

# Westland Observer

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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Crime watch:** A lone man robbed Hungry Howie's Pizza in the 33700 area of Ford Road early Monday, escaping with money he demanded from an employee, police said. /A3

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Getting ready:** It's coming, so they say, the millennium bug is coming and if left unchecked, the things in life we take for granted could disappear on Jan. 1, 2000. And with the clock ticking downward to the start of the new millennium, businesses are taking the bug's threat seriously. /B1

## AT HOME

**Fully furnished:** Pull up a chair - or a table, or a chest, or almost any other piece of furniture - and learn about more than style in a new exhibit at Henry Ford Museum. /D8

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Theater:** Local composers Mike Vigilant and Gerry Castle have set to meter the joy of marriage in their new musical, "The Wedding Ring." /E1

**Books:** John Covach, a Livonia Stevenson High School grad, is combining his scholarship with his love for rock and roll. /E1

## REAL ESTATE

**Think about your desires:** How to get more when you buy your next home. /F1

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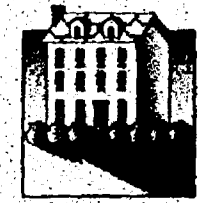
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# Fraud scheme prompts warnings



**A 35-year-old woman, who apparently had real estate credentials, is accused of personally taking money intended as a deposit on an Inkster house. She is also suspected in several similar incidents in Livonia.**

A shady Westland real estate agent is accused of cheating a would-be home buyer out of \$2,500, but a happy ending may await the victim.

The female suspect is accused of personally taking money intended as a deposit on an Inkster house, Westland police Sgt. Tom Harris said.

The incident was reported last week by Real Estate One on Ford Road, where the suspect worked just 1 1/2

days earlier this year.

The company not only reimbursed the victim but also is legitimately trying to help her move into another house, a Real Estate One official said Tuesday.

"I'm hoping she will wind up actually in a house, happy," Ellen M. Tickner, Real Estate One senior vice president and special counsel, said Tuesday.

The suspect, described by police as a

35-year-old woman who apparently had real estate credentials, is also suspected in several similar incidents in Livonia, Harris said.

An investigation is continuing, and Harris said criminal warrants may be issued against the suspect, who is believed to be in another state.

It wasn't known just how much money the suspect may have accumulated by defrauding potential home buyers, but Harris said the woman apparently took money from four different people for the same house in Inkster.

The suspect apparently worked as a Real Estate One agent during only one

incident, police said.

The suspect, who may have used her real name while working at the Westland office, is believed to be as far away as California, Harris said.

She is accused of defrauding would-be home buyers by telling them to make personal checks payable to her, rather than the broker company, Harris said.

The case prompted Harris and Tickner to offer warnings and advice to people seeking to buy a house, particularly first-time buyers like the woman involved in the Westland fraud case.

Please see SCHEME, A2

## Snakes alive!



**Animals, animals:** Tom Allard, 9 (left) of Westland and Sara Burnosky, 6 (right) of Redford react to a Burmese python snake called "Julius Squeezer" at the Animal Planet Rescue live animal demonstration event at the Westland Shopping Center Saturday. For more on the event, please see Page A3.

# Newburgh completion expected in November

An \$8.8 million project to widen Newburgh Road from Enterprise Drive to Palmer is expected to be mostly completed by mid-November, a Westland official said.

Workers are widening the one-mile stretch to five lanes and moving Newburgh under a new CSX railroad overpass.

The measures are expected to ease traffic problems and provide better access to expanding businesses along Newburgh.

The bulk of the project is slated for completion by mid-November even though construction crews are now about five weeks behind schedule, pub-

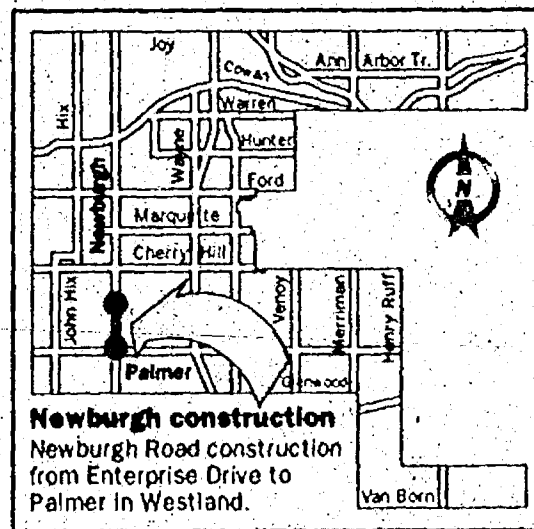
lic services Director Richard Dittmar said.

"All of the concrete should be done by then," he said, adding that site restoration and other finishing touches may be delayed until spring.

Construction crews this week are expected to start working on new railroad tracks that will pass over Newburgh near Avondale, Dittmar said.

The entire Newburgh project will cost about \$8.8 million - a tab that will be paid with local, state and federal dollars, Dittmar said. He estimated the city's share between \$3 million and \$4 million.

Early on, city officials had expected



**Newburgh construction**  
Newburgh Road construction from Enterprise Drive to Palmer in Westland.

the widening project would include only a stretch of Newburgh from Enterprise to Avondale.

But state legislators in February announced that a new grant was approved to extend the widening pro-

Please see NEWBURGH, A2

# Clerk vote could be in August

A new Westland city clerk could be hired as early as mid-August, as council members try to fill the job from a slate of three finalists.

Council members are separately mulling their possible choices following interviews last week with three candidates.

Pat Gibbons, acting Westland clerk. She has been a city employee since August 1977, and has served as

Please see CLERK, A2

## Picnic luncheon

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will hold a picnic luncheon at noon Tuesday, Aug. 4, at the Lions Pavilion in Central City Park. The picnic will be catered by Val's Catering.

Those people who RSVP are automatically entered into a monthly drawing for \$100 sponsored by John Toys of Remerica Family.

Everyone who turns in a luncheon survey is entered into a drawing for a free lunch. Lunch is \$13 and reservations can be made by calling (734) 326-7222.

## PLACES & FACES

### Bowling After Hours

The Westland Bowl will host a Bowling After Hours event at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14, for chamber members and their adult guests.

The event will feature contests and a chance to network. Dinner, bowling and door prizes are included in the cost of \$8 a person and \$16 a couple. Call (734) 326-7222 for reservations.

### Basic training

Navy Fireman Mark F. Dziuban, son of Francis and Linda Dziuban of Canton, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight week program, Dziuban completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis is also placed on physical fitness.

Dziuban is a 1995 graduate of John Glenn High School, Westland.



On target



Taking aim: At left, Nigel Busby, 12, of Westland aims at the 3-D targets at the second annual Redford "Shoot for our Youth" archery fund-raiser last Saturday at Capitol Park in Redford. Above, Bruce Hooper, 11, of Westland and his father Rick score their hits on the Turkey at the 3-D archery shoot.

Event shoots for youth

Saturday's second annual "Shoot for our Youth" 3-D Archery Shoot raked in \$14,000 and brought in participants from all around including Westland.

Park in Redford, was a fund-raiser for sportsman Ted Nugent's Kamp for Kids, Southeast Michigan Indians Inc., and Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE). About \$9,000 of the money

raised will go to benefit those groups. The event was hosted by the United Sportsmen of America, The Sports Authority and Timber Wolf Tavern, 25641 Plymouth Road.

Clerk from page A1

deputy clerk since 1992. ■ Christine Hnatiw, Grand Ledge clerk. She has held her current job since May 1993, and has 10 years of local government experience. ■ Linda Langmesser, Plymouth clerk. She has worked in her current post since 1989 and used to be a lower-level office clerk in Westland in 1978-81. Westland City Council members, charged with hiring a successor to City Clerk Diane Fritz, met with all three finalists last week. "I think we all have our favorites who impressed us the most," Councilwoman Sharon Scott said. "I think from these three people we can get one good candidate. "Each one had something to offer," she said. "Hopefully we can come to a consensus and not turn this into anything political." Council members will resume discussions about a new clerk during an Aug. 10 study session, and they say two scenarios are possible as the search continues: ■ The council may reach a consensus on a new city clerk. ■ Outside city clerks may be called in to interview the three finalists on technical issues, as council members watch. "We have three on-paper qualified candidates," Councilman Richard LeBlanc said, adding that all three finalists have "diverse" backgrounds and experiences. "I just hope we don't go out for another search," LeBlanc said, adding later, "I'm in favor of getting someone in that position permanently." Deputy Clerk Gibbons is serving as acting clerk, and Fritz has agreed to work as a city consultant to help her former office get through November elections. Fritz served as clerk for 20 years before she retired June 30. She has worked with five mayors and numerous council members. Some of her supporters, such as Scott and Councilwoman Justine Barns, have said Fritz will be difficult to replace. A three-member council subcommittee narrowed a larger field of candidates to three finalists for last week's interviews. "In my opinion I do not see a front-runner at this point," Scott said Tuesday. However, she did say the council may discuss candidates Aug. 10 and then be prepared to name a new clerk as early as Aug. 17. Regardless of the council's choice, LeBlanc said he will suggest some changes for the clerk's post. He said he believes the clerk should be subject to performance evaluations from all council members - a process that Fritz didn't face. Meanwhile, none of the three finalists have indicated a strong knowledge of the city's Unilect voting system - a computerized system that lets voters use touch-sensitive screens to cast their ballots. "That is a real concern," LeBlanc said. Council members hope the new clerk will learn quickly as Fritz helps the city through the 1998 election - the last she will oversee. Scott said she isn't worried about the new clerk learning the voting system. "I wouldn't think it would be a problem," she said.

Newburgh from page A1

ject south from Avondale to Palmer. State Rep. Eileen DeHart, hailing the new grant, said "better roads mean better economic times" for Newburgh businesses that will be more accessible due to road improvements. Now, most area businesses

just want to see the project finished. "Obviously everybody would like to see it finished," Red Spot Inc. general manager Harvey Kightlinger said Tuesday. "We haven't seen a lot of actual work lately, but I keep hearing they will finish on time.

"All in all, we haven't been terribly bothered by the work done there," he said. "All in all, they're doing a pretty good job." When the project began last year, some site work caused flooding on wooded land owned by businesses such as Red Spot Inc., which manufactures plastics used by auto companies, Kightlinger said. "I would say initially we had

some issues," he said, but added that problems were resolved. When the project is done, Newburgh will have five lanes through most of Westland, except for a half-mile stretch from Palmer to Glenwood. City officials still don't have any word of possible funding to widen that portion of Newburgh.

Scheme from page A1

"The most important thing is to deal with a reputable real estate broker and a licensed real estate agent," Tickner said. But that's not enough. She advised following these tips: ■ Ask to see a "pocket card" showing which real estate firm an agent is licensed with. ■ Do not pay in cash.

■ Make checks payable to broker firms, not individual agents. ■ Watch for home buyer seminars or do research at a library when buying a house. Real Estate One and other firms sponsor seminars periodically. ■ Learn about the paperwork that should be forthcoming, such as an agency disclosure form.

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Oh, rats: At far left, William Huffman (right) of Animal Rentals in Chicago placed a Norway Rat on the head of Stephen Brown, 8 of Ypsilanti. At near left, Haley Wright, 4 of Canton had her face painted as a tiger at the Animal Planet Rescue event.

## Visitors take walk on wild animal side

**T**hey're wild about animals. More than 3,500 from around the Metro area visited the Animal Planet Rescue mobile at Westland Shopping Center Saturday.

The 80-foot rescue vehicle travels across the United States to aid animals during disaster situations. While not in use for disasters, the vehicle tours the country, promoting disaster preparedness and demonstrating rescue techniques.

People who toured the vehi-

cle Saturday watched live animal rescue demonstrations. There was also face painting, snow cones and giveaways. Animal Planet Rescue also collected more than 300 pounds of canned pet food Saturday.

Sponsored by MediaOne, Animal Planet, American Humane Association and Westland Shopping Center, the vehicle includes a mobile veterinary clinic, rescue rafts, water tanks, and a portable corral for temporary care of livestock and horses.



Put on a Tiger face: Amy Bielawski of Hair-Brained Productions from Georgia paints a tiger face on Jessica Dinger, 8 of California who was visiting Kylee Sprayberry, 5 of Westland (right).



Good view: Jeff Lee of Canton holds his daughter Cassie June at the live animal demonstration. Behind them is the 80-foot long tractor-trailer.

## Man robs Hungry Howie's

A lone suspect robbed Hungry Howie's Pizza in the 33700 area of Ford Road early Monday, escaping with money he demanded from an employee, police said. No arrest has been made.

The incident happened at 12:03 a.m. when a man entered the business and implied he had a gun in his pants, a police report said.

The suspect was described as a slim, 5-foot-10 white male who was about 20 years old. He had sandy blond hair and a mustache and was wearing a Marilyn Manson rock T-shirt.

The suspect fled on foot. The incident happened as a delivery driver was away on what turned out to be a bogus order for pizza, but police didn't immediately know if the two incidents were related.

### CHECK FRAUD

A Detroit man was arrested last Thursday amid allegations he tried to cash a fraudulent check at a Westland bank. The 27-year-old man was arrested at an NBD branch in the 31300 block of Cherry Hill after employees called police to investigate what turned out to be a fraudulent check drawn on the Detroit Newspaper Agency.

### NICOTINE AND BEER

An owner of Z-mart convenience store in the 32900 block of Warren told police that someone took 35 to 40 cartons of cigarettes during a break-in that occurred between 12:05 a.m. and

### CRIME WATCH

9:45 p.m. July 22. Also taken were 15 to 25 six packs of beer. The owner said someone pried open a door and entered the store.

### 'FANNY PACK' STOLEN

A 36-year-old Livonia woman told Westland police someone stole her "fanny pack" while she was parked in front of Aco hardware store on Ann Arbor Trail about 7:30 p.m. July 18. The victim had left the fanny pack on the front seat of her truck. She reported it contained \$9, various credit cards and other personal items such as a checkbook.

### APARTMENT BREAK-IN

A woman reported that someone broke into her Heather Ridge apartment on Heather Court between 9 p.m. July 18 and 1 a.m. July 19 by forcing open a door. She told police that food from her refrigerator and cabinets had been placed in the sink with spices and condiments poured on it.

### SCHOOL ASSAULT

A 13-year-old boy was assaulted and knocked unconscious during an incident that occurred at 10:46 a.m. July 21 at the alternative education Tinkham Center at 450 S. Venoy in Westland, a police report said. The boy had regained consciousness by the time police arrived, but he was taken to a local hospital for treatment. The incident was

blamed on differences between two boys attending summer school classes at the Wayne-Westland-district facility. Police arrested the boy's attacker and turned him over to juvenile authorities.

### CAR THEFTS

Three vehicles were broken into late July 17 and early July 18 outside of Daisy Dukes bar, 450 S. Merriman, police reports said.

■ A male employee reported his 1993 Dodge Dakota was broken into between 8:50 p.m. and 2:20 a.m. Taken were a \$320 CD changer, a \$220 cassette player, a \$350 amplifier, a \$120 cellular phone and \$40 in power cords. A window was smashed in, causing an estimated \$200 in damages.

■ A female employee told police someone broke into her 1993 Chevy Cavalier between 9 p.m. and 2:20 a.m. and took a \$250 cassette player, causing \$200 damage to a passenger window that was smashed.

■ A third victim visiting the bar told police someone broke into her 1998 Ford Ranger between 11:45 p.m. and 2:20 a.m. and took a \$25 cellular phone cord, compact discs totaling about \$150, a \$35 bottle of perfume and other items. She reported no damage.

## Teen gets probation in assault

Wayne County Circuit Judge Timothy Kenny has sentenced Kyle Anders Tingstad, 18, of Garden City to two years probation and restitution for his role in the Oct. 4 severe assault on two Westland men in Hines Park.

Four other Garden City teenagers already have been sentenced to one-year jail terms and five years probation.

Tingstad had pleaded "no contest" in early June to aggravated assault, reduced from an attempted murder charge. Four other teens pleaded "no contest" to reduced charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm.

### HINES PARK

Kenny has ordered the five teens to split the cost of the victims' medical care. The two men, 20-year-old Robert Sumey and his 19-year-old friend Kevin Baker, were beaten with bonfire logs and beer bottles as they walked along a dark, wooded path leading from the park to a dead-end residential street near Warren and Inkster at 3:30 a.m. Oct. 4.

One of the men still suffers from occasional seizures due to head injuries, according to earlier police statements.

Teens sentenced to one-year jail terms include David Ryan Kozakowski and Brian Alan Wiatr, both 18, and James Thomas Domagalski Jr. and Christopher Totten, both 17.

Authorities have said Kyle Tingstad and his younger brother, Kent, 16, were allowed to plead "no contest" to lesser charges than the other defendants after they agreed to give testimony about the assault.

The status of Kent Tingstad's case couldn't be confirmed through juvenile court.

Police said the attack followed an earlier dispute that began as the two sides were attending a bonfire party in Hines Park.

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# Bob's of Canton opens Westland location

Bob's of Canton has opened a new 15,000-square-foot store in Westland at Warren and Merriman.

And that is good news for many Westland residents who traveled to the Canton store to do their shopping, according to owner Bob Coleman.

Coleman, a Livonia resident, has been in business at Bob's of Canton for about 10 years. This weekend, Aug. 1 and 2, a grand opening is planned at both the Westland and Canton stores to celebrate Westland's opening. Included will be product

**■ This weekend, Aug. 1 and 2, a grand opening is planned at both the Westland and Canton stores to celebrate Westland's opening.**

demonstrations such as how to mix Zatarains jambalaya mix with sausage. Shoppers will also be invited to sample stuffed chicken breast and Dearborn Sausage as well as enter for a chance to win televisions, mountain bikes, two Pillsbury Beanie Babies, golf clubs and Tiger tickets.

Occupying the site of the former Bob's Farm Market, the new Westland store has been totally renovated and is not associated with Bob's Farm Market, Coleman said.

An 80-foot-long counter is one of the highlights at the new Westland store. It reflects an area Coleman has specialized in since the beginning of his career



**New store:** Bob Coleman, owner of Bob's of Canton, stands near the fresh meat counter of his new store on Warren near Merriman in Westland.

— fresh meat.

The concept of fresh meat at a service counter is one area Coleman feels strongly about. "The fact that you see every piece that you're buying," he said.

Areas that are emphasized are "freshness, cleanliness and top quality in meat," Coleman

said.

In addition to fresh meat, chicken and fish are offered. The fresh fish counter features fish and other seafood such as lobster, shrimp and king crab legs flown in from places such as Boston and Canada.

The chicken is inspected daily

to ensure freshness, Coleman said. Fresh Amish chickens are also available.

Many items which can be used in salads and special dishes such as rice pudding, green bean salad and potato salad are available on a rotating basis. Also featured is a selection of

marinated items including steaks, chicken, fish and lamb. On a recent day shoppers could find marinated swordfish kabobs and swordfish marinated with Thai ginger. Bob's will also take special orders, and employees know how to cook anything the store sells, he said.

Ground meats — ground chuck, ground round and ground sirloin — are prepared fresh daily, he said.

Bob's also makes homemade fresh sausage and beer bratwurst and carries the Dearborn Sausage products including hot dogs and sausage.

For fresh fruits and vegetables, the produce department has been set up to make it easier for consumers to walk through, Coleman said. Produce is also mostly U.S. grown. "We are very particular about the products we import," he said.

"Top quality freshness that is what our store's all about," Coleman said.

The store also offers most other grocery food items a shopper would expect and also carries unusual items such as those in the gourmet section. "A lot of imported food that make for really different kinds of meals," he said.

The store is introducing a lot of specialty food, according to store director Michael Berry. "I'm always looking for other things," he said. Some items shoppers will find include a variety of barbecue sauces, mustards, specialty teas and dressings.

Customer service and quality of products are among the

store's strong points, Berry said.

Service is another area Coleman stresses.

Now that he has a Westland location, Coleman said he has

plans to become active in Westland as time permits. He is already active in the state Make-A-Wish Foundation and is one of the main sponsors of its annual bikeathon. "It's one of my pride and joys," he said. Make-A-Wish is a program anybody with a heart would get involved with, Coleman said.

At holiday time he also works with Holy Trinity Parish to feed the hungry, helping feed 742 families last year.

Coleman said he's been blessed. "This is my way to give back to the community and to people in need."

Coleman's career began in high school when he took a co-op class in meat cutting.

By age 19, he was a manager for a food store chain in Milan. After meeting his wife, Cynthia, who now helps him run his stores, he decided to go into business and accomplished that in 1976. He opened his Canton store 10 years ago. He now has a large say in the design of his stores and supervises the construction, including the new Westland site.

Coleman said the Westland site "presented a tremendous opportunity to us."

Bob's of Canton is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. The Canton store is located at 8611 Lilley Road and the Westland store is at 31210 W. Warren.



## Officer pleads no contest

A Farmington Hills police officer has been suspended with pay pending an internal investigation as a result of a domestic assault case involving his former fiancée.

The officer, Gary Brandemihl, 45, has been accused of domestic assault in Westland's 18th District Court. On July 22, he entered a no contest plea under advisement to the misdemeanor charge before District Court Judge Gail McKnight, a court officer said.

With a no contest plea under advisement, a person does not admit guilt.

A pre-sentencing hearing is set for 8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 30, with sentencing 8:30 a.m. Sept. 4.

If Brandemihl completes the recommended probation, the case could be dismissed, a court officer said.

Farmington Hills police will investigate the matter internally to decide whether conduct unbecoming an officer will result, Chief Bill Dwyer said.

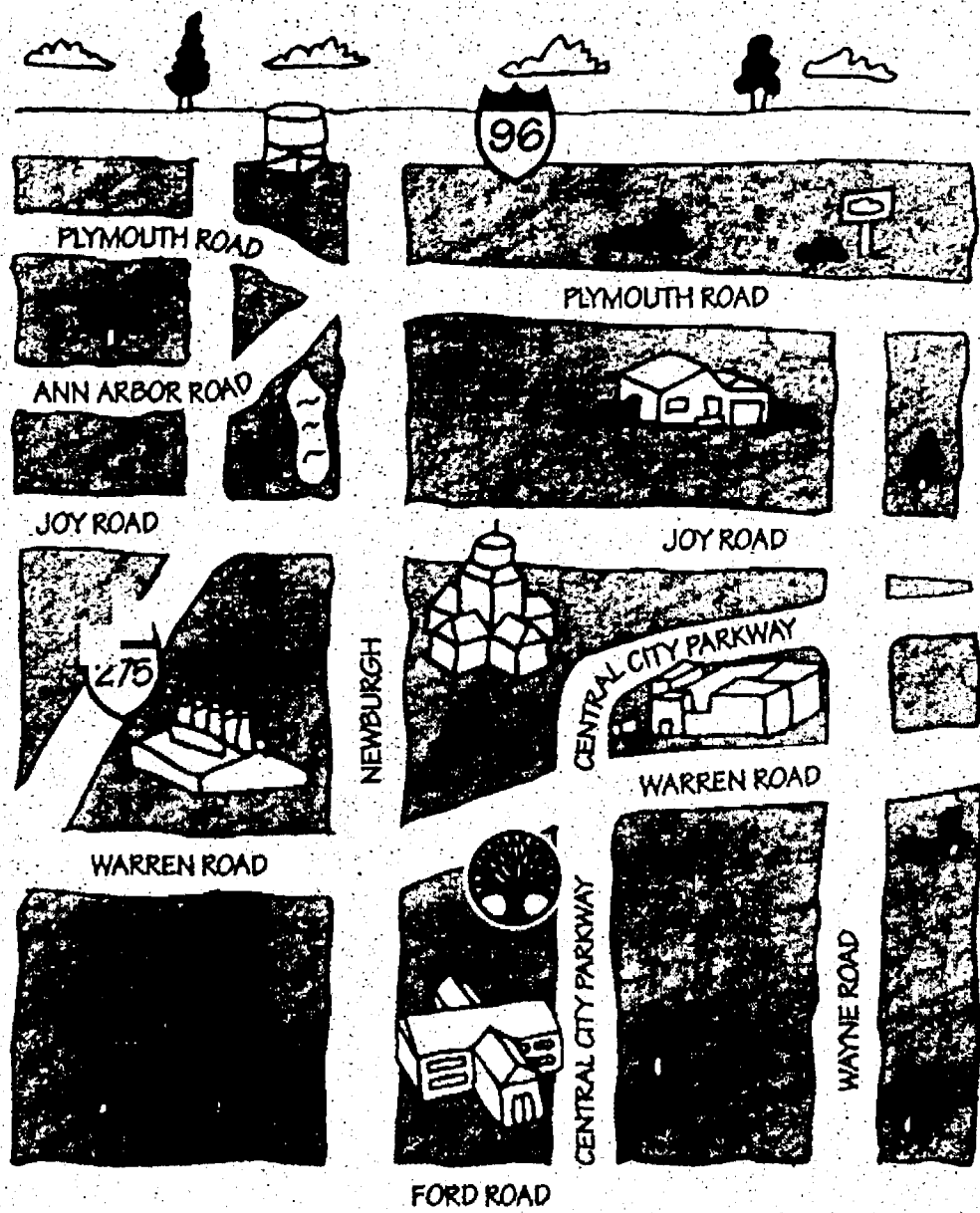
The officer has been suspended with pay during the internal investigation, Dwyer said. If any charges result, a trial board would be set up.

