

# Westland Observer

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## Letters to Santa

Attention, girls and boys! Christmas is almost here and you know what that means. Santa Claus is up at the North Pole waiting for letters and double checking his list to find who's been naughty or nice. The Westland Observer is asking children to send us their letters to Santa Claus, along with their school picture. The deadline is Dec. 11. The letters and photos will be printed in the Dec. 24th issue, having forwarded the letters to Santa in plenty of time. Children of all ages are encouraged to send their letters to:

Letters to Santa  
Westland Observer  
36251 Schoolcraft  
Livonia, MI 48151

IN THE PAPER  
**TODAY**

COMMUNITY LIFE

**A little bit:** It was meant as something for Richard Shebib to do when he retires, but his Pascha Books and Gifts is serving another purpose - bringing a little bit of Eastern Orthodoxy to the public./B1

AT HOME

**Where the heart is:** Home entertaining is just the thing this season./D6

ENTERTAINMENT

**Noel:** "Noel Night," Dec. 5 in Detroit's Cultural Center, offers holiday fun for everyone./E1

**Theater:** Talented cast steps up to the challenge of "A Chorus Line," on stage now at the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford playhouse in Redford./E3

REAL ESTATE

**Busman's holiday:** What do people who sell houses for a living demand in their own homes?/F1

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## Labor of love



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

**A time to listen:** John Glenn High School English teacher Kristie Carr listens to her students read their creative writing papers.

## New teachers are a class act

BY BETH SUNDRLA JACHMAN  
STAFF WRITER  
[bjachman@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:bjachman@oe.homecomm.net)

Teaching can be an interesting job - and that's especially true when you're a new teacher. "Every day is different. Each day has its ups and downs," said Kristie Carr, a new English teacher at John Glenn High School. She is one of many new teachers in Wayne-Westland. The district is teaming with new teachers this school year with 93 new hires. Five

new teachers have been hired in the John Glenn English department. There are highlights every day, Carr said. Sometimes it's a student understanding something that he or she didn't understand the day before. Carolyn Bacon, a 1995 graduate of the University of Michigan, is also new to the district. "I did not know very much about the district," she said, adding it has been a "really good experience." "I have gotten really positive feed-



**Challenge:** English teacher Carolyn Bacon reads to her mythology students.

Please see **TEACHERS, A3**

## Army seeks helpers

**Bell-ringing for The Salvation Army takes people, plenty of people. The Salvation Army is having trouble finding enough people to staff the kettles.**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER  
[dclem@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:dclem@oe.homecomm.net)

Facing a possible shortfall in holiday fund raising, The Salvation Army in Westland is seeking bell-ringers to collect donations in its familiar red kettles. "I really need some people," Lt. Charles Yockey of The Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Community Center said Monday. The local organization launched its holiday fund-raising effort Friday with only 10 bell-ringers a day, little more than half the 18 people it needs, he said.

The Salvation Army will pay \$6.50 an hour, Yockey said. Bell-ringers must be at least 18 years old and have a photo identification and a Social Security card, he said. Call (734) 722-3660. The bell-ringer shortage is fueling concerns as the Westland-based center struggles to meet its 1998 goal of \$110,000. The money pays for programs to help the community's less fortunate, including one Westland family that didn't even have clothes following a house fire earlier this year. The holiday fund-raising goal accounts for about 20 percent of The Salvation Army's total budget. "It's a 20 percent that we really need to have," Yockey said. "It helps fund this office throughout the year." Although bell-ringers have been post-

Please see **HELPERS, A2**

## Message on drunken driving hits home

BY DARRELL CLEM  
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Staring soberly at the mutilated bodies of teenagers and the mangled cars they died in, Lutheran High School Westland students sat in silence. Inside one car, a teenage boy who chose to drink alcohol and drive could be seen slumped over a steering wheel - his chest crushed during a horrific death.

On the hood of another car, a single shoe served as a grim reminder of a teenager who didn't wear a seat belt and was thrown from a back seat through a windshield. Inside these cars, students saw empty beer bottles and cans, tree limbs, twisted metal, blood and more blood - the remains of death. As 310 students watched, former helicopter flight nurse Barbara Babb guided them through a grisly slide pre-

sentation showing what can happen when teenagers drink and drive. "This is really heavy stuff," she told them. "But I want you to be on the outside looking in, instead of on the inside." Babb brought her "Make The Right Call" program to Lutheran High on Tuesday, continuing her nationwide crusade to help teenagers make life-saving decisions not to drive if they drink. She visited several local schools

this week, and the tab was paid by Central Distributors, local Anheuser Busch wholesaler for western Wayne County. Lutheran students seemed impressed by Babb, who tried to educate them with stories of victims who died or suffered lifelong injuries. **Thoughtful words** "I think it helps us to understand

Please see **MESSAGE, A3**

## Foundation to offer lots of yuletide fun Dec. 10

Westland residents and the business community are invited to attend the Westland Community Foundation's holiday event featuring Victorian Carolers, scheduled for 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy Road. The carolers will provide holiday music, and refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Admission is donation of an unwrapped toy for chil-

dren to be helped by The Salvation Army. Canned or boxed food also may be brought for the Army's food pantry. Those planning to attend are asked to call (734) 595-7727. The foundation also is getting help this season from youngsters who created their own holiday cards for the foundation's annual card mailing. Children from the following elementaries helped: Patchin, Edison, Cooper, Nankin Mills,

P.D. Graham, Hayes and Johnson. In turn, the foundation will donate its holiday card budget to charities designated by the children. The Westland Community Foundation in 1998 has: Hosted its fourth Christmas in July event and raised more than \$27,000 to help The Salvation Army. Donated \$12,000 in scholarships to 14 Westland students.

Sponsored two Westland students to attend the Blue Lake Music Camp. Gave \$5,000 to the Westland YMCA summer camp program. Donated \$15,000 to The Salvation Army for summer camp programs. Donated \$5,000 to John Glenn High School's instrumental music program for band uniform replacement.

Please see **FOUNDATION, A2**

## Glenn students provide 'pennies from heaven'

BY DARRELL CLEM  
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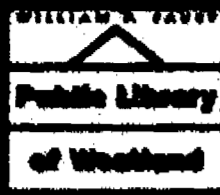
By placing plastic milk jugs in their classrooms, John Glenn High School students have raised \$2,294 for two charities. Sponsored by Glenn's student council, the "Jar Wars" project raised money by urging students to place their pennies in milk jugs during their sixth-hour classes. "Some people were putting in \$20 bills," Steven Tamarogio, a sophomore class student council representative and Jar Wars co-chair, said. "It's amazing the heart these people have." Students raised the money on Nov. 16-17 to help The Salvation Army in Westland and the Wayne Civitans. The



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

**Team effort:** Maria Baldysz (left to right), Steven Tamarogio, and Brian DeGiorio, 10th-graders at John Glenn High School, are the chairs of the Jar Wars effort. They are shown with some of the money collected.

Please see **PENNIES, A2**



**Public Library of Westland**

**Friends of the Library**

Two Friends of the Library have announced the launch of their annual fund-raising event, "PENNIES FOR THE LIBRARY," on Thursday, Dec. 3, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. The book sale will take place in the Community Meeting Room, 36251 Schoolcraft, Westland, MI 48180. Come in to browse, purchase and make a holiday gift for a friend or family member. We enjoy the assistance you provide to the library. No registration required. No fee.

**What's New in the Library**

The Friends of the Library have announced the launch of their annual fund-raising event, "PENNIES FOR THE LIBRARY," on Thursday, Dec. 3, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. The book sale will take place in the Community Meeting Room, 36251 Schoolcraft, Westland, MI 48180. Come in to browse, purchase and make a holiday gift for a friend or family member. We enjoy the assistance you provide to the library. No registration required. No fee.

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### CRIME WATCH

#### Home intruder

A Westland man who lost hundreds of dollars to a home intruder is warning other homeowners not to make the same mistake he did. The man, who lives near Joy and Farmington roads, left his kitchen window unlocked, making it easier for an intruder to slip in between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. Friday while he, his wife and two guests slept.

"That's the scary part, that we were actually in the house," he said.

The intruder took the man's wallet, his wife's purse, keys and several other items. In all, the intruder got away with about \$1,700, most of which the man had received from selling a snowmobile.

#### Car break-in

A woman told police that her 1999 Volkswagen was broken into between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Nov. 23 while it was parked outside of Joy Manor, a banquet-type facility on Joy Road. The driver's side window had been smashed out. Items reported missing included a purse containing a makeup bag and sunglasses; a school bag containing a calculator, tape recorder and school work; and a cell phone. Estimated value: \$200.

#### Car invaded

A Westland man told police that his car was burglarized between 7 a.m. and noon Nov. 19 after he left it in a parking lot south of Quo Vadis Theater on Wayne Road north of Warren. Stolen items included a \$100 cell phone, \$30 in quarters and a \$50 Sony headset. He told police his passenger-side rear window had been broken out, among other vehicular vandalism totaling \$1,000.

#### Garage break-in

A resident of South Hubbard filed a police report saying that someone entered his garage between 10:30 p.m. Nov. 22 and 5:30 a.m. Nov. 23 and took three hunting bows valued at \$2,000. Also missing were \$700 in items that included hunting clothing, a duffel bag, assorted tools and hunting knives. The man told police the intruder forced open a door of the garage.

## Foundation from page A1

■ Gave \$5,000 to Taylor Towers senior citizen housing for a computer lab.

■ Donated \$6,000 to an Oakwood Health Center based at Lincoln Elementary School. The clinic also serves Jefferson

Barns Elementary.

■ Donated \$500 to Jefferson-Barns for a school playground renovation project.

■ Sponsored a dinner dance with Tony Russo's Big Band, drawing more than 300 business

leaders and residents.

■ Sponsored a Westland Chamber of Commerce luncheon with a motivational speaker, and sponsored 25 high school students to attend.

■ Co-sponsored a children's summer concert series at the Westland public library.

■ Sponsored an adult coffee house concert series at the library.

## Pennies from page A1

money will be divided between the two organizations.

"This says that these students are caring and giving, and it says something about the staff that they would spend time to promote this kind of activity to help others," Glenn assistant principal Michael Downs said.

Students turned in their pennies during their sixth-hour classes, accumulating one point for every penny to see which class could earn the most points.

To make the project more competitive, students from one class could cause another class to lose points by placing nickels, dimes, quarters and bills in the jugs, Tamaroglio said.

Sixth-hour classes lost 10 points for each dime and 25 points for each quarter, for

example.

Interestingly, social studies classes seemed to be the most generous. In that one subject area, teacher R. Gordon's class raised the largest amount of money and teacher Wayne Cummins' class accumulated the most pennies, Tamaroglio said.

As a reward, those two classes won a submarine sandwich party courtesy of the student council.

Tamaroglio coordinated the project with help from two other sophomore student council representatives, Brian DeGiorgio and Maria Baldysz.

According to project rules, students were to place their money in milk jugs before school started in the morning, after it ended in the afternoon, or between classes. Orga-

nizers didn't want classes to be disturbed by the fund-raising effort.

Jugs filled with money were taken to the office in exchange for empty ones, and office administrators locked up the money.

Several companies helped out with Jar Wars. Donating 100 milk jugs each were Melody Farms Dairy, Michigan Dairy Inc. and Embest Inc.

NBD Bank's Wayne-Cowan branch in Westland donated 26 canvass bags to hold the change. The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' circulation department allowed students to use a machine that sorts coins.

Downs said the project is expected to become an annual event.

"That's what we're hoping," he said.

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"That's what we're hoping," he said.

## Assistance is offered for needy families

Local families who need help during the holiday season are urged to contact The Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Community Center, 2300 Venoy.

The Salvation Army has an adopt-a-family program in which some of the community's more

fortunate residents agree to provide holiday gifts for the needy.

Generally, those who qualify for help include low-income families who meet federal government guidelines for food stamps and similar forms of assistance, Lt. Charles Yockey of the Westland-based center said.

Proof of income is required. To apply, visit The Salvation Army at 2300 Venoy between 9 a.m. and noon or between 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call The Salvation Army at (734) 722-3660.

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## Helpers from page A1

ed at area major department stores that allow the fund-raising effort, Yockey said he still needs people to work at sites such as grocery stores.

"All I've been able to cover is my major department stores," he said.

Salvation Army officials checked with temporary employment agencies as a possible way of finding bell-ringers.

"The employment agencies want to charge me an arm and a leg," Yockey said.

Bell-ringers hired to work need to arrive by 9:15 a.m. at The Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy

Road south of Palmer.

From there, they are dropped off at kettle sites between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. and picked up between 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Holiday fund-raisers have become more difficult in recent years as some businesses initiated new policies prohibiting collection efforts on their property.

With a bell-ringer shortage, officials are even more concerned about not raising enough money to help the community's needy families.

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1996 General Excellence Award

**Westland Observer**

(USPS 663-530)

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STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

**Listening time:** Barbara Babb speaks to the Lutheran Westland students about drinking and driving. Students listen carefully.



## Corporal gets plaudits from state MADD

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER  
dclem@oe.homecomm.net

A Westland man, praised for saving lives by combating drunken driving, has gained statewide attention.

Brian Ferris, a Wayne County Sheriff's Department corporal, has received the 1998 Life Saver Award from the state Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization.

"It's a great honor," he said. Ferris, 44, was one of nine Michigan road patrol officers honored last week during a Lansing ceremony kicking off MADD's 13th annual "Tie One On For Safety" campaign.

The campaign encourages drivers to tie red ribbons on their cars - particularly during the holiday season - to show support for anti-drunken driving efforts.

Ferris, a sheriff's department employee for 20 years, was nominated by department Executive Director Maggie Cesnick.

MADD cited the following reasons why Ferris, a native of Detroit, was chosen to receive a Life Saver Award:

- During a one-year period ending Sept. 30, he made 142 traffic arrests involving alcohol.

- He volunteered to become co-director of MADD's first Wayne County golf outing in 1998.

- He made a presentation against drunken driving during Livonia Ladywood High School's Alcohol Awareness Week.

- He has addressed the Detroit Firefighters Academy Junior Program on alcohol awareness.

- He has assisted during St. Patrick's Day week with Smart Ride, a program that allows potential drunken drivers to call for a ride.

- He participated in the Buckle Up program, which encourages safety by urging drivers to



Brian Ferris

### AWARDS

wear seat belts.

"Cpl. Ferris is always willing, on or off duty, to participate in any program or activity that will educate the public about drunk driving and to do what it takes to stop drunk drivers," MADD said in a statement.

Diane Page, MADD public relations director, said the statewide group each year selects nine road patrol officers for the Life Saver Award. Winners include three patrol officers from sheriff's departments, three from local municipal departments and three from Michigan State Police.

About 60,000 drivers are arrested for alcohol offenses during a typical year in Michigan, MADD said.

In 1997 alone, 544 people died in alcohol-related accidents, and a total of 1,446 traffic fatalities, the group said.

Another 13,461 people suffered injuries in alcohol-related collisions.

## Message

from page A1

that we only have one chance. If we screw up, it could be a fatal mistake," 17-year-old senior Gordie Engel said. "It was eye-opening to see what really goes on."

Student Amy Tanner, 18, said some students - but not all - likely learned from Babb's account of her years as a flight nurse in St. Louis.

"Some people will think about it, but they'll probably just forget about it the day they want to go to a party," Tanner said. "But some people might take it in and understand it, and it could change their lives."

Babb told gruesome tales of accident scenes - the decapitated bodies, the flesh, the blood, the broken glass, the smell of battery acid and gasoline.

She warned that teenagers who don't wear their seat belts are much more likely to die in crashes, although some hopelessly try to avoid injuries by bracing themselves with their arms extended.

"That's like bench-pressing 3,500 pounds," she said.

Babb also warned that backseat passengers too often die because they don't believe seat belts are needed in rear seats.

Not only do they often die, she said, but their bodies hurl forward "and kill people in the front as well."

She warned that teenagers who try to help injured friends by pulling them from a car often hurt them, instead. She told of one teen who was paralyzed for life from the neck down after he was moved before medical help arrived.

### Family grief

Babb also told of a father who fought a legal battle all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to have his comatose daughter's feeding tubes removed. The father believed that five years of watching his daughter exist in diapers was enough.

Babb told of one paramedic who arrived at a drunken driving fatality only to find his own daughter in a heap of four dead high school students.

Babb warned students that, until they are in their early 20s, their bodies can't even begin to effectively process alcohol. And she urged them never to leave alone a drunken friend who has passed out, because that friend could drown in his or her own vomit.

Babb also told tragic stories of having to tell parents that their children have died in alcohol-related accidents. Emergency room workers also have to wash off necklaces, rings, watches and other personal belongings to give them to families, along with blood-stained, torn clothing.

