**Hours:** 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; 4-11 p.m. Saturday; 4-9 p.m. Sunday.

**Credit:** All major credit cards.

Pesusich to Chicago.

Chicago? That's where Rick Bayless has been serving a variety of regional Mexican dishes at his Frontera Restaurant. Pesusich trained for several weeks at Bayless' restaurant and came away with a new respect for Mexican food. Bayless operates a haute-cuisine sister restaurant to Frontera, Topolobampo as well.

"The more I studied, the more excited I got. I stayed up to 4 or 5 in the morning reading about it and getting excited," Pesusich said.

The Arriba menu has been kept deliberately small, manageable with items that may have names similar to other area Mexican restaurants but are really very different. The one thing that is like other restaurants and is not "authentic" is three kinds of fajitas; those flaming, grilled, tortilla-wrapped sandwiches.

"That's the skeleton in our closet," Serras said.

But here, Pesusich has created a winner, fajitas made with portabella mushrooms. They are outselling the chicken and steak variety.

The other dishes provide taste surprises. Appetizers include such unusual items as quesadillas capitalinas, corn masa turnovers stuffed with chihuahua cheese, chile and guacamole; sopas rancheros, small



corn masa boats with shredded beef and aged Mexican cheese, and for a sampling of items extremes surtido.

The specialties include a char-grilled chicken breast in a sauce of chile ancho and red wine with bacon and winter squash puree; garlic and spice rubbed shrimp char-grilled; and carne asada, marinated grilled top sirloin with guajillo chile sauce.

Tacos at Arriba are not like the traditional little corn chip sandwiches, as some disappointed customers discovered.

For others the tacos de tinga de verduras, a vegetarian plate with zucchini, mushrooms and avocados was a pleasant surprise. The taquitos are crisp rolled tortillas with chicken and poblano chiles. Enchiladas feature chicken with a red mole sauce, the Mexican chocolate sauce used in many recipes.

Desserts include a flan, a

chocolate bread pudding, a lime custard and Pesusich's favorite, a rum raisin rice pudding.

Arriba has the usual offering of beers, wines and margaritas.

"This is the most complex thing I've done here," said Pesusich. "It was strange and new to me. I've spent hours and hours getting ready to understand it."

In the weeks ahead Pesusich said he will be introducing a limited number of specials.

In addition to new food, Arriba needed a new look. Serras said they worked with a designer from Cincinnati to develop the eye-popping design with its emphasis on bright primary colors, Mexican artifacts and suggestions of Old Mexico.

"What we created was an illusion of what people may think it's like there. What is authentic is the colorfulness, bright reds

and blues," Serras said.

Color is everywhere from striped snake sticks over the bar to a multi-colored fabric hanging suggesting chiles to green cactuses. At the center of everything is a plaster tree festooned with lanterns. The tree and the adobe shaped booths and clay patterned floor suggest a courtyard.

To add to the "illusion," a mariachi band strolls through Arriba 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday.

"We did this in three weeks and two days," Serras said. "We're at our best when we create things. We've never used a concept more than once. We've got seafood, northern Italian, Tuscan and now Mexican."

Next up for Mainstreet will be a high-end steakhouse next to Gratz's on Main Street later this

## 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:

■ **Plymouth Landing** - Where: 340 N. Main St., Plymouth, (734) 455-3700. Open: 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. 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.

■ **Mesquite Creek** - 45250 Ford Road. 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: 7-11 p.m. soft pop rock favorites.

## RESTAURANT SPECIALS

Restaurant Specials features restaurant openings and renovations, menu specials, and anniversaries. Send announcements to: Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or fax (734) 591-7279.

**EASTER BRUNCH**  
■ **Marvin's Bistro** - 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia, (734) 522-5600, Easter brunch served noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, April 12. Cost \$16.95 adults, \$6.95 children under 10. Includes carved roast beef Au Jus, Honey Baked Ham, Seafood Newburg, Beef Stroganoff, Wild Mushroom Fettuccine, medley of vegetables, rice pilaf. Desserts include Truffles by Chef Remy, chocolate dipped strawberries, Chef Remy Chocolate Mousse and Cheesecake with raspberry sauce. Call for information/reservations.

■ **Big Rock Chop & Brew House** - 245 S. Eton Street, Birmingham (248) 647-7774, beginning 10:30 a.m. with lunch entrees beginning at \$12. Dinner follows with entrees starting at \$17.