Hills police want to talk with the victim as part of the internal investigation, Dwyer said.

"Under the nolo contendere under advisement plea, that does not mean he cannot be a police officer," Dwyer said. "He is not pleading guilty. So there is no criminal record to attach to it."

He's been ordered not to have contact with the victim, who is seeking help from domestic violence support agency First Step.

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### CITY OF WESTLAND ORDINANCE NO. 29-W-28-1

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 46, SECTIONS 46-1(48) AND 46-1(49) OF THE WESTLAND CITY CODE TO AMEND THE RATES FOR MUNICIPAL WATER SEWER AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE CONTROL CHARGES.

THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:  
Section 1. That paragraph (a) of the portion of Section 46-1(48) of the Westland City Code entitled "Water consumption charges (Section 102-91)" shall be amended to provide as follows:

(a) Per 1,000 gallons per quarter of any fraction thereof \$1.70  
Section 2. That paragraphs (a) and (b) of the portion of Section 46-1(49) of the Westland City Code entitled "Sewage disposal rates (Section 102-124)" shall be amended to provide as follows:

1. Per 1,000 gallons per quarter or any part thereof (Section 102-124(a)) \$2.49
2. Industrial waste control charge (Section 102-124(b)):

Meter Size (inches)	Monthly Charge
1/4	\$ 2.66
1/2	4.00
3/4	6.66
1	14.66
1 1/4	21.31
2	38.63
3	53.28
4	79.92
6	133.20
8	186.48
10	213.12
12	319.68
16	372.96
18	479.52
24	

Section 3. That all other provisions of Section 46-1(48) and 46-1(49) of the Westland City Code, except as amended herein, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. Repeal. All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such inconsistencies, hereby repealed.

Section 6. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective on July 20, 1998.

ON MOTION OF Barns, SUPPORTED BY Scott, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
Anderson		X	
Barns	X		
Griffin		X	
LeBlanc	X		
Pickering	X		
Scott	X		
Cicirelli	X		

PATRICIA A. GIBBONS  
Westland Acting City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance No. 29-W-28-1 adopted by the City Council of the City of Westland, County of Wayne, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on July 29, 1998, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to an in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

Adopted July 29, 1998  
Effective July 20, 1998  
Published July 30, 1998

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TRAFFIC TIP OFFS

# Freeway motorists soon will see the signs

The Michigan Department of Transportation expects to activate an expanded computerized traffic management system by the end of August to inform commuters about accidents and traffic tie-ups throughout Wayne, Macomb and southern Oakland counties.

On Wednesday, MDOT officials and representatives from

Rockwell International unveiled the expanded Michigan Intelligent Transportation Systems Center in Detroit.

Once integration tests are done on the system in late August, MITSC will be activated. The system expands its current 32 miles to 148 miles and costs \$33 million with 90 percent of the expansion funded through

a federal air quality grant.

### New system

The system is expected to do the following:

- Advise motorists of road conditions, traffic accidents and incidents through 54 freeway signs on overpasses, including portions of I-94, I-96, I-275 and I-75 in Wayne County, and I-696

and I-75 in Oakland County.

From their homes, commuters will be able to check on road congestion and lane closures on the Internet or by calling a highway advisory telephone number.

More than 140 closed-circuit television cameras will monitor the freeways, giving state police officers and television monitors

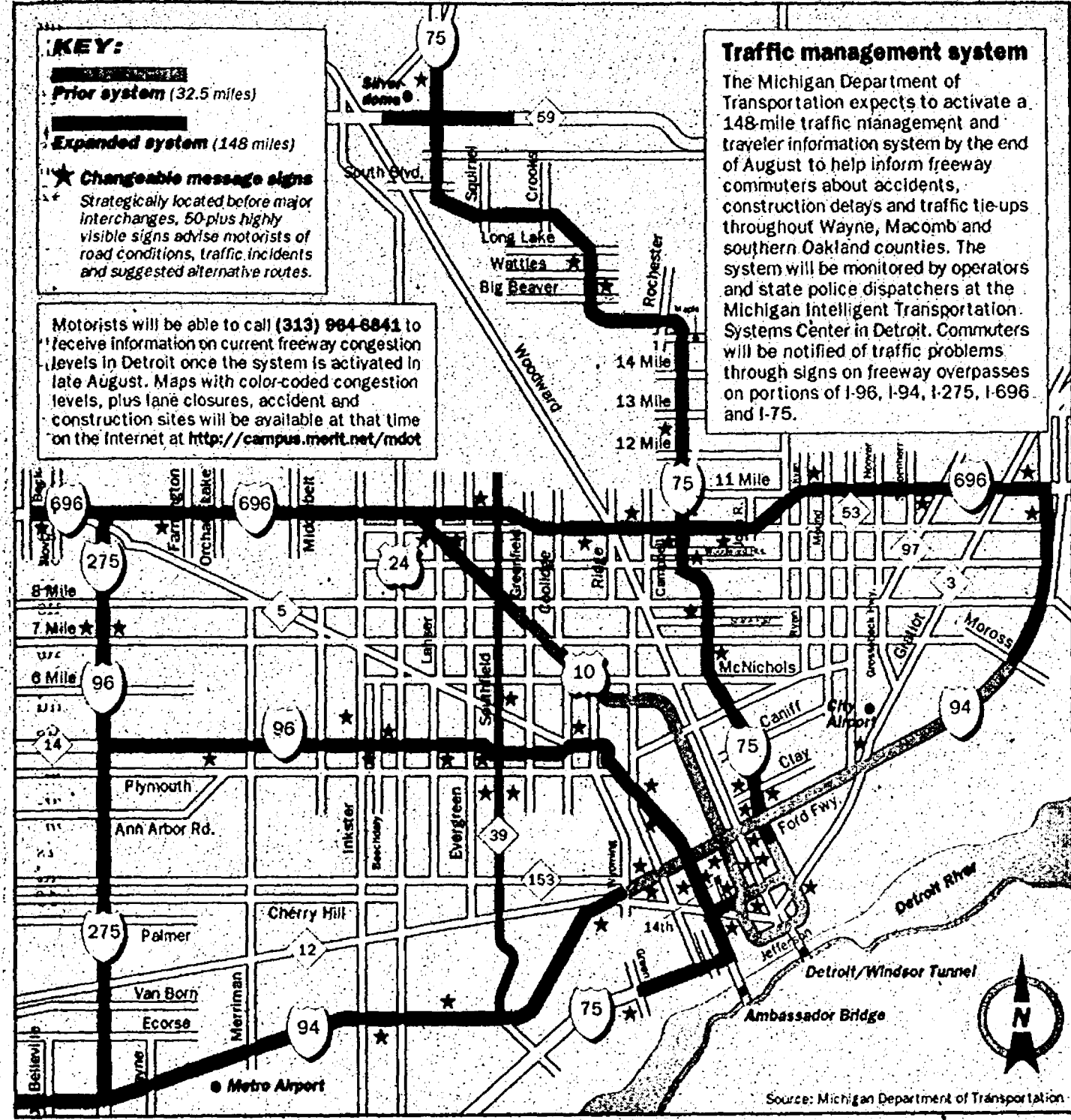
and operators pictures of traffic.

Western Wayne County commuters can expect I-94, I-96 and I-275 to be activated by the end of August. Portions of the Southfield and Lodge freeways already have been activated in Oakland County.

MDOT is negotiating with the

Please see **ROADS, A6**

From their homes, commuters will be able to check on road congestion and lane closures on the Internet or by calling a highway advisory telephone number.



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 Wayne County Human Relations Division  
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TRAFFIC TIP-OFFS

# Roads from page A5

city of Troy to use a tower in that community for I-75 commuters, while signs on I-696 should be activated early this week, MDOT officials said.

The Michigan State Police now houses its regional 911 dispatch center in the same room as the MITSC's control room. Once the system is activated, dispatchers soon will be able to verify 911 calls immediately, check on the severity of accidents and dispatch appropriate emergency personnel, such as fire trucks for car fires or rescue units for injuries in accidents.

### Benefits

That is expected to save crucial minutes on emergency runs, officials said.

"Many, many times, it is a life-and-death issue," said Kunwar Rajendra, engineer of transportation systems for MDOT's traffic and safety division.

SmartRoute Systems of Cambridge, Mass., will take over the system from MDOT once the system integration is tested by Rockwell International, the project manager of MITSC.

SmartRoute expects to expand the service to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, once the system is fully operational.

"Study after study show that almost 70 percent of congestion is due to an incident," Rajendra said.

**Motorists will be informed of the freeway conditions through the use of 54 message signs on freeway overpasses. Such signs are located on I-96 at the Beech Daly overpass, eastbound I-96 near Wayne Road and I-275 at Seven Mile Road.**

### Out in the street

The new 148-mile system features 136 closed-circuit television cameras that relay images back to the center and its 33-monitor video wall, where MITSC operators and state police dispatchers can view traffic.

"We can see different situations that may develop that the officer may or may not be aware of," said Lt. Beth Moranty, commander of regional dispatch for the state police's Second District. "That's another safety factor for our officers."

Moranty said state police receive about 600,000 calls on

911 a year.

More than 2,400 diamond-shaped sensors detect vehicles passing over them, and notify the computer system, which counts traffic volume and speed.

MDOT also combined 64 miles of coaxial cable, 38 miles of fiberoptic connections and nine 200-foot tall communication towers for the system.

### Sign of the times

Motorists will be informed of the freeway conditions through the use of 54 message signs on

freeway overpasses. Such signs are located on I-96 at the Beech Daly overpass, eastbound I-96 near Wayne Road and I-275 at Seven Mile Road.

These signs will notify commuters of traffic tie-ups, but they will not inform them of congestion that may move to surface streets and main arteries from the freeways.

"The (computer) industry now

tends to throw out the information and let them decide," said John Sickler, project manager for transportation systems for Odetics, a subcontractor on the project.

Motorists will be able to learn about congestion on connecting freeways from the signs and the Internet, Sickler said. Information on the Internet will be

updated every minute. People will be able to click on construction and traffic incident icons to access traffic information.

Thousands of messages will be stored within the system. The system will work like a "tree" network, but Rockwell and MDOT need to decide what messages will be shown at different locations.

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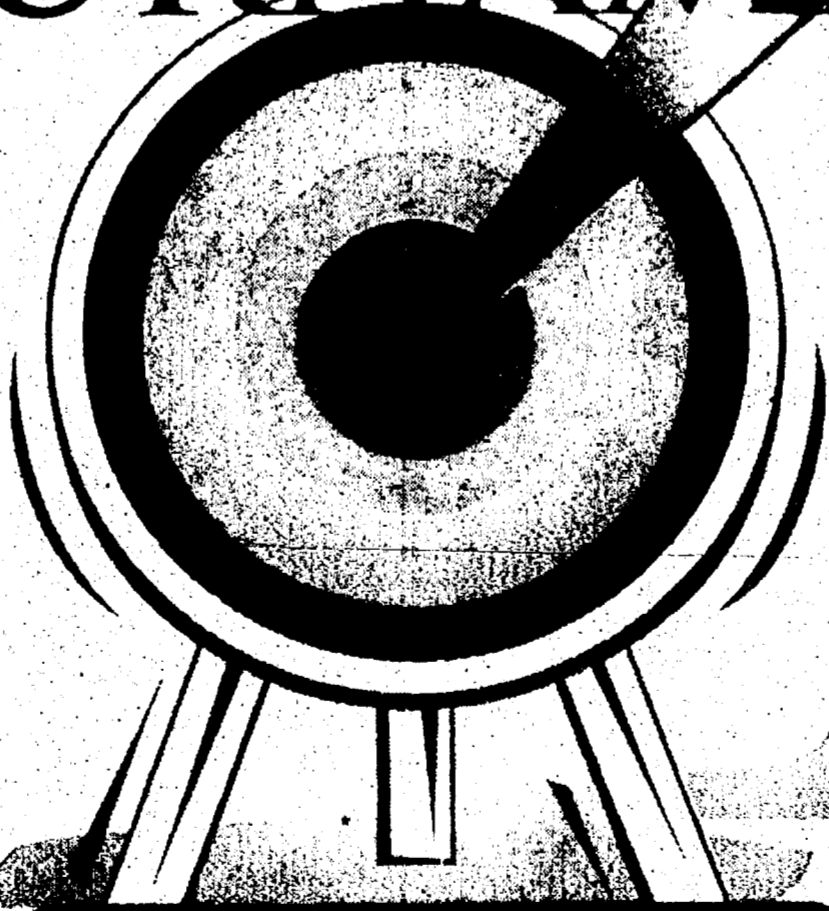
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## McCotter top money raiser in Senate campaign

Republican candidates in the Ninth District's state Senate race have spent \$204,598 to win a seat that pays about one-fourth of that amount.

The candidates are scrambling to win nomination Aug. 4 to the six-year seat to represent the Ninth District. The district, largely Republican, includes the Livonia, Northville and Plymouth, Redford and part of Canton.

Campaign finance reports were due last Friday.

Thaddeus McCotter, currently a Wayne County commissioner, collected \$117,620, the largest campaign war chest. Former state representative Jim Ryan gathered \$86,026, while Deborah Whyman, state representative from Canton, raised \$32,800.

McCotter also leads in the final days before the primary with the most money available. McCotter reported \$27,836 for a final balance. The others reported the following: Ryan, \$2,686; Whyman, \$1,325, and Poenisch, \$394.

McCotter spent the most at \$89,783. Ryan was close behind at \$83,340, and Whyman was a distant third at \$31,475.

Democrat candidate Carol Poenisch collected \$450, and spent \$56. Her primary opponent, Marc Susselman, reported that he raised and

spent no money.

McCotter received 13 contributions of \$1,000 or more from individuals and political action committees representing everything from Ladbroke racing to manufactured housing. McCotter received \$2,000 from the Michigan Assisted Living Association PAC and the Michigan Association of Realtors, and among the \$1,000 contributors were Ladbroke Racing PAC, Michigan Association of Insurance Agents, Lawyers PAC, Michigan Nurses Association PAC, and Michigan Manufactured Housing, RV and Campground Association PAC.

McCotter spent nearly \$11,000 on a poll and consultant work with MRG in Lansing, more than \$4,500 on lawn and other political signs, and more than \$10,000 on postage and mass mailings and printing of literature.

Ryan collected \$1,000 contributions from six individuals, including Roger Penske, the owner of Detroit Diesel and Gerald

Imlay of Troy, the owner of J&J Auto Supply and four others.

Contributions received by Ryan included groups representing the following PACs: Michigan Auto Dealers, Teamsters Local 243 Committee, \$1,000; Michigan Racing Association, \$500; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Auto Club, Michigan Credit Union League, Michigan Bankers Association, Michigan State Firefighters, Michigan Assisted Living, \$150; and Ameritech Plus, Michigan Osteopathic, and Detroit Firefighters Association, \$100.

Ryan spent \$20,000 on political consulting with Allen Feuer of Southfield and nearly \$3,000 on lawn signs. Postage cost Ryan nearly \$14,000.

Most of Whyman's contributions were \$25, but she also received two \$1,000 contributions, one from her mother and another from a Plymouth dentist.

PAC money received by Whyman included: DentPAC of Michigan, \$1,000; Michigan Truck, \$200; GTE, \$150; Michigan Radiology and Michigan Optometric Association, \$100.

Whyman spent more than \$10,000 on printing and at least \$7,900 on postage.



McCotter



Ryan



Wyman

## YWCA wins state grant for child, family programs

More than \$373,000 in new grants will be awarded to direct service agencies to provide services aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect, according to Gov. John Engler.

In Wayne County, the YWCA will receive \$32,200. The YWCA Child and Family Neighborhood Program serves families who reside in or near public housing and immigrant communities in the listed targeted cities. The program provides parenting skills training

and support programs in the areas of child development, child care skills, life coping skills, stress management and general advocacy and support.

The program also involves the collaborative community effort of at least 10 agencies. With the grant, the YWCA Child and Family Neighborhood Program will expand to serve an additional 65 families annually, bringing the number of families served to 379.

"Community collaboration continues to be one of the cornerstones of my administration," Engler said. "I believe that some of the best answers to some of the state's problems rest in our communities. I am encouraged that the number of agencies interested in applying for these grants to help prevent child abuse and neglect increases each year."

The grants, selected and funded by the Children's Trust Fund, are part of \$900,000 in grant funding to be awarded in 1999. "The funding was awarded to community-based preven-

tion programs and services that were designed to promote strong, nurturing families and to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs," said Ena Weathers, CTF board member and chair of the board's Prevention Programs Committee.

Fourteen new organizations will receive funding.

"The diversity of the grants funded this year clearly reinforces the Children's Trust Fund's commitment to providing support to a broad popula-

tion with a host of prevention needs," said Deborah Strong, CTF executive director. "We hope that as more funding through donations and other support comes to CTF, we will be able to provide even more services."

Part of the funding is raised through the Michigan State Tax Form Check-off campaign.

Funds donated to the Children's Trust Fund provide services to local communities through 69 CTF local councils around the state.

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**OBITUARIES**

**PHILIP C. DAVIS**  
Funeral services and burial for Philip Davis, 67, of Westland were July 14 at Glenwood Cemetery, Wayne. Arrangements were made by Uht Funeral Home.

Mr. Davis died July 11. He was a millwright.  
Surviving are: wife, Angela; sons, Glenn, Wayne and David; brothers, Virgil and John Ray; sister, Madeline; and six grandchildren.

**FRANCES T. SHOTWELL**  
Funeral services for Frances Shotwell, 79, of Westland were July 28 in Charles R. Step Funeral Home. Officiating was the Rev. Larry Austin.

Mrs. Shotwell, who died July 25 in Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, was born in Davenport, Iowa. She was a homemaker.  
Surviving are: son, James; grandchildren, James Jr., Beth Ann Sholler, Gregory, Terri

and Bill.  
Mrs. Shotwell was preceded in death by her husband, Willard.

**CATHERINE SMITH**  
Funeral services for Catherine Smith, 72, of Plymouth were July 28 in John N. Santeju & Son Funeral Home with burial at Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit. Officiating was the Rev. Suzanne Walls from Christ United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Smith, who died July 24 in Plymouth Township, was born in Robertsdale, Pa. She was a secretary.

Surviving are: sons, Rex of Westland, Dan and Tim; brother, Al Tromeur; sisters, Margaret Ptak, Nell Taylor and Agnes Kellogg; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by her husband, James; and son, Stanley.

Memorials may be made to American Lung Association.

**BRANDY B. OLSON**  
A private memorial service for former Westland resident Brandy Olson, 20, will be held at a later date. Arrangements were made by Brown & Sons Funeral Home in Bradenton, Fla.

Ms. Olson died July 21 in Bradenton, Fla., after a long battle with cancer. She was a graduate of John Glenn High School class of 1996.

Surviving are: daughter, Samantha Marie; mother, Jessica Olson; stepfather, Laurence Williams; brother, Tim; sister, Nissa Rae; grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Memorials may be made to the Samantha Marie Heikkinen Trust Fund, First of America Bank, 44520 Michigan Ave., Canton, MI.

**CLASS REUNIONS**

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

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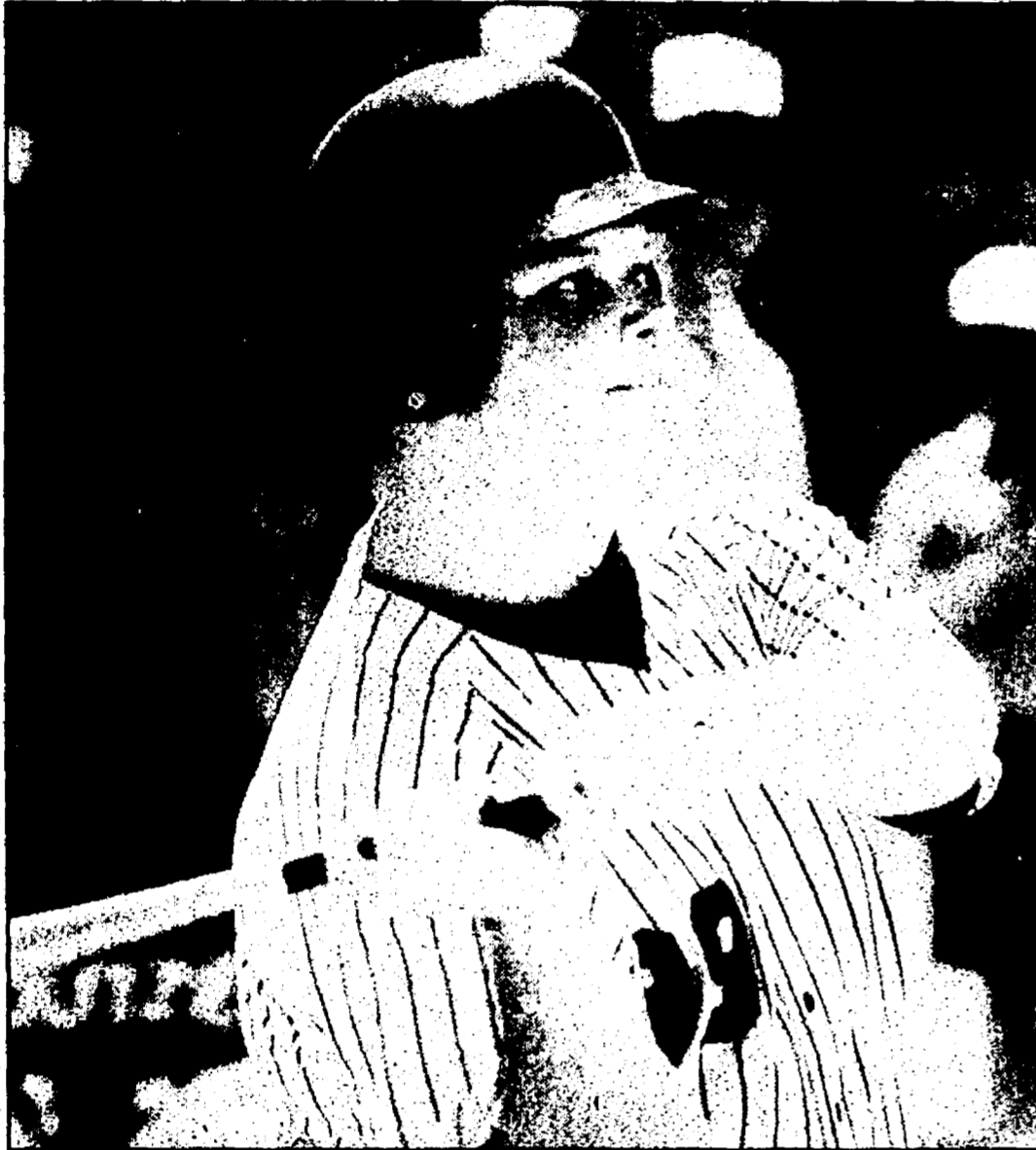
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**Go team!** Wayne Treece (left above) of Wayne and Jason Bales (right) of Westland react after the third out in a perfect inning for the Wayne Westland Falcons. The Falcons lost the game in the last inning to take a second place in Division 9. Kraig Lenard (right) of Garden City waits to hit the softball in the finals of the Special Olympics State Softball Tournament in Canton.