"Families always want the clothes because that's the last thing their kids wore," she said.

Donna Strang, a Lutheran High English teacher and adviser to SADD (Students Against Driving Drunk), said she hopes that Tuesday's lesson had an impact on students.

"We all know that some teenagers drink," she said. "But I hope they learn to be responsible with their actions and not get behind the wheel of a car."

## Teens and booze

The number of teenagers killed while driving under the influence of alcohol is continuing to decrease. Various study results show:

- The percentage of high school seniors who reported having a drink in the past 30 days was 8 percent lower in 1997 than in 1990 and down 24 percent since 1982.
- The percentage of high school

seniors who reported having five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks was 3 percent lower in 1997 than in 1990 and down 23 percent since 1982.

- The percentage of college freshmen who say they drink beer frequently or occasionally was 10 percent lower in 1996 than in 1990 and down 30 percent since 1982.
- The number of people killed in

drunken driving crashes in the United States has declined 26 percent since 1990 and 36 percent since 1982, going from 18,444 in 1982 to 11,773 in 1996.

- The number of people killed in teenage drunken driving crashes in the United States has declined 40 percent since 1990 and 64 percent since 1982, going from 3,597 in 1982 to 1,309 in 1996.



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

**Food for thought:** Carolyn Bacon, English teacher at John Glenn High School, has group discussions with her students in mythology.

## Teachers from page A1

back," she said. She teaches about 140 ninth- and 10th-graders in core classes and mythology.

Bacon, 25, says the students appreciate the energy and vibrancy of a younger teacher.

They may be a "little wilder" while not taking advantage, she said.

As time goes by the students

are "getting to be more rowdy," Carr said.

It's nice to be younger, Carr, 25, said. "They feel they can relate to me better," she said.

Carr, who graduated from Western Michigan University and received her teaching certificate from Eastern Michigan University, likes Wayne-Westland schools. She teaches about 150

students in core classes, creative writing and expository writing.

There has been a lot of interacting with families, she said. "I like it a lot here."

Bacon also likes it. "It's fun to go to sporting events," she said. It was also fun to be at John Glenn when John Glenn went into space this fall, she said.

**Travelling woman:** First-year teacher Kristie Carr waits to enter her classroom. She has to travel from different classrooms to teach her English classes at John Glenn High School.



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## OBITUARIES

**SHIRLEY F. WOOD**

Funeral services for Shirley Wood, 79, of Canton were Nov. 24 in Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth Township with burial at United Memorial Gardens near Plymouth. Officiating was the Rev. James F. Andrews.

Mrs. Wood, who died Nov. 20 in Ypsilanti, was born in South Lyon. She was a homemaker. She was a member of the Full Salvation Union Church of Northville.

Surviving are: sons, David (Vickie) of Westland, Mark

(Dorothy) of Jackson, Tenn., and Philip (Diana) of Chelsea; daughters, Lois (Charles) Long of Foxport, Ky., Joy (Leroy) Simchak of Canton, Hope (James) Shuler of Gastonia, N.C., and Paula (Dannie) Mullins of Carleton; brothers, David Tapp and Keith Tapp; sisters, Lillian Ellenwood, Lorraine Fadiga and Beverly Valentine.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 17220 W. 12 Mile, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48078 or Mott Children's Hospital in Ann

Arbor.

**CATHERINE M. JANIGA**

Funeral services for Catherine Janiga, 86, of Westland were today, Dec. 3, in L.J. Griffin Funeral Home with burial at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights. Officiating was the Rev. Stan Tokarski.

Miss Janiga, who died Nov. 30 in Livonia, was born in Yonkers, N.Y. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are: brother, Edward Kloc; and sisters, Louise

Lark and Rose Perry.

**JAMES H. KRIST**

Funeral services for James Krist, 74, of Westland were Dec. 1 in L.J. Griffin Funeral Home with burial at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights. Officiating was the Rev. Leonard Partensky.

Mr. Krist, who died Nov. 28 in Wayne, was born in Madison, Wis. He was an emission control employee in the automotive industry.

Surviving are: wife, Frances; sons, Keith (Camille) and Kevin; and daughter, Stephanie (William) Anders.

Funeral services for George Loucks, 69, of Westland were Dec. 1 in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Mr. Loucks, who died Nov. 28 in Wayne, was born in Tarentum, Pa. He was a supervisor in the steel industry.

Surviving are: wife, Douisea; sons, Larry (Sue) and Jim (Kathy); daughter, Terry; mother, Regina DeMilt; brothers, Charles (Judy) and Thomas (Audrey); sister, Jeannine (George) Platt; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Loucks was preceded in death by his father, George.

**PATRICIA A. CAMPBELL**

Funeral services for Patricia Campbell, 66, of Wayne were Nov. 30 in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland. Special services were held by Lodge VFW Post 3323 Ladies Auxiliary.

Mrs. Campbell, who died Nov. 25 in Wayne, was born in Detroit. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are: husband, Robert; sons, Stephen, Santo, Donald, Robert and Donald Campbell; daughters, Victoria and Mary; mother, Mary Jackson; and 12 grandchildren. Mrs. Campbell's children live in Westland and Canton.

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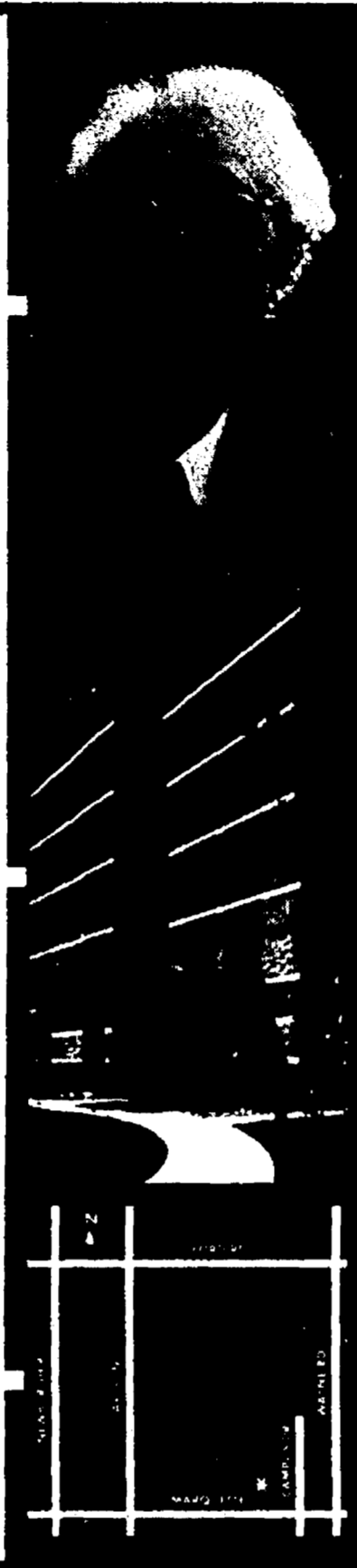
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## PLACES AND FACES

**Chamber fun**

The traditional joint Holiday Party of the Westland Chamber of Commerce and Wayne Chamber of Commerce will feature a gift exchange. Attendees are asked to bring a gift advertising their business. Gifts should be valued at \$10 or under.

The event will be 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Jay Manor. Entertainment will be provided and Salvation Army bells will be tolling to remind those present of the true meaning of the season. Price is \$15 for the luncheon. A 24-hour cancellation notice is required. For reservations, call 326-7222.

**Raffle drawing**

Raffle tickets to benefit the Joseph F. Benyo scholarship are available through the Westland Chamber of Commerce. A variety of Beanie Babies and \$500 will be the options in the Winner's Circle drawing 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at Farwell and Friends, 8063 Middlebelt. The sing-along event will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Proceeds will go toward funding the scholarship and the chamber's small business programs. To buy tickets or for information, call 326-7222.

**DDA chief**

On Nov. 13, Steve Guile, the Downtown Development Authority director for the city of Westland, was re-elected as treasurer of the Michigan Downtown and Financing Association. The MDFA, an organization of DDAs, municipalities, financial advisers and consulting firms, has existed since 1992. It promotes development of communities throughout the state with emphasis on downtown areas. The MDFA also provides quarterly seminars on current topics of concern, publishes a quarterly newsletter and aids in addressing members' legislative issues.

**On the road**

James Jennings, Ph.D., has been elected national secretary of the Family Motor Coach Association. The international association is for people who own and enjoy the recreational use of motorhomes.

Jennings lived in Westland for 25 years and was a Wayne-Westland school principal. He served as state president of Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association in 1981. Jennings and wife Shirley are retired and live full time in their motorhome.

**Coffee's on**

U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Ann Arbor, will hold a coffee hour 8:30-10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at the Westland Family Diner, 8301 N. Wayne Road. All constituents of the 13th Congressional District are encouraged to stop by. For information, call Rivers' district office at (734) 741-4210 in Ann Arbor or (734) 722-1411 in Wayne.

**Decorating contest**

City Council President Sandra Cicirelli has announced the 12th annual Christmas Decorating Contest, sponsored by the city council. Cicirelli will chair the event.

Residential displays will be judged by members of the council. Plaques will be awarded to the winners at a regular meeting Tuesday, Jan. 19. There will be first-, second- and third-place winners. Council members will look at all nominations Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Those wishing to nominate themselves or someone else for the award may write to the Westland City Clerk's Office, 36601 Ford Road, or call Clerk Patricia A. Gibbons at 467-3185 or 467-3191.

Deadline for nominations will be 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14. Those selected for the awards for be notified by the city clerk.

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Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11-2 a.m.; Sun. Noon -2 a.m.

## MET open for new applications

The Michigan Education Trust (MET) will accept new applicants Dec. 1, 1998 to Feb. 1, 1999. The MET program provides an opportunity to pay future college tuition costs for a Michigan child.

Acting state Treasurer and MET Board Chair Madhu Anderson said full, limited, or community college contracts will be offered with two purchase options: lump sum and monthly purchase.

"Ten years ago the average

cost of one year's tuition at a four-year public university in Michigan was \$2,302. This year the average is \$4,385," said Anderson.

MET contract price is exempt from state income tax and the increase in value of the original contract price is tax deferred. The increased value is then taxed at the students' tax rate over the time he or she attends college. MET is not guaranteed by the state of Michigan. It is secured by the assets of the

trust. Applications are available at banks, grocery stores, day care facilities, hospitals, Rite Aid stores, Secretary of State branch offices, libraries and Treasury offices.

A nonrefundable \$25 fee is required when submitting an application.

For more information call 1-800-MET-4-KID (1-800-638-4543). Information also is available on the Web site at: [www.treas.state.mi.us](http://www.treas.state.mi.us)

## 'Friends' hosts family holiday event

Join the Friends of Nankin Mills and Wayne County parks staff for holiday festivities 3-6 p.m. Saturday at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center in Westland.

Families can expect a visit from Santa Claus, seasonal games and stories, old-fashioned holiday crafts, refreshments and a tree-lighting ceremony. The craft and game

portion of the program takes place 3-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person and pre-registration is required.

For families attending after 4:30 p.m. to visit with Santa Claus and to view the tree lighting ceremony, there is no need to pre-register and no fee. All children should be accompanied by an adult.

This event has been made

possible through parks mileage funds. In the event of inclement weather, the tree-lighting ceremony will be held indoors.

The Nankin Mills Interpretive Center is located on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. For information on this or any other Wayne County parks event, call (734) 261-1990.



Collectible Santas, \$35 or 3 for \$90.

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- A. Jacobson's exclusive holiday mugs and dessert plates. Five mix and match designs available. Microwave- and dishwasher-safe. Each \$8 or four for \$24. Kitchen Shop.
- B. Hinged ceramic figures filled with delicious chocolate balls. From Galerie Au Chocolat. \$25 each. Fancy Foods.
- C. Silver plated holiday spreaders from Wallace. Set of four. \$20. China, Crystal, Silver.
- D. Choose from an assortment of holiday platters, including this delightful snowman handpainted on a cut glass plate. \$18. Kitchen Shop.
- E. Give a gift of home fragrance from ScentAtons. Cinnamon-scented pine cones in a holiday gift box. \$10. Bath Shop.
- F. Carols of Christmas clock plays 30 seconds of music as each hour strikes. Twelve carols in all. Quartz battery operated. Light sensor lowers volume during the night. \$29.95. Home.

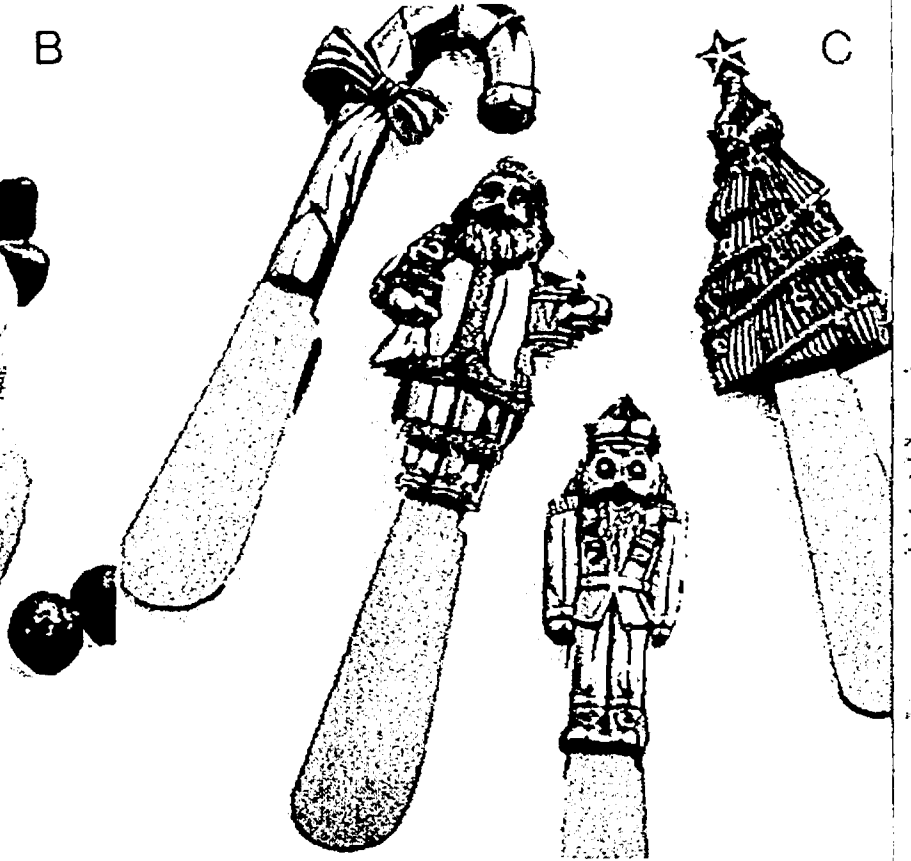
a gift from Jacobson's means more



A



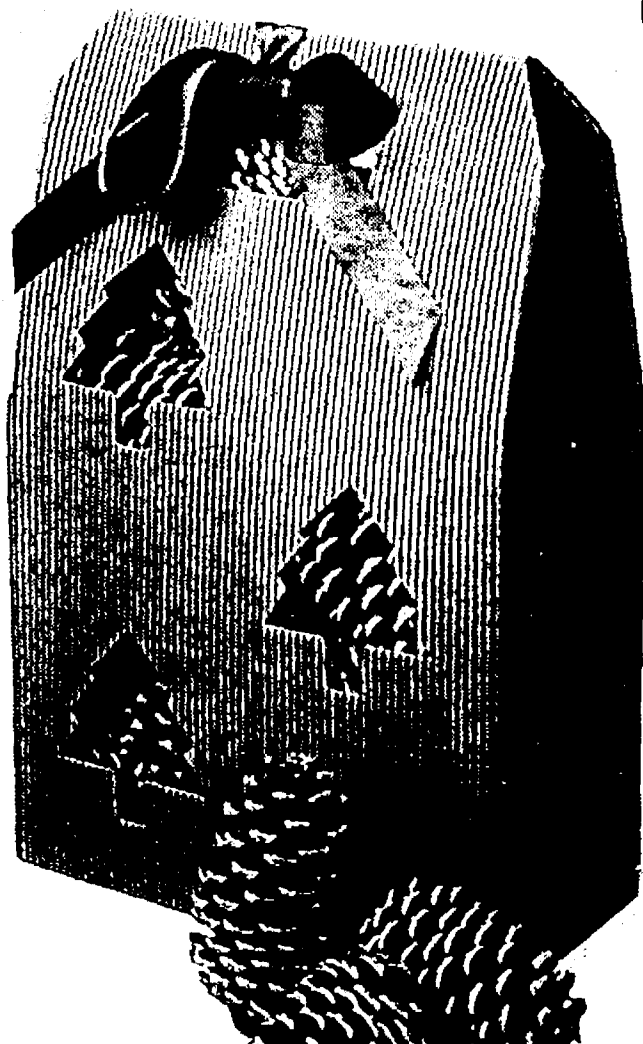
B



C



D



E



F

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Jacobson's Charge

# Experts warn area officials of Y2K problems

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER  
trichard@oe.homecomm.net

City hall will hesitate when you ask if it's ready for the Y2K problem.