Executive chef Randy Smith has been working overtime to prepare for his first Easter at Big Rock. To traditional big Rock favorites, Chef Randy will add Double cut Lamb Chops, Moroccan Sea Scallops with Orange Ginger Sauce, Baked Ham with Brandied Peaches, Chicken Chambord with Fresh Berries, and Savory Bread Pudding with Pheasant Sausage.

■ **MacKinnon's** - 126 E. Main, Northville, (248) 348-1991, 1 to 6 p.m. Regular menu and Easter specials range \$18-26. For kids 12 and under \$5-8 along with a raffle of Beanie Babies. Not regularly open on Sun-

days, owner Tom MacKinnon believes Easter is special. This year, in addition to regular menu items, he's adding House-smoked

Pork Loin, Turkey with Herb Dressing and Lobster dishes using the freshest from his lobster tank.

**MITCH HOUSEY'S**

<b>BAKED HAM</b> \$7.95	<b>ROAST PRIME RIB OF BEEF</b> \$12.95	<b>ORANGE ROUGHY Lemon Pepper</b> \$9.95
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All Dinners Include: Salad, Vegetable, Baked Potato and Hot Bread

Limited Menu Available \$7.95  
Other Dinners From

**An Easter Treat**

28500 SCHOOLCRAFT  
(Opposite Ledbrooks DFC)  
Hours: Open 7 days  
Daily Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.  
EASTER SUNDAY - 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**425-5520**

**TUES.-SAT. SPECIAL**

**Fish & Chips**  
(baked or fried)  
All you Can Eat  
**\$9.95**

**The Wotsford Inn**

Farmington Hills  
(248) 474-4800

**Celebrate Easter**  
at...  
**DePalma's**

Choose from 15 delicious entrees!  
(children's menu available)  
Serving Dinner From 1-6pm  
**RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED**

31735 Plymouth Rd. • Livonia  
(4 blocks west of Merriman)

**(313) 261-2430**

**Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE** 537-5600  
27331 Five Mile Rd. (Corner of Inkster)

**EASTER SUNDAY**

OPEN 12-8 P.M.

or Baked Turkey or Honey Baked Ham  
or Baked Mostaccioli with Meat Sauce  
with all the trimmings

**\$6.95 Adults \$3.95 Children**  
Limited Menu also Available

Appearing  
this  
weekend  
**Larry Frank  
&  
The Blue Notes**

HAPPY EASTER

**F&M**

**Howie Mandel  
In The Round**

Seats As Low As \$12.50

Thursday, April 23 • 8pm.

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**347 WEST**  
LIVONIA, MI

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AUTHENTIC MEXICAN CUISINE

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CARRY OUT (313) 537-1450

**MARGARITA MARISSA**  
\$1.25

**BANQUET FACILITIES**  
From 25 People + Up  
Home Of The Best  
**\$7.95**  
American / Mexican  
Banquet Buffet

**\$3.79 LUNCH SPECIALS**

**MEXICAN SAMPLER FOR TWO** **\$10.95**  
Includes: Steak Fajita, 2 Tacos, Cheese Enchilado, 8 Pods, Burrito, Tostado, Beans & Rice. Save \$4

Dine in • Coupon Expires 4/1/98  
Not valid with any other offer.

**DePalma's 10th Anniversary Specials!**

Your choice of:

• Baked Swiss Steak with Pasta	• Broiled White Fish & Fresh Vegetables
• Veal Parmigiana with Pasta	• Baked Lasagna with Meat Sauce
• Veal Spaghetti over Fettuccine	• Fettuccine Alfredo
• Chicken Scallops with Pasta	• Spaghetti with Meat Ball & Meat Sauce
• Broiled Boston Scrod & Fresh Vegetables	• Caesar Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast

Includes choice of soup or salad (except Caesar Salad) and choice of coffee, tea or soft drink!

**\$5.95** (tax and gratuity not included)  
Valid Mon.-Thurs. 3-6 p.m. and Fri. 3-5 p.m.

31735 Plymouth Rd. Livonia • (734) 261-2430

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**"Down Riverdance"**

"The Second City Cast"

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Wed., Thur. & Sun. ONLY \$10

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Next to the Fox Theatre