## Special Olympians

### Area athletes win big at softball tourney

Michigan Special Olympics summer sports action concluded last weekend with a 55-team softball tournament at the Canton Softball Center on Michigan Avenue in Canton Township.

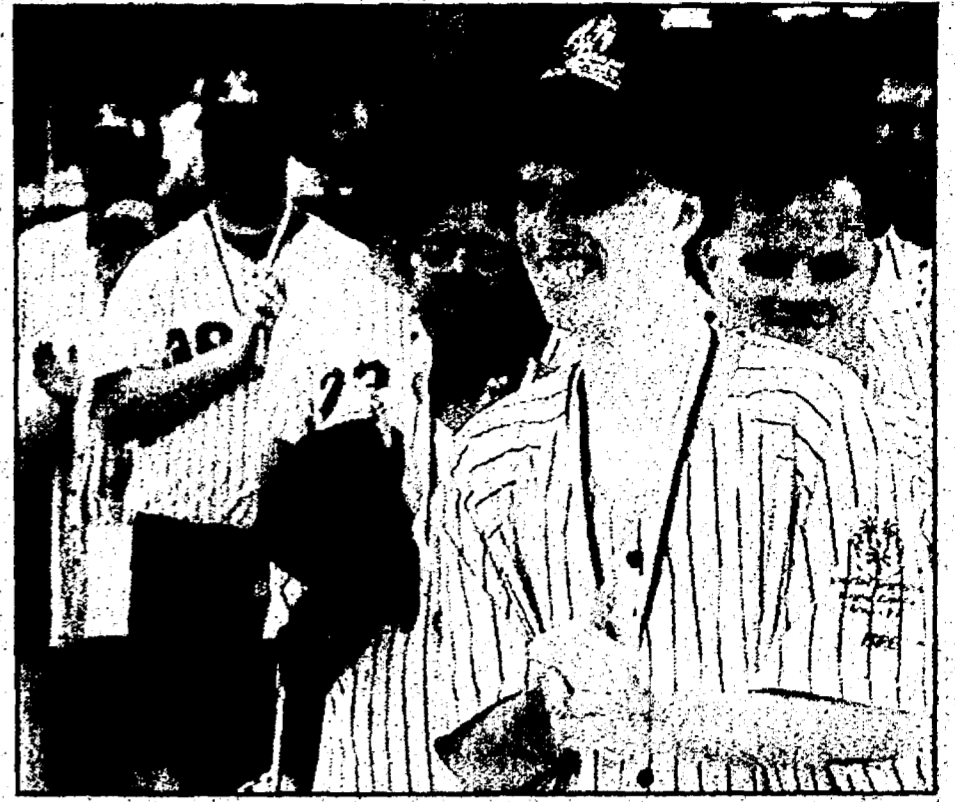
Teams from all over Michigan competed in the tournament, including nine teams from Wayne County.

The Stars were the highest-placing Wayne County team, winning the gold medal in Division 7 competition. Stars players are David West, Sean Bowers, Kevin Welgosh, Billy Ardt, Scott Zamitt, David Foust, Ron Walzak, Nathan Lafever, Andrea Flynn, Chris Sockow, Meghan Campbell, Scott Stoner and Justin Strabbing.

The Wayne Westland Falcons placed second and won silver medals in Division 9 competition after losing the championship game to the Bay City Thundercats by a score of 12-16.

Local players on the Wayne Westland Falcons team include 21-year-old first baseman Jason Bales of Westland, 15-year-old left fielder Kraig Lenard and 17-year-old second baseman Holly Gossett, both of Garden City.

Other teams members are Wayne Treece of Wayne, Dawn Saur of Allen Park, Brent Killingbeck of Romulus, Peter



**Congratulations:** Matt Gravenmier of Wayne and members of the Wayne Westland Falcons applaud the Bay City team that beat them in the final game.

Gutierrez of Belleville, Leedell Haywood of Wayne, Doug Beasley of Wayne, Jowada Haywood of Wayne, Jayne Ann McDougald of Belleville, John Norton of Wayne and Matt Gravenmier of Wayne.

Kraig's mother, Marcia Lenard, said her son started competing in Special Olympics

in January and is looking forward to the soccer season. "He just said to me, 'Mom, I wish we had a game tonight.' I really wish we would have done this years ago."

For more information about Special Olympics, call (800) 644-6404.

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# Salvation Army Time to welcome new leaders

It's a time of transition at the Westland office of the Salvation Army. This summer has been a time to say goodbye to an active community member and his wife and hello and welcome to the new leaders of the local office.

Capt. Mark Welsh and his wife, Sue, who had run the local office for the past four years, were transferred to a post in Minnesota.

Mark Welsh had been highly visible in the community and was often in attendance at local events and meetings. Congratulations are in order for the Welshes' many accomplishments in the community, including developing partnerships with local businesses. We bid the Welshes farewell. They will be missed.

Meanwhile, though, a new couple has taken the reins at the local Salvation Army office. Lts. Charles and Betty Yockey took charge July 1. They are natives of Kansas and come to Westland as their first assignment. They are excited about their new post and have already begun to make acquaintances in the community. Just last Thursday the Yockeys were on hand to accept a grant at the Christmas in July event held by the Westland Community Foundation. They also could be found out front of the Hellenic Cultural Center before the ceremony ringing a bell next to a red kettle.

While many people most often think of the Salvation Army in association with the red kettles and bell ringers outside of area businesses during the holiday season, the organization offers many programs year-round.

In fact, the Yockeys take over programs

that have helped many people in the Westland and Wayne communities:

- Emergency food and shelter to needy families and help in charting a plan for becoming self-sufficient;
- Food baskets, toys and clothing to needy families during the Christmas holidays;
- Summer camps for youngsters;
- An after-school tutoring program that helps children raise their grades;
- A recreational/gym program offering kids a safe place to play;
- Visits and gifts for senior citizens during the holidays.

The Salvation Army also offers church services and spiritual guidance.

The local Salvation Army operates out of a 12,000-square-foot building on Venoy south of Palmer in Westland. The organization's programs reach out a helping hand to an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 people a year.

As an example of how many people's lives are touched in programs other than holiday help for the needy: between January and May of this year 300 youths were registered in the after-school recreation program; 35 students were registered in the tutorial program and 45 young people were enrolled in the Youth Character Building program.

We're sure that local residents will stretch out their hands in welcome to the new leaders of the local Salvation Army and offer their support. It's an organization that helps in many ways, with the support of local residents, to make Westland a better place to be.



Lts. Charles and Betty Yockey

## Vote no on supermajority

Voters in Westland will decide Proposition A - known as supermajority - on Tuesday's ballot.

If approved by voters the proposal will amend the county charter to require a two-thirds vote of the Wayne County Commission to place any new tax increase on the ballot. It will also require a 60 percent (or supermajority) vote of the electorate to approve any new tax increase.

The idea is certainly inviting because Wayne County residents - compared to their

counterparts in Oakland and Macomb - pay high taxes.

But the proposal represents bad public policy and according to information from the Citizens Research Council violates the state Constitution and the Headlee Amendment.

The proposal goes against the very basic democratic principle of majority rule.

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, don't forget to vote the nonpartisan portion of the ballot and vote no on Proposition A.

### COMMUNITY VOICE

#### QUESTION:

How did the city respond in the aftermath of last week's storm?

We asked this question at the Westland post office.



"From what I saw it looked pretty good."  
 Arthur Grysh  
 Westland



"They did a good job. I just saw Jaycee Park and it looked good."  
 James Hagelthorn  
 Westland

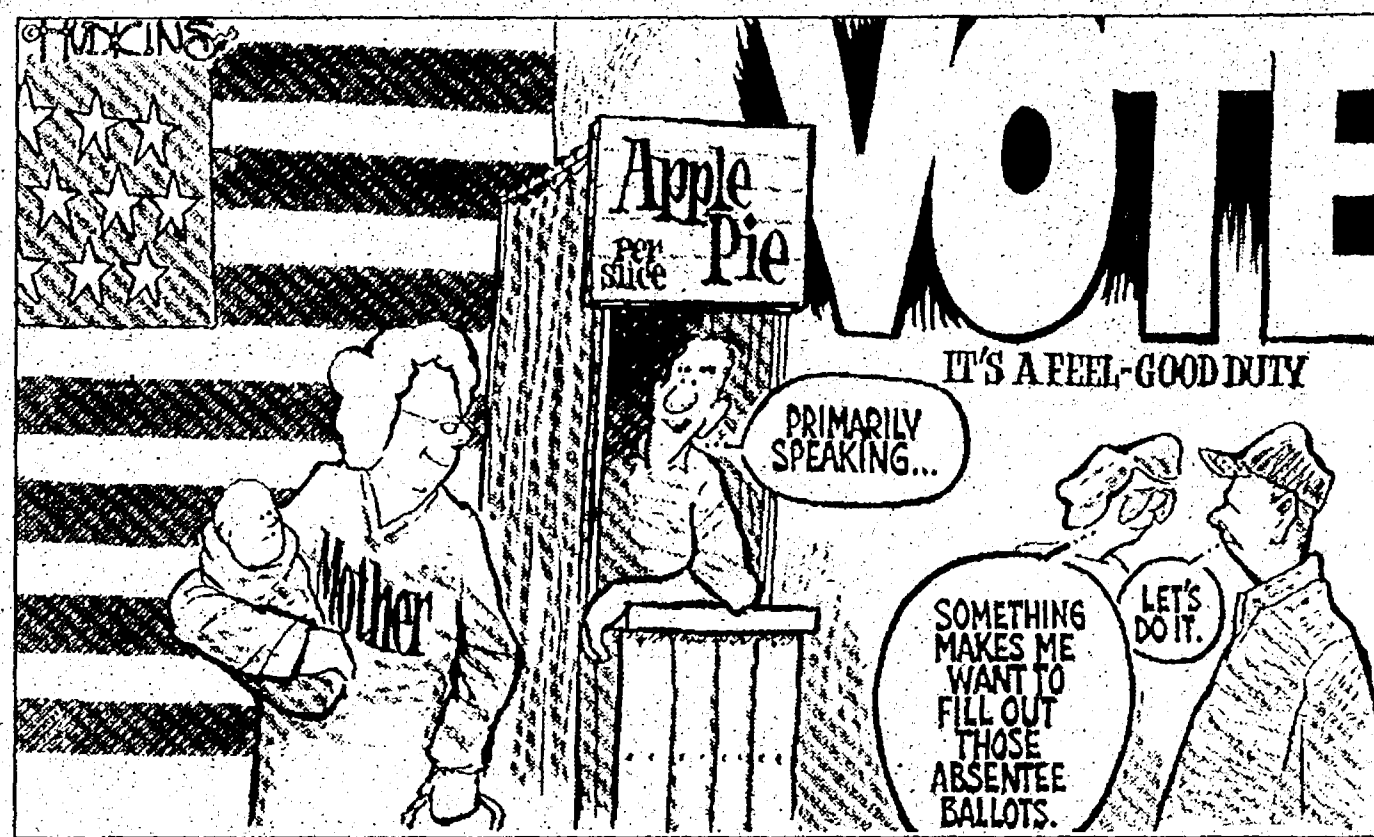


"Pretty good. We didn't really have any damage to our house."  
 Gael Wallace  
 Westland



"I think they did a great job where I live (near Nankin Boulevard and Wayne Road.)"  
 Marie Zyren  
 Westland

ARKIE HUDKINS



### LETTERS

#### Many false gods

Wall Street worships many false gods. But the god of technology is the most dangerous god of all.

Presently, computers and the Internet are viewed by Wall Street as our ticket into a new golden age of prosperity. Internet stocks like Amazon.com and Yahoo! are soaring obscenely. But, historically, similar technology-based speculative episodes have occurred in the past. Consider:

The Panic of 1907 was caused by the overbuilding of and speculation in railroads. Back in the 1850s, canal building was the "hot new thing." Until it too collapsed into financial panic.

But the 1920s was the most incredible technology boom of them all. Cars, refrigerators, telephones, talking pictures and radios changed people's lives profoundly and forever. While new skyscrapers, airplanes and dirigibles dazzled us with image of an amazing future yet to come. It was truly a golden age. The age of Lindbergh and RCA. Until it too collapsed in the panic of 1929.

By comparison, the 1990s technology boom doesn't really come close to the 1920s. This is the age of Bill Gates and Microsoft and the other barefoot boy billionaires of Silicon Valley.

We've been down this road before. Wall Street worships many false gods.

Yahoo!

Walter Warren  
 Westland

gram mentioned the change of rules. If this was a "gentleman's agreement," it did work.

Cross-school district busing destroyed Detroit more than the riots, and continues today. School enrollment represented neighborhoods. Detroit was a melting pot of ethnic enclaves - Polish, Chinese, Catholic, Baptist, Jewish, black, rich and poor. All had purchased homes in communities they chose to raise their families. Yellow buses began taking their children to schools far from home. This was too much for any loving parents. Those that could afford to move did so - only the poor remained.

Coleman Young adequately represented what was left of Detroit. The residents would not have elected a strong, wise, and almost ruthless mayor (he would have needed to be black) capable of turning the city around. Financial investors and the ablest and brightest residents had fled. Hiring, job promotion, and purchasing based on skin color would not bring them back. City income taxes, residential requirements and meter maid terrorists added barriers to any renaissance. The EPA is about to close remaining industries because they exist in poor neighborhoods.

To be a great city again Detroit will need other "gentlemen's agreements." Stop harassing the police, stop preferential treatment, school busing and all programs that discriminate. Only "equal opportunity" will encourage opportunists to invest their talents in this city. It can happen!

Hank Borgman

#### Equal opportunity

"Integration dream's downfall," by Philip Power is an excellent review of Detroit history. I want to add my personal observations.

When the 1967 Detroit riot began, police were ordered to leave shotguns in their squad cars and take no action that might enrage the citizens as they robbed stores. Looters realized film crews were looking for "police brutality" scenarios and acted for the cameras. National Guardsmen were expected to intimidate rioters merely by their presence, but citizens understood the game, "don't dare touch us."

The city was burning when the rules were secretly changed. Police badges were removed. License plates and military vehicle identification were covered with masking tape. Enforcement got tough. No officer or soldier was sued for cracking the head of a thief. No news pro-

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 [bjachman@oe.homecommi.net](mailto:bjachman@oe.homecommi.net)

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— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

# Airport welcome doesn't put area's best foot forward

Traveling abroad makes one newly sensitive to how people from other countries view our own.

So as I walked off our trans-Atlantic flight and into Metro Airport, my first thought was "Oh, no."

It's bad enough that our domestic terminals are unattractive, overcrowded and beset by the horrible warning sounds coming from the lorries that transport people who can't make the distance to the gates.

But the seedy-looking cinder-block hallway where they have the nerve to put up a sign welcoming people to Wayne County's Metropolitan Airport's international terminal is the first look for many people from other lands at our United States.

I was embarrassed.

I wondered if the sign itself confused anyone. After all, the Northwest

flight was announced as Amsterdam to Detroit, not Wayne County. I say no international flight, much less domestic, has Wayne County as its given destination.

But on to baggage where I was anxious to see if the extreme patience required for domestic luggage retrieval would be necessary for international travel as well. Oops, but first, get in line for that pay-for-me-or-go-without luggage cart.

I was embarrassed.

It is totally inappropriate to ask just off the plane newcomers to throw off that jet lag and immediately "Show us the money." Throughout Europe and Asia, those carts are free, and in many U.S. airports as well. And woe to the non-U.S. citizen who doesn't have American currency in his or her wallet.

The first round of baggage actually



JUDITH DONER BERNE

began making its circular route in reasonable time. Oops, but those same bags kept going round and round with no new ones being added. It turned out that the baggage chute had jammed and it took some time for a Northwest Airlines official to both determine that and then unjam it. It happened another couple of times before we collected our luggage.

I was embarrassed.

Going through customs, however, was a breeze and we were on our way.

New airport director Dave Katz suggests that I not breeze over our speedy passage through customs. That is because a year ago that was the No. 1 complaint of international passengers, he tells me. We just spent a ton of money to improve the (efficiency) of the federal inspection service.

In fact, my complaint about making travelers pay for carts is next on his list. That will happen, he promises, although only in the international terminal. It hasn't worked. I'll take a loss in the international terminal to make it more pleasant.

He also said he would consider redoing the sign to reflect the fact that Detroit, not Wayne County, is what is familiar to most travelers.

As far as the state of the entrance tunnel, Katz's dilemma is how much

do you spend on an international terminal you've outgrown and are planning to abandon in favor of the new mid-field terminal scheduled to open in 2001?

Still, of the 12 new airport restaurants just announced by Marriott, several are scheduled to open this year in the current international terminal.

It is certainly our bonus to be able to fly from Detroit. At the same time, it is three years and lots of passengers before our new international terminal will be ready.

*Judith Doner Berne, a West Bloomfield resident, is former managing editor at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. You can comment on this column by calling (734) 953-2045, Ext. 1997, or by writing or faxing the editor of this newspaper.*

# Engler's actions indicate a wish to control public schools

Alas, my brethren and sisters in the media missed the significant part of Gov. John Engler's July 21 announcement.

It wasn't that he was asking Senate majority leader Dick Posthumus to be his running mate for lieutenant governor. Shucks, we've all known that for years. They've been peas in a pod since their high school days in the 1960s as Future Farmers. Anyone who watched them in the Senate from 1983-90 just knew Posthumus would be Engler's successor.

What was news was that Engler announced *everyone* he wanted on the ticket, from attorney general to State Board of Education and all the university boards.

Now, folks who vote in the Republican primary not only nominate candidates for governor, U.S. Congress, state legislature and county offices, but also pick their local precinct delegates.

The delegates go to county or district conventions, where candidates for the rest of the ticket woo them. The local conventions pick delegates to a state convention to be held Aug. 28-29 in (where else?) Grand Rapids.

But now that Engler is dictating the rest of the party's ticket, he has in effect canceled the Republican State Convention. Delegates who aren't bothered by an exercise in futility will attend and dutifully cheer.

That may be a mistake on Engler's part. Convention delegates like to fight over something. It's built into their psyches.

Engler, as a young buckaroo in the early 1970s, honed his own skills when he pushed fellow Rep. Bob Edwards for state party chairman against the Milliken Establishment.

And Engler had it done to him in 1996. He was supporting Judy Frey, a candidate of impeccable civic credentials, for nomination to the University



TIM RICHARD

of Michigan Board of Regents. But out of nowhere came Mike Bishop, a young attorney from Rochester whose chief claim to fame was that he was president of his college fraternity. Oh, and Bishop was "pro-life" while Frey was "pro-choice."

So even though University of Michigan regents don't perform abortions as a public body, the convention worked its pro-life will and nominated Bishop over Engler's protestations.

(The young guy turned out to be an excellent candidate, despite the thinness of his resume.)

So why is Engler seeking to make the convention meaningless? Is it another power grab, like his gutting of the Department of Natural Resources and repeated blows against the constitutional State Board of Education?

I am neither psychologist nor clairvoyant and am unable to see into his soul. We can look at what past conventions have done and whom Engler is backing.

Past conventions have nominated good people with experience in public schools for the State Board of Education - Barbara DuMouchelle of Grosse Ile, Cherry Jacobus of Grand Rapids, Dorothy Beardmore of Rochester, Harry Greenleaf of Livonia and Schoolcraft College.

Engler is backing Gary Wolfram

(his appointee who now must run). Wolfram is a professor at Hillsdale College, an ideologically rigid fellow who hasn't seen anything good in public education since 1805.

Engler also is backing Eileen Lappin Weiser, a woman with two degrees in piano performance, a brilliant record in real estate sales and a job as executive director of the McKinley Foundation (whatever that is) in Ann Arbor - but absolutely no listed credentials in public school trusteeship, or even administration, or even in teaching.

My neighbors keep telling me, without my asking: "John Engler hates public schools." Well, the evidence is mounting.

*Tim Richard reports on the local implications of state and regional events. His voice mail number is (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1881.*

# Summertime means primaries: Make your voice heard this year

"Sec. 534. A general primary of all political parties ... shall be held in every election precinct in this state on the Tuesday after the first Monday in August before every general November election. ..."

So speaks the electoral law of the State of Michigan. And, to quote Charles Dickens in Oliver Twist, "If the law supposes that, ... the law is an ass ..."

Certainly, anybody contemplating the primary election next Tuesday must wonder just why we in Michigan have chosen to place this significant voting day in early August. Kids are out of school, often in camp or making things tough at home for parents. Parents, in turn, are either on vacation or wishing they were. The weather is hot, often humid. The sweet corn is coming in, or else the season would have nothing whatsoever to recommend it.

But as a season to prick up the public conscience and spark voter interest? Well ... forget it. That's why voter turnout is so low.

It turns out we have held our primary elections in early August at least since 1954, when the major state laws on elections were codified. It's no secret that August is a lousy time to hold primary elections. So how come we continue to do it?

Because it's in the interests of determined, organized interest groups, which have learned that the dog days of August are wonderful times to turn out the motivated faithful minority at times of general public political boredom and so achieve disproportionate influence on the public political life of our state.

In the old days, it used to be the solid business constituency represented by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Then organized labor, especially the UAW, discovered that the rank and file could be turned out in early August, especially as plants were often shut down for model changeover. School folks, both administrators and teachers unions, discovered the same thing, only to be joined in recent years by the Christian right wing, ever vigilant.

Put all these together, and there is no way this particular law is going to get changed, no matter how sensible it would be to hold primary elections in May or September.

This recital is of particular concern to the three Democratic candidates for governor who face the judgment of the voters next Tuesday. The subtle, complex dynamics of voter turnout in August primary election time will likely determine the result.



PHILIP POWER

Geoffrey Fieger, who earned early notoriety by being Jack Kevorkian's lawyer, has been the surprise of the campaign. His bombastic rhetoric ("sniveling weasel," "barnyard miscegenation") has succeeded in cutting through the general boredom, to the point that he has partially succeeded in making his opponents look like Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee.

The problem for Fieger, who hopes to get substantial support in Detroit, is that the electorate in that city is preoccupied with the contest over gambling casino licenses between Mayor Dennis Archer and businessman Don Barden. That struggle has to do with serious things - turf, power - which have nothing to do with the trivial matter of who will face Gov. John Engler in November.

Larry Owen, the designated front runner by virtue of locking up the most endorsements of party and organized labor grandees, has only one problem. The UAW leadership - understandably - is much, much more interested in the strike against General Motors than it is in turning out the faithful for Owen's electoral success.

Only Doug Ross, who has been struggling to propose new ideas in earnest attempt to break through the prevailing media presumption that there is nothing going on in this campaign, has developed a constituency that is not heavily cross-cut by turf wars.

We shall see.

In any case, please do vote. Especially in August primaries, one vote can make a big, big difference.