That's on the advice of attorneys. They don't want mayors, city managers and public safety directors to make promises they may be unable to keep on Jan. 1, 2000 - the date their computers might, perhaps, crash.

"Attorneys advise us to be wary of the statements we make. The city is exempt from suits (under an ancient legal doctrine), but personal suits can be filed against you for misleading statements," James Amin advised a roomful of municipal and university officials.

Amin is director of administrative services for the city of Ann Arbor. He was among a panel of speakers at the University of Michigan's Nov. 30 outreach program with the Michigan Municipal League.

"Even the director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department says to keep a water supply on hand," Amin added.

No one predicted western civilization will grind to a halt. But many computers are programmed to read a two-digit number for the year and can't tell the difference between 1900 and 2000. So even where changes are being made, everyone needs to be prepared.

U-M is urging municipalities to make all employees aware of

the situation, list all possible problems, design and test solutions. A consulting firm said that as of Nov. 17, some 35 percent of all institutions and 29 percent of governments hadn't started preparations. A mere 7-10 percent had tested their equipment.

Wayne County, for example, reported it has "an aggressive schedule" but is a year behind that schedule. Likely to be affected: traffic lights, pension payments.

Those preparations involve asking vendors and repair companies tough questions - which they will evade answering - about whether the equipment they're selling and repairing is Y2K compatible.

"There are days when I feel my

neck is stretched to the other end of campus. I will not be celebrating 2000," confessed Jose-Marie Griffiths, U-M's chief information officer and executive director of information technology.

Griffiths' special problem will be the \$1 billion medical center on U-M's North Campus - power supplies, insurance records, laboratory specimens, payrolls, logistics for medical students.

"We have lots of biomedical specimens stored in controlled environments," she said. "We're looking at survival systems."

"It takes three months to get people to do the assessment," she added, advising officials that they already should have started preparations.

Griffiths had a taste of the problem last September when the Northwest Airlines strike prevented many faculty and students from returning to campus.

Officials from the Conference of Western Wayne, Livonia, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Oakland University, Pontiac, Detroit, Western Michigan University and several outstate cities fired questions and war stories at the speakers.

"In Washington, D.C., there were claims that over half their fire engines wouldn't start."

"Now we have to ask our vendors who repair our radios, 'is your repair service Y2K compliant?'"

"Many vendors absolutely

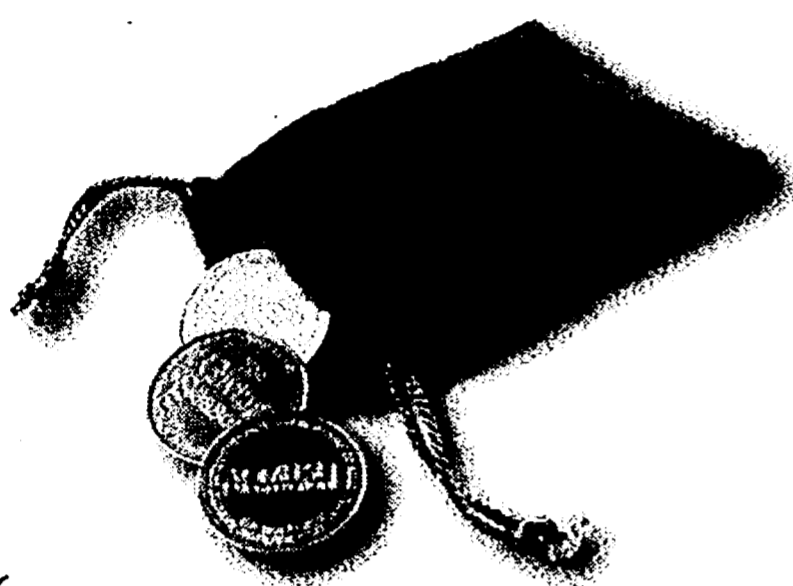
refuse to make any kind of assurance of Y2K compliance. Many will tell you to buy \$600,000 or \$700,000 of new equipment."

■ How do you test embedded chips? A lot of utilities have embedded chips in heating and cooling equipment, elevators and escalators. Answer: About 5 percent of chips will go bad.

■ After a power failure, stores in Australia were out of food in two days.

■ "I never thought of the possibility that my car wouldn't start because of an embedded chip in the car key." Reply: Any car built since 1997 by the Big Three is supposed to be Y2K

Please see Y2K, A7



## FOR THE CHILDREN, FROM SANTA

Santa will be at Somerset North every day 'til closing. And for each child who visits, he has a special gift. A velvet pouch for three golden coins from Santa's treasure chest.

Children can use the coins for purchases at participating stores.  
Or tuck them away as mementos.

While you're waiting to visit Santa, the characters from "The Giving Season" will be on hand for rollicking entertainment, amusement and storytelling. If you wish, you can even join them for Saturday breakfast. (Reservations can be made at the castle.)

And for your entertainment, we've arranged daily performances at 1, 3 and 5 pm of "A Most Unusual Gift," a musical staged by The Children's Theatre of Michigan.

The Holidays at the Somerset Collection. Something for everyone.

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COLLECTION**

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## Practical tips for homeowners getting ready for year 2000

Get ready for a one-week camping trip on Jan. 1, 2000.

Don't plan an airline flight that day. And if you happen to be in eastern Europe, Latin America or a Third World country, your campout may last longer.

The reason is Y2K - the widespread expectation that computers will malfunction because they record the year by the last two digits and can't tell the difference between 1900 and 2000.

For example, a person born in 1944 may be told by a computer he is 44 years old, not 56. Credit card bills could be shown as not having been paid for 100 years.

The solution is to write com-

puter programs so that they record all years with four digits. But that might involve changing programs written in computer "languages" that are rarely used any more.

The GartnerGroup, which specializes in research, suggests what the average homeowner should - and shouldn't - do as the year 2000 approaches. Excerpts from its report "Year 2000 Risk Assessment and Planning for Individuals":

■ "A 'bomb shelter' mentality is not called for." Don't withdraw all your money from banks or liquidate investments.

■ Prepare for localized failures for a limited time - think in terms of a snowstorm of several days. Have two weeks' salary in

cash.

■ Have up to five days supplies of key consumer items - medications, non-perishable food, household supplies, batteries for lights and radios. If you depend on food stamps or the Women-Infant-Children federal program, you should be especially cautious. The old propane gas stove may come in handy.

■ Don't count on your grocery store being open more than a couple of days if there's a crash. The food industry is among the worst prepared for Y2K.

■ Stock jugs of water.  
■ Fuel your vehicle. Have an adequate supply of home-heat-

Please see TIPS, A7

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Sunday, December 13th at Noon

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Ferdinand Victor Leon Bayet, (French 1840-1920), oil on canvas, 57" x 47", Sunday \$2000

### Featuring

Items removed from Rose Terrace including an 18th c. pastel portrait and an 18th c. French oil on canvas.

Architectural elements removed from a Grosse Pointe, MI home and selected items from a Bloomfield Hills private collection. John and Joseph Meeks "Stanton Hall" rosewood furniture.



Including a large collection of antique and 20th c. jewelry from a Pontiac, MI collector, including a large selection of pins, brooches, cameos and rings.



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### Exhibition Hours:

Friday, December 4th ..... 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, December 5th ..... 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Monday, December 7th ..... 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 8th ..... 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 9th ..... 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Thursday, December 10th ..... 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Free Parking Wednesday Evening Exhibition

A 15% Buyer's Premium is added to each lot sold up to and including \$50,000 and 10% over \$50,000 and is subject to 6% Michigan Sales Tax. Illustrated catalogs available at the Gallery for \$20.00, postpaid \$25.00 Express Mail and Overseas \$33.00. Annual subscriptions \$75.00. International subscriptions \$135.00.

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# Safety experts stress precaution this shopping season

The holiday season may be the busiest shopping time of the year, but it's also a prime season for criminals to prey on shoppers burdened by packages and often too preoccupied to take parking lot safety precautions.

Officials from a statewide auto theft prevention program say safety should top holiday shoppers' list this season.

"People have a lot on their minds during the holidays and often do things for the sake of expediency they might not otherwise do, like leaving their car running or open to make a quick stop for some item or leaving

packages in plain view," said Bill Liddane, director of Help Eliminate Auto Thefts, a program which operates a toll-free tip reward line.

"Unfortunately, this carelessness is precisely what criminals are counting on during the holiday season. These HEAT holiday safety tips are offered to remind people to stay alert and not forget about safety concerns, so that everyone has a happy and safe holiday."

HEAT offers the following tips for shoppers:

Park in well-lighted areas, near sidewalks or walkways.

Avoid parking near Dumpsters or large vans or trucks. (These obstacles decrease your ability to see the space around your vehicle, where carjackers could be hiding.)

Consider using the valet service if you are shopping alone at night at a mall. Leave only the ignition key with the valet. (Keep your registration and proof of insurance in your wallet.)

If shopping late at night, ask the store clerk if it is possible to get store security to escort you to your car. If you leave purchases or wrapped gifts in the car, place

them in the trunk and out of sight.

Try to keep one hand free with the ignition key in hand. Look around and inside car before getting in.

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

When driving in traffic, always leave room between you and the car in front, so that if you sense trouble, you can maneuver quickly and get away easily.

If you are carjacked or witness a carjacking, try to remember

what the carjacker looked like — sex, height, build, race, age, hair and eye color and special features.

Once you are in a safe location, report the crime by calling 9-1-1 or the police. Also report your information to HEAT's toll free tip reward line at (800) 242-HEAT whether you are a carjacking victim or witness a carjacking. Your confidential information could be worth up to \$10,000.

HEAT is funded by Michigan auto insurance companies and rewards tip line callers up to

\$1,000 if their tip leads to the arrest and binding over for trial of a suspected car thief; up to \$10,000 if the tip results in the arrest and binding over for trial of suspected theft ring members and/or chop shop operators. HEAT also rewards \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect.

Since its inception in 1985, HEAT has awarded \$1.7 million to tip callers and recovered 2,575 vehicles valued at \$28.8 million. The HEAT tip line has received 5,246 calls leading to the arrests of 1,960 suspects.

## Santa's coming to Rite Aid

Santa Claus is coming to town and to Rite Aid stores in western Wayne County.

Santa will be on hand to visit with children and hear their wish lists at Rite Aid stores in Canton, Garden City, Livonia and Redford.

Rite Aid will provide children with a complimentary photograph of their visit with Santa. Children can meet with Santa from 5-8 p.m. on Fridays and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays.

Here is the schedule of appearances:

Friday, Dec. 4 and Saturday, Dec. 5 — Rite Aid stores at 180 S. Lilley, Canton; 37355 Eight Mile, Livonia, and 25790 Joy Road, Redford.

Friday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 12 — 5736 Middlebelt, Garden City, and 31245 Eight Mile, Livonia.

Friday, Dec. 18 and Saturday, Dec. 19 — 15181 Telegraph, Redford.

Rite Aid operates about 4,000 stores in 30 states with annual revenue of \$12 billion. In Michigan the chain operates 381 stores.

## Tips

from page A6

ing fuel delivered in late 1999.

Retrieve all your e-mail messages.

Send your mail and packages early.

Obtain hard (paper) copies of your Social Security records, pension and savings plans.

Avoid air travel around Jan. 1, 2000. If air traffic control systems fail, an airport's ability to handle flights could be reduced by 80 percent.

Have your medical and dental checkups in advance.

Ask your local city, township or village if it has made preparations. You may have to hound them. For example, do they have cellular phones and mobile radio backups for emergency services?

GartnerGroup has surveyed thousands of enterprises and generally finds that large companies are preparing, but smaller companies and many governments are not. In general, the U.S., Canada, Australia and the northern European countries will be in better shape than Mexico, Central America, South America, eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

## Y2K

from page A6

compliant. But the Big Three Web sites are pretty much ignoring Y2K problems.

City officials have further advice from the federal General Accounting Office about other possible malfunctions:

Traffic signals that are date-dependent could break down.

Criminal records may be adversely affected — for example, prisoner release or parole eligibility dates.

The Social Security Administration exchanges data files with states to determine the eligibility of disabled persons for benefits — "a monumental issue," according to GAO testimony before Congress.

# PARISIAN POWERSHOPPING WEEKEND



**SAVE 40%** on our entire stock of flannel pajamas and terry velour robes from Chance Encounters®. Reg. 44.00-70.00, sale 26.40-42.00.

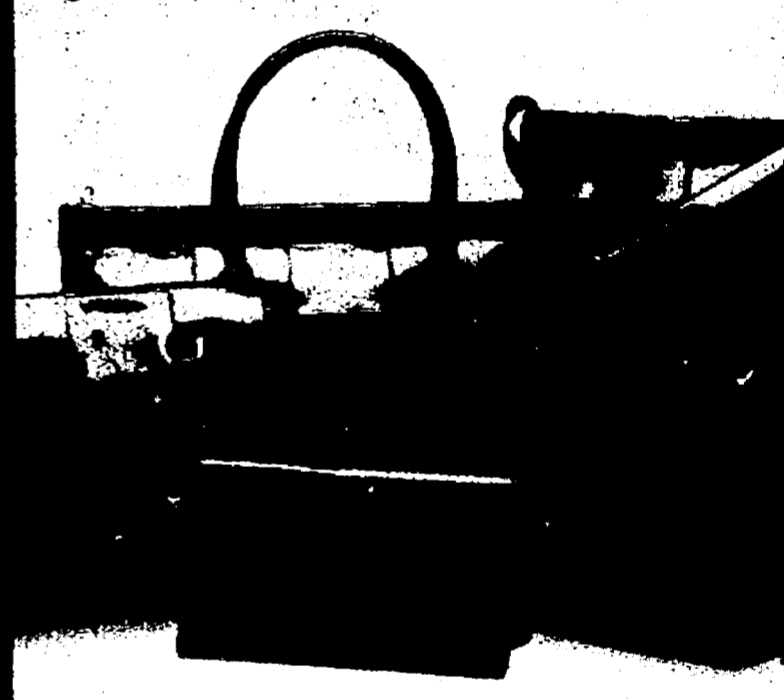
**SAVE 40%** on a large selection of women's boots from Timberland, Enzo, Aigner, Unisa, Prima Royale and more. Reg. 37.00-120.00, sale 22.20-80.00.



**SAVE 40%** on our entire stock of flannel pajamas and terry velour robes from Chance Encounters®. Reg. 44.00-70.00, sale 26.40-42.00.



**SAVE 25-40%** on designer handbags. Reg. 124.00-268.00, sale 83.00-201.00.



## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

**LADIES**  
**SAVE 25-50%** on our large selection of holiday dresses for misses, petites and Parisian Woman. Reg. 59.98-220.00, sale 44.99-110.00. IN DRESSES.

**SAVE 49.99-69.99** Large selection of casual dresses for misses, petites and Parisian Woman. Reg. 69.99-89.99. IN DRESSES.

**SAVE 40-65%** on new reductions on related separates from famous makers in New Directions. Reg. 28.00-200.00, sale 9.99-120.00. IN NEW DIRECTIONS.

**SAVE 25-50%** on new reductions on selected fall and holiday career collections from famous New York designers. Reg. 58.00-152.00, sale 29.00-114.00. IN MISSES' SPORTSWEAR, DRESSES.

**SAVE 40%** on our large selection of Parisian Signature two-ply cashmere sweaters, mock necks, turtlenecks and cardigans. Reg. 138.00-148.00, sale 82.00-88.00. IN MISSES' SWEATERS.

**SAVE 25-50%** on our large selection of sweaters. Reg. 24.00-54.00, sale 12.00-27.00. IN MISSES' AND JUNIORS' SWEATERS.

**SAVE 25-50%** on famous maker collections for Parisian Woman. Reg. 28.00-180.00, sale 20.99-89.99.

**SAVE 25-50%** on juniors' knit and woven tops and bottoms from Palmello's, Reference Point and more. Reg. 18.00-38.00, sale 13.50-28.50. IN JUNIORS.

**SAVE 25-50%** on juniors' dresses and collections from XOXO, Ecu, Byer and more. Orig. 18.00-69.00, sale 13.50-34.50. IN JUNIORS.

**SAVE 25-50%** on our entire stock of misses' wool coats and leather jackets from Jones New York® and more. Reg. 250.00-650.00, sale 125.00-487.50. IN MISSES' COATS.

**SAVE 25%** on Tomorrow's Mother maternity apparel. Reg. 24.00-148.00, sale 18.00-111.00. IN MATERNITY. EXCLUDES DENIM AND LINGERIE.

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# SEMCOG: State economy is 'envy of nation'

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER  
trichard@oe.homecomm.net

A decade ago, southeastern Michigan was the economic sick man of the Midwest, the epitome of what scoffers called "the Rust Belt."

Today the auto capital outperforms the nation and even the more diversified outstate regions.

Why? How? Who did it?

The Engler administration, says Gov. John Engler.

"Consumer sentiment" and the many initiatives undertaken by the U.S. motor vehicle industry, coupled with the fact that this region hasn't been hurt by "military base closings and defense industry cutbacks," says a report by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Government. Economists Jeffrey W. Jones and Abel Feinstein don't even mention Engler's name, though they gave some slight credit to his property tax cuts.

Engler, re-elected Nov. 3 in a landslide, had his budget director put forth his case for a medal in the opening of his fiscal 1999

budget message:

"Since taking office in January 1991, Gov. John Engler has fundamentally transformed the fiscal and economic landscape of the State of Michigan. For years, Michigan lagged behind the nation in nearly every economic indicator."

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"Michigan's economy is the envy of the nation. Our successful efforts to reduce regulations and taxation have freed businesses, entrepreneurs and workers to create jobs, grow and prosper." (Italics added.)

## SEMCOG's case

SEMCOG, in its October "Profile of the Southeast Michigan Region's Economy and Labor Market," agreed it has been "one of the great regional economic success stories of the 1990s ... superlative ... a significant

reversal of fortune" for a region which "in the 1970s and 1980s often trailed the national economy, sometimes by a wide margin."

SEMCOG's analysis concentrates on the national market and behavior of the auto companies. Items:

■ "Consumer sentiment has, on the whole, been quite bullish" since 1990. The U.S. economy has grown at a moderate 2.8 percent annual average.

■ The motor vehicle industry "has increased output per hour by 34 percent."

■ Consumer concerns about the low quality of U.S. vehicles versus foreign cars are largely resolved. The Big Three "spent more than \$117 billion worldwide on research and development work."

■ American manufacturers targeted the light truck, van and sport utility vehicle market, "the fastest-growing segment of the overall vehicle market." By 1997 U.S. companies had captured 82 percent of the sport-ute market compared to 61 percent of the auto market.

■ Michigan doubled its exports from \$79.5 billion in 1990 to nearly \$158 billion in 1997, with a significant share coming from southeastern Michigan.

■ This region has been "insulated from the negative economic effects of the 1990s. Military base closings, defense industry cutbacks and the collapse of over-built commercial real estate markets hurt the economies of many metropolitan statistical areas. Defense spending does not play a large role in the region's economy, and commercial real estate was not subject to the degree of speculative excess evident in other cities."

■ Manufacturing used to be unstable. In the decade of 1979-89, southeastern Michigan lost 144,000 manufacturing jobs. In the 1990s, however, manufacturing added stability, inching up from 493,000 to 498,000 by 1997. Manufacturing work weeks rose from 42.9 hours in 1990 to 45.6 in 1997.

■ Construction has generated 20,000 jobs in the 1990s, a gain of 29 percent and triple the national average. The boom has

covered residential, commercial and industrial markets. SEMCOG credits "low mortgage interest rates, reductions in property tax rates and higher levels of transportation and infrastructure spending." (Italics added.)

■ Services added 185,000 jobs, up 16 percent during the 1990s. "Business/management/engineering services, health and miscellaneous services were the leaders in job creation. Wholesale and retail trade also recorded sizable gains."

■ Banking lost jobs with multi-state mergers, but real estate and insurance made up for it.

## Buoyant forecast

SEMCOG's forecast was much the same as the University of Michigan economic forecast of Nov. 19-20. The southeastern corner will lead the state, although overall growth will slow.

Has the region succeeded in stabilizing and diversifying? Short answer: yes.

SEMCOG used a mathemati-

cal formula to produce a "volatility index." A high number is bad; a low number is good. The region reduced its 1990 index for executives and managers from 3.1 to 1.7; for precision production craft and repair, from 8.7 to 3.5.

Nationally, the index for executives and managers moved from 2.3 (lower than SE Michigan) to 2.0 (higher); for precision production, craft and repair from 5.8 (lower than SE Michigan) to 6.5 (higher).

SEMCOG predicts that any downturn will be less severe than those of the 1970s and 1980s. The region will face labor shortages. "The region will need to retain workers, attract needed workers with specialized skills, and encourage higher labor force participation."

SEMCOG's report is entitled "Profile of the Southeast Michigan Region's Economy and Labor Market 1997." Copies are available from SEMCOG Information Services, 660 Plaza Drive, Suite 1900, Detroit 48226; phone (313) 96104266. Web site: [www.sem-cog.org](http://www.sem-cog.org)

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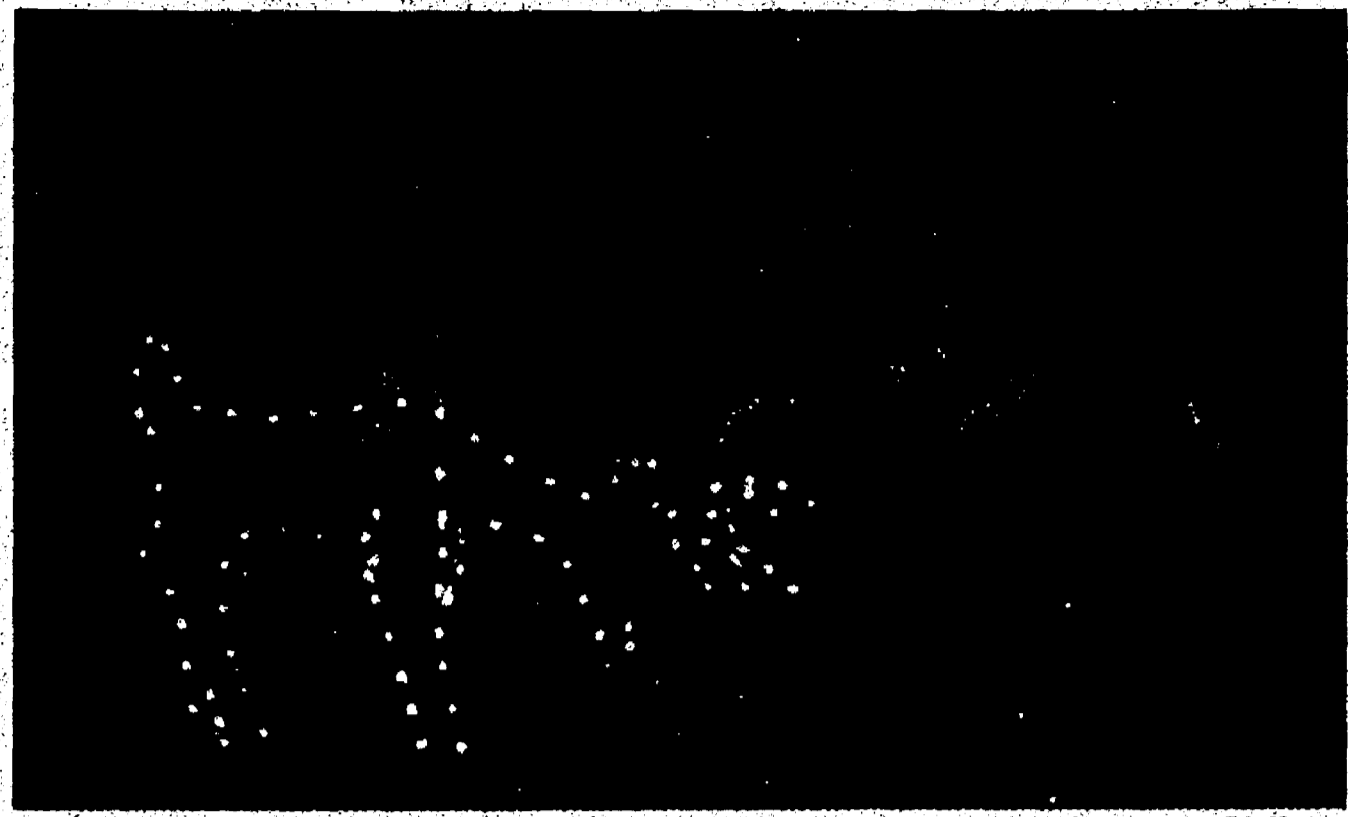
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LightFest



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

**Aglow:** Wayne County LightFest is now open with what county officials call "the Midwest's largest holiday show," featuring 39 giant displays and nearly a million lights. Four new displays are featured along the 4.5 miles of Hines Drive. LightFest runs nightly from 7-10 p.m., through Jan. 1, except Christmas Day. At the end of the drive, visitors can stop by Santa's Shelter at the Warrendale Picnic Area for refreshments and gift shopping, and they can get a picture taken with Santa Claus. A \$5-per-car donation helps keep LightFest operating. Hines Drive is closed to traffic at 5:45 p.m. Traffic enters the LightFest at Hines Drive and Merriman. For more information call (734) 261-1990.

## Madonna evaluation nets NCA re-accreditation through 2008

Madonna University has received formal notification from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) that it has approved continued accreditation at the undergraduate and master's levels through 2007-2008.

Madonna College was first accredited by NCA in 1959.

Last January, a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools visited the University and conducted a comprehensive evaluation.

In its official report, the eight-member team unanimously recommended continuing the institutional accreditation of Madonna University.

Among the strengths of the University, as reported by the team, is "the rare spirit of collegiality approximating an extended family shared by students, faculty, staff, administration and the board."

Other strengths highlighted were: the talent and enthusiasm of the students and their appreciation of the programs, faculty and staff; the support of the faculty and staff for the institution's efforts to respond to new challenges in creative ways such as evidenced by distance learning and serving new student populations; the effectiveness of the University in forging mutually beneficial relationships with

other educational institutions, business and governmental agencies to serve community and student needs; the "attractive and well-maintained" physical plant; positive operating budgets coupled with fiscal responsibility and effective fund-raising strategies.

The team commented on the continued implementation of approved assessment plans for student outcomes and provided consultation in the area of international education.

"Our university is most grateful for the thoroughness in which the team members evaluated Madonna and appreciate NCA's recognition of our institutional commitment to academic excellence," said Sister Mary Francilene, president.

## Livonia officials join suit to open primary election

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
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Two elected officials in Livonia support a legal challenge to "open" primary elections in Wayne County and allow voters to select candidates from Democratic and Republican parties without spoiling ballots.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and City Council President Jack Engbretson filed a brief about a week ago with the Michigan Court of Appeals supporting four Wayne County residents who want to open primaries.

Currently voters are not permitted to cross over between parties in primary elections. For example, voters marking ballots in support of County Executive Edward McNamara — a Democrat — in this year's August primary election could not vote in any Republican race — whether it was the contested state Senate race with Thaddeus McCotter, James Ryan and Debbie Whyman, or the gubernatorial race, won handily by John Engler.

John Hand, a Dearborn attorney and a former Wayne County charter commissioner, originally challenged the state law in March, asking the Wayne County Circuit Court to declare that the state's Ballot-Voiding Rule, which prevents split-ticket voting in primary elections, does not apply in Wayne County's "home rule" elections.

The plaintiffs include Patrick O'Hara of Detroit, Joseph Turinsky of Lincoln Park and Anthony and Jane Ruggiero of Plymouth. The suit names Wayne County Clerk Teola Hunter, the Wayne County Election Commission and the Board of Canvassers as defendants.

About three months ago Hand appealed a circuit court ruling that went against the plaintiffs.

Mary Nasser, attorney with Wayne County's corporation counsel, could not be reached for comment on the appeal.

### Closing the primary

In their brief, Kirksey and Engbretson cite statistics from the August primary showing that 15,935 Livonia residents

### LAWSUIT TO 'OPEN' PRIMARY ELECTIONS

voted for governor, including Democrat and Republican candidates, while 7,377 voted for either McNamara or challenger Sharon McPhail, the Democratic candidates for Wayne County executive on the same ballot.

The brief states 8,558 Livonia voters or 53.6 percent "were disenfranchised, right in the polling place, as only 7,377 voted in the primary which is tantamount to election for the Office of County Executive." (Wayne County's electorate is largely Democrat.) The state and county primary elections are "two primaries, not one," the brief states.

"The state's (ballot) voiding penalty, if it applies to more than the state primary itself, must be applied individually to the ballot for each primary, not collectively to the ballots for both primaries," the brief states.

### Charter lacking

Since the Wayne County charter lacks the ballot-voiding provision, each Wayne County primary voter should be permitted to nominate one candidate for each office to be filled, regardless of party affiliation, the brief concludes.

Kirksey said he has heard complaints from residents about the closed primary while in office as mayor and in previous years as a state representative.

"We just felt it was a situation where the Livonia voters were being disenfranchised," said Kirksey. When Kirksey heard about the lawsuit, he thought "it was important to add input to that concept," he said.

"It is important to look out for the best interests of Livonia. By and large, it's been an ongoing concern."

Engbretson wants an open primary to "broaden people's choices."

"Voters in an open primary could have the opportunity to vote for candidates when they want to support people of both

parties. Not that they have to, but it at least gives them the opportunity," Engbretson said.

Hand said the problem stems from a 1954 state statute that does not name the Wayne County executive or county commissioners, and applied only to nominations for offices listed at that time in the Primary Election Law.

The county executive's position was created in the Wayne County charter, which was approved by county voters in 1981, nearly 30 years after the state statute was passed.

Wayne County is the only chartered county out of Michigan's 83 counties and the 1954 statute shouldn't apply to Wayne County, Hand said.

Kirksey and Engbretson's motion of support is important to the case, Hand said. "I think it brings across to the Court of Appeals that (the case) isn't just a couple of 'good government' types arguing this case," Hand said. "It shows that communities and voters see that the ballot voiding rule disenfranchises voters."

"It's not just a question of good government. I think the franchise isn't worth much if your vote isn't counted."

### Commissioners opposed

Hand asked Wayne County commissioners last year to place a proposal before voters asking whether they wanted open primaries, but it was resoundingly rejected by commissioners.

Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland; Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia; Commissioner Bruce Patterson, R-Canton; and former commissioner Edward Plawewski Sr., D-Dearborn Heights, opposed it.

At that time, Beard called the request an "exercise in futility."

"Wayne County cannot make a change in this, because it violates state law," Beard said. Patterson said Democrats would cross over into Republican races, and Republicans would vote in races for Democrats, "just to be mischievous."

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# OCC academy trains dogs for police work

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER  
trichard@owb.com

Livonia is adding a new cop who may turn out to be a real money-maker.

His name is Haro, and he's a German shepherd dog being trained at the Oakland Police Academy by Officer John Walker.

"We've had a K-9 unit for eight years," said Walker, "but one of the dogs is retiring. This is the replacement."

A five-year veteran of the department, Walker qualified for the K-9 unit through an interview process. He hasn't handled a police dog previously, though he owns a 7-year-old shepherd-Labrador mix.

Over five weeks in November and December, they'll train for 200 hours, sometimes putting in 12-hour days. More precisely, the academy will teach Walker to train Haro.

Tuition is steep, but one police department made its money back 24 hours after the dog started work.

"That dog found a car with

drugs and \$4,000 cash," said Gary Godlewski, a Bloomfield Township police officer who doubles as K-9 coordinator for the Oakland Police Academy.

"Because of the drug forfeiture laws, these dogs pay for themselves. That dog (in Bloomfield Hills) made \$20,000 in six months. Most departments that send officers here pay for it by forfeiture money," Godlewski said.

The police academy is headquartered on the Auburn Hills Campus of Oakland Community College. It's a rarity in Michigan — the only academy that trains dogs for police work. OCC has completed two classes and currently is running third, said Dr. Joseph Macri, dean of public services at the campus.

"We have a waiting list for next spring," Godlewski said. "The response from the public has been overwhelming. And the students on campus (OCC and nearby Oakland University) love us."

### Two kinds

There are two kinds of classes:  
■ Narcotic dog academy — two

weeks at 40 hours per week. Donated Labrador retrievers are used. "Labs have a good nose, they don't bite, they can track, and they're natural hunters," he said. Price is \$3,500, and next class starts in January.

■ Patrol dog academy — five weeks at 40 hours per week in both classroom and field training. It covers narcotics detection, tracking, building searches, article searches and aggression control. The \$7,400 price includes an imported, \$3,000 German shepherd dog that has been pre-trained.

American-bred dogs show a lot of hip dysplasia, Godlewski said, and the imports from Germany, the former Czechoslovakia and Belgium have "an all-around better temperament."

Dogs are matched to handlers and their homes. The handler boards the dog with his family. Iama donates food.