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

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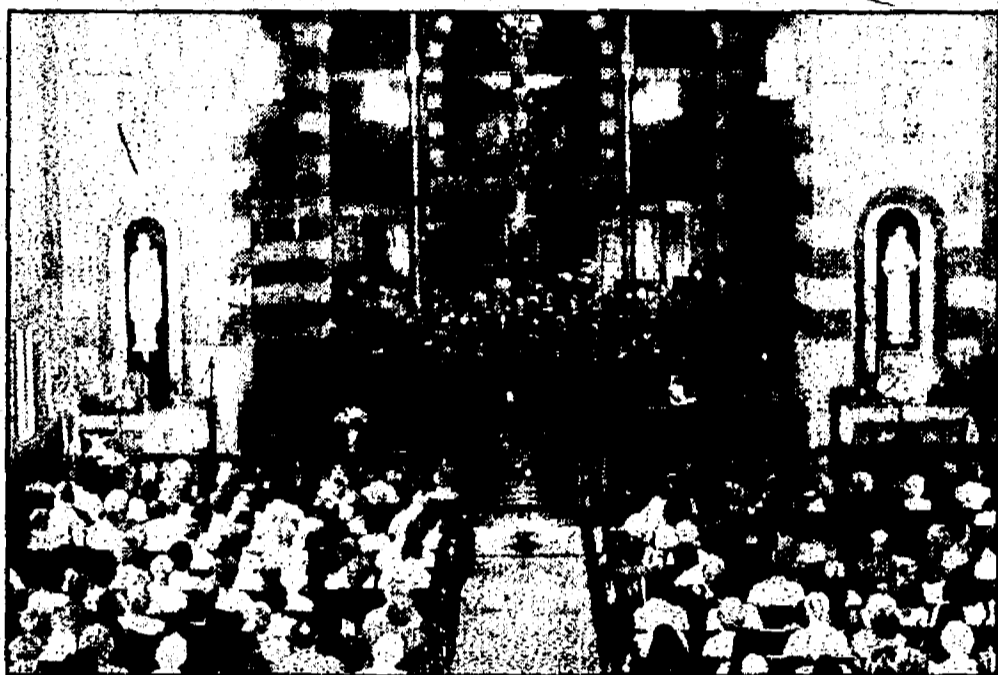
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# Felicians mark millennium with concert, tours



In concert: Lifting their voices in song at the special Millennium Concert were (left to right) Sister Mary Maristella, Sister Mary Leonette, Sister Mary Euphrasia and Sister Mary Anthony. The choir performed (right) in the Motherhouse Chapel. (Above right) Sister Elaine Machlik gives a tour of the Heritage Room to Nancy Davidson (center) and Marie Hill.



The Felician Sisters have been busy the last 50 years building a high school, university, hospital, hospice and other facilities that mark their Christian mission.

Members of the order took time last Sunday afternoon to show off the fruits of their labor when they hosted nearly 600 people from throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit and Michigan at a special Millennium Tour and Concert at the northwest Livonia complex.

Guests were treated to tours of the Felician Provincialate (Motherhouse), St. Joseph/Angela Hall, the Senior Clergy Village, Montessori Center of Our Lady, Angela Hospice, Ladywood High School, Marywood Nursing Care Center and Marybrook Manor, St. Mary Hospital Child Care Center, St. Mary Hospital, Marian Professional Building, the Emergency Center and Madonna University.

The facilities are located in the square-mile bounded by Newburgh and Levan and Five Mile and the Schoolcraft Service drive of I-96.

A special part of the program was a concert — "Let In the Spirit" — performed by the Felician Sisters Choir led by Sister Mary Paulette Krakowski.

The music program included an introduction by Sister Mary Dennis Glonek, provincial minister, along with musical numbers "Great Is the Lord," "Ave Maria," "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and others.

The Felician Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province based in Livonia include members from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.



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## Performance helps boost SandCastles

It took her sister Lucia to organize it and her mother's volunteer work to provide the recipient of Rose Abdoo's appearance at the Royal Oak Music Theater Thursday, Aug. 6.

The Southfield native is donating the net proceeds of her "Evening with Rose Abdoo" to SandCastles, a grief support group for children and their families.

"Lucia put it together as a class project for a study program she's enrolled in," said Jean Butrico Cooper, child life specialist with SandCastles. "Mary has been a volunteer since SandCastles started in January 1997."

The evening will include hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at 6:30 p.m., followed by Abdoo's performance at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 each and are available through Ticketmaster or at the theater box office, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak.

For more information about the benefit, call SandCastles at (313) 874-6881.

Since graduating from Michigan State University, Abdoo has honed her comedic skills in Chicago, winning the Joseph Jefferson Award, the Windy City's equivalent to Broadway's Tony Award, for her work with Second City and appearing in roles in Neil Simon's "Lost in Yonkers" and "Laughter on the 23rd Floor."

On the big screen, she also played the seamstress making the wedding dress in "My Best Friend's Wedding" and had a role in "U.S. Marshals," and had the leading role in the short-lived TV series "Johnny Bago."

### One of many ways

Her performance is one of the many ways money is being raised for SandCastles, which depends on grants, donations and fund-raisers to provide a place where children can grieve in a manner that is uniquely their own.

The agency will hold its first annual garage sale is being held 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 1-2, at the home of Tim Holmer, 20852 Vernier, off I-94 and Eight Mile Road, Harper Woods. In case of rain, it will be Aug. 8-9.

Everything from clothes, athletic equipment and household utensils, to televisions, microwaves, rugs and sofas will be sold, thanks to donations from volunteers, participating families and staffers.

SandCastles, a division of Hospices of Henry Ford Health Systems, offers a year-round program for children ages 3-18 and their parents or guardians at three locations - SandCastles Southfield in cooperation with Parenting University/Southfield Public Schools, SandCastles Clinton Township in cooperation with the Chippewa Valley Schools and SandCastles St. Clair Shores in cooperation with St. Margaret of Scotland Church.

"It's the first open-ended children's program in southeast Michigan," said Cooper. "It runs 12 months a year with meetings twice a month or almost every other week. Families can join and close when they want to."

### Volunteer effort

Run by trained volunteers, the program is free of charge to anyone in the community and Cooper estimates that 80 percent of the participants come from the community at large, the rest from the hospice program.

The meetings include a shared dinner with volunteers and the families at 6:15 p.m. before parents and guardians meet with volunteers and the children break up into age specific groups - 3-6 years, 7-9 years, 10-13 years and 14-18 years. Activities include creating memory boxes, doing journals, working on appropriate ways to express feelings and the "volcano room."

Filled with punching bags, cloth-covered bats, bubble wrap for popping and telephone books waiting to be torn apart, the volcano room serves as a safe room for expressing the physical side of grief, Cooper said.

"For some kids, to be in the volcano room and be able to express themselves has been a wonderful release," Cooper said. "We've had some parents set up volcano rooms for the kids in their own homes."

Within the groups, anniversaries of deaths are recognized and candles are lit in remembrance. When the groups join together at 8 p.m., there's a closing song and a hand squeeze to close out the evening.

Please see SANDCASTLES, B2



## The millennium bug

Like a meteor, the millennium bug is on a steadfast course, due to hit home at the stroke of midnight Jan. 1, 2000.

Will homeowners feel a sudden chill during the night, curse the darkness before lighting a candle, then pick up the phone and hear...nothing?

Will sprinkler systems go haywire, sump pumps fail and security alarms wall like a banshee? Maybe. Maybe not.

There are bound to be glitches. However, industries that impact our lives assure us they have Y2K task forces in place to eradicate the millennium bug before it bites too hard. Only time will tell.

### Y2K problem

Many industry computer systems were implemented in the '60s, '70s and '80s when computer memory cost \$600,000 vs. 10 cents today. Programmers used only two digits to represent dates rather than four; for example, 70 instead of 1970.

Credit and debit cards, ATM cards, and merchant cards with a 2000 expiration date face rejection if their payment organizations are not millennium-compliant. The year 2000 will be identified as 00, which could be identified as 1900 or 2000.

Computers purchased within the last year or two are probably Year-2000 compliant. Older machines may present a problem.

"Hardware is the real issue. Older machines will not support 2000," said David Borman, president of U & B Computers in Canton Township.

To find out if your computer is Year-2000 compliant, Borman suggests setting the date to Jan. 1, 2000 and then turning the computer off. Wait five minutes, then turn it back on.

"If the date is retained, you're

fine. If the date isn't retained, the computer will come up with 1980 or 1900. If it does that, it's not compliant. Some hardware needs to be replaced."

Software is not so much an issue, said Borman, unless it's used for date-comparison reasons, like checking accounts and spread sheets.

What software is safe? Borman said core operating systems like Windows 95, Windows 98, and Windows NT should be fine, as should all software manufactured by Microsoft, Borland and Intuit.

However, beware of small programs downloaded off the Internet. "Those will be the most skeptical to supporting Year 2000," said Burman.

Also, new software may require a more robust operating system.

### Appliances

Edward and Jennifer Yourdon, authors of "Time Bomb 2000," broadly define an embedded system as any device that has built-in computer logic. Embedded systems in consumer appliances range from "microwave ovens to

VCRs to digital wristwatch to automobiles."

Yourdon and Yourdon estimate 25 billion-plus of these systems will exist by the end of 1999. Granted, only a small percentage are likely to be "year-sensitive." But even if only one percent are Year 2000 defective that's 25 million repair jobs, the authors claim.

The Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association (CEMA) filed comments with Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in June stating that the vast majority of consumer electronics products will not experience Year 2000 problems.

In a recent press release, CEMA stated that only a few products, including a limited number of older models of video and personal computer products, are likely to be affected by the date change.

"We believe the number of products likely to be affected by the turn of the century is negligible. For older model products, Y2K problems probably won't affect the function of the product, and will often be remedied by simply resetting the date," said Gary Shapiro, president of CEMA.

"For personal computers, software fixes should be readily available and, in many cases, free of charge."

How to tell if you have year-sensitive appliance? If you can set "current year" information, or change that information, then most likely the embedded system is not Year-2000 vulnerable.

### VCR vaccine

You certainly don't want to program your VCR to record the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day, 2000 and end up with a rerun of

## Customers want to know that lights won't go out

Mary Tocco asked the question on everybody's mind.

"What if we have a major power outage all over the place?"

Tocco and about 40 other Oakland County residents appeared at a hearing in White Lake Township on July 9 to ask the utility companies what officials there intended to do about potential problems that may occur in the year 2000 with computers, software and applications for everything from operations to billing for these companies and their customers.

The hearing was sponsored by Mat Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion, who chairs the state Senate Energy and Technology Committee.

Dave Peterson, corporate manager for Detroit Edison,

told Tocco the company will take the "necessary steps to isolate ourselves in generating power."

"We are a summer peak company, not a winter peak company. We've got more reserve capacity in the winter."

Peterson said Edison compiled a task force in 1995, and has proposed contingency plans. The utility is completing compliance testing. "We intend to be ready. We intend to deliver electricity to you folks on Jan. 1."

Lockie MacGregor, a Michigan Public Service commissioner, said of Michigan's 164 gas, phone and electrical utility companies, 50 percent expect to be in compliance by the end of 1998 and 50 percent by the end of 1999.

Please see UTILITIES, B2

Please see BUG, B2

## Concert benefits Pat Patton Fund

Rick Dines considers friend Charles "Pat" Patton one of the unsung heroes of the blues guitar. Tragically, he said, Patton was diagnosed with cancer in May and was forever silenced after surgery to remove a brain tumor.

In the ultimate form of tribute, Patton's friends will release his self-made tape and have created the Pat Patton Fund to help lift the financial burden of his family.

They are planning a series of fund-raisers, including a concert with Bridge and Blue Cat from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale, Westland. For more information, call (734) 722-5511.

Tickets are \$5 for admission only, or \$10 which includes admission and a raffle ticket with the chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to Nautilus Pizza

and Subs, a \$50 gift certificate to Rick Alan Music, a first series McFarlane Kiss Dolls, or an Eddie Van Halen Wolfgang Special guitar by Peavey Electronics worth \$1,000.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance at Rick Alan Music, 224 N. Wayne Road, one block north of Cherry Hill, Westland.

"He had no health insurance so we're trying to raise a little bit of money for the family. It's not going to be anything phenomenal that's going to set them up for life by any means but just something to help out," said Rick Dines of Rick Alan Music in Westland.

"The big prize is the guitar," Dines said. "We'll also have some tapes of Pat's music. I had 200 of these tapes made up and we're selling those for \$5. They're really good."

According to Rick Zerndt, who taught guitar at

Rick Alan Music with Patton, Patton thought he had a sore arm from his dog pulling on it. But his condition worsened. His speech was slurred and his vision was problematic. In May, Patton was diagnosed with the brain tumor.

"It happened really fast. He's a real talented super intelligent guy. The strange thing is they said that he was pretty upbeat about it. He had a spiritual experience and that he was ready to go and he wasn't that upset about it," Zerndt said.

Still, his friends are devastated, Dines added. "It's obviously pretty devastating," Dines said. "He has two young kids. It's a sad situation. I'm not the world's greatest promoter but I wanted to do a little something."























**Devon-Aire celebrates 40**

Action-packed: Jamie Webber (right photo) of the Junior West All-Star squad snares a line drive, while pitcher Danyelle Egnatios (bottom photo) started for the Junior East as the Devon-Aire Softball League celebrated its 40th anniversary Saturday in south Livonia with three different All-Star Games including Junior Boys (ages 7-12), Junior Girls (7-12) and Senior Co-ed (13-18). An all-day picnic was also held for program's 203 participants, families and friends.



**Top archery shooters return to Canton site**

It's going to be even bigger. And, as administrators of the National Archery Association of the United States fervently hope, this year's National Target Championships will be even better.

For the second consecutive year, Canton's Heritage Park will be the site of the tournament, the 114th annual. The week of events gets under way Saturday and continues Sunday with the second annual National Traditional Tournament, with archers using the older-type bow of years past.

The National Target Championships will be Monday through Thursday, Aug. 3-6, with the U.S. Open Elimination Round scheduled for Aug. 7.

Several of the world's best archers are scheduled to compete throughout the week, including the first- and second-place finishers last year in the men's division of the National Target Championships, Americans Butch Johnson and Justin Huish.

In the women's division, there are three of the world's top 20 scheduled to compete: Natalia Nasaridze (ranked No. 1), Deniz Gunay (No. 8) and Elif Altinkaynak (of Turkey, No. 16). That's one reason why there are even more archers scheduled to compete this year (more than 550) than last (530).

And in the women's division, one of the top competitors won't even be ranked, and could have trouble placing in the top 10. Jennifer O'Donnell, a 24-year-old Livonia resident and graduate of Farmington HS, knows what it takes to get to the summit, however.

"I'm not really competing much right now," she explained, "because I'm still going to school. Hopefully, I'll be able to start shooting more when I graduate. I'll just have to make enough time to train."

O'Donnell has been competing in archery for nearly 12 years, or half her life. She was an alternate member of the U.S. Olympic Team in 1996; it was an experience she hopes to repeat, perhaps at Sydney in 2000.

"I'd really like to go to Aus-

**U.S. NATIONALS**

tralia," she admitted. Of course, getting there won't be easy. O'Donnell figures it will take between 20 and 30 hours of workouts a week to get into the proper form, including extensive cardio-vascular conditioning. "When you go for six-to-eight hours a day during a tournament, well, it's better to be in better shape," she explained.

Going into her senior year at Lawrence Technological University (she's majoring in interior design), O'Donnell hasn't had the time to devote to all her interests. But that hardly means she's given it up.

Competing in the Northern Regional last month outside Toledo, O'Donnell finished first—even though she's managed to train for only a few hours a week.

"There were only four or five (competitors) in my division," she noted. "But I was happy with how high I scored. I just wanted to see how I was doing."

If O'Donnell has learned anything in the last few years, it's to be patient with herself—and her performance. "I'm at the point now where I don't get upset with myself if I don't shoot well," she said.

Her goals for the National Target Championships are modest, at least for her: "I'd like to finish in the top 12 in the prelims and in the top 16 in (Friday's) shoot-down."

Even though she's not in peak form, O'Donnell's future plans for archery made her decision to compete here a no-brainer. "It's so close by and it's fun," she said. "Really, it'd be silly not to."

"I just want to have a good time. And I'd like to shoot in the 1250s."

Her future plans include taking shots at the Olympic teams in 2000 and 2004. "After I graduate and get a job, and work a while, hopefully I'll be in contention at that time," she said. "But there will be a lot of people who will have come up (since 1996), so it will be a matter of wanting to see how good they are."

**Incredible Fast-pitch concludes 8th season**

The all-star games for the Incredible Girls Fast-pitch League, which just finished its eighth season, attracted nearly 200 fans at Massey Field in Plymouth.

There was a National League all-star game featuring the top players from teams that draw from their varsity high school teams. There was an American League all-star game for the top players from teams that draw from junior varsity high school teams.

The Red team won the National League all-star game against the Blue.

Amanda Sutton of the Plymouth Lightning and Lori Schehr of the Farmington Hills Diamonds were selected co-Most Valuable Players.

Sutton pitched three scoreless

**GIRLS SOFTBALL**

innings, striking out two. She scored the game's first run, had two stolen bases and drove in the winning run when she was hit with a pitch with the bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth.

Schehr had a hit, stole two bases and made a nice defensive play on a pick-off attempt at first base.

After making the tag at first, she threw the ball to the shortstop covering third base to get another runner out and complete a double play.

Heather Sonntag of the Lightning and Paula McKernan of the Motor City Mold also had hits for the winning team.

Adrienne Doyle of the Livonia

Knights struck out five of the seven batters she faced in the first two innings, allowing one unearned run.

Angie Balconi of the Walled Lake Nature Design was the winning pitcher.

Christine Fones of the Knights was 1-for-2, had one RBI, scored a run and stole two bases for the Blue team.

Stephanie Ladd of the Livonia Lancers, Kristin Derwich of the Knights, Lisa Niemiec of the Canton Cobras and Nicole Marijanovich of the Dearborn Heights Angels had hits for the Blue.

The Red team also won the American League all-star game, beating the Blue 5-3.

Megan Fediuk of the Farmington Hills Marlins pitched seven innings for the win and was voted MVP for the game.

**ALL-STAR ROSTERS**

**NATIONAL LEAGUE ROSTERS**  
Red Team  
Melissa Brown, Paula McKernan, Lisa Baker, Jenny Fisher, Christina Kiesel, Motor City Mold; Angie Balconi, Lisa Nauman, Kristy Shamus, Moocha Johnson, Walled Lake Nature Design; Amanda Sutton, Heather Sonntag, Bea Ferguson, Jessica Chapman, Plymouth Lightning; Katie Carpen, Kathy Meier, Farmington Hills Majestics; Lori Schehr, Alisha Finch; Farmington Hills Diamonds; Robin Helchel, Jennifer Anolick, Southfield Royals.

Blue Team  
Adrienne Doyle, Christine Fones, Kristin Derwich, Carly George, Meghan Misiak, Livonia Knights; Jamie Linden, Daylin Starks, Jeanette Bertrand, Rachel Bramlett, Kelly Young, Tara Muchow, Livonia Lasers; Margaret Day, Rebecca Pawlik, Stephanie Ladd, Livonia Lancers; Lisa Niemiec, Michelle Devos, Pam Hudson, Jonelle Brown, Canton Cobras; Heather Jans, Molly Gale, Birmingham Bulls; Nicole Marijanovich, Karmen Hatcher, Dearborn Heights Angels.

**AMERICAN LEAGUE ROSTERS**  
Red Team  
Megan Myers, Megan Fediuk, Katie Bink, Lindsey Fediuk, Kristen Wilk, Farmington Hills Marlins; Sallie Kuratko, Melissa Malaniak, Courtney Cross, Erin Marquardt, Renae Ritz, Livonia Knights II; Jennifer Warnick, Jennifer Allen, Amy Wolfe, Kristen Miller.

Blue Team  
Stephanie Salinas, Julia Rizzo, Rebecca Morello, Kathy Day, Pam Smart, Livonia Rockets; Kim White, Kelley Hutchins, Angelica Placinta, Jolene Kijorski, Katie Pawlowski, Josten's Jguars; Kim Balconi, Mindy Mitchell, Missy Mitchell, Livonia Vikings; Leslie Douglass, Nicole Zakiewicz, Livonia Lady Bugs.

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The Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority is requesting bids for the installation of household battery drop off locations within the cities of Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Wayne, and Westland and the pickup/recycling/disposal of collected batteries. Bid information packets can be picked up at 4901 S. Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights, or you may call 313-292-8877. Bids are due on August 11 at 11:00 AM.

Publish: July 30 and August 2, 1998

**WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Ways and Means Committee of the Wayne County Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a proposed resolution opposing Senate Bills 776, 778, 779 which would allow the City of Detroit to create its own revolving loan fund; inportuning the state legislature to vote against this legislation. (98-66-043)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 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.  
Publish: July 30, 1998

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## THE WEEKEND

### FRIDAY



'N Sync performs 7:30 p.m. at Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Tickets \$17.50; call (248) 546-7610.

### SATURDAY



Visit the Carver Memorial, and learn more about African-American cultures and traditions, including the struggle for freedom, during "Celebration of Emancipation," 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Call (313) 271-1620 for more information.

### SUNDAY



The 20th annual Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance takes place 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester. Admission is \$20 adults (including a souvenir program), teens 13-17 (\$10), children 12 and under (free). Call (248) 370-3140.

### TICKET



Hot Tix: Frank Stasa III will be competing in the athletic events at the 149th Annual Highland Games, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1 at Greenmead Historical Park, Newburgh (at Eight Mile Road), Livonia. Tickets \$8 at the gate. Children under 12 free with adult. call (313) 832-1849. See schedule inside.

### HEARTLANDE THEATRE'S

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## A Ring of truth

Terminal romantics might consider a flourishing flower as the appropriate emotional metaphor for marriage. But those who've been around to debate the travails of raised toilet seats, the level of dirty dishes before a washing is needed, and whether in-laws should be actually considered as relatives surely know better.

Undoubtedly, the more accurate metaphor for marriage is a literal context for verbal sparring. For some, a minefield might fit the bill.

For the purposes of dramatic tit-for-tat effect, however, a boxing ring is more apropos, not to mention more practical.

Local composers Mike Vigilant and Gerry Castle, one of the most prolific songwriting duos in the region, have set to meter the excruciating joy of marriage in their new musical, "The Wedding Ring."

The play opens Thursday, Aug. 6, for a two-week run as the featured production at Heartlande Theatre Company's festival of new plays, "Playscape '98."

#### Hit by love

The entire musical takes place within the confines of a boxing ring with a matchmaker who doubles as a referee. (Every relationship should have one.)

"People can't wait to fall in love, and usually they don't know what hit them," said Vigilant of Troy, who, with partner Castle has pub-



Still standing? Lyricist Mike Vigilant's new play, "The Wedding Ring," is a contemplation of what it takes for a marriage to succeed.



Musical comedy: Actors David Peckens (far left), Stephanie Nichols (second from right) and Danny McNie (far right) are working with director Renee Sawson (center) and stage manager Kelly MacDonald (second from left) on Heartlande Theatre's workshop production of the musical comedy "The Wedding Ring."

lished 12 musicals in the last nine years.

The choreography remains a skeleton of what might be seen in a full production, said Vigilant.

But apparently that won't dilute the play's message.

"The ideal is to think that all you need in any relationship is love," said Vigilant, who confesses to being a hopeless romantic.

He and partner Castle list Lennon and McCartney, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Ira Gershwin

**WHAT:** "The Wedding Ring," a new musical comedy written by Mike Vigilant and Gerry Castle, directed by Renee Sawson, presented as part of Heartlande Theatre Company's Playscape '98

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 6-8, Friday & Saturday, Aug. 14 & 15; 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9

**WHERE:** Meadow Brook Theatre, Oakland University campus, Rochester  
**TICKETS:** \$10-\$15; Opening night 8 p.m. Aug. 6 and afterglow \$25; Staged readings, any play, \$5 suggested donation, call (248) 377-3300.

#### PLAYSCAPE '98

Reading Series

■ "The Pender Arrangements" by Elaine Kaiser, directed by Beth Rexroat - 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8

■ "Mainstream" by David MacGregor, directed by Mary Locker - 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9

■ "Second Chances" by Ronald Jay, directed by Joseph Haynes - 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15

■ "Bullets and Bears" by Janet Torrance and Pond, directed by Dean Acheson - 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16

All readings will be followed by moderated audience talk-backs

#### WORKSHOP

Writing for Musical Theatre

10 a.m. to noon - Saturday, Aug. 15, taught by Mike Vigilant and Gerry Castle. Cost \$10, (248) 988-1094, Ext. 1.

and Stephen Sondheim as major influences.