"The last week of class, we'll do drug raids with the Detroit Police Department," Godlewski said. "We try to expose them to stuff they'll face down the street."

Police departments asked OCC

to do training when they became dissatisfied with private training schools, Godlewski said. Oakland's course is certified by the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

Detroit and Michigan State Police offer costlier 14-week academies where the dog is trained from scratch. Oakland finds it's cheaper to give dogs some pretraining to tie up less of the handler's time.

Chief of instruction is John Skalski, an officer with 27 years experience in the K-9 unit in Detroit and head trainer there since 1976. "He's the best in the state," Godlewski declared.

Five assistants work with Skalski, one to each of the five students. They teach the student to train the dog. The current class includes officers from the Livonia and Sterling Heights police departments and the Ingham (two deputies) and Lenawee counties sheriff's departments.

In the first week, handler and dog follow a trail made by dragging tripe from the stomach of a cow. To make the work more rewarding, bits of hot dogs are added as bait. At the end of the trail is the dog's ball.

### Speaking English

"It's a big game for them," Godlewski said, referring to the dogs. "We look for a dog with a strong ball drive and strong retrieve drive." In the past, some handlers gave commands in German, but today the handlers stick to American English.

"My first dog was from Belgium and was trained in Dutch. Then I trained him in German and later used English — a trilingual dog." That dog was retired at age 9.

One difficult kind of training is building search. "When we do a search, it's safer and quicker to send a dog in. The dog uses its



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN STORZLAND  
Field training: An unidentified officer and dog wrap up a busy day of training at the OCC Auburn Hills Campus dog training academy. It's a rarity in Michigan — the only academy that trains dogs for police work.

nose, not a light, and is faster than a couple of officers. All the people I've caught over the years will surrender when you announce you have a dog that will bite," Godlewski said.

Use of K-9 units tapered off about 10 years ago when the federal government ruled that handlers had to be compensated for the time caring for the dog at home. But new forfeiture drug laws enable the dogs to pay for their keep, and then some.

Sgt. Jim Morrall of the Ingham sheriff's department has two deputies in the academy.

One dog will be a replacement for a retiree, and the second will be an addition, bringing the K-9 unit to four.

Besides police work and revenue, the dogs are loved by members of the public who sometimes get nervous when a human officer comes around. "Great public relations," said Morrall.

Godlewski now works with Storm, a 75-pound male now 6 years old.

At the bottom of Godlewski's business card is this line: "Storm says 'Say NO to Drugs.'"

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## Saving lives Follow child restraint laws

**W**estland police joined recently with other police agencies in cracking down on violations of the state's child restraint laws.

It's part of a nationwide program called Operation ABC Mobilization: America Buckles Up Children. Some 5,000 agencies are participating. The crackdown will continue periodically during the next year.

A leading cause of death among children is car crashes. In fact, six of 10 fatally injured children are unbelted, and three of those killed would be alive today if they had been in child restraints.

Following child restraint laws is an important way to protect children in an accident.

Whenever we see someone on the road and it's apparent that their children are not properly restrained because they are standing up looking out the back window, we wonder what those parents could possibly be thinking. But, then again, they must not be thinking.

There's really no excuse, except laziness, for

not making sure children are properly secured in the car. It's better to take precautions before a crash than live with a fatal mistake afterward.

The state has laws designed to help protect children. Here is a recap of our laws concerning child restraints:

- Children age 1 or younger must be restrained in a child safety seat facing backward, regardless of where they are riding.

- Children 1 to 4 have to be in a child safety seat if they are riding in the front seat. If riding in a back seat, they must either ride in a safety seat or wear a seat belt.

- Children 4 to 16 have to wear a seat belt regardless of where they are riding.

- Anyone 16 or older must wear a seat belt if riding in the front.

We hope the police crackdown helps in saving lives. After all, it's up to parents and guardians to protect their children, and if they don't, they need a firm reminder of their responsibilities.

## MEAP: District sets example

**G**ame time is over. Enough 11th-graders have skipped the state tests. They've acted out their rebelliousness and thumbed their noses at the principal. Now it's time for state and local officials, parents and students to get serious.

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program high school proficiency tests have a serious purpose. It is to make sure kids do more than sit in a classroom X number of hours; it's to make sure they learn what they need to function after graduation as college students, as workers and as citizens.

It's no secret that some high schools in Michigan have been diploma mills. That's why the state designed proficiency tests in math, reading, writing and science. Setting the standards, during years of work, were employers, college admissions people, school officials and parents.

Instead, only 16 percent of Farmington students, 24 percent of Clarenceville students and 40 percent of Plymouth-Canton students took the tests last spring. That's compared to less than 50 percent of students in Livonia and 80 percent in Garden City. In Wayne-Westland, nearly all juniors took the tests.

The tests are here to stay. Michigan is not going back to the days of local standards. Michigan's tests have won high praise both from Michigan's educators as well as Dr. Willard Daggett, the New York State internationally known guru of teaching for real-world employability. Daggett warns against "naysayers" who would sabotage state testing.

Daggett notes that a major goal of MEAP high school tests has been to emphasize multi-step problem solving rather than one-step calculations and memorization. Another goal has been to integrate academic disciplines rather than test them in isolation.

In particular, Daggett praised the communications tests (reading and writing) for "requiring the complex cognitive skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation within real-world problem situations."

So why doesn't the state just pass a law requiring able-bodied kids to take the MEAP? In part it has to do with the Headlee amendment to the state constitution that requires the state to pay for anything it mandates. In part it has to do with right-wing paranoia about any kind of state requirements.

What can everyone do to make sure kids take the proficiency tests?

- The state should provide timely feedback. Tests are taken in the spring and results should be available the first week of school. Local school districts have their final shot at helping students in the senior year. This year, test results weren't released until after the November election.

- Ensure that individual results are being shared with parents.

- Although the test is still too long and more work must be done, we hesitate to suggest any major overhaul. There must be some continuity of results, so districts can have useful longitudinal data for North Central Accreditation and for state mandated school improvement process.

- The state must do a better job explaining the test. The booklet currently used to interpret the results is very confusing to even experts in testing.

- The state and local districts should deal with parents' - yes, parents' - fear of this test. Parents fear that it will hurt kids for jobs and for college.

- The Legislature could adopt the House bill, languishing on the agenda, to require college officials to consider an applicant's MEAP test scores.

- The Legislature could have adopted the amendment, rejected by the Senate, requiring that a high school senior wishing to take vocational courses in a voc-tech academy or community college, to have at least minimal passing scores (level 3) on MEAP tests.

- School boards could exercise their "local control" by printing test scores on diplomas.

- At graduation time, school boards could award colored tassels on mortarboards or colored stoles to graduates who passed MEAP tests.

- Parents could and should refuse to let kids "opt out" of MEAP tests. They need to make kids realize that the educational system can't function unless there is accountability; that the schools themselves can't evaluate their own effectiveness without accountability; that meeting and, hopefully, exceeding state standards should be a source of personal satisfaction.

Game time is over. MEAP high school proficiency tests are here to stay.

## Taking it easy



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

**What's the news? A Westland man reads a newspaper last Friday, the kickoff day of the holiday shopping season. Area merchants are counting on people to come out shopping this season, to boost retail sales in Westland and nearby communities.**

## LETTERS

### Chaperone or bartender

**T**he Federal Reserve has been lowering interest rates because it fears a "credit crunch" for big corporations.

Faced with massive global production overcapacity, many big banks and institutional investors now prefer safe government bonds over risky corporate bonds.

Why? Because corporations have to actually earn their money in the nasty real world. Whereas governments can just print it.

But, is this Fed policy right? Big corporations quit building factories in the United States a long time ago. Lately, extra corporate cash has been going for things like stock buy-backs, acquiring other companies, expanding foreign capacity and stock market speculation. Dividends have become almost extinct.

So, the question is: More credit for what? To keep Wall Street's eternal bubble growing? Has our economy become the bubble? Has Chairman Alan Greenspan been reduced from his roles of market chaperone to being Wall Street's bartender simply serving up liquidity on demand?

Walter Warren  
 Westland

### Take care

**T**he holiday season is always portrayed as a time of joy, love, togetherness and happiness. But often, it is a very difficult time for many people, and it is definitely a busier and more stressful time for all of us.

Loneliness, illness, divorce and death don't take a vacation during this time. And because of the focus on cheer and excitement, people dealing with personal problems feel more out of sync with the world than ever.

There are no easy answers for those of you who will find the holidays difficult this year. But two things might help.

Reach out to people. Often times, your friends are afraid to bring up a subject that is painful to you because they are afraid of upsetting you. Let them know that you need to talk, cry, or just be with someone. Make the first move, your friends will be there for you.

Be good to yourself. Don't feel bound to do things that you "always do" on holidays. If you don't feel like baking cookies, don't. If you can't face shopping alone, order from a catalog, or ask someone to shop for you. If you don't want to be alone on New Year's Eve, ask someone to be with you. Start new traditions. Remember, family and friends are just waiting for you to let them know how to help.

In addition, all of you probably know someone who will have a difficult time coping during the holiday season. Reach out to them, find ways to include them even if it's just spending an hour talking with them. Acknowledge their grief and loneliness. Help them realize that these feelings are OK during the holiday season. Volunteer to help with shopping, cooking or decorating.

Time does not heal all wounds, but it does ease the pain. Take the time that you need and realize that the holidays are a time of joy, excitement, wonder, and, most of all, friendship.

Elaine Koons  
 Parent Outreach coordinator  
 Livonia Public Schools

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

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

### Thank you, thank you

**F**rom all of us here at American Power Wash Inc., we would like to thank all of our friends, family and all the local business owners here in Westland for their great concern and support, in light of our lesson in business ownership, so far. And, a very special thank you to Sam Corrado for his great wisdom and support.

Having something as major as a fire at your place of business can sure take the wind right out of your sails, but, having the support of your family, friends and neighbors sure helps keep that boat afloat until the wind decides to blow your way again, and, for that, we thank you.

So, keep a close eye out for us at 1251 S. Wayne Road. We will be back soon. And, please, give us a call with any questions or concerns at (734) 722-7276.

Julie Hahn  
 American Power Wash

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### QUESTION:

**What is your main reason for using the Westland library?**



"It's close to home, and I can get everything I want without paying for it."  
 Mildred Barnler



"Because I chauffeur her (Mildred Barnler)."  
 Pat Puckett



"I live in Canton, but I use it for my son (London) because of the quality videos. There's more classics like Charles Dickens."  
 Gordon Cook



"I come here because my mother makes me."  
 Matt Hall

We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland.

## Westland Observer

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— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

# Area woman makes girl's Red Wing dream come true

GUEST COLUMNIST



GWEN DIETRICH

**F**ew of us realize the positive impact we are capable of making on others' lives. Recently, I was reminded of that when I won four tickets to the Detroit Red Wings training camp in Traverse City. I couldn't believe my luck to have won the complimentary package provided by Sugar Loaf resort, the Detroit Red Wings and WNIC radio.

But why me? I am an avid hockey fan but there had to be something more to this — a reason I had won. Something even more special had to come out of my winning. I've been very fortunate in my life. I am blessed with talent as an artist and have the physical and emotional ability to pursue what I love. Suddenly, I knew. I would give two of the tickets to someone less fortunate. I contacted Kevin Vaughn, marketing manager of the Detroit Red Wings, to discuss my plan to find a child, a little boy or girl, who has great love for the Wings and who has either a terminal illness or a life-threatening medical condition. Kevin loved the idea, although he cautioned that a child with such a condition would probably not be able to travel to Traverse City. If that were the case, he said the Wings would donate a couple of sets of tickets to home games. But I had hope. I knew it would work out. Days later, Kevin called with good

news. "You're not going to believe this," he said, "but we just received a fax about a 4-year-old Traverse City girl, Courtney Bailey, who has cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair. Courtney loves the Wings and would like to meet them. I was overjoyed, I could be instrumental in granting this little girl's wish. Not only would Courtney meet the Wings, but mom Dawn and dad Don would be along to experience Courtney's joy. The plan was set. We met Kevin at the arena shortly before game time. Tomas Holmstrom and Anders Eriksson were the first to emerge from the locker room and greet Courtney. Imagine the excitement of a little girl who watches every game and wants to skate like the Wings do, especially Steve Yzerman. Courtney is unable to take part in many activities, but she is able to enjoy horseback riding as part of the physical and occupational therapy she receives five days a week. Doug Brown was the next Wing to make Courtney's dream come true. At first, she didn't recognize him because he wasn't wearing the red and white uniform, so Brown went to the locker room to put on his jersey. He returned with Sergei Fedorov and a hockey stick as a souvenir. Next, Joe Kocur stopped to say hello to Courtney. He left briefly only to return with a hockey stick, which he autographed for her. Wait, it gets even better. Who should be next out of the locker room bearing a hockey stick he would autograph for Courtney but Kris Draper? The Red Wings and I and Kevin Vaughn had succeeded in creating magic for this little girl who couldn't stop smiling as she looked down at the three hockey sticks placed across



Wish fulfilled: Courtney Bailey, a 4-year-old Traverse City girl with cerebral palsy, got a free trip to the Red Wings training camp, thanks to Canton resident Gwen Dietrich. Here Courtney gets friendly with Joe Kocur.

the arms of her wheelchair. We all enjoyed the rest of the evening watching the Wings, but the game could not compare to being a part of making this child's dream come true to meet her Red Winged heroes. Shortly after returning home, Dawn sent me photographs of our eventful evening and a mug I will

cherish forever. It read: "A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in ... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." I cherish Dawn's note to me even more. "Thanks for coming into our lives," she wrote. "Courtney is still talking

about the players." Courtney underwent surgery in October to lengthen the muscles in her hips. Her right hip is almost dislocated. I am grateful to have been given the chance to brighten the life of this child. Gwen Dietrich lives in Canton Township.

## Public service really meant something to Don Thurber

**D**on Thurber's funeral last Saturday was at old Christ Church, on East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, close by the Renaissance Center. As an Episcopalian and a sucker for ritual, I was deeply moved by the traditional, rolling liturgy and by the concrete symbols of faith so deftly melded together: The hymns, the stained glass shining in the warm sun, the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah," the bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace." Ritual, I think, provides the emotional content that separates everyday events from significant acts. Funerals, certainly, are significant acts, bittersweet rituals designed to promote a healthy grieving and to stimulate the celebration of a worthy life. And nobody I know had a more worthy life than Donald M. D. Thurber. Descendent of a family that lived in America since the 17th century and in Michigan since 1825, Don Thurber was truly a blueblood from a distinguished family. He attended Detroit University School and graduated from Harvard, where he forged friendships with John F. Kennedy, his classmate, and Sargent Shriver, his roommate, who would go on to marry a Kennedy sister and be the first director of the Peace Corps. Don's career was in public relations and fund-raising. His firm, PR Counselors, was one of the best. After he retired, he was chairman of the board of directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. But his love was public service, a blazing commitment that lasted his entire life. When President Kennedy asked him to raise money for the National Park Service, he established the National Park Foundation that recently raised more than \$1 million to refurbish Isle Royal National Park. He was a key fund-raiser for the restoration of Orchestra Hall and the building of the Center for Creative Studies. He was executive assistant to U. S. Sen. Blair Moody, a consultant to Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and an adviser to Secretary of Commerce Elliot Richardson. He was a regent of the University of Michigan. I remember years ago going to his home in Grosse Pointe — elegant, tasteful, discreet — for a party to introduce Richardson (then considering a run for president) to the movers and shakers of the Michigan Democratic Party. It seemed as though everybody who was anybody was there, drawn by Don's infectious enthusiasm and prodigious web of acquaintances. Don was a member of a remarkable and



PHILIP POWER

small group, mostly men, members of distinguished families who felt to their bones the obligation to use their talents in disinterested, valuable public service. It seems as though their stature and standing freed them from the ego needs that cheapen the careers of so many, liberating them to devote their talents to benefit their entire society. National examples abound, beginning with John Kennedy and Elliot Richardson, both Don Thurber's friends. Two Michigan models come quickly to mind: G. Mennen Williams, six times elected governor and the founder of the modern Democratic Party, was a blueblood, an heir to the Mennen toiletries company fortune. William G. Milliken, the son of a distinguished Traverse City retailing family (Milliken's Stores), is still revered to this day for his sane, thoughtful moderation. In a famous passage from "The History of the Peloponnesian War," Thucydides, the ancient Greek historian, relates Pericles' Funeral Oration: "We are lovers of beauty without extravagance, and lovers of wisdom without unmanliness. Wealth to us is not mere material for vainglory but an opportunity for achievement." Don Thurber did not quote Pericles in the funeral service he designed in the few weeks after he came home from the hospital to die. But he would have recognized it as a touchstone of his own life and philosophy. I grieve Don's passing, not just because I was lucky enough to be a friend but also because his death diminishes yet again a small group of valiant, productive citizens of our state. Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@oeonline.com

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## Former Livonia educator will head Madonna international study program

The former director of global education at Livonia Stevenson High School has been named as the new director of international studies at Madonna University.