Vigilant was inspired to write the play after completing his master's thesis, "Divorce in Oakland County." He found that while Oakland County is one of the wealthiest areas in the country, it has one of the highest divorce rates. One of the songs in "The Wedding Ring" features a young child singing about the confusion caused by his parents' divorce.

"The question is: Can you evolve to make a commitment to a relationship? It's not that marriage is a struggle, but it's more like life is a battle," said Vigilant.

While the broader theme in "The Wedding Ring" might not be adaptable to a traditional pop songwriting format, it can be developed through a series of songs, said Vigilant.

The entire script of "The Wedding Ring" is sung, including transitions. The songs are written in major keys. They are crafted to have the immediate accessibility and familiarity of a pop song.

"Our intent is to write humable melodies with well-crafted lyrics," said Vigilant. "Lyrics make dialog stick in your head."

"Excluding their foray into producing with the local blockbuster "Forever Plaid" in 1991, Vigilant and Castle have written about one

Please see **COMEDY, E2**

## Youth theater building new audiences



Featured production: American Family Theatre brings the story of "Pinocchio" to life.

When she's not breaking down walls, Laurie Wagman and her crew are busy building theater audiences for tomorrow.

"There's a fourth wall in theater - the wall between the audience and the actors," said Wagman, founder/CEO of American Theater Arts for the Youth, Inc. and its division American Family Theatre, which is bringing two shows to Meadow Brook Theatre in August - "Pinocchio," on Aug. 3 and "Wizard of Oz," on Aug. 18. "We break down the wall to engage our audience in

the wonder of theater. It's important that we reach out and grab them. You know the theater audience is getting older. We've got to capture them for audiences tomorrow. This is one of the most effective ways."

There's nothing like live theater argues Wagman, a former teacher who traded her classroom for the stage. "I'm still a teacher that uses theater, another media of outreach. It's a great teaching tool, and it's fun."

When Wagman, whose company is based in Philadelphia,

"speaks of theater, "wonder" and "magic" are words she uses to describe it.

"There's a magic connected with theater," she said. "Anyone who has a love affair with theater remembers the first play they went to as a child. There is an energy that comes out of theater. Since ancient times the theater has been used as a teaching tool and motivator."

There are a lot of lessons to be learned from classic stories like

Please see **THEATER, E2**

#### On Stage

**WHAT:** American Family Theatre presents:

■ "Pinocchio" - noon Monday, Aug. 3

■ "Wizard of Oz" - noon Tuesday, Aug. 18

**WHERE:** Meadow Brook Music Festival, campus of Oakland University, Walton Boulevard and Adams Road, Rochester.  
**TICKETS:** \$10 pavilion, \$5 lawn, call (248) 645-6666

## Musician professes love for rock and roll

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

John Covach has had rock and roll dreams ever since he was a seventh grader at Livonia's Holmes Junior High School in 1971.

"I got together with a bunch of guys in the same grade, we played activity nights, dances for kids. Our parents had to drive us and our equipment," Covach said.

The band played on, through Battles of the Bands at Eddie Edgar Arena, Tuesday and Thursday night gigs at the junior highs during summer and on to Stevenson High School.

"Every summer we did Music Under the Stars and always played the Spree.

That went on until I graduated from high school," Covach said.

But the dream never led to stardom and Covach turned his musical interests to academia. Now, as a professor of music at the University of North Carolina, Covach is combining his scholarship with his love for rock and roll. He teaches general and technical classes in rock music and has recently edited a book of essays "Understanding Rock," with Graeme M. Boone (Oxford University Press).

At Stevenson High, Covach took music classes with Lowell Everson,

**WHAT:** John Covach signs his book "Understanding Rock," (Oxford University Press)

**WHERE:** Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Six Mile Road and Haggerty, Northville.

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7.

whom he credits with steering him toward a serious interest in music.

"It was a great music program at Stevenson," Covach said. "The Symphonic Choir was the top group, that was the one you wanted to get into. Because I played guitar and Mr. Everson always wanted to include some pop

tunes, that's how I got in." At Stevenson, Covach studied music theory and composition for the first time. He worked with Everson on special projects and took special classes at

Please see **MUSICIAN, E2**



Teacher: John Covach combines scholarship with his love for rock and roll as a professor of music at the University of North Carolina.

# Musician from page E1

Schoolcraft.  
"I stuck with the band and had no intention of being a university professor or even getting a degree," he said.

Covach dabbled in music classes at Wayne State University while trying to make it in the business. But things never jelled. Many friends went to Los Angeles with big dreams and returned without success. Also, his progressive rock style was giving way to the more stripped down punk and new wave sounds.

"At that point, I thought this life on the road wasn't right for me. I thought, do I really care what these 15-year-olds think and the answer was no," he said.

Covach went on to get a doctorate degree at the University of Michigan, with a dissertation on 12-tone music, which he had studied as a Fulbright scholar in Vienna.

But he never abandoned his rock roots.

"At the end of graduate school there was a lot of interest in popular music, but they didn't know a lot about it. There was a feeling that it could revitalize musicology. I had a history in popular music and could speak the language of academia," he said.

"Understanding Rock" was an outgrowth of those interests, though when the idea for a serious musicological study of rock was first proposed it seemed revolutionary.

"None of us was tenured at the time and we didn't know if this would be good for our careers or would hold us back. But it took five years to get it published and it's not as risky now as it was then," Covach said.

The book consists of seven essays on various aspects of rock music from a technical, musical approach. Subjects include the Grateful Dead's "Dark Star," the music of Paul Simon, the experiments of Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys, the transformation

of the blues by Cream and even an analysis of how k.d. lang changed the meaning of Joanie Sommers' "Johnny Get Angry." Covach contributes an essay on the progressive rock group Yes and how their music relates to the classical art song tradition.

"The distinction I have from the other writers is that I'm probably the one guy who is the most reluctant scholar. If it turned out I could have stayed in the music, I would have," Covach said.

Covach's rock music classes have attracted the attention of the local media and the students. His history of rock class, a broad rock appreciation course, drew 237 students even though the limit was 200. The class includes listening to 10 90-minute tapes and having to identify groups, types of music and year released by listening to a brief excerpt. It covers every influence from blues and country-western to Frank Sinatra.

Covach also teaches classes for music majors. This fall he'll teach a class on the concept album including the Beatles' seminal "Sgt. Pepper" and Pink Floyd's "The Wall."

Covach said that most rock criticism has been more sociological than musical. He said he offers a legitimate and different approach. As a musicologist, he said, he can explain the "how" of music.

He is currently working on a book, "Rock Music Comes of Age," about rock music in the 1970s.

"It's a very hot issue, a lot of folks don't think there's any value in thinking in terms of music, that it makes rock like classical music, an elitist thing. If it's in an academic setting, it is somewhat elitist," he said.

Covach and his wife, Julie, also a Livonia native, have two sons, Ricky, 10, and John, 4. They return to Livonia each year to visit family.



Rock writer: John Covach enjoys teaching but he loves rock and roll.

# Comedy from page E1

musical per year.

They're currently working on "Grecians," an original book and musical commissioned by Contemporary Drama Service.

### At day jobs - for now

Vigilant and Castle's collaboration has evolved since they first set a melodrama to music 11 years ago, and performed the piece at the Golden Lion Theatre in Detroit.

Since then, they've been commissioned by Pioneer Drama Service and Contemporary Drama Service. Their work includes setting music to familiar stories such as "The Little Star," "Twas the Night Before,"

"King Midas and the Palace of Gold," "The Attack of the Killer Grasshoppers," and "Jungle Book."

That prolific output is even more impressive when considering that Vigilant and Castle both have day jobs and families.

And yes, they both are happily married.

"Relationships are very fragile. They can fall apart easily when you become selfish," said Castle of Warren, who works in customer service at Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

When focusing on writing, Castle will memorize the lyrics and take walks at work to contemplate a melody. He'll work out

the song on guitar. An accomplished musician, Castle also performs locally with The Reel Happy Swing and String Band and The Dennis Cyporyn Band.

Meanwhile, Vigilant's day job doesn't take him far from his love of theater. He's public relations director for Meadow Brook Theatre, where, he confesses, the busy work often leaves little time to write his own plays.

But like Castle, he invariably finds time.

"I get moody when I don't write, so my wife and I work it out so there's time (for my writing)," he said.

And at the sound of the bell, the writing begins.

# Theater from page E1

"Pinocchio," and "Wizard of Oz," and that's why Wagman chooses to present classics. You might know the stories, but you've never seen these shows before.

"They're original musicals," she said. "I have an outstanding stable of composers, actors, and directors."

Classics also have vitality, they're timeless, other good reasons to present them. Her audiences range from four to 12, but probably because the shows are presented during the day, she draws a lot of senior citizens too.

"The audience knows what happens going in," she said. "They have expectations, and we help these kids meet them. We

have full appreciation for these timeless classics. People just love the magic, and the stories are ancient."

American Family Theater travels around the country presenting children's shows at places like Meadow Brook, and in schools. Earlier this summer they presented "Beauty and the Beast," at Meadow Brook.

"We travel with full-blown sets," said Wagman. "They tend to move and switch in front of people's eyes. We have all kinds of yummy special effects that we can pull out of our hat."

She makes no distinction between professional "adult" the-

ater and children's theater. "Good theater is good theater and good acting is good acting," she said. "There should be good, solid content, and seriousness of purpose in your presentation. We have the same intent and feel it should get the respect it deserves."

One of the greatest compliments ever paid to Wagman and a staff happened after a show. "The audience was arguing if the people waiting for the bus to pick them up after the show were the same people on stage. They didn't know if they were real - actors on stage - or puppets with music boxes. That's one of the wonders of what we do."

# SRO offers spirited spoof of Shakespeare 'Macbeth'

SRO Productions presents "The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, through Sunday, Aug. 9 at the city of Southfield's The Burgh on the northeast corner of

Civic Center Dr. and Bergh Road, one block east of Telegraph, Southfield. Tickets \$8, senior adults and children under 12, \$7, call (248) 827-0701.

BOB WEIBEL  
SPECIAL WRITER

Southfield's SRO Productions

current show is a mad, mad world of farcical fun and theatrics. The title is clue enough that you're in for the spoof of your life: "The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth."

The idea of course is that the good ladies are theatrically challenged and anything that can go wrong, will. And does it ever.

During opening remarks, a spotlight doesn't work. The first scene is played backward, instead of toward the audience. When they finally get things turned around, you have three curtains (not unlike the TV show "Let's Make A Deal") and as performers appear from each curtain, they're not unlike some of the audience's outlandish getups

for that show.

Under the effervescent direction of Nancy Harrower (who obviously knows her Shakespeare) one-hilarious scene after another cascades over the audience.

The ensemble, in various roles, includes Marc Rosati, Emily McSweeney, Barbie Amann, Ralph Rosati, Marge Wetzel, Dennis Hubel, Joan Boufford, Kathy Booker, and Robin DeMaagd.

Barbie Amann is full of energy

and a comic delight as Macbeth. The original Lady Macbeth couldn't make it so a stagehand, Ralph Rosati, has to step in at the last moment. His hairy chest, finely trimmed mustache and sumptuous wig are a visual hoot, and his comedy is never better than when he takes a pie in the face, a la Soupy Sales. His real-life son, Mark Rosati, scores as an over-the-top adjudicator who finds the show "daring" and "gripping," and in drag he makes a lovely Gwynneth.

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 <b>DETROIT HOCKEY STAR</b> <b>VIACHESLAV KOZLOV</b> SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST 5PM UNTIL 1000 AUTOGRAPHS \$12.50 FLAT / PUCK \$20.00 STICK / JERSEY / EQUIPMENT	 <b>5-TIME STANLEY CUP CHAMP</b> <b>GRANT FUHR</b> SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND • 11AM - 2PM \$12.00 FLAT / PUCK \$16.00 FLAT (Over \$10) / POSTER / HAT \$20.00 STICK / JERSEY / EQUIPMENT
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**THEATER**

# Power outage doesn't stop Players Guild of Dearborn

Players Guild of Dearborn presents "First Dates and Fickle Hearts," a collection of classic comedies and farces, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 31 and Aug. 1; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, 21730 Madison (southeast of Monroe and Outer Dr.) Dearborn. Tickets \$10, call (313) 561-TKTS. RYAN MALKIN, SPECIAL WRITER

The show must go on. That is the best way to describe Friday evening's performance of "First Dates and Fickle Hearts" at the Players Guild of Dearborn. As many people know, many areas in Dearborn have been without power since the large storm swept through the metro-Detroit area on July 21.

Despite the lack of electrical power, the Players Guild was full of energy. "First Dates and Fickle Hearts" was a collection of four one-act comedies directed by Kirk Haas.

Despite Mother Nature's inconveniences, the cast acted out their first performance without the benefit of technical rehearsals the prior evenings. In fact, they performed without the comfort of a stage or for that matter a building. The lack of electricity in the building forced the performance to be held outside in the parking lot. The Guild was apologetic for the inconvenience. In fact, they refunded the ticket price or exchanged the tickets purchased for Friday's performance to another day.

After the black stand-up backdrop was in place, and the car

windows rolled down to allow the music to be heard, the first act began.

Anton Chekov's "A Marriage Proposal" was first on the agenda for the evening.

Gavin Milner played Ivan who asks Stephan, played by Nick Szczerba, for his daughter's hand in marriage.

At first it seemed as though the actors were a bit nervous, as may be expected, but they seemed like they were acting. The true test of an actor is to make the audience believe that they are that character.

At times the actors couldn't be heard, but outside forces were more to blame than the actors. Milner began screaming so much that he began to sweat profusely. As he was getting into his character, he seemed to relax a bit.

The topic of the play, a family arguing about land, was not extremely interesting, and the acting matched. Not to worry, there were three other plays in the evening.

Moving on to the second one-act play, Bernard Shaw's "How He Lied to Her Husband." Henry, played by Dan Dobrovich, has written several love poems to Aurora, Kim Donovan, and she has lost the letters. The two fight about what would happen if Aurora's husband had found out. Once the husband finds the poems, the rest can be left to the imagination. The acting in this play was much more believable.

After a short intermission, the performance continued with

"Red Carnations." Hands down the best performance of the evening. This hilarious one-act about two men meeting the same girl, whom neither have seen before, leaves the audience laughing, especially with the unexpected twist at the end. The audience believed the performances by the cast, which included Dan Dobrovich, Don and Brooke Andres. In fact, as the scene closed with a kiss, the audience burst into laughter mixed with clapping.

Nature called again, as birds began chirping consistently throughout the final one-act, Chekov's "The Brute." The widowed Mrs. Popoff, played by Maria Kovac, owes money to Mr. Smirnov for her husband. Yet in the midst of their quarreling, the two seemed to fall in love despite threats to murder one another.

Kerry Plague as Mr. Smirnov, played his role to perfection, while the butler, Luke, played by Szczerba, was lacking throughout the evening. Several humorous moments saved this play from flopping, yet it flourished like a blossoming flower. At the start it had a lot of potential, and once the potential was reached, the acting and costumes made the performance beautiful.

All in all, the performance of "First Dates and Fickle Hearts," was an experience. The very accommodating crew seemed to be proud of their work as they should be. The actors loosened up after the first act, and their



Caught in the act: Luka (Nick Szczerba, left) looks on exasperated when Mrs. Popov (Maria Kovac) refuses to pay Mr. Smirnov (Kerry Plague, right) the money he's owed because she's mourning in Anton Chekov's "The Brute," one of four one-act plays being presented by the Players Guild of Dearborn.

performances improved. Although the theater would have created a better ambiance for the show, the car headlights and

music from car cassette players truly showed the dedication and love the cast and crew have for their show. The Players Guild

did an exquisite job accommodating the public and an even more wonderful job showing the lighter side to love.

## Sign up to be a Montreaux Volunteer Player

Volunteers are the backbone of any great event - the unsung heroes who work behind the scenes. An now, Music Hall, producer of the Ford Montreaux Detroit Jazz Festival, is looking for motivated people to help make one of southeast Michigan's most exciting events again a success by signing up to be MVPs- Montreaux Volunteer Players. In the past, nearly 400 dedicated individuals have annually volunteered their time and energy to the festival, which this year will be held Thursday-Monday, Sept. 3-7 at Hart Plaza. Collectively, the MVPs work 4,800 hours over Labor Day weekend to bring this world-class jazz event to nearly 780,000 festival goers each year.

Assignments are available to work backstage, transportation, the festival office, information booth, and beverage sales. In addition to getting a behind-the-scenes look at the festival and being part of one of the city's

biggest events, MVP perks include free parking, a festival credential, an official MVP t-shirt, and a 10 percent discount for all festival merchandise. Hours worked are flexible and are scheduled in two or three shifts totaling 12 hours.

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Brad Mehldau Trio, Houston Person & Etta Jones, and Eric Person & Meta-Four.

Also coming up, is the Arts, Beats & Eats, Friday-Monday, Sept. 4-7 in downtown Pontiac. Festival highlights include:

■ Arts - Juried art show featuring 125 artists

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### COMMUNITY THEATER

**MACOMB SUMMER THEATRE**  
"The Runner Stumbles," a courtroom drama based on a true story in Upper Michigan, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, July 31-Aug. 1 and Aug. 7-8, at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575-Garfield, Clinton Township. \$12, \$10 seniors/students, \$9 groups of 10 or more. (810) 286-2222

**OUR TIME PRODUCTIONS**  
"P.S. Your Cat is Dead," risqué adult gay comedy with some nudity, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, through Saturday, Aug. 29, outside courtyard at the Backpocket Bar, 8832 Greenfield Road, north of Joy Road, Dearborn. \$12.50. (313) 582-6260

**PLAYERS GUILD OF DEARBORN**  
"First Dates and Fiddle Hearts," a collection of classic comedies by Chekov and Shaw, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, at the theater, 21730 Madison, southeast of Monroe and Outer Drive, Dearborn. (313) 561-TKTS/(313) 277-5164

**SRO PRODUCTIONS**  
"The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth," a farce by David McGilivray and Walter Zerlin, Jr., continues 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, through Sunday, Aug. 9, at the City of Southfield's historic center Theburgh, in the renovated 1854 church on the northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road, one block east of Telegraph, Southfield. \$8, \$7 senior adults and children under 12. (248) 827-0701

**WEST END PRODUCTIONS**  
"Sweet, Sassy and Durang," short plays by Christopher Durang with Sweet and Sassy, an evening of comedy relief, 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1, at the Wunderground Theatre, 110 S. Main St., above ACE Hardware, Royal Oak. \$12. (248) 541-1763

### YOUTH

**MARQUIS THEATRE CHILDREN**  
"Raggedy Ann and Andy," Tuesdays-Fridays, Aug. 4-7, 11-14 and 18-21, 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, Aug. 8, 15, 22, and Sept. 13, 20 and 27, and 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Sept. 6, 13, 20 and 27, no children younger than age 3, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., Northville. (248) 349-8110 for ticket information and special school performance times and rates.

**NOVI THEATRES**  
"Cinderella," 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door, All ages. (248) 347-0400

**TINDERBOX PRODUCTIONS**  
"Really Rosie," a musical comedy by Maurice Sendak and Carole King, 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, at the Theatre Guild of Livonia Redford, 15138 Beech Dale, south of Five Mile, Livonia. \$5. (313) 535-8962

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE**  
Historic car races, Friday-Sunday, July 31-Aug. 2, Waterford Hills Race Track, Clarkston; the main event, Sunday, Aug. 2, Meadow Brook mansion grounds, Oakland University, Walton Boulevard and Adams Road, Rochester. (248) 650-5566

**149TH ANNUAL HIGHLAND GAMES**  
Amateur and professional competitions, Scottish fiddle demonstrations, piping and drumming, dancing championships, Scottish arts and entertainment, hosted by St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, at Greenmead Historical Village, Newburgh Road, south of Eight Mile, Livonia. \$8. (313) 832-1849 or http://www.highlandgames.com

**DRUM CORPS**  
Nearly 3,000 musicians will converge on Eastern Michigan University's Ryanearson Stadium in Ypsilanti Friday-Saturday, July 31 and Aug. 1 for the Midwestern Summer Music Games, 19 of Drum Corps International's top corps from across the U.S. and Canada will present a weekend of music and showmanship. Field performances 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 31; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1. The 2 p.m. on-stage performance is at Ypsilanti Community College's Dowsley Auditorium. One day tickets are \$12, \$18 and \$25, call (734) 483-4444. Tickets for the 2 p.m. on-stage performance are \$5, call (630) 495-9866, Ext. 2. Check out the website: www.ypsilanti.org

**PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS**  
The group is looking for members and former members to help celebrate its 25th anniversary with a gala ball Friday, Oct. 2, at Laurel Park Manor, Livonia. (734) 459-6829 or write to P.O. Box 700217, Plymouth, Mich., 48170

### BENEFITS

**"A NIGHT OF GOOD TASTE GOES TO THE MOVIES"**  
Featuring a screening of the movie "The Avengers" starring Ralph Fiennes, Uma Thurman and Sean Connery, a light summer supper, and beer tasting courtesy of Copper Canyon Brewery, 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17, Star Southfield Entertainment Center and Galleria Officecentre, 25333 W. 12 Mile Road (between Telegraph Road and Northwestern Highway), Southfield. \$50 patron tickets include supper and screening, \$25 movie tickets, benefits the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. (800) KARMANOS

**With Blue Cat**, and an open mic jam session, 3 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Aug. 1. VFW Hall, 1065 S. Wayne Road, Westland. \$5. \$10 includes admission and raffle ticket for a chance to win an Eddie Van Halen Wolfgang Special guitar.

Benefits the family of guitar teacher/blues musician Pat Patton who was recently diagnosed with cancer. (734) 722-5512 (rock/blues)

**FRIENDS OF FOSTER FARMHOUSE**  
2-10 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, tent party featuring food, raffle and music by City Limits Blues Band, at Ai's Copper Mug, 1704 W. Maple Road, Walled Lake. 21 and older. (248) 624-9659

**"LAUGH TO LIVE"**  
A benefit for the cure for sickle cell anemia, with comedian Bryan McCree, Thursday, July 30, Mark Ridley & Comedy Castle, 260 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. \$10. (248) 542-9900

**MOTOWN "REGATTA" CRUISE**  
Begins at 6:30 p.m. with a send-off party on the deck of the Roostertail, followed by a 1 1/2-hour race beginning at 8 p.m. down the Detroit River, a "Motown Cup" Celebration Party from 9:30-11 p.m. on the Roostertail deck with music by Impact VII, all Thursday, Aug. 6. Lila Lazarus of WDIV-TV-4 challenges "The Mystery Captain." \$60, \$500 for a corporate table of 8, proceeds benefit pediatric cancer research at Children's Hospital of Michigan. (248) 473-5755

**"REGGAE ON THE RIVER"**  
A fundraiser for the Fanclub Foundation for the Arts featuring music by Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, an exotic island buffet from the Roostertail, and a summer-themed art auction sponsored by Gallery Function Art of Pontiac, fashion show, 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, on the Roostertail deck, on Detroit's waterfront, 1 1/2 miles east of the Belle Isle Bridge off Jefferson Avenue. \$35, \$30 Fanclub members. (248) 559-1645

### FAMILY EVENTS

**DIXBORO FAIR**  
Ice cream social, carnival games, silent auction, juried arts and crafts show, guided tours of 1858 Dixboro United Methodist Church, live entertainment, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Dixboro Village Green, Plymouth Road and Cherry Hill, Ann Arbor. A portion of proceeds benefits Habitat for Humanity, Huron Valley. (734) 761-5068/(734) 665-5632

**LIVONIA WOOD CARVERS CLUB SHOW**  
More than 100 carvers from the U.S. and Canada display everything from wildlife to figure carvings, a highlight of the show is the Michigan Chainsaw Carving Championships both days, carving supplies, tools, woods, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 1-2, at Eddie Edge Sports Arena, 33841 Lyndon at Farmington Road, Livonia. \$1, \$2 for families. (734) 421-8310

**OAKLAND COUNTY 4-H FAIR**  
Featuring Lumberjack show, racing pigs, car show, gospel talent search, and "big events" monster trucks, rodeo, demolition derby, motocross, figure 8 car race and demolition derby, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Sunday, Aug. 3-9, Springfield Oaks Activity Center, Davidsburg. \$6 per car, \$7 adults; \$3 children ages 5-12, and free for children ages 4 and younger for "big events" (248) 625-8133/(248) 634-8830

**RATHAYATRA PARADE AND FESTIVAL**  
India's ancient Parade of the Giant Chariot on Belle Isle beginning on the island side of the bridge 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, followed by festival of dance, drama and music from noon to 5 p.m., (Belle Isle Shelter #5). (313) 331-6740/(313) 885-8999

### SUMMER CONCERTS

**BANJOES OF MICHIGAN**  
7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Wilson Barn, Livonia. Free. All ages. (734) 421-2000, ext. 351

**DAVID BENNETT**  
The clarinetist performs Wednesday, Aug. 5, at Nardin Park Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile Road, just west of Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills.