Jonathan Swift of Bloomfield Hills recently retired from Livonia Public Schools after 25 years of teaching, but now he will bring his world knowledge to Madonna.

Educated in Great Britain, France and the United States, Swift holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University, a doctorate from Michigan State University and a certificate of music from the Paris Conservatory of Music.

Swift has covered the globe as a singer and television personality, and is an author of several articles and reviews.

"It is a great honor for Madonna University to have a man of such extensive experience on board," said Ernest Nolan, vice president for academic affairs at Madonna University. "His many travels abroad will continue to expand our international studies program."

Swift hopes to create a brochure describing international programs and activities, work with Madonna's international students to recruit more individuals from their home countries, and design a faculty newsletter.

Swift would like to see more faculty, staff and students visit other countries.

"Our ideal would be to have everyone on campus have an overseas experience," Swift said.



Jonathan Swift

## Marines launch toy drive

Fantastic Sams family hair salons are drop-off locations for the Toys for Tots campaign spearheaded by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

Each year, thousands of Metro Detroit children have a happier Christmas as the result of the Marine Corps Reserves Toys For Tots program and the hundreds of area businesses and organizations that help collect and distribute the new, unwrapped toys.

The Marine Corps Reserve and other volunteers hope to better last year's total of 350,000 toys.

To help launch this year's campaign, several of "the few and the proud" visited local Fantastic Sams to help publicize the 51st annual toy drive for needy children. They also took the opportunity to get their trademark "high and tight" haircuts trimmed up.

Many of the Fantastic Sams franchisees will be displaying in their salon the names of those who donate toys and have drawings for gifts and prizes.

Fantastic Sams are located in Livonia, Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Garden City and Redford.

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LRWG Page 1, Section B

Sue Mason, Editor 734-953-2111

on the web: <http://observer.eccentric.com>

Thursday, December 3, 1998



JACK GLADDEN

## Child's play: Who's got right stuff?

It's an American tradition and it starts the day after Thanksgiving. Shoppers hit the malls, looking for bargains, and the women of WAND station themselves outside the Toys 'R' Us store in Southfield, protesting Power Rangers, GI Joes and other toys that they claim promote violence among children.

Animal rights activists stage demonstrations in front of fur stores, participating in what the activists have labeled "Fur Free Friday." Attorneys general and other law enforcement officers issue their annual warnings about scams for bogus charities, a campaign the Oklahoma attorney general calls "Operation Santa Fraud."

And a variety of "public interest" groups issue dire warnings about toys that they claim are designed to cause damage to both body and soul. Welcome to the beginning of the Christmas season in America.

Most of these campaigns are well-intentioned (or at least they started out that way), but after a time they begin to get a bit tiresome. And sometime it's difficult to distinguish between looking out for "the public interest" and just being a group of organized busybodies.

Please see GLADDEN, B2

## Shop mixes gifts and evangelism

It was meant as something for Richard Shebib to do when he retires, but his Pascha Books and Gifts is serving another purpose - bringing a little bit of Eastern Orthodoxy to the general public.

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER  
smason@oe.homecomm.net

"Do you know where I can buy a wedding crown?" the woman on the telephone asked.

Quite by chance the person on the other end of the line had the answer: Pascha Books and Gifts, a small "bit Eastern Orthodoxy" store in Livonia.

The store is an eclectic collection of religious icons, books and tapes, keepsake boxes, trinkets, matrioshka (nesting) dolls and, yes, stephanotheke (wedding) crowns.

"Most everyone thought I was crazy to open Pascha," said Richard Shebib of Farmington Hills. "But part of my motive is that you won't find this particular kind of store in the Midwest. In fact, there's only three in the U.S."

Getting close to retiring from the Ford Motor Company, Shebib knew he couldn't live without doing something useful. The store, opened in November 1997, is his transition. He works for the automaker during the day, then comes to the shop in the afternoon, to work with store manager JoAnn Asfour of Belleville.

"I believe in what he's doing," said Asfour. "When he said he was going to do this, I said, 'Yep, I'll help you.'"

Orthodox churches have their own gift shops and what Shebib has done is make Pascha an extension of those shops. And being an independent of a church, he has been able to open it to the public.

"It's a personal thing from my youth; I didn't have the opportunity to get information about my faith," said She-



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

What's your pleasure? JoAnn Asfour (right), manager of Pascha Books and Gifts in Livonia, shares information about the crosses and matrioshka dolls with Sharon Gomulka.

bib.

A focal point of the shop is the religious icons. Ornatly decorated, the icons can depict feast days like the Nativity and Last Supper, the saints, the Mother of God, Christ or a particular aspect of orthodox theology or imagery.

Some are made of wood and prints in this country, others come from Russia where they are painted on wooden eggs and signed by the artist or have etched gold and silver metal overlaying the prints.

"We had a man come in and buy three icons, not because he's orthodox, but because he liked the art," said Asfour.

There's icons of angels, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the creation of the stars and the animals and Adam naming the animals for gift giving. There's even icon Christmas cards and icon name day cards.

"Icons tell a story," said Shebib. "Icons portray way back in church history. That's why we usually don't say that you paint an icon, you write an

icon. Icons are something all Christians can relate to. They're the story of the theology of the world."

Shebib has stocked the shop with some 1,000 book titles. There's theology books - 90 percent are orthodox, but there are books on Catholicism - a library of classic books, cookbooks (mostly from orthodox European countries) and children's books and videos ranging from Bible stories to the "Veggie Tales."

"Most everything started with cata-

Please see PASCHA, B2

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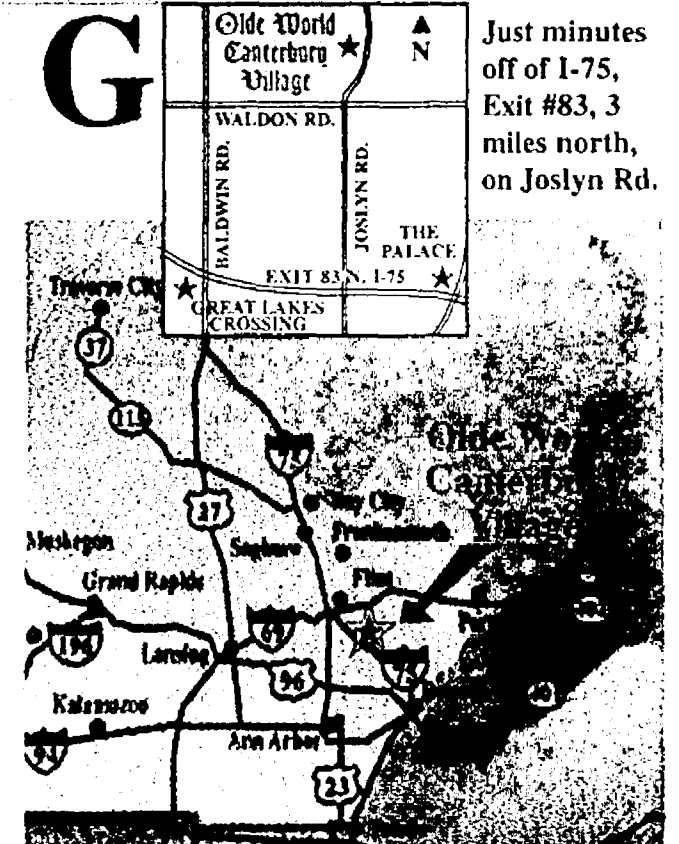
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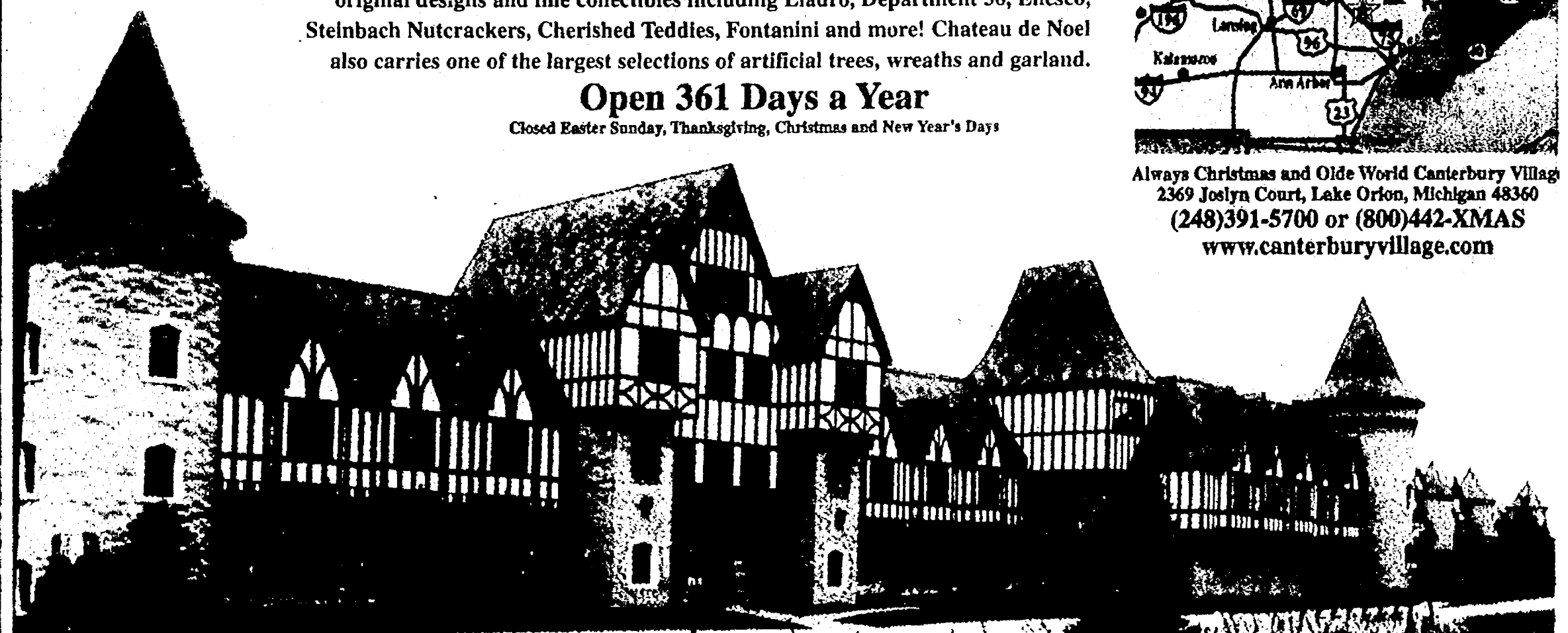
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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Walton-Temple

Eric Alan Walton and Shelly Lynn Temple were married Aug. 8 at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia. The Rev. Thomas Badley performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Robert and Ellie Temple of Canton. The groom is the son of Alan Walton and Carla Gardner, both of Plymouth.

The bride is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and Eastern Michigan University. She is employed by the University of Phoenix, Michigan campus, as an enrollment counselor.

The groom is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School. He is employed at Botsford Kidney Center as a biomedical technician.

The bride asked Debbie Brake to serve as matron of honor with Julie Kozakowski, Kris Sangregorio and Tara Gatscher as bridesmaids. Emily Walton and Kyleigh Clark were junior bridesmaids. The flower girl was



Amanda Temple.

The groom asked Sean Pardo to serve as best man with Robert Temple, Garry Lopez and Norm Budnick as groomsmen. Troy Lopez was the ringbearer.

The couple received guests at Fellows Creek Golf Club. A honeymoon in Cancun is planned. They are making their home in Canton.

Petito-O'Be

Antonio Thomas Petito and Theresa Ann O'Be were married Aug. 22 at St. Robert Belarmine Church in Redford. The Rev. Donald Walker performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Theresa O'Be of Livonia and the late John O'Be. The groom is the son of John and Peggy Petito of Hartland.

The bride is a 1990 graduate of Central Michigan University. She is employed by Oxbow Machine Products Inc. in Livonia as a human resource manager/field service coordinator.

The groom is a 1987 graduate of Michigan State University. He is employed by Bay Pointe Golf Club in West Bloomfield as a horticulturist.

The bride asked Rose O'Be to serve as her maid of honor with Marg Steinheiser and Siobhan Groleau as bridesmaids.

The groom asked Scott Hicks to serve as his best man with



Terry Carlson and Craig Julien as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at Barnstormer in Whitmore Lake before leaving on a honeymoon trip to Alaska. They are making their home in South Lyon.

Porterfield-Marion

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Porterfield of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Jean, to Todd Andrew Marion, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Barry Marion of Durham, N.C., formerly of Canton.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School and the University of Michigan. She is employed by Kmart Corp. in Troy.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School and the University of Michigan. He is employed by Reed Detective Agency in Livonia.

A March wedding is planned at Ward Evangelical Presbyter-



an Church in Northville

Sherman-Fontana

Andrew Robert Sherman and Cara Marie Fontana were married July 18 at the Dixboro United Methodist Church. The Rev. James Cochran performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Lawrence and Janice Fontana of Plymouth. The groom is the son of Harold and Mary Sherman of Ypsilanti.

The bride asked Marie Elaina Fontana to be her matron of honor with Marisa Fontana as maid of honor and Michelle Gayeski, Lisa Smith and Sandee Salyer as bridesmaids.

The groom asked Michael Sherman and Steve McGregor to serve as his best men with Daniel Kolesar, Josh Harrell and Shawn Crabtree as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at Hawthorne Valley Country Club



before leaving on a honeymoon trip to Hilton Head Island, S.C. They are making their home in Ypsilanti Township.

Powell-Hunter

LeRoy and Evadeen Powell of Gaines, Mich., announce the engagement of their daughter, Brenda Lee, to John Galbraith Hunter Jr., the son of John and Colleen Hunter of Redford.

The bride-to-be is a senior at Spring Arbor College, where she is majoring in psychology.

Her fiancé will graduate in December from Spring Arbor College, where he is a business administration major.

An August wedding is planned at Bethel Park Free Methodist Church in Flint.



Payton-O'Brien

Bethany L. Payton of Redford and Edward B. O'Brien III of Chelmsford, Mass., announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is a 1984 graduate of Redford Union High School, a 1989 graduate of Wayne State University with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a 1994 graduate of DePaul College of Law with her juris doctor degree. A lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, she has been on active duty in the Judge Advocate General's Corps since 1994. She is stationed in Nor-

folk, Va., where she is a prosecutor, specializing in sexual assault crimes.

Her fiancé is a 1989 graduate of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst with a bachelor of arts degree in history and political science and a 1994 graduate of Boston College Law School with a juris doctor degree with honors. A lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in Judge Advocate General's Corps, he is stationed aboard the USS Enterprise (CVN 65) on a six-month deployment in the Arabian Gulf.

A fall 1999 wedding is planned.

Culling-Obidzinski

Virgie Ann Obidzinski and Richard Edward Culling were married Oct. 17 in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia. The Revs. Dennis Bux and Marc Gawronski performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Leonard and Rhoda Obidzinski of Livonia. The groom is the son of Mildred Culling of Livonia and the late Edward Culling.

The bride is a graduate of Wayne State University with her

bachelor of social work and master of social work degrees. She is employed as a therapist at the Downriver Guidance Clinic in Southgate.

The groom also is a graduate of Wayne State University with a bachelor of fine arts degree and of the University of Michigan with a master of fine arts degree in painting. He is employed as an adjunct professor of art at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

The bride ask Claudia Lowe, Katie Paulik, Jaleen Scigliano,

Jennifer Domagala and Samantha Domagala to serve as her attendants.

The groom asked David Culling, Michael Obidzinski, Eric Culling and Steve Schroat to serve as his attendants.

The couple received guests at a reception at the American Legion Hall in Dearborn Heights before leaving on a honeymoon cruise of the South Caribbean. They are making their home in Canton.



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\* U.S. Department of Education, 1993

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1998 YearEnd

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**NEW VOICES**

**Scott Rogers** of Franklin, Ind., and **Jodi Henry-Rogers** of Garden City announce the birth of **India Salome Henry-Rogers** Aug. 1 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Tim and Diane Henry of Garden City and Kathy Tillotson of New White-land, Ind.

**Gary and Beth Creekmore** of Plymouth announce the birth of **Dylan Louis** June 20 at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. He has two brothers, Jordan, 8, and Alex, 3. Grandparents are Robert and MaryLou Weaver of Hilton Head Island, S.C., formerly of Livonia, and Harvil and Ann Creekmore of Lexington, Ala., formerly of Northville.