**CLOWNS AROUND REDFORD**  
Perform for National Clown Week, noon Saturday, Aug. 1, Performing Arts Pavilion behind William Faust Public Library, 6123 Civic Center Parkway, Westland. Free. All ages. (734) 326-6123

**COMMUNITY CHORUS**  
8 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Heritage Park, west side of Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads, Farmington Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 473-9570

**THE COURTIERS**  
7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, gazebo at Burgh Historical Park, northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road, Southfield. Free. (248) 424-9022 (big band jazz)

**WILLY GEORGE BAND**  
7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, gazebo next to Village Commons on Grand River Avenue, downtown Farmington. Free. All ages. (248) 473-7283 (big band)

**PHIL GRAM COMBO**  
6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, Performing Arts Pavilion behind William Faust Public Library, 6123 Civic Center Parkway, Westland. Free. All ages. (734) 326-6123 (American jazz)

**HARPBEAT**  
Noon Wednesday, Aug. 5, in Kelllogg Park, Main Street, (between Ann Arbor Trail and Pennington). Free. (734) 416-4ART

**THE HOPE ORCHESTRA**  
7:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, gazebo next to Village Commons on Grand River Avenue, Farmington. Free. All ages. (248) 473-7283 (alternative pop)

**HOT ICE**  
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, in the amphitheater in Heritage Park, on Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Free. All ages. (734) 397-5110 (Motown soul)

**JAZZHEAD**  
6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Greenfield



Scottish tradition: Alexandra Bennett 7, dances as Harold Higgins plays. They will be participating in the 149th annual Highland Games, Saturday at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

## Scots gather for Highland Games

They're calling it "The Fling in the Motor City," and if you're Scottish, or interested in all things Scottish, you'll want to be at the 149th Annual Highland Games, Saturday, Aug. 1, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

Dancing is one of the highlights of this year's games, the second to be held at Greenmead.

In the morning, dancers from the Midwest area and Canada will compete in a dance competition hosted by the St. Andrew's Society. The United States Inter-Regional Highland Dance Championship competition begins in the afternoon. Dancers from all over the U.S. and Canada will be competing for the national title in five different age categories from children to adult. To qualify for this competition, the dancers had to win regional competitions.

Dance events continue on Sunday at the Field House on the University-Michigan Dearborn campus. A pre-championship competition in the morning is open to all dancers who have never won a championship. The North American Highland Championship will follow. Three premiere pipers will accompany the dancers.

The games are a good place to dig for your Scottish roots. Over 30 clans will be represented. There will be vendors selling Scottish goods, Scottish food for sale, and activities for children.

They're bringing in Long-haired Highland Cattle, and there will be sheep herding

and duck herding demonstrations by Highland Border Collies and Sheep Dogs throughout the day.

Be sure to visit the 18th Century Scottish military camp. You can watch military drills and hear the firing of muskets.

**149th Annual Highland Games**  
When: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1

Where: Greenmead Historical Park, Newburgh (at Eight Mile Road), Livonia.  
Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$8 at the gate. Children under 12 free with adult. Advance tickets available at Greenmead, the Golden Girls in Royal Oak on Fourth St. (east of Main St.), or call Marty and Harold Hunter, (248) 545-1997. For general information, call (313) 832-1849.

Check out the Web site: www.Highlandgames.com  
Shuttle lots: Schoolcraft College, south of Seven Mile Road on Haggerty, and Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church on Six Mile Road (west of Haggerty). There is no charge for parking in these lots and complimentary shuttle buses will run every five to 10 minutes throughout the day, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Patron, handicap and limited general parking will be available in the Main Lot at Greenmead. Experience shows the Main Lot will be full by 10 a.m.

**Schedule of events:**  
8:30 a.m. - Games open for the public  
9 a.m. - Competitions begin, Piping, Highland Dance, Heavy Athletics

Noon - Welcoming Ceremonies, Invocation & National Anthems, Lament for the Deceased, Massed Pipes and Drums, Parade of the Clans, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

5 p.m. - Closing Ceremony, Massed Pipes and Drums, Major Competitive Awards, Raffle Drawings.  
Ongoing:  
■ Heavy Athletics - Amateur, Professional  
■ Highland Dancing Championships - Novice, Intermediate, Advance, Open, Broad-sword Dance Competition  
■ Drum Major  
■ Piping and Drumming, Individual, Pipe Band  
■ Scottish Fiddle Demonstrations  
■ Scottish Arts and Entertainment  
■ Children's Events  
■ Vendors of Scottish Goods  
■ Food & Drink Vendors  
■ Dance Championship Competition

Where: Sunday, Aug. 2  
Where: University of Michigan Dearborn Field House, on Evergreen (between Hubbard Dr. and Michigan Ave.) across from Fairlane Town Center. Admission: \$5 at the door

■ Pre-championship Competition sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society, featuring premiere dancers from around the country who have never won a championship, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

■ North American Highland Championship, featuring premiere dancers from the U.S., Canada and Scotland, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2 at the University of Michigan Fieldhouse.

**III V ORCHESTRA**  
9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, July 31, Bacci Abbracci, 40 W. Pike St., Pontiac. (swing) (248) 253-1300

### BRASS MUSIC

**THE MOTOR CITY BRASS BAND**  
As part of Oakland Community College's "A Little Night Music" series, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, OCC, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford. Free. All ages. (248) 349-0376

### ORGAN

**MOTOR CITY THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**  
Movies and concerts series continues with "An Affair to Remember," starring Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr, 7:30 p.m. Friday Aug. 7, and 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, the Historic Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser at Grand River, Detroit. Organ overture precedes film, guest organist evenings John Lauter, matinees Gil Francis. \$2.50. (313) 531-4407

### AUDITIONS

**BARBIZON SCHOOL OF MICHIGAN**  
The school is offering "The Play's the Thing," a series of summer acting workshops for special needs children and handicapped young persons taught by Detroit actor Bob Cafagna at the school, 6230 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 110, West Bloomfield. Topics include improving their speech, movement, coordination and confidence through acting. (248) 855-5660

**FARMINGTON PLAYERS**  
Auditions for two men each of whom portrays 11 characters (male and female) for "A Tuna Christmas," 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, at the barn, 32332 E. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. (248) 476-3781/(248) 926-0055

**HARTLAND PLAYERS**  
Auditions for "A Chorus Line," 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, and 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 3, Hartland Music Hall, 3649 Avon St., Hartland. (810) 220-3521

**MOSAIC YOUTH THEATRE SUMMER INSTITUTE**  
With classes on acting, singing, dancing and stagecraft for children ages 8-18, Monday-Sunday, Aug. 3-30, Wayne County Community College. \$100. (313) 554-1422

**SECOND CITY KIDS' CAMP**  
Two-week day camp for kids ages 10-16 that helps children develop teamwork skills by learning how to improvise in group situations, 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m. Aug. 3-13, at the club, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$120. (313) 964-5821

**SUMMER MUSIC SCHOOL**  
Schoolcraft College is offering the opportunity for late elementary and high school musicians to perform as soloists and with a live orchestra Aug. 8-14; \$250 for two-week term. (734) 462-4400, ext. 5218

**WYANDOTTE COMMUNITY THEATRE**  
Auditions for the musical "Damn Yankees," 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, July 30, at the Copeland Center, Fourth and Mulberry streets, Wyandotte. Performances second and third weekends in October. (734) 438-0126

### JAZZ

**ABLER-LEDUFF AND HAYDEN TRIO**  
7:30 p.m. to midnight Friday, Aug. 7, Fleetwood on Sixth restaurant, 209 W. Eighth St., Royal Oak. Free. All ages. (248) 541-8050

**ALEX ANEST**  
8:10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Espresso Royale Cafe, 214 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Free. All ages. (734) 668-1838 (jazz guitar duo)

**RALPH ARMSTRONG TRIO**  
8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150

**SEAN BLACKMAN**  
With John Arnold, 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5080 (gypsy jazz)

**TEDDY HARRIS TRIO**  
8 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Aug. 6, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150

**HEIDI HEPLER & MICHELE RAMO**  
6-10 p.m. Mondays, at Too Chee, 27155 Sheraton Dr., Novi. (248) 348-5555;

**6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays at Encore in the Quality Inn, 1801 S. Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 335-3790; 7-10 p.m. Fridays, at Cafe Cortina, 30715 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. (248) 626-7393; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, at Vic's Market, 42875 Grand River Ave., Novi. (248) 305-7333**

**PERRY HUGHES**  
6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Kelllogg Park, Ann Arbor Trail and Main Street, downtown Plymouth. Free. All ages. (734) 453-1234

**JAZZODITY**  
9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 19 and older. (734) 485-5050

**JAZZHEAD**  
9:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 18 and older. (248) 650-5080 (acid jazz)

**KATHY KOSINS TRIO**  
8 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Duet, 3663 Woodward Ave. (at Martin Luther King Boulevard), Detroit. (313) 831-3838

**SHEILA LANDIS TRIO**  
8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, July 31, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham.

### CLASSICAL

**DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
"The Great Grieg Concert," with conductor Neeme Jarvi and pianist Sergei Babayan, 8 p.m. Friday, July 31; "Bravo Beethoven!" with conductor Neeme Jarvi and violinist Mark Kaplan, 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1; "Summer's Fantastique" with conductor Neeme Jarvi and clarinetist Ted Olen, 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2; and "Top Down Pops!" with conductor Erich Kunzel and the Cortes Alexander Trio, 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Meadow Brook Music Festival, Oakland University, Walton Boulevard and Adams Road, Rochester. Tickets at Ticketmaster. (313) 576-5100 or http://www.detroitstrings.com

### POPS/SWING

**BOSTON POPS "AMERICAN VISIONS" TOUR**  
With the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and conductor Keith Lockhart, 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Fox Theatre, 2111 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$37.50, \$50, \$76. (248) 433-1515

**THE NEW MORTY SHOW**  
9:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$6 in advance, \$8 day of show. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (swing)

### CARILLON

**PATRICK MACOSKA/RICHARD GIBZCZAK**  
Carillonists perform "Serenade 1" and an original composition by Ronald Barnes, 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 3, University of Michigan's Ann and Robert H. Lurie

Village, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Free with admission, \$12.50 adults, \$11.50 senior citizens ages 62 and older, \$7.50 for children ages 5-12, and free for children ages 4 and younger. After 4 p.m., \$10 adults, \$5 kids ages 5-12. (313) 271-1620 (acid jazz)

**THE MIXX**  
Formerly known as the Antoine Parsons Band, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, at the Troy Civic Center, 500 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. Free. (248) 524-3300

**RODNE RUECNLI PLURAL CIRCLE**  
6-8 p.m. Monday, July 27, presented by the Graystone International Jazz Museum, at Hart Plaza, Detroit. Free. (313) 963-3813

**ONE GREAT BACK**  
7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Municipal Park behind Rochester City Hall. Free. All ages. (248) 652-7762 (big band)

**ROBERT PENN**  
7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, on the lawn in front of Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen Road (at Civic Center Drive), Southfield. Free. (248) 424-9022

**NICHOLE RAMO, HEIDI HEPLER AND FRIENDS**  
6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, Kelllogg Park, Ann Arbor Trail and Main Street, downtown Plymouth. Free. All ages. (734) 453-1234

**VINCE BADOVSKY**  
7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Municipal Park behind Rochester City Hall. Free. All ages. (248) 652-7762 (folk)

**MAUREEN SCHYFFMAN**  
The Songstress/puppeteer and her pup-pet pal Coco perform "Animal Fair" 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, at Bell Creek Park, corner of Five Mile and Inkster roads, Redford. Free. (734) 261-9087

**SECRETS**  
7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30, in the amphitheater in Heritage Park, on Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Free. All ages. (734) 397-5110

**YA TAFARI**  
8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Heritage Park, west side of Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads, Farmington Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 473-9570 (Caribbean)

**DON WALDEN QUARTET**  
6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, near the wolverine exhibit at the Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile and Woodward Avenue, off I-696, Royal Oak. Free with zoo admission, \$7.50, \$5.50 students/seniors 62 and older, \$4.50 children ages 2-12. (248) 398-0903

**PAUL VORNHAGEN QUARTET**  
8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, Performing Arts Pavilion behind William Faust Public Library, 6123 Civic Center Parkway, Westland (rain location the Bailey Center). Free. All ages. (734) 326-6123 (jazz)

**ED ZELENAK BAND**  
7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Wilson Barn, Livonia. Free. All ages. (big band) (734) 421-2000, ext. 351

# 8 days a week

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

**Continued from previous page**

Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (vocal/piano/bass)  
**MAINSTREAM QUARTET**  
 8 p.m. Friday, July 24, Duet, 3663 Woodward Ave. (at Martin Luther King Boulevard), Detroit. (313) 831-3838  
**"MATT MICHAELS TRIO"**  
 With trumpeter Johnny Trudell, 8-11:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30, at the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River, Farmington Hills. \$5 cover waived with dinner until 9 p.m., \$5 drink minimum. Reservations recommended. (248) 474-4800  
**WILBERT PAEGLER QUARTET**  
 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1, Duet, 3663 Woodward Ave. (at Martin Luther King Boulevard), Detroit. (313) 831-3838  
**WILLIAM PARKER AND PATRICIA NICHOLSON PARKER**  
 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, Gold Dollar Bar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$10. 21 and older. (313) 833-6873/(248) 548-9888  
**CHUCK SHERMETARO TRIO**  
 8 p.m. to midnight Thursday, July 30, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (piano/bass/drums)  
**LOUIS SMITH TRIO**  
 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150  
**URSULA WALKER AND BUDDY BUDSON**  
 With Dan Kolton, 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursdays and Fridays at Forte, 201 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 594-7300  
**ALLEN WEISERMAN**  
 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Aug. 1, Agape Caffe, 205 Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Free. 25-cent surcharge on drinks during entertainment. All ages. (248) 546-1400

**POPULAR MUSIC**

**AMERICA**  
 With Blood, Sweat and Tears, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. \$22.50 pavilion, \$12.50 lawn. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com (rock)  
**JOHN ANDERSON**  
 With Drivin' Sideways and Hot Walker, 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, originally scheduled at Oak Ridge Natural Amphitheater now rescheduled for Pine Creek Golf Course, 50521 Huron River Dr., Belleville. Tickets at Ticketmaster. All ages. (248) 645-6666 (country)  
**ARAB STRAP**  
 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, Burns Room in St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$6 in advance, \$7 day of show. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com (alternative rock)  
**BIG DAVE AND THE ULTRASONICS**  
 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Karl's Cabin, 9779 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (734) 455-8450 (jump blues)  
**THE BILLMAN BROS.**  
 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 542-9922 (blues)  
**BIZER BROTHERS**  
 8 p.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1, The Rattlesnake Club, 300 River Place, Detroit. Free. All ages. (313) 567-4400 (pop)  
**BLACK TAPE FOR A BLUE GIRL**  
 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. All ages. (313) 833-POOL (rock)  
**BLAZE**  
 With Quasar Wut Wut and Packaged Bliss, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)  
**"BLIND PIG SHOWCASE"**  
 With Aftershock, Central Sun, Las Vegas Tumbleweed Connection and Minnow Flickers, 9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Free. 18 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)  
**BLUE CAT**  
 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, The Lodge, 2442 Orchard Lake Road, Sylvan Lake. Free. 21 and older. (248) 683-5458; 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)  
**BLUE SUIT WITH ALBERTA ADAMS**  
 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Free. 21 and older. (248) 543-4300 (blues)  
**BLUES IN THE NIGHT**  
 10:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5080 (blues)  
**BRIDGE**  
 With Blue Cat, and an open mic jam session, 3 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Aug. 1, VFW Hall, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. \$5. \$10 includes admission and raffle ticket for a chance to win an Eddie Van Halen Wolfgang Special guitar. Benefits the family of guitar teacher/blues musician Pat Patton who was recently diagnosed with cancer. (734) 722-5512 (rock/blues)  
**BUSTER'S BLUES BAND**  
 9:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Local Color Brewery, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 349-2600 (blues)  
**CHEAP TRICK**  
 With Candlebox, Brother Cane and The Hunger, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. \$20 pavilion, \$10 lawn. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com (rock)  
**CITY LIMITS BLUES BAND**  
 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 7-8, Hennessey's Pub, 49160 Grand River Ave., Wixom. Free. 21 and older. (248) 349-4404 (blues)  
**CLUTCH**  
 With Stuck Mojo and Phunk Junkeez, 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron St., Pontiac. \$12 in advance, \$15 day of show. All ages. (248) 333-2362 or http://www.961melt.com (rock)  
**THE CREATURES**  
 With Siouxsie Sioux and Budgie, with John Cale, 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$20 in advance, \$25 day of show. All ages. (313) 961-5451 (alternative rock)  
**CATIE CURTIS**  
 With the Mummies, 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$10 in advance, 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (pop)  
**DELUXTONE ROCKETS**  
 With The Project, Patron Saints, Easyfill, 7 p.m. Friday, July 31, as part of the alcohol free "Cage" night at Knights of

Columbus Notre Dame Hall, 35100 Van Born Road (1/4 mile east of Wayne Road), Wayne. \$7. All ages. (734) 729-7092 or http://www.bandinfo.com (surfability/punk/ska/rap)  
**DETROIT BLUES BAND**  
 9 p.m. Friday, July 31, Bad Frog Tavern, 555 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 624-9400 (blues)  
**DOWD BAND**  
 With Harmonica Shah, 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Carriage House Blues Alley, 24200 Grand River Ave., Detroit. Free. 21 and older. (313) 535-3440 (blues)  
**DEEP FOREST**  
 With Anggun, 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Michigan Center, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Canceled. All ages. (734) 668-8397 (instrumental, ethereal pop)  
**DETROIT BLUES BAND**  
 9 p.m. Friday, July 31, Bad Frog, 555 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 624-9400 (blues)  
**EASYFILL**  
 With Red Letter, D.B.G.'s, and Louie Old Man, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, as part of alcohol-free "Cage" night at Knights of Columbus Notre Dame Hall, 35100 Van Born Road (1/4 mile east of Wayne Road), Wayne. \$7. All ages. (734) 729-7092 or http://www.bandinfo.com (punk)  
**GLEN EDDIE**  
 8 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)  
**ELIZA**  
 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 7-8, Smitty's, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 652-1600 (pop)  
**EVERYTHING**  
 With Rustic Overtones, 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$6 in advance, 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (pop)  
**FATHERS OF THE ID**  
 8 p.m. to midnight Saturdays through September Johanson-Charles Gallery, 1345 Division, in Detroit's Eastern Market. Free, donations accepted. All ages. (313) 567-8638 (alternative rock)  
**NEIL FINN**  
 Former lead singer of Crowded House, 9 p.m. Friday, July 31, Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron St., Pontiac. \$20 in advance, \$23 day of show. All ages. (248) 333-2362 or http://www.961melt.com (pop)  
**FUNKTELIGENCE**  
 9 p.m. Friday, July 31, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (734) 485-5050 (funk)  
**KEVIN GEO**  
 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)  
**GHETTOBILLIES**  
 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (734) 485-5050 (rock)  
**GRR**  
 10 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Library Pub, 35230 Central City Parkway, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 421-2250; 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, as part of radio station CIDR's Garden Party at the Whitney, 4421 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 832-5700; 10 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 349-9110; 9:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, The Cavern, 210 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 332-9900 (rock)  
**THE GRUESOMES**  
 With Linus and 60 Second Crush, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Cover charge. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)  
**"THE HARD TOUR"**  
 With Bullet Boys, Enuff Z'nuff, Bang Tango and Pretty Boy Floyd, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$17.50 in advance, \$20 day of show. All ages.