**Simon John and Kimberly Ann Pienton** of Westland announce the birth of **Zachary John** Aug. 3 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Nancy Pienton of Westland and the late Simon Pienton and Ed and Connie Lutsic of Wyandotte. Great-grandmother is Helen Tomala of Wyandotte.

**Matt and Robin Hallam** of Garden City announce the birth of **Alyssa Brooke** Oct. 18 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She has two brothers, Chad and Randy. Grandparents are Jim and Dell Hallam and Dennis and Brenda Nordstrom, all of Dearborn Heights.

**Scott and Kimberly Sparks** of Garden City announce the birth of **Kailynn Mae** Aug. 9 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She joins four siblings, Jessica, 8, Chelsie, 6, Allissa, 4, and Scott II, 2. Grandparents are Mark and Donna

Sparks and Ron and Mary Francis, all of Garden City, and Tom and Debbie Tanoshunas of Belleville.

**Mark and Cheryl Buckley** of Westland announce the birth of **Jessica Rose-Lee** Oct. 14 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She has a brother, Mark Jr., and three sisters, Sarah, Jennifer and Samantha. Grandparents are John and Kathy Nepsy of Wayne, Albert and Sheila Meyers of Wayne and Judith Milot of Westland.

**Tracey Beverley** of Garden City announces the birth of **Caitlyn Nicole** July 28 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Troy and Carol Beverley of Garden City.

**Jennifer Rexford** of Westland announces the birth of **Dakota Paul Rexford** Oct. 11 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Tim and Rae Blome of Pigeon and Tim Rexford of Columbus, Ga.

**Bernard Brewer III and April Gearhart** of Westland announce the birth of **Drew Weston** Aug. 12 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins a brother, Stephen Gearhart, 7. Grandparents are Tom and Donna Perry of Plymouth and Bernard and Joyce Brewer of Westland.

**Sean and Mary Conley** of Westland announce the birth of **Shyann Lashae** Aug. 17 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She has a sister, Ashley. Grandparents are Nadene Conley of Wayland, Ky., and Helen Schumaker of Mount Clemens.

# Girl Scouts 'wrap up' the holiday

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER  
smason@oe.homecomm.net

OK, you've fought the crowds to get the perfect gifts for those on your Christmas list. You've survived the long lines at the cash register and got an aerobic workout lugging heavy shopping bags to the outreaches of the parking lot.

Now, you face the task of cutting, folding and fumbling with cellophane tape to get everything ready for Christmas Day.

Well, maybe not. If you don't mind lugging your collection to Wonderland Mall at Plymouth and Middlebelt roads in Livonia. That's where you'll find a cadre of Girl Scouts and their mothers eager to wrap anything and everything for a small fee.

This is the fifth year the Girl Scouts have had their gift wrapping booth at Wonderland, wrapping such things as a mink coat, refrigerators, microwave ovens and a sweater or two.

"They get out there on the floor to wrap some of them," said Diane Bergendahl, who with Sue Roy and Kathy Swan are overseeing the booth. "CD towers are the awkward ones to wrap."

Bergendahl and Roy have been a part of the gift wrapping booth for seven years, while Swan has five years on her tape dispenser.

The 52 girls in the seventh-12th grades are members of 12 Cadette and Senior Girl Scout troops in Livonia, Redford, Westland, Novi, Farmington Hills, Detroit and Inkster. Helping them are 44 mothers working at the booth.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

**Busy, busy:** Members of Girl Scout Troop 1805, Rachel Feathers (left) and Erin Muldowney, both of Livonia, worked together in wrapping a present for a customer at the Scouts' gift wrapping booth in Wonderland Center.

"We're down about 10 girls from last year, but we have a good number," Bergendahl said. "They get more shifts to work."

The booth currently is open during mall hours - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. - and will stay open to 10 p.m. as it gets closer to Christmas. The mothers staff the booth until 3 p.m., when the girls arrive from school.

Prices start at \$1.50 and a medium-sized shirt box cost \$3.75 - 50 cents less, if you supply the box.

This is the seventh year the Scouts have had a gift wrapping

booth and the fifth year it has been at Wonderland Mall. In the past, the booth has been located in a vacant store front, but this year, it's out in the mall across from the food court and kitty-corner to Jeepers.

"There's no storefront which is better because people don't see us in a storefront," said Bergendahl. "But it's been slow to start because we're away from most of the stores."

The gift wrapping booth is one of several fund-raising activities for the girls. They work on the calendar and nut sale which just

ended and also participate in the cookie sale - they start taking orders Dec. 14.

But the booth provides money for troop end-of-year activities. In the past, the troops have used to money for trips to Toronto, Chicago, Boston and Savannah as well as the Mall of America in Minnesota and Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

"We do get around; that's what the money is for," said Bergendahl, whose troop at Timothy Lutheran Church in Livonia plans to use the money for a trip to Toronto.

# 1998 Christmas Tree Guide



The holiday season is hectic enough....so why not make some special memories for you and your family by going to a Christmas Tree Farm this year!

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

Listings for the Religious News should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. Call (734) 953-2131.

**NEW BEGINNING**  
"Making It Through the Holidays" will be the topic when New Beginnings, a grief support group meets at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, east of Merriman, Livonia, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3. The program is for people suffering as the result of the death of a loved one. There are no fees. Anyone may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need. Call the church office at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (734) 462-3770.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS**  
The Livonia Churchill High School Choralations will present a one-act musical, "Scrooge," at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and 2 p.m. Dec. 6, in Guthrie Hall of Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Tickets cost \$10. Proceeds will benefit the Newburg Youth Choir tour. Call (734) 422-0149.

The children and youth of Newburg United Methodist will present "The First Christmas Present Ever" by Sherry Sanders at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the church. The children will retell the story of Jesus' birth and carols will be sung.

**CHOIR CANTATA**  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

will present a choir cantata, "Lord of Light - Prince of Peace," at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 20905 Middlebelt Road at Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

The church also is having Advent services at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 9 and 16. The sermon topic will be "Christmas Is for Giving" on Dec. 9, while the St. Paul's Christian Day School will present "Carriers of the Light," with special music, choirs and handbells, on Dec. 16. Call (248) 474-0676.

**HELPING HONDURAS**  
Plymouth Seventh-Day Adventist School is selling Florida fruit to raise money for victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras. Oranges and grapefruit are available by the case or half case. Oranges are \$18 per case (4/5 bushel), and grapefruit are \$16 per case. December orders must be placed by Dec. 3 with pick-up scheduled for 12:30-4 p.m. Dec. 13, at the school, 4295 Napier Road (between Ann Arbor and Warren roads), Plymouth. Call (734) 459-8222 or (248) 349-5683.

**THRIFT SHOP**  
The Thrift Shop sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth has opened its new location at 494 N. Mill St., one block north of Plymouth Road, Plymouth. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Call the store at (734) 459-1250 or e-mail the church at fpcp@juno.com.

**'GLORY OF CHRISTMAS'**

Temple Baptist Church will present its annual Christmas program, "The Glory of Christmas," at 7:30 p.m. Fridays Dec. 4, 11 and 18, and 6 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20. Interpretation for the deaf and hearing-impaired will be provided on Dec. 4. Tickets are \$6, \$8 and \$10 for reserved seating. To order tickets, call (734) 414-3980. For reservations for the hearing-impaired performance, call TTY (734) 414-3992. The church is located at 49555 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth.

**ANNUAL AUCTION**  
Garden City First United Methodist Church will hold its third annual auction Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the silent auction beginning at 6:45 p.m. A live auction as well as hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages and entertainment will be a part of the evening's festivities. Tickets cost \$15 each or \$25 per couple and are available in advance by calling (734) 421-8628. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

**COMMUNION BREAKFAST**  
The Detroit Presbyterian Men's Council's 18th annual Advent Communion Breakfast will be 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, 24110 Cherry Hill Road, at Telegraph Road, Dearborn. The speaker will be Youngil Cho, a resident of Raleigh, N.C., and an elder and member of the DuRaleigh Presbyterian Church. His topic, "The New Beginning," will focus on the present state of the denomination and what God is doing and wants to do to renew the spiritual vigor of the men's mission, ministry and witness.

Cho is a professor and associate dean at North Carolina Central University, past president of the National Council of Presbyterian Men, a member and past moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly Council. Tickets cost \$6 each and are available through the Detroit Presbytery Office at (313) 345-6550 or George Irwin at (734) 425-3024.

**COOKIE WALKS**  
St. Michael's Orthodox Church will sell cookies by the pound during its annual cookie walk, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the church, 26355 W. Chicago Road, between Inkster and Beech Daly roads, Redford. Cookies will be sold by the pound, so come early for the best selection.

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church will have a Christmas cookie walk beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the church, 36075 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia. There will be an assortment of Greek, Ukrainian, Russian, Italian and other ethnic cookies, homemade pierogi, stuffed cabbage, sweet breads and nut apricot and poppy seed rolls for sale. Call (248) 476-3432.

The United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church in Garden City will have a cookie walk and mini bazaar 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 12, at the church, 6443 Merriman Road. Cost will be \$8 for a large tin and \$6 for a medium tin. Call (734) 421-8628.

**ADVENT RETREAT**  
Madonna University will hold an Advent retreat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Founder's Room and University Chapel in the Residence Hall on campus, Schoolcraft and Levan roads, Livonia.

This year's theme will be "Embody Christ." The Rev. Dave Cornett, a missionary of the Divine Word, will lead the activities, which include prayer, quiet reflection, conferences, lunch, a reconciliation service and liturgy. The cost of the retreat is \$12 for the entire day. Reservations can be made through Dec. 3 by calling Deacon Gene Desjarlais at (734) 432-5419.

**BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST**  
Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance to divorced and separated Christians, will have a dance at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, West Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. Cost is \$8 and includes refreshments. Participants should bring a hat or pair of gloves for the poor. For more information, call Rose at (734) 464-3325.

**CHRISTMAS MUSICALS**  
The congregation of Merriman Road Baptist Church will kick off the holiday season at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, with the first of three musical presentations, the Children's Department's "www.christmasonline.com."

The Youth Department takes over on Sunday, Dec. 13, with its 7 p.m. presentation of "Christmas Crossroads," while the Adult Choir has scheduled two performances of "The Father's Gift of Love" at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and Sunday, Dec. 20. The musical focuses on the events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ as told by those who were

present. Merriman Road Baptist Church is at 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. For more information, call the church office at (734) 421-0472.

**GOOSEBERRY SERVICE**  
The Chapels Gospel Group from Plymouth will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter Road, Westland. Free-will offering will be taken. Call Anna at (734) 729-8842.

**CHRISTMAS EVENTS**  
Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church is hosting "Christmas Around the World," a Christmas walk 5-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the church, 9601 Hubbard Ave., Livonia. Admission is free. To make reservations, call (734) 422-0494.

The church's Children's Christmas Pageant will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, featuring The Children's Pageant Choir performing "The Cow Said and the Donkey Replied" as written by church member Dixie Elam.

**SILVER STRINGS CONCERT**  
The Silver Strings will be in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City. The free concert will feature holiday music played on the lap and hammer dulcimer, guitar and other instruments. Call (734) 427-3660.

**HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE**  
St. John's Lutheran Church

Please see BIRMINGHAM, B3

Family Channel to air Lutheran Hour's 'Boots'

The engaging story of a bitter shoemaker who is visited by an angel on Christmas Eve will once again charm audiences of all ages this holiday season in the classic animated television special, "Red Boots for Christmas."

Produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries, the award-winning program is set for broadcast at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, on cable's Fox Family Channel. Through the 30-minute family special, LHM hopes to deliver the "true" message of Christmas. Following the broadcast, viewers will be given the opportunity to

call a toll-free number to receive a free children's storybook version of "Red Boots for Christmas."

In addition to the television special, the grumpy but lovable shoemaker named Hans and his pet cow, Aldo, also appear in full color at (www.org/redboots), offering visitors an electronic storybook, broadcast information, a free book offer and information about the program.

For more information about "Red Boots for Christmas" and other programs from Lutheran Hour Ministries, visit the "Wired with the Word" at www.lhm.org or by calling (800) 442-0324.

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# Religion from page B7

will have its holiday boutique following the 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, Dec. 6, at the church, 13542 Mercedes, east of Inkster Road and south of the I-75 freeway. Holiday baked goods and craft items will be sold. The church also will have its annual Little Christmas ethnic festival at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8. The evening will include worship service with hymns and music from several ethnic heritages and a dessert buffet with ethnic specialties. Call (313) 538-2660.

### RAFT-STORY HOUR

Newburg United Methodist Church will have a Christmas craft and story hour for preschoolers ages 2 1/2 to 5 and their parents 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, in the west end of Gutherie Hall. There will be child care available in the crib room for younger siblings. Call (734) 422-0149. Newburg United Methodist is at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

### GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Plymouth Baptist Church will present the concert "The Gift of Christmas," at 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 11-13, at the church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, 1/2 mile west of Haggerty Road, Plymouth. The concert features traditional and contemporary Christmas music in a "small-town" setting.

There is no admission charge,

however, a Salvation Army kettle will be available for donations. Children younger than age 5 will not be admitted into the auditorium. Full nursery and preschool care will be provided. Call (734) 453-5534.

### ASP BENEFIT

A spaghetti dinner and basket auction at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, will benefit the Appalachia Service Project, which sponsors youth and young adult work trips to Appalachia. Tickets - \$6.50 for adults, \$4 for children ages 3-12, and \$20 for a family of two adults and two children - for the auction will be on sale through Sunday, Dec. 6, or games for a rainy day. Call the Rev. Melanie Lee Carey at (734) 422-0149 or visit <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/newburgumc>.

### MUSICAL DRAMA

Covenant Community Church will present the musical drama, "The King: The Long Awaited Promise," at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 25800 Student St., at Beech Daly Road, Redford. The musical drama unfolds the life of Benjamin, a fictitious first century rabbi who considers the claims of Christ. Call (313) 535-3100.

# Alpha Baptist to build family center

Alpha Baptist Church in Livonia is expecting, so to speak, in the spring. That's the tentative completion date of its new 6,000-square-foot Family Life Center.

"We've looked forward to this day for a long time," said the Rev. Benson Kern, senior pastor at Alpha Baptist. "As our congregation grows, so does our need for a place where we can all gather in fellowship."

Ground was broken for the new center in October. The facility will include a gymnasium, changing rooms, kitchen and several classrooms.

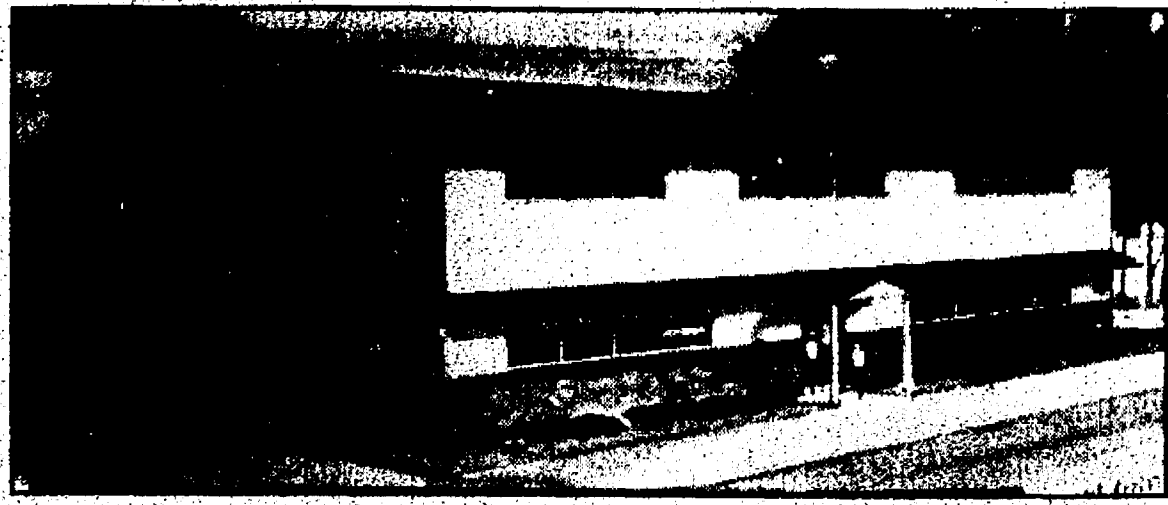
According to Kern, the center will be used for indoor athletic events, concerts, drama presentations, dinners and Sunday school classes.

"Our championship softball, basketball and volleyball teams have been begging for a place to practice during the winter months," Kern added. "This new Family Life Center promises to meet these needs and much more."

Alpha Baptist was founded in 1939 when Coronado Baptist Church was asked to sponsor a Sunday School in the neighborhood of the Dutcher home on Sherwood Lane in Livonia.

By January 1940, a formal meeting was called to organize the members of the Sunday School as a church.