(313) 961-5451 ('80s metal)  
**HONKY DORY**  
 With The Loose Stools, TeaBag, Swirly Boy and The Gramercy Riffs, as part of a "Benefit for Bobbie," the daughter of Funhouse singer Kimba Weibert who was born with Alcardi Syndrome, a rare neurological condition. \$6. 18 and older. (248) 334-5150 or woodtip@aol.com (variety)  
**LISA HUNTER**  
 9:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Tap Room, 201 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 21 and older. (734) 482-5320; 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Lonestar Coffeehouse, 207 S. Old Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. All ages. (248) 642-2233; Hosts open mic night, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, Gargyle's, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Free. All ages. (248) 745-9790; 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Java Master, 33214 W. 14 Mile Road, West Bloomfield. Free. All ages. (248) 626-7393 (acoustic rock)  
**ROBERT JONES**  
 With Jo Serrapeire, 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, July 31, Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 259-1374 (blues)  
**MIKE KING**  
 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 21 and older. (248) 650-5080 (acoustic rock)  
**THE LOOK**  
 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Hazel Park Race track, 1650 E. 10 Mile Road, Hazel Park. (248) 398-1000 (rock)  
**STEVE MILLER**  
 With Little Feat, 7 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. \$37.50 pavilion, \$21.50 lawn. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com (rock)  
**MISSING MAN FORMATION**  
 Featuring Vince Welnic, keyboardist and vocalist for the Grateful Dead, 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$15 in advance, 18 and older. (313) 833-POOL (Deadhead)  
**THE MOFFATTS**  
 With Al Carmichael, 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, Center Stage, 39940 Ford Road, Canton. \$15 at the door. All ages. (734) 397-0862/(734) 728-1497 (pop)  
**NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE**  
 With Mike Kenealy and Beer for Dolphins, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. \$12. 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or http://www.themagicbag.com (rock)  
**'N SYNC**  
 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. \$17.50. All ages. (248) 546-7610 (pop)  
**MIKE NOLAN**  
 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, as part of CIDR FM's Garden Party at The Whitney, 4421 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 832-5700 (pop)  
**RON OSTER**  
 9 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Carriage House Blues Alley, 24200 Grand River Ave., Detroit. Free. 21 and older. (313) 535-3440 (blues)  
**ROBERT PENN**  
 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800; 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, Bad Frog Tavern, 555 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 624-9400 (blues)  
**RON PRINCE AND HARD TIME**  
 Celebrate release of CD with party and performance, 9 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Fifth Avenue, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. \$4. 21 and older. (248) 542-9922 (blues)  
**JODY RAFFOUL AND GARY RASMUSSEN**  
 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, Local Color Brewery, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 349-2600 (acoustic rock)  
**RED SPEEDWAGON**  
 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. \$22.50 pavilion,

\$12.50 lawn. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com (rock)  
**ROCKET FROM THE CRYPT**  
 With Creeper Lagoon, 9 p.m. Friday, July 31, Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$10 in advance. 18 and older. (313) 833-POOL (rock)  
**SAVAGE GARDEN**  
 With Billie Myers, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. \$23.50 pavilion, \$12.50 lawn. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com (pop)  
**SERVOTRON**  
 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, Magic Stick in the Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$7 in advance. 18 and older. (313) 833-POOL ("robotic punk rock")  
**THE SIDEWINDERS**  
 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, Local Color Brewery, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 349-2600 (R&B)  
**SISTER SEED**  
 8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Rochester Mills Beer Co., 400 Water St., Rochester. Free. 18 and older. (248) 650-5080; 10 p.m. Friday, July 31, Giovanni's, 31 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Free. 21 and older. (248) 334-5241 (acoustic rock)  
**SISTER SOLEIL**  
 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$6. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com (pop)  
**SITTIN' IN**  
 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1, Hennessey's Pub, 49110 Grand River Ave., Wixom. Free. 21 and older. (248) 348-4404 (rock)  
**SKAVOOVIE AND THE EPITONES**  
 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, the Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$6. All ages. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com (ska)  
**SOLID FROG**  
 With 3 Speed and Gods Made Love, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)  
**ROD STEWART**  
 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. \$65 and \$45. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com (rock)  
**SUN MESSENGERS**  
 9:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Karl's Cabin, 9779 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. Free. 21 and older. (734) 455-8450 (R&B)  
**TAPROOT**  
 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (734) 485-5050 (rock)  
**MARY THOMPSON AND THE DELTA CHILDREN BLUES BAND**  
 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1, B.C. Beans Coffee House, 2964 Biddle, Wyandotte. Free. All ages. (313) 284-2244; 8 p.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday, Aug. 7, 8 p.m. Lone Star Coffee House, 207 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. All ages. (248) 642-2233 (blues)  
**GEORGE THOROGOOD**  
 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. \$22.50 pavilion, \$12.50 lawn. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com (rock)  
**3 SPEED**  
 9 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Cover charge. 18 and older. (734) 485-5050 (alternative rock)  
**THE TRIGGERS**  
 With Stungun and Firebug, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$4. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555 (rock)  
**2XL**  
 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1, Library Pub, 35230 Central City Parkway, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 421-

2250; 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 349-9110 (rock)  
**VAL VENTRO**  
 10 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 349-9110 (blues)  
**RANDY VOLIN AND THE SONIC BLUES**  
 9 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Bistro 313, 313 Walton Blvd., Pontiac. Free. All ages. (248) 332-9400; 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1, Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 349-9110; 8:11:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, Bad Frog Tavern, 555 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 642-9400; 8 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Aug. 5-6, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800; 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Drinks North, 2505 Pontiac Lake Road, Pontiac. Cover charge. 21 and older. (248) 683-8186 or http://www.rockindaddys.com (blues)  
**CHRIS WHITLEY**  
 With Kathleen Wilhoite and David Poe, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$10 in advance. All ages. (734) 761-1800 (rock)  
**THE WHY STORE**  
 With Cowboy Mouth, 9 p.m. Thursday, July 30, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$10 in advance. 18 and older. (313) 961-MELT or http://www.99music.com (alternative rock)  
**"WRIF FEST"**  
 With Cheap Trick, Candlebox, Brother Cane and The Hunger, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, in Independence Township. \$20 pavilion, \$10 lawn. (248) 377-0100 or visit http://www.palacenet.com (rock)  
**THE X HUSBANDS**  
 7-11 p.m. Wednesdays through August, Woolly Bully's, 43333 W. Seven Mile Road, Northville. Free. All ages. (248) 380-5163; 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursdays-Saturday, Buck's Place, 23845 W. Warren, Dearborn Heights. Cover charge. 21 and older. (313) 274-6005 (acoustic rock)

**CLUB NIGHTS**

**BLIND PIG**  
 "Swing-a-billy" night with dance lessons from 8-9 p.m. and dancing with DJ Del Villarreal, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, at the club, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. \$5 before 9 p.m., \$3 afterward. "Solar" night with DJ Disco D and a live P.A. and jungle set by Tube (Jungle Sky/Liquid Sky), 10 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, at the club. \$5. 19 and older. (734) 996-8555  
**CLUTCH CARGO'S/MILL STREET**  
 "Flashback" night with "The Planet" WPLT on level two (Clutch Cargo's), old school funk on level three, and techno and house on level four. 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, at the club, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Free before 9 p.m. 21 and older. Alternative dance night, 8 p.m. Wednesdays in Clutch Cargo's. 18 and older. (248) 333-2362 or http://www.961melt.com  
**THE GROOVE ROOM**  
 Funk, hip-hop and top 40 with DJ Mac D. Thursdays. Women admitted free. "Love Factory" alternative dance night Fridays. Alternative dance with DJ Matt Saturdays: Alternative dance Tuesdays; gothic, industrial and retro with DJ Paul Wednesdays. Free, at the club, 1815 N. Main St. (at 12 Mile Road), Royal Oak. Free before 10 p.m. nightly. 21 and older. (248) 589-3344 or http://www.groove-room.com  
**HOLLYWOOD MY WAY**  
 "Dancehall Xplosion 1998." midnight to 4:30 a.m. Saturdays at the club, 13741 W. McNichols (two blocks west of Schaefer), Detroit. Cover charge. Proper attire. All ages (313) 836-8686.

**WORLD MUSIC**

**FOUR SHILLINGS SHORT**  
 7 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Borders Books and Music, 612 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Free. All ages. (734) 668-7100 (Celtic)  
**IMMUNITY**  
 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday, July 31, The Library Pub, 42100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Free. 21 and older. (248) 349-9110; 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, Library Pub, 35230 Central City Parkway, Westland. Free. 21 and older. (734) 421-2250 (reggae)  
**"WINDSOR CELTIC FESTIVAL"**  
 With non-stop Celtic music, dance and food, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, July 31, and noon to 1 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Dieppe Gardens along the Detroit River, Windsor. \$2 (Canadian) each day. (519) 977-9942

**FOLK/BLUEGRASS**

**BANJOES OF MICHIGAN**  
 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Wilson Barn, Livonia. Free. All ages. (734) 421-2000, ext. 351  
**ANNE HILLS**  
 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$10 members, students, seniors. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org  
**JAN KRIST**  
 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, Smitty's, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 652-1600  
**MUSTARD'S RETREAT**  
 Celebrates its 25th anniversary with a concert, 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. \$8 members, students, seniors. All ages. (734) 761-1451 or http://www.a2ark.org  
**DUSTY RHODES**  
 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 30-31, at the Botsford Inn, Grand River west of Eight Mile, Farmington Hills. (248) 474-4800

**POETRY**

**PLYMOUTH POETS**  
 Hosts readings by Rod Reinhart, Marc Maurus and Cindi St. Germaine, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30, at the Coffee Bean Company, 844 Penniman at Harvey, Plymouth. (734) 459-7319

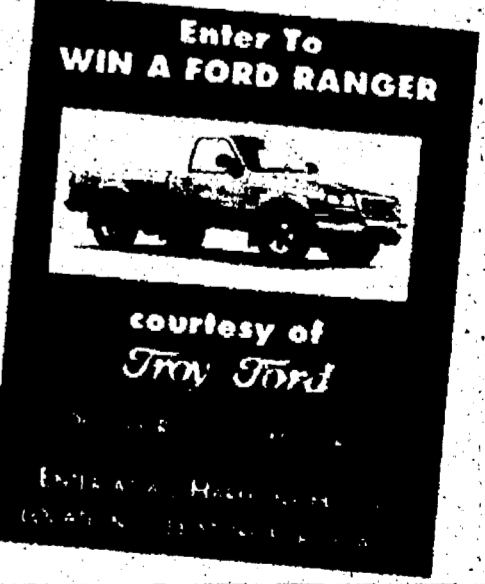
**DANCE**

**ANN ARBOR CONTRA**  
 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor Saline Road, south of I-94, Ann Arbor. \$6. (734) 665-7704 / (734) 332-9024

**COMEDY**

**JEFF FOXWORTHY**  
 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. \$29.50 pavilion, \$20 lawn. All ages. (248) 377-0100 or http://www.palacenet.com  
**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB**  
 Kirk "Fabo Man" Noland, Pete LaDuke and Rich Higginbottom, Thursday-Saturday, July 30-Aug. 1 (\$12); Joey Bielaska, Jim Hann and Rich Higginbottom, Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 6-8, at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 9 p.m. Wednesdays (\$2), 9 p.m. Thursdays (free), 9 p.m. Friday (\$10), and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturdays (\$10), unless otherwise noted. (734) 261-0555  
**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S**  
 Leo Dufour, 9 p.m. Friday, July 31 (\$6), and 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1 (\$8), at the club, 5070 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885  
**MAINSTREET COMEDY SHOWCASE**  
 Bill Thomas, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1 (\$9); Billy Ray Bauer, 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6 (\$7), and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 6-8 (\$9), at the club, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 990-9080

**HARMONYHOUSE, Rock & Metro Times present:**  
**WALK ON WATER with special guest DARREN McCARTY**  
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# 'Saving Private Ryan' brutally honest look at war

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

The landing boats rock and bounce on the rough waters off Normandy. Soldiers vomit from fear and seasickness. The boat gates drop too soon, under the barrage of gunfire, and soldiers jump into water over their heads, brought down by enemy fire or drowned by the weight of their own equipment.

Time condenses and expands. The noise is unbearably loud and then numbingly quiet. And everywhere is the acrid smell of gunpowder, the wails of the dying, blood, gore, body parts and fear, heroics and cowardice.

This is what war looks like,

sounds like and feels like.

The opening sequence of Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" recreates the landing on Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944, from the perspective of one platoon with a brutal honesty rarely seen in fictional war movies. Unlike Daryl Zanuck's "Longest Day," "Ryan's" D-Day landing has no stirring martial music, no gallant John Wayne and no bloodless, easy deaths.

Spielberg brings his unequalled technical mastery to bear on this visually graphic and emotionally complex look at "the last good war."

Richard Rodat's script is deceptively simple and somewhat contrived. Shortly following

the invasion, the War Department learns that an Iowa farm family has lost three sons within days of each other. Gen. George Marshall orders that the last surviving son be retrieved from somewhere in northern France and returned to his mother. The eight-man platoon we have watched suffer the horrors of the landing are assigned the task at great risk to their own lives.

Rodat's platoon has that typical World War II ethnic and personality mix - the Italian, the Jew, the hot-headed Brooklyn Irish kid, the bookworm, the bear-like and stalwart sergeant. But he gives these characters individual personalities and never makes them falsely heroic.

Spielberg takes this material and makes it into perhaps the best movie of his long and distinguished career. As a master of manipulation, he finally brings all that magic into focus to actually put us into the danger and agony of war.

One critic said he couldn't figure out what Spielberg was trying to do. Is this a flag-waving, All-American movie or an anti-war movie. He couldn't understand that it is neither and both. This isn't a sermon; it's a meditation.

This was not a war of professional soldiers. These men were autoworkers and store clerks, teachers and farm boys. They never planned to become soldiers and they weren't prepared for what they experienced, no one could be. Rodat and Spielberg present war as experienced by non-warriors, by ordinary people swept up by history. They meditate on the thin line between courage and cowardice.

Tom Hanks proves again that he is an actor of exquisite subtlety and insight. His performance as platoon leader Capt. John Miller is arguably his best yet. This secretive man with a bad case of the shakes is our surrogate through hell. He is alternately strong and terrified, a man thrust into his position because of his education and steadiness.

A scene in a church that is similar to the pre-battle scene in "Henry V" explores the special burdens of leadership. Hanks projects a humanity that speaks volumes.

Spielberg draws fine performances from everyone - Edward Burns as the cocky Brooklyn kid; Tom Sizemore as the loyal Sgt. Horvath; Giovanni Ribisi as the



DAVID JAMES/DREAMWORKS/PARAMOUNT PICTURES  
**Wartime: Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) leads a squad of soldiers behind enemy lines to find and retrieve one man, Private James Ryan, in the wartime action drama "Saving Private Ryan."**

compassionate medic; and Jeremy Davies as the weak, childlike Upham. But it is Matt Damon who is especially convincing as Ryan. He underplays the emotions with exactly the right Midwestern stoicism.

And a special word should be said for Harrison Young as the old soldier with so many unspeakable memories.

The real star, though, is Spielberg. The opening sequence and the final battle for a bridge are works of stunning film choreography. Using special film stock, varied time sequencing and Dolby sound as you've never experienced it, Spielberg puts the audience into the war as close as any film has ever come. There is a sequence in the opening where Hanks momentarily loses touch with the world, as if

deep underwater, his face glazed over, eyes locked, face flushed and blood splattered. This sequence tells us everything about the man we are going to follow and much about the brutality of battle.

Cinematographer Janusz Kaminski and editor Michael Kahn combine to make these sequences play out like visual symphonies. And, speaking of music, Spielberg has mastered the use of silence. The John Williams score is typically impressive, haunting at times, but never used in the battle scenes or to pump up the action.

Those looking for a condemnation of war or those looking for a stirring, flag-waving celebration will be disappointed. Yet, Spielberg curiously, and fairly, accomplishes both.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Opened Wednesday, July 29

### "THE NEGOTIATOR"

Story of a maverick hostage negotiator who becomes the victim of a police frame up. He turns the tables by taking the chief of internal affairs hostage and finds an ally in the negotiator assigned to the situation he's created. Stars Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey.

**"THE PARENT TRAP"**  
A remake of the Disney classic of two sisters separated at birth who finally meet and begin plotting to reunite their long-divorced parents.

Scheduled to open Friday, July 31

**"PI"**  
A science-fiction thriller about the haunting journey into the mind of a renegade mathematician.

**"BASKETBALL"**

Exclusively at the Landmark Main Art Theatre, a bold, retro exploration into the rights of passage for a young woman, set in the 1980s. Stars Liza Weil, Chad Morgan.

A sports comedy centering around a few friends who create a new sport.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, Aug. 5

### "HALLOWEEN: H20"

It's been twenty years since the first pumpkin was carved by Michael Myers...would you like to know what everyone else is up to now?

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 7

**"EVER AFTER: A CINDERELLA STORY"**  
Fresh spin on one of our most beloved tales. Stars Drew Barrymore, Anjelica Huston.

**"WHATEVER"**

Exclusively at the Landmark Main Art Theatre, a bold, retro exploration into the rights of passage for a young woman, set in the 1980s. Stars Liza Weil, Chad Morgan.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, Aug. 12

### "HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK"

Based on the best seller by Terry McMillan, the story of a 40-year-old African American woman who takes a spur of the moment trip to Jamaica and meets the man of her dreams, except he's only half her age. Stars Angela Bassett, Whoopi Goldberg.

Scheduled to open Friday, Aug. 14

### "AIR BUD: GOLDEN RECEIVER"

Buddy, the talented dog, continues his adventures when he becomes a kidnap target. Stars Kevin Zegers.

**"THE AVENGERS"**

The invulnerable duo of John Steed and Emma Peel are united again. This time to stop a diabolical scientist with plans for world domination. Stars Ralph Fiennes.

## Plowshares celebrates heritage

News Flash: we're all on planet Earth.

Sure, it would be cool if men really were from Mars, and women from Venus. It'd explain a lot - why men and women can walk into the same office and have entirely different experiences; why conversation among women is so totally different from conversation among men; why conversation between genders can be so completely frustrating.

But nope, we're all born and bred on the same blue marble. We come up with glib interplanetary origins to play with our inability to connect with one another across all the lines we've drawn between us - gender, race, culture and religion among others. And as we've seen so often on *Backstage Pass*, when we're faced with the problems of "same planet, worlds apart," we turn instinctively turn to the arts for work it out.

Maybe that's why some of the most compelling theater in Southeast Michigan comes out of Plowshares Theatre in Detroit, which is committed to presenting African American life, trends and traditions on stage - Plowshares celebrates the uniqueness of a community while exploring its underlying, universal humanity at the same time.

Plowshares' producing artistic director also happens to be a *Backstage Pass* correspondent - our pal Gary Anderson, who has hosted performances from theaters all over the Metro Area. We've also frequently pestered him to appear on the show as a guest, bringing his performers to

the studio to appear on the big show, always with fabulous results.

Like many people in the artistic community, Gary's busy preparing for the upcoming season. I gave him a call to see what's coming up at Plowshares. As always, Gary sounded exciting about his work. "Our season opens Nov. 5 with 'Bourbon at the Border' by former Detroit playwright Pearl Cleage. Pearl's father was the Rev. Albert Cleage who started the Shrine of the Black Madonna, an Afrocentric Christian denomination church in Detroit."

"Bourbon" takes place in Detroit in 1995. It's a love story between two former civil rights activists who participated in the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964, when activists were going down to register voters. They're college students who get caught up in the events, and what happens to them down there impacts them and their relationship with one another all the way into 1995.

"In October, we're presenting our first-ever children's play, 'Sala Cinderella,' an African-centered retelling of the Cinderella tale. We're doing it because there's really no alternative for children to see children's theatre from an African American perspective.

"For February, which is Black History Month, we're presenting 'In Living Colors,' a dance theatre musical. The play deals with the history and traditions of the Gullah people in the sea islands off the coast of South Carolina. The Gullah are the African Americans that have the most pure African heritage. Off on these sea islands, they who weren't as influenced by the mainland culture, although they were enslaved, they were rela-

tively left to themselves. The drum wasn't taken away from them like they were everywhere else. The play talks about the history of that heritage, and power of it.

"In March, we're putting up 'The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman V. Mammy Louisa and Saffretta May,' a satire about a black female Hollywood executive who puts on trial the stereotypes of the Mammy and the Saffire for the havoc they've wreaked on her life.

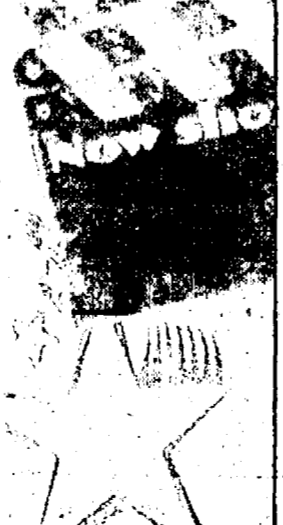
"Our season wraps up with August Wilson's 'Jitney.' It takes place in 1977 at the Gypsy Cab Company in Pittsburgh. It's really a play about legacy and about commitment. The cab company is being threatened with extinction - they're going to put a highway through the neighborhood. Sounds familiar; urban renewal. In another issue, the company owner deals with unresolved issues with his son, who's been in jail for 20 years for murder. It's a pretty intense play."

I asked Gary if there's an overall theme to the season. "The theme is really struggle, triumph and celebration. Sure there are obstacles. It's about taking time to celebrate the rich heritage and the triumph over those obstacles." Sounds like theater everyone on our blue planet should see.

On the big show this week: Gary Graff hosts a performance by the Pat DiNizio Trio. Nkengé Zola visits the studio of interactive artist Robert Martin. We'll see a feminist updating of the Greek classic "Antigone." Plus a performance from former Rolling Stone songwriter of the year Freddy Johnson. That's all on *Backstage Pass* tonight at midnight, repeated Friday at 7:30 p.m. on Detroit Public Television.

## GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

<p><b>National Amusements Showcase Cinemas</b></p> <p><b>Showcase</b> Ann Arbor Hills 1-14 2150 N. Orchard Rd. Between University &amp; Walton Blvd 810-373-2660 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. &amp; Sat.</p> <p><b>SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)</b> <b>DISTURBING BEHAVIOR (R)</b> <b>JANE AUSTEN'S MARIA (PG13)</b> <b>MASK OF ZORRO (PG13)</b> <b>SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)</b> <b>LETHAL WEAPON 4 (R)</b> <b>SMALL SOLDIERS (PG13)</b> <b>MADELINE (PG)</b> <b>ARMAGEDDON (PG13)</b> <b>DR. DOLITTLE (PG13)</b> <b>MULAN (G)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Showcase Westland 1-8</b> 6800 Wayne Rd. One blk. S. of Warren Rd. 313-729-1060 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. &amp; Sat.</p> <p><b>SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)</b> <b>MASK OF ZORRO (PG13)</b> <b>MADELINE (PG)</b> <b>ARMAGEDDON (PG13)</b> <b>DR. DOLITTLE (PG13)</b> <b>MULAN (G)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Winchester</b> 1136 S. Rochester Rd., Winchester Mall 248-656-1160 No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p><b>NP DISTURBING BEHAVIOR (R)</b> <b>NP JANE AUSTEN'S MARIA (PG13)</b> <b>NP NAPOLEON (G)</b> <b>NP SMALL SOLDIERS (PG13)</b> <b>NP MADELINE (PG)</b> <b>NP DR. DOLITTLE (PG13)</b> <b>NP MULAN (G)</b> <b>NP X-FILES (PG13)</b> <b>NP OUT OF SIGHT (R)</b> <b>NP THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Birmingham Theatre</b> 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 248-644-3419 NP Denotes No Pass Engagements</p> <p>Order Movie tickets by phone: Call 644-3419 and have your VISA or MasterCard ready! (A 7% surcharge will apply to all telephone sales)</p> <p><b>NP SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)</b> <b>NP THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)</b> <b>NP THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)</b> <b>NP LETHAL WEAPON 4 (R)</b> <b>NP ARMAGEDDON (PG13)</b> <b>NP DR. DOLITTLE (PG13)</b> <b>NP THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Terrace Cinema</b> 30400 Plymouth Rd. 313-261-3330</p> <p>All shows \$1 except shows after 6 pm. * All shows \$1.50 75¢ every Tuesday. Would you like to see Free Movies? Then become a "FREQUENT VIEWER!" COME IN AND FIND OUT HOW</p> <p>SUN.-THURS Box Office opens at 4:00 pm Monday - Friday only</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>
<p><b>Showcase Dearborn 1-8</b> Michigan &amp; Telegraph 313-561-3449 Bargain Matinees Daily All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily * Late Shows Fri. &amp; Sat. &amp; Sun.</p> <p><b>SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)</b> <b>JANE AUSTEN'S MARIA (PG13)</b> <b>LETHAL WEAPON 4 (R)</b> <b>ARMAGEDDON (PG13)</b> <b>OUT OF SIGHT (R)</b> <b>MULAN (G)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star John-R at 14 Mile</b> 32289 John R. Road 810-585-2070</p> <p>No one under 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p><b>NP SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)</b> <b>NP JANE AUSTEN'S MARIA (PG13)</b> <b>NP THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG13)</b> <b>NP POLISH WEDDING (PG)</b> <b>NP THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)</b> <b>NP LETHAL WEAPON 4 (R)</b> <b>NP SMALL SOLDIERS (PG13)</b> <b>NP ARMAGEDDON (PG13)</b> <b>NP THE X-FILES (PG13)</b> <b>NP THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>United Artists Theatres</b> Bargain Matinees Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM Some day advance tickets available NV - No V.I.P. tickets accepted</p> <p><b>United Artists Fairlane</b> Fairlane Town Center Valid Parking Available 313-593-4790</p> <p>ALL TIMES FOR FRIDAYS, MONDAY SHOWS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY</p> <p><b>DISTURBING BEHAVIOR (R) NV</b> <b>MASK OF ZORRO (PG13) NV</b> <b>THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R) NV</b> <b>SMALL SOLDIERS (PG13)</b> <b>MADELINE (PG) NV</b> <b>DR. DOLITTLE (PG13) NV</b> <b>X-FILES (PG13) NV</b></p> <p>FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>MJR THEATRES</b></p> <p>\$1.00 Ford Tel \$1.50 313-561-7200 \$1.00 8:00 pm After 6 pm \$1.50 Ample Parking - Tedford Center Free Refill on Drinks &amp; Popcorn Please Call Theatre for Showtimes</p> <p><b>TITANIC (PG13)</b> <b>HOPE FLOATS (PG13)</b></p> <p>\$1.00 SPECIAL TITANIC/HOPE FLOATS</p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Maple Art Cinema III</b> 4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph Bloomfield Hills 248-853-9990 DISCOUNTED SHOWS!</p> <p><b>POLISH WEDDING (PG13)</b> <b>SMOKE SIGNALS (R)</b> <b>THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)</b> <b>HIGH ART (R)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>
<p><b>Showcase Pontiac 1-5</b> Telegraph Sp. Lake Rd. W Side of Telegraph 810-332-0241 Bargain Matinees Daily * All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily</p> <p><b>SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)</b> <b>MASK OF ZORRO (PG13)</b> <b>MADELINE (PG)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Rochester Hills</b> 200 Barday Circle 853-2260</p> <p>No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p><b>NP SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)</b> <b>NP THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG13)</b> <b>NP THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)</b> <b>NP LETHAL WEAPON 4 (R)</b> <b>NP ARMAGEDDON (PG13)</b> <b>NP OUT OF SIGHT (R)</b> <b>NP X-FILES (PG13)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>United Artists Oakland</b> Inside Oakland Mall 248-988-0706</p> <p><b>DISTURBING BEHAVIOR (R) NV</b> <b>DR. DOLITTLE (PG13) NV</b> <b>SIX DAYS AND SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13) NV</b> <b>HOSE WHISPERER (PG13)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>99¢ Livonia Mall</b> Livonia Mall at 7 Mile 810-476-8800 CALL 77 FILMS \$1.41 ALL SEATS \$99 ALL SHOWS FREE Refill on Drinks &amp; Popcorn</p> <p><b>HOPE FLOATS (PG13)</b> <b>TITANIC (PG13)</b> <b>CITY OF ANGELS</b> <b>PAULIE (PG)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Old Orchard 3</b> Orchard Lake Rd. - N. of I-496-12 Mile Farmington Hills 248-553-9965</p> <p><b>THE HOSE WHISPERER</b> <b>6 DAYS 7 NIGHTS</b> <b>THE TRUMAN SHOW</b></p> <p>CALL THEATRE FOR FEATURES &amp; TIMES</p>
<p><b>Showcase Pontiac 6-12</b> 2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph 810-334-6777 Bargain Matinees Daily * All Shows Until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Fri. &amp; Sat.</p> <p><b>JANE AUSTEN'S MARIA (PG13)</b> <b>DISTURBING BEHAVIOR (R)</b> <b>SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)</b> <b>LETHAL WEAPON 4 (R)</b> <b>SMALL SOLDIERS (PG13)</b> <b>DR. DOLITTLE (PG13)</b> <b>ARMAGEDDON (PG13)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Star Southfield</b> 12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off I-696 248-353-STAR No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 &amp; R rated films after 6 pm</p> <p><b>NP SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)</b> <b>NP DISTURBING BEHAVIOR (R)</b> <b>NP JANE AUSTEN'S MARIA (PG13)</b> <b>NP THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG13)</b> <b>NP THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)</b> <b>NP LETHAL WEAPON 4 (R)</b> <b>NP SMALL SOLDIERS (PG13)</b> <b>NP ARMAGEDDON (PG13)</b> <b>NP OUT OF SIGHT (R)</b> <b>NP MADELINE (PG)</b> <b>NP TRUMAN SHOW (PG)</b> <b>NP COME WITH THE WIND (NR)</b> <b>NP X-FILES: FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE (PG13)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>United Artists 12 Oaks</b> Inside Twelve Oaks Mall 248-349-4311</p> <p><b>SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R) NV</b> <b>MARIA (PG13) NV</b> <b>DISTURBING BEHAVIOR (R) NV</b> <b>SMALL SOLDIERS (PG13) NV</b> <b>MADELINE (PG)</b> <b>SIX DAYS AND SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13) NV</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p>	<p><b>Waterford Cinema II</b> 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner M-59 &amp; Wixom Lake Rd. 248-666-7900 CALL 77 FILMS \$1.51</p> <p><b>Stadium Seating and Digital Sound Makes for the Best Movie Experience in Oakland County</b> \$3.25 (TWO-LITE) SHOWS DAILY</p> <p><b>NP SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)</b> <b>NP JANE AUSTEN'S MARIA (PG13)</b> <b>NP DISTURBING BEHAVIOR (R)</b> <b>NP MASK OF ZORRO (PG13)</b> <b>NP THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R) NV</b> <b>NP SMALL SOLDIER (PG13)</b> <b>NP MADELINE (PG)</b> <b>NP LETHAL WEAPON 4 (R)</b> <b>NP ARMAGEDDON (PG13)</b> <b>NP DR. DOLITTLE (PG13)</b> <b>NP MULAN (G)</b> <b>NP THE X-FILES (PG13)</b></p> <p>CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES</p> <p>Visa &amp; Mastercard Accepted</p>	<p><b>Oxford 3 Cinemas, L.L.C.</b> Downtown Oxford Lapeer Rd. (M-24) (248) 626-7101 Fax (248) 626-1300 DETROIT'S LOWEST FIRST RUN PRICES INCLUDING THROUGH PRICING \$3.00 4-5 PM.</p> <p><b>LETHAL WEAPON 4 (R)</b> <b>SMALL SOLDIERS (PG13)</b> <b>MARIA (PG13)</b></p> <p>SHOWS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL FOR VERIFICATION AND SHOW TIMES.</p> <p>FREE 12 OZ POP WITH THIS AD EXPIRES 8/7/98</p> <p>CALL THEATRE FOR FEATURES AND TIMES</p>



STREET SCENE

# Candlebox finds happiness with new drummer

It's been a busy time for the rock band Candlebox, so frenetic in fact that lead singer Kevin Martin has been "trying to get married" for two years to his longtime girlfriend, Renee.

"We were supposed to get married two years ago but that fell through, and then we were supposed to get married last year, and we were busy. We were going to get married this summer, but she has to work," Martin said with a laugh.

On top of that, Candlebox has just released its third album "Happy Pills" (Maverick). Martin explained that there's a lot of work ahead for Candlebox.

"We're coming back with a rock 'n' roll record at the tail end of a lot of pop music. Rock 'n' roll is making a comeback and that's the kind of band we are," Martin explained.



**Dose of happiness:** Candlebox will perform songs off its latest release "Happy Pills" during "WRIF Fest" at Pine Knob Music Theatre on Wednesday, Aug. 5.

"You've got, I think, right now with the resurgence of rock 'n' roll, which is nice to see, it means you have to kind of dig in and get people to kind of realize rock 'n' roll is kind of where it's at and where it's always been." To enhance the rock 'n' roll

experience, Candlebox recruited ex-Pearl Jam drummer Dave Krusen to replace departing drummer Scott Mercado.

"We had experienced a lull for a long time with Scott, and what he wanted to do was a different thing," Martin explained.

"Dave is a musician's musician. He knows where you're going. He's self-taught like we are. That's from playing the French horn to singing to playing bass to playing piano to playing drums. We're four musicians who are finally on the same page. We were inspired by Dave, and Dave was inspired by us."

The trio of Martin, guitarist Peter Klett and bassist Bardi Martin immediately clicked with Krusen. The first day of rehearsal, the group wrote four songs together.

"It's very inspirational when you find everybody's looking at the same page and the same line. That's when the magic starts to happen," Martin explained.

One of the results of the "magic" is the song "Blinders," featuring the slide guitar work of

Klett, encouraged by Krusen.

"The funny thing about that song is we were trying to write it with Scott during the 'Lucy' project," Martin said of the band's last album. "We actually just had the opening melody of the song and it never really developed itself. Scott was mentally not in the space we were in to really work on that song," Martin added.

The song resurfaced during pre-production of "Happy Pills." "We just took that and wrote a whole song out of that. We developed it in one day - lyrics and music and everything. That's the magic of being on the same page."

The first single from "Happy Pills" is the melancholy "It's Alright," a simplistic yet heartfelt song about the individual relationships of the quartet.

"The song's just about communication. It's really about experiencing life together and the necessity of talking to one another whether it be Renee and myself, Dave and his daughter, Pete and his parents, whatever. It's about the necessity of communication and how important it is to allow yourself to get lost in who you feel your communication is with."

*Cheap Trick, Candlebox, Brother Cane and The Hunger perform as part of "WRIF Fest" Wednesday, Aug. 5, at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, in Independence Township. Tickets are \$20 pavilion and \$10 lawn. Showtime is 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (248) 377-0100 or visit <http://www.palacenet.com>. Candlebox's web site is <http://www.candlebox.com>.*

# Orlando's 'N Sync proud of being musicians first

One could say that the all-male pop group 'N Sync is a real Mickey Mouse operation.

The quintet - James Lance "Lantzen" Bass, Joshua Scott "J.C." Chazez, Joseph "Joey" Anthony Fatone Jr., Christopher "Chris" Alan Kirkpatrick, and Justin Randall Timberlake - was drawn from its hometowns to the electric light shows and intense heat of Orlando, Fla.

Chazez and Timberlake's first major gig was with the Disney Channel show "Mickey Mouse Club" which paved the way for 'N Sync. The organization lent its support to the group which recently scored the dancefloor hit "I Want You Back."

"We met (the group's now executive director) Lou Pearlman and said, 'We've got a group. Would you be willing to back us?' He put the money behind us and introduced us to our manager Johnny Wright," Kirkpatrick explained.

That association has garnered a lot of flak for the Orlando five-some.

"We were working with a lot of Backstreet Boys people," he said of the fellow Orlando fivesome.

"We got a lot of flak for that. Everyone said we were trying to be like them. Actually, we were together before we associated with any of the Backstreet Boys people. We had a lot of Mickey Mouse Club backing," he firmly added.

A friendly rivalry has ensued between 'N Sync and the hugely popular Backstreet Boys, who played a sold-out show at The Palace of Auburn Hills Friday night.

"We always keep up with them and see them every time we go home. I know that we watched them on 'Saturday Night Live' and we're so happy for them that they've gotten so big. But we're

not gonna lie. There's a little bit of jealous inside and we think, 'Man, we wish we were there.'"

"It's like when you're growing up and you have a brother and your brother gets a medal for doing something. You get a little jealous and wish you could get the medal. It just makes you work harder for yourself."

Fellow Orlandans the Backstreet Boys played instruments during its song "Quit Playing Games with My Heart" at The Palace. Kirkpatrick stressed that 'N Sync's members are musicians first.

"On our last tour I played keyboards. There was a time when we take over on 'Giddy Up,' a song that we wrote, where we went back and took over the instruments. Our band went out and tried to sing it, but let's just say we played the instruments better than they sang," he said with a laugh.

"We're all master musicians. That's the way we write our music. That's what I did to make money before the group. I'd play guitar and sing downtown with a friend of mine."

Kirkpatrick explained that although they play instruments 'N Sync is bringing along a five-piece band.

"One for each of us," he said. Like 'N Sync's self-titled debut on RCA Records, its shows are filled with upbeat dance numbers, which, Kirkpatrick explained, is something that pop music is lacking.

"If you look at all the Boyz II Men songs and other R&B groups they usually do slow songs. (They believe) ballads are for the groups with vocal harmonies, and fast ones are for the rock groups. We're bringing both to the table."

The shows, he added, are all about keeping it real - vocally.

Although there's dancing involved, 'N Sync refuses to sing to taped vocals.

"It makes for a really tough show sometimes. If you come to our show, you'll definitely see 'N Sync live. Maybe every once in awhile somebody will be a little bit winded and go out of breath during a note. That's what keeps it real."

If the Backstreet Boys' show is any indication of what 'N Sync's

performance will be like, bring earplugs. The deafening screams of young girls reduced the group's songs to a swirl of noise.

But for Kirkpatrick, that's the most flattering part of his shows.

"I love it. Justin's only 17. He's around their age. He's the one they scream for the most," said Kirkpatrick, 26.

"I get the biggest smile on my face. He's so flattered by it. It's

just a lot of fun. The best satisfaction we get, though, is when somebody really and truly comes to us and says, 'I really appreciate you as musicians.' That's what it's all about."

*'N Sync performs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Tickets are \$17.50 for the all-ages show. For more information, call (248) 546-7610.*

**DREW BARRYMORE ANJELICA HUSTON**

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STAR GRAYDOT AT 15 MI	STAR WINCHESTER 8	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE TWP 14	FORD WYOMING DRIVE IN

**DINING**

# Leave dinner or lunch to American Family Diner

Before opening American Family Diner in Westland on Aug. 25, 1997, brothers Samuel, Bill, Sam and Mike Farhat worked for a lot of different people.

Originally from Lebanon, they all started as dishwashers and worked their way up to cook, then chef. Combined, the brothers say they have more than 50 years experience.

Customers benefit from their years of experience, and conscientious desire to serve the very best food at reasonable prices.

Westland reminds them of up north, they said, explaining why they hired a friend to paint murals of trees, a wolf in front of a snow covered mountain, deer, waterfalls, an eagle, and sunset.

"We told him we wanted animals, trees, like up north," said Bill. "He said, 'leave the rest to me,' and we did. The eagle is a symbol of America."

"They wanted the place to feel like up north - friendly, welcoming, kind of how people in the City of Westland have treated them. 'They're very nice people,'" said Samuel, the oldest brother.

Before opening, the brothers invested a lot in the building - new roof, central air, heat, dropped ceiling, and hoods over the stoves. The atmosphere is clean, comfortable, yet casual. A border of red, white and blue flags helps carry-out the "American" theme. Customers can sit in one of the many comfortable booths, or at the counter for a quick bite.

On Saturdays and Sundays the prime rib special is always a sell-out. Boneless pork chops, pork tenderloin, and lasagna are other popular items.

American Family Diner serves breakfast all day, specials,

**American Family Diner**

**Where:** 501 S. Wayne Road (south of Cherry Hill) Westland, (734) 641-2559.

**Open:** 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

**Menu:** It's got everything - breakfast, soup, sandwiches, salads, American, Italian, Mexican and Greek dishes including barbecue ribs and chicken. Be sure to check the daily specials.

**Cost:** Very reasonable. Breakfast \$1.95 to \$4.50; Sandwiches, salads, lunch entrees \$2.25 to \$9.75; Dinner entrees \$5.50 to \$11.50.

**Highlights:** Senior citizens get 10 percent off regular menu items. There's also a senior citizens special menu. Kids menu for children eight years or younger.

**Reservations:** For parties of six or more, can accommodate large parties, up to 50 people, call ahead.

**Catering:** Available

**Carry-out:** Available

**Credit cards:** All majors accepted

including create your own omelet, are offered 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Lunch specials served with soup or salad are available 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinner specials served with soup, salad and dessert - rice pudding, Jell-O, or ice cream, are available anytime.

On Tuesday, the specials included Baked Salisbury Steak with mashed potatoes, (a top seller), breaded pork chops with mashed potatoes, broiled breast of chicken with rice, baked lamb with rice, and broiled whitefish with mashed potatoes.

Conscious of customer concerns about health, the brothers include lots of heart-healthy choices on the menu. Eggbeaters may be substituted for an extra 50 cents an order for breakfast.

Besides broiled whitefish, Tuesday's specials featured broiled haddock, rainbow trout, and orange roughy. On the regular menu, there's a section "Low-Cal Broilers" a 4 ounce lunch or

6 ounce dinner portion served with soup or salad and vegetables for lunch, or all three for dinner.

American Family Diner truly does offer something for everyone in the family. There's even a vegetarian stir-fry and stuffed pita pocket, vegetarian lasagna, and stuffed grape leaves.

Chicken lemon rice soup, French onion au gratin and chili are on the menu everyday along with a Soup of the Day. There are a few appetizers such as stuffed mushrooms, buffalo wings, and stuffed potato skins.

Main entree salads include Greek, chicken, taco and antipasto. You'll find burgers on the menu, along with the classic cold turkey and ham sandwich. American House Entrees, served with soup and salad and choice of potato and homemade bread sticks include breaded veal cutlets, roast sirloin of beef, half broiled chicken, boneless chicken



At your service: Samuel Farhat (left), Ruth Pruss and Sandy Sicht at American Family Diner where barbecue ribs are a specialty.

breast and country fried chicken. Barbecue ribs and chicken are a specialty. You can order a steak, or even a chicken, beef or shrimp fajita.

Feeling like Greek food? They serve shish kabob, spinach cheese pie, Mousaka, and grape leaves. You'll find all your Italian favorites - mostaccioli, ravioli, veal and chicken parmesan.

Frog legs are a top seller, they also offer fish and chips, shrimp

and fried breaded smelt.

Kids Meals are served with fries and a small milk or soft drink. Refills on pop are free.

For dessert there's pudding, ice cream, cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate cake or apple pie. Milkshakes - vanilla, chocolate or strawberry are available too.

In America the brothers are working hard to build a better life for themselves and their families. "It's easy here," said

Samuel. "If you work hard you can do anything. People will help you. If you want to buy a house, you can go to the bank and get a mortgage, they'll help you."

Freedom to them is living the American dream, owning your own business, and serving people who appreciate what you do.

"We know all these people," said Samuel about his customers. "We sit and talk with them."

**EATING OUT IN THE SUBURBS**

In case you missed it. Here are some restaurants recently featured in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Send recommendations for restaurants to feature to: Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax (734) 591-7279.

**• Vic's Diner** - 5662 Middlebelt Road, (near Ford Road) Garden City, (734) 427-5338. Open: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Menu: Home-cooked American fare, just like mom makes, including soups, salads and sandwiches. Breakfast served anytime.

Cost: Very reasonable. Breakfast, lunch and dinner specials. Breakfast \$1.45 to \$6.95; salads and sandwiches \$3.25 to \$5, dinners \$5.50 to \$8.95. Reservations: For parties of six or more. Credit Cards: Not accepted, cash

only. Highlights: Children's menu for 12 and under, senior citizen discounts. Carry-out: Available.

**■ Cafe Hawaii** - 22048 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, (west of the Southfield Freeway) (313) 724-2233. There is a rear entrance on Garrison. Open: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; 1-9 p.m. Sunday. Lunch served until 3 p.m., Early Bird Dinner Specials begin 3 p.m. Menu: Hawaiian theme menu including American fare with a Polynesian flair. Cost: Lunch \$5.95 to \$10.95; dinner \$7.95 to \$18.95

Credit cards: All majors accepted. Reservations: Groups of seven or more. Can accommodate groups up to 50 people. Highlights: Hula dancers and Hawaiian

singer - 8-10 p.m. Wednesdays; Live bands - 9 p.m. to close Thursday-Saturday.

**■ Too Chez** - 27155 E. Sheraton Drive, (northwest corner of Novi Road and I-96) Novi, (248) 348-5555. Open: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, (lunch); 5:30-10:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday (dinner) and 5:30-11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Closed Sunday. Menu: Innovative, contemporary presentations for a variety of palates. Offerings include vegetarian dishes, pasta, seafood, steaks, and poultry. Reservations: Accepted. Credit Cards: All majors. Cost: Dinner entrees \$13 to \$27; Small courses such as steamed mussels and Nori rolls \$4.50 to \$8.25; Soups

\$3.50 to \$4.95; Salads \$3.25 to \$5.25; Pizzas \$7 and \$8. Half portions available at half price, plus a buck and a half. Macrobiotic dinner celebrating the first frost, late September or early October. Call for details.

**■ Avant Garde** - Where: 126 South Old Woodward, Birmingham, (248) 594-4499. Open: Monday to Wednesday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday to Saturday until 11 p.m. Menu: Exceptionally flavorful, cutting-edge alternative dishes made without red meat, oils or dairy. Same menu for lunch and dinner. Cost: Starters, sandwiches and salads \$5-8; main dishes all under \$16. Reservations: Not accepted. Credit cards: All majors accepted.

**RESTAURANT SPECIALS**

**STEVE'S FAMILY DINING** - 40370 Five Mile Road, (west of Haggerty in the Lake Pointe Plaza) Plymouth, (313) 420-0368 is celebrating their second anniversary. "A Favorite place for Food and Friends," owners Steve and Julie Nedanovski wanted to do something special to thank their customers. To celebrate their anniversary they're offering customers a free beverage, including ice tea, pop or coffee, with any meal on Friday and Saturday, July 31 and Aug. 1. Steve's is open 7 days a week, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Credit Cards: Not accepted, cash only. Carry-

out: Yes, items for carryout 25 cents extra (to pay for the container). Menu: Polish specialties include homemade pierogi, smoked and fresh kielbasa, stuffed cabbage and city chicken. Italian specialties include homemade ravioli, gnocchi and lasagna. Dinner entrees include Broasted Chicken, grilled and breaded pork chops. Lots of specials, which change daily including stuffed peppers, baked chicken and rice; homemade soups, sandwiches, salads, and breakfast. Prices: Reasonable. Pierogi \$4.50 for six; dinner entrees \$4.50 to \$7.95; sandwiches \$2 to \$4.25.

**FRIDAY SPECIAL**

Fish & Chips  
(baked or fried)  
All You Can Eat  
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Come feast on Farmington Hills  
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Buy 1 dinner and receive 1/2 off a 2nd dinner of equal or lesser value  
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<b>2 For 1 LUNCHEON SPECIALS</b> Your Choice \$7.95 VEAL PARMESAN W/ SIDE OF SPAGHETTI CHICKEN STRIP W/ RICE PILAF BEEF TIPS IN BURGUNDY WINE SAUCE OVER NOODLES OR RICE PILAF FISH & CHIPS JR. CLUB SANDWICH BAKED OR REGULAR SPAGHETTI Includes cup of soup & bread basket (No coupons, carry outs or single orders)	<b>BUY ONE DINNER GET 2nd DINNER 1/2 OFF</b> (of equal or lesser value) Dine-In Only - Expires 8/14/98
<b>2 For 1 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL 3 TO 6 P.M. YOUR CHOICE \$10.95</b> Chicken Scaloppine • Sizzler Steak • Broiled Icelandic Cod • Beef Tips Over Eggs Noodles or Rice • Chicken or Beef Stir Fry • Beef Liver & Onions • Veal Parmesan with Side of Spaghetti (No coupons, carry outs or single orders)	

**Summer Strikefest**  
August 1 - Sept. 6

KIDS AND ADULTS CAN WIN GREAT PRIZES  
A MOUNTAIN BIKE or a LARGE SCREEN TV

Blue Ribbon Special

**3 Games of Bowling**  
Red Pin Special  
Hot Dog & Coke\*  
\$4.75

Some restrictions May Apply

Come on out to where the fun times roll!

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313-937-8420
- Cherry Hill Lanes**  
300 N. Inkster  
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127  
313-278-0400
- Roosevelt Lanes**  
6701 Roosevelt  
Allen Park, MI 48101  
313-381-0222
- Classic Lanes**  
2145 Avon Industrial Dr.  
Rochester, MI 48309  
248-852-9100
- Westland Bowl**  
5940 North Wayne Road  
Westland, MI 48185  
734-722-7570
- Ford Lanes**  
23100 Van Born Rd.  
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125  
313-292-1700
- Woodland Lanes**  
33775 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150  
734-822-4515

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**2 OFF** any large pizza or family size lasagna or breaded veal cutlet  
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**PRIME RIB DINNER**  
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**EARLY BIRD DINNERS - \$5.95**  
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Country Fried Steak	Baked Scrod
Liver & Onions	Chopped Sirloin
Veal Parmesan Pasta	Chicken Strips/French Fries
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Includes: Soup or Salad, eggie or potato.  
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<b>OPEN SUNDAY</b> AT 1:00 PM <b>OPEN DAILY MON-SAT</b> AT 11:50 AM	<b>COCKTAIL HOUR</b> <b>MON-FRI</b> 4-7 PM DAILY	<b>FASHION SHOW</b> Thursdays Starting at Noon
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<b>BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHES</b> from \$5.95	<b>DINNERS</b> from \$6.95
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Your Choice of:

- Baked Swiss Steak with Pasta
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- Chicken Scaloppini with Pasta
- Broiled Boston Scrod & Fresh Vegetables

Includes choice of soup or salad (except Caesar Salad) and choice of Coffee, Tea or Soft Drink!

**\$5.95** (Tax and gratuity not included)  
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