By August 1941, lots were pur-



chased at the corner of Grantland and Arcola and the basement church was built. It was dedicated in October 1942.

The sanctuary was erected on the basement church in 1950, but by July 1952, the growth of the church made it necessary to sell the old church and once again meet in a school.

In September 1953, ground was broken for a new church at its present location, 28501 W. Chicago, west of Inkster Road, Livonia, and in November 1953 the name was changed to Alpha Baptist.

The new sanctuary was completed in July 1954, with a new educational facility and expanded sanctuary started in 1963. Further remodeling was undertaken in 1972 to make better use of the church facilities.

By the shovel: The Rev. Carl Young, pastor of Alpha Baptist Church from 1952 to 1987, assists the Rev. Benson Kern, pastor since 1995, with groundbreaking for the new 6,000-square-foot Family Life Center that's expected to be completed in the spring.



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# Observer Sports

The Observer

INSIDE:  
Prep hockey, C4  
College hoops, C5

L/W Page 1, Section C

Brad Emons, Editor 734 953 2123

on the web: <http://observer.ccentric.com>

Thursday, December 3, 1998

## Return of key wrestlers creates anxiety for start of new season

BY NEAL ZIPSER  
STAFF WRITER

Redford Catholic Central may want to keep the celebration going.

After repeating as the state's Class AA football champions last weekend, the Shamrocks may have another state title to boast.

Backed by a strong returning cast, CC has a good chance this season of winning the state title in wrestling.

The Shamrocks, a perennial power which has won the Catholic League wrestling title the past seven seasons, haven't won the state title since 1988.

That 10-year drought may end as CC returns three first-team All-Area performers: Casey Rogowski, the outstanding Observerland wrestler of 1998, Broce

Naysmith and Mitch Hancock.

Is it a coincidence that the wrestling squad may be able to match the football team's feat? Not necessarily, according to CC coach Mike Rodriguez.

"I think the two programs complement each other," he said. "I think the tenacity they get from wrestling helps them in football. And the good winning attitude and competition from football helps them in wrestling."

Rodriguez isn't too concerned about some of his star wrestlers starting late.

"This is not the first time the football team has gone this far and we've had wrestlers start late," he added. "The football season was long and will certainly drain them physically at the beginning of the wrestling season. Luck-

ily we have a long season and they should all be ready come time for March (the state tournament)."

Another team to watch this season will be Livonia Clarenceville, under second-year coach Todd Skinner. The Trojans are seeking their first Metro Conference championship after enjoying their first non-losing season in 16 years.

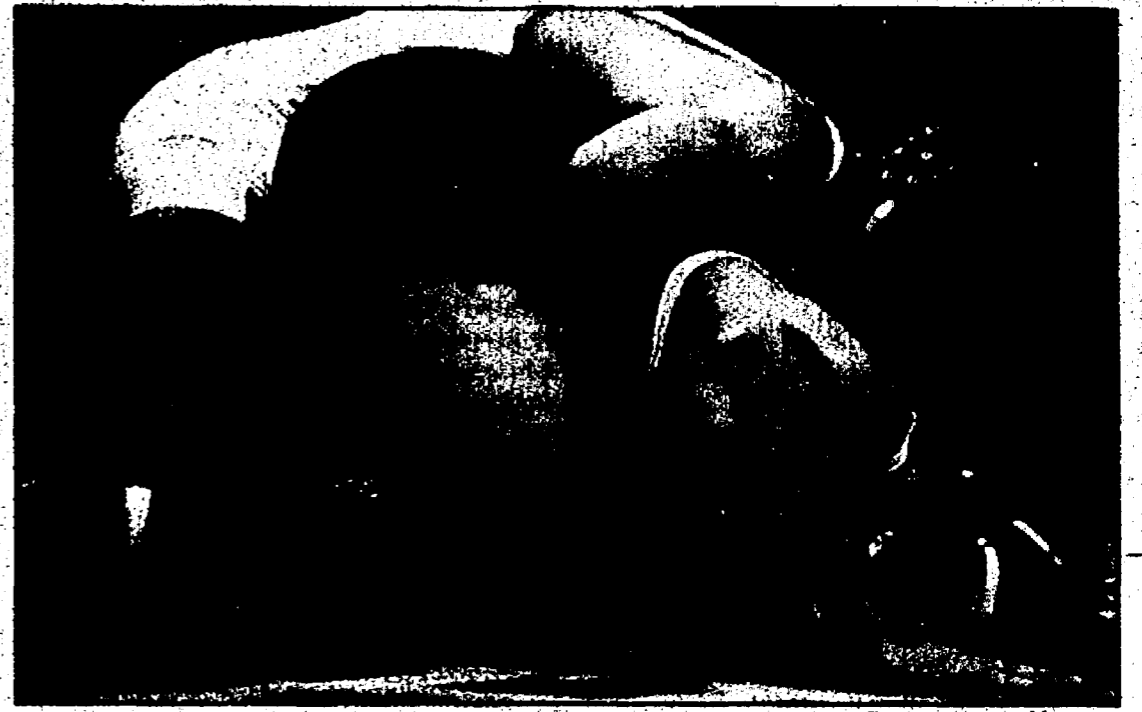
Team by team previews:

### REDFORD CC

The break between football and wrestling was brief for several Redford Catholic Central wrestlers.

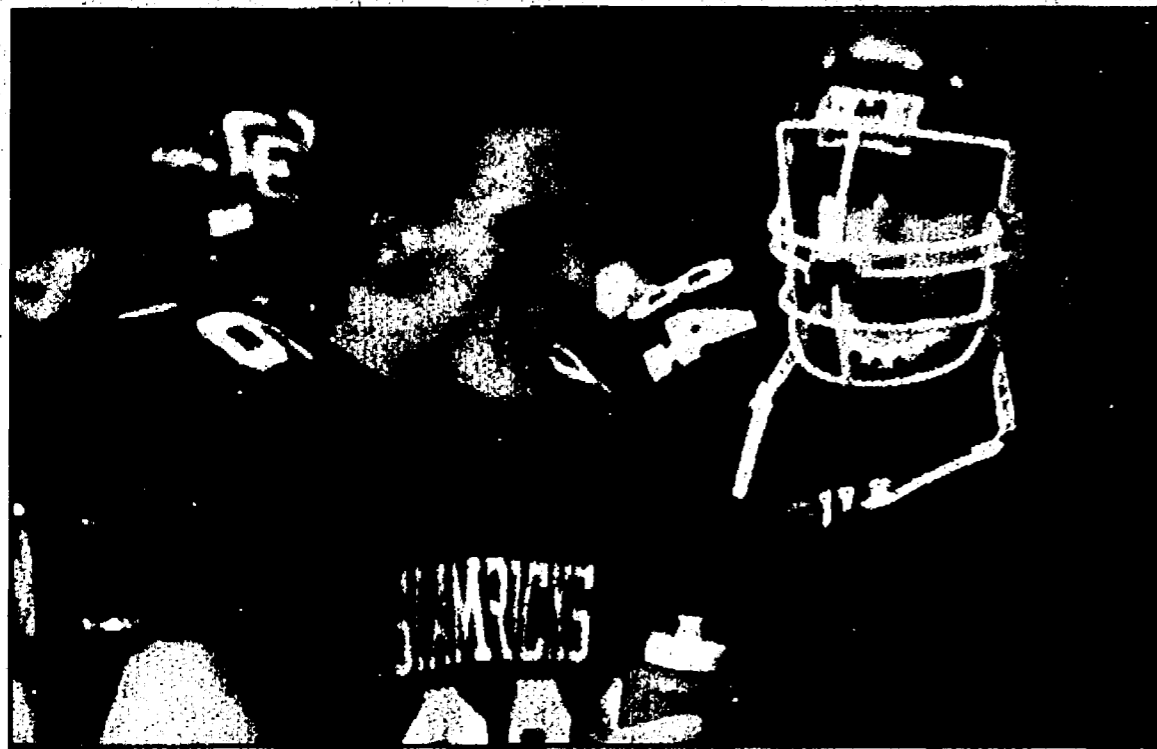
Some came to practice for the first time Monday as a result of the football team's title run. One of those to walk in

Please see **WRESTLE, C2**



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

On top of their game: Livonia Clarenceville's Walter Ragland (above) and Lutheran Westland's Josh Meyer (below) are two of many fine wrestlers to return this season, which begins tonight.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Catching a smile: End Derek Andersen of Livonia flashes a winning smile and gets congratulations from teammates after catching the winning TD pass Saturday in Catholic Central's 27-23 victory over Rockford in the Class AA football state title game.

## CC wraps up another football title with come-from-behind win

BY STEVE KOWALSKI

STAFF WRITER  
skowalski@oe.homecomm.net

Put Redford Catholic Central senior quarterback Dave Lusky indoors and he reaches for his security blanket.

Strange as it seems, Lusky's most reliable receiver in the Pontiac Silverdome has become senior Derek Andersen, who caught one pass in nine games played outdoors.

Andersen caught a 70-yard touchdown pass from Lusky with 5:04 left to erase a 23-21 deficit and give CC its second-straight Class AA state championship Saturday afternoon, 27-23, over Rockford.

Exactly a month earlier at the Silverdome, the two connected on a 21-yard pass on fourth down and 20 to set up

See related stories, C2, C8

the winning touchdown in a 22-16 win over Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the Catholic League championship.

Lusky, who as a kid used trees as targets when there was no one around to play catch with, couldn't find his Red Wood - 6-foot-5, 255-pound tight end Nick Brzezinski - or fullback Casey Rogowski open.

Andersen was the next option.

"It was actually supposed to go to Casey and they had it covered and Derek was the secondary receiver," Lusky said. "He told me in the huddle they weren't covering him. He did all the work, I just laid it in for him."

The ball appeared to have gone through the hands of the Rockford cor-

nerback, who was step for step with Andersen. The catch was made around the 30 and Andersen raced the rest of the way to the end zone.

"I just know we had it covered pretty darn well," Rockford coach Ralph Munger said.

The play stunned the crowd of 17,150 and capped another playoff rally by the Shamrocks, who found themselves down 23-14 after a nine-yard run by Rockford's Keith Wurn with 1:38 left in the third quarter.

Rockford, a heavy underdog, finished 11-2 overall record, its only losses coming to Detroit Catholic League opponents.

The Shamrocks, 12-0 overall, are the first back-to-back champions in AA.

Please see **CHAMPS, C3**

### OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

#### Sabres win tourney

The Sabres, a Mite team in the Livonia Hockey Association, won the Troy Thanksgiving Tournament with a 3-0-1 record.

The Sabres beat the Farmington Hills Ice Cats, 5-0, in the finals. They also beat the Troy Predators, 7-0, and the Great Lakes Wings (from Fraser), 3-2 in overtime, and tied the Great Lakes Leafs (Fraser), 2-2.

Team members included Robert Louwers, Colin Beck, Kenny Masiarczyk, Michael Padgen, Anthony Foresta, Pat McHugh, Nicholas Lawson, Greg Killeen, Daniel Yaquinto, Richard Stack, Justin Gilliam, Michael Piotrowski, Steven Godlew, Greg Michael, Vito Geluso and Joseph Cummings.

The coaches are John Louwers, Tom Beck, Jerry Cummings and Scott Lawson. Managers are Jim Stack and Lori Killeen.

#### Gymnastics Invitational

The Michigan Academy of Gymnastics is hosting its 20th Christmas Classic Invitational competition Dec. 11-13 at the gymnastics facility.

Girls 8-18 from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan will compete for individual and team awards in Compulsory Levels 5 and 6 plus Optional Levels 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Michigan Academy, owned and operated by Douglas Rowe, is at 5870 North Hix, between Ford and Warren Roads. For more information, call 721-4001.

#### Poglits Impressive

Freshman Sarah Poglits (Livonia Ladywood) of Loyola University Chicago was named to the All-Newcomer women's volleyball team and Second Team in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference.

Poglits ranked in the MCC's top 10 in kills per game with a 3.02 per-game average and had a .269 regular season hitting percentage good for seventh in the league.

She also had 112 total blocks with a single-game high of nine and averaged 1.66 digs per game.

The Ramblers were second in the MCC tournament Nov. 23 and Poglits was one of two team members selected to the All-Tournament squad.

## Clarenceville hires new boys basketball coach

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK  
STAFF WRITER

Bill Dyer is in and Rick Larson is out as varsity boys basketball coach at Livonia Clarenceville.

New Clarenceville athletic director Chuck Sorentino plucked the 32-year-old Dyer from an assistant's position at Dearborn Divine Child.

Dyer succeeds Rick Larson, whose contract was not renewed after going 40-53 in 4 1/2 seasons.

"All coaching contracts are up for one year," Sorentino said. "I reposted the job. Rick called me after the job was posted and I told him he was welcomed to reapply and he said he would, but he didn't."

"When I took the job I talked with Rick and asked him to do a number of things. He didn't attend the first coaches meeting and never contacted me. I asked him for team inventory, plan for the program, practice schedule and a wish list. But I never heard from him again. He also missed a second coaches meeting."

Larson, who ran a summer basketball program at Clarenceville, also coaches the highly successful girls varsity soccer team during the spring at Madison Heights Bishop Foley. He also recently finished his first season this fall as Madonna University women's soccer coach.

Sorentino also confirmed that JV coach Mark Skrela, a former Clarenceville player, has decided not to return.

Larson seemed mystified by Sorentino's action. "Inventory?" said Larson, who became interim coach in the middle of the 1994 season when Rob White left to take a job in Ohio. "I told him we had 13 jerseys. Maybe we could have used some real basketballs. I don't know what else he was looking for. I didn't think there was a sense of urgency so early in the fall."

"He (Sorentino) acted like he was playing God. I'm kind of glad I don't have to come back there and coach under those circumstances."

"As far as not making the coaches meeting, I moved during the summer. And when I did, they never got my address so I never heard from them."

"Then, when he told me the job was being reposted, I told him I wouldn't be reapplying. Whatever he thinks I did not do, I don't think it was deserving of my having to reapply for a job I held for five years."

"Maybe it was a formality, but I think it was pretty obvious what he was trying to do from the get-go."

"It's kind of a sad situation. I enjoyed working with the kids."

Dyer, meanwhile, is currently teaching seventh and eighth grade math at Pierce Middle School in the South Redford Schools.

"He's been working a number of years under Joe Charnley at Divine Child, whom I considered one of the finest coaches in the Catholic League," Sorentino said. "Bill is level-headed, a fine teacher and a young and enthusiastic guy."

"He knows the game and will help develop the program."

Please see **DYER, C4**

# 4 DAYS THIS WEEKEND

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# Wrestle from page C1

was senior Casey Rogowski, who won the state title last season at heavyweight.

Rogowski, now in his second year at heavyweight, went undefeated in 45 matches last season despite not being ranked in a statewide poll.

He is 100 percent after suffering a broken leg early in football season and his goal is "to repeat as state champ," Rogowski said. "That's the only direction Casey knows."

Also walking in to practice for the first time was senior Brock Nayamith. The 215-pounder, Rodriguez's grandson, posted a 40-4 record last season and has a 99-12 career mark.

Another returning grappler is junior Mitch Hancock, a two-time first-team All-Area wrestler. He finished 44-8 last season and fourth in the state after losing to the eventual 135-pound champ.

This season, Hancock will wrestle at 152 and try to improve his 92-8 mark.

"Mitch is bigger and stronger this season and a state title is not out of his reach," Rodriguez said.

Senior John Abshire, another state qualifier and a third-team All-Area wrestler, returns at 189 pounds. In the wings is junior Andrew Conlin.

Arguably CC's smartest wrestler, junior Jess Norman, a member of CC's Quiz Bowl team, will compete at 171.

At 160 pounds, freshmen Brian Jackett and Blake Nayamith will vie.

Junior Sean Bell, a third team All-Area wrestler last season, is at 145.

Mike Werner, who won the district title as a freshman last year, will compete at 140.

Rodriguez has a problem at the 135 class — too much talent. The foursome of seniors Ron Sarata and Jeff Wheeler, sophomore Andy Lendrum and freshman Jay Abshire compete.

Other wrestlers include junior Peter Mazzarese at 130, and sophomores Chris Petersen at 125, Josh Crawford at 119, Tom Buddenberg at 112 and Chris O'Hara at 103.

"This is the year we've been waiting for," Rodriguez said. "There will be very tough competition as usual, but this is by far one of the best teams we've had here in 10 years."

Rodriguez has fewer things to worry

about thanks to coaching additions Sam Amine and sons Dave and Chris.

## LIVONIA STEVENSON

The team that lost perhaps the most talent was Livonia Stevenson.

But don't call the Spartans lightweights, even though they do have the area's most impressive pair.

Senior Joe Moran and junior Josh Gunterman will switch off at 103 and 112 and are considered best at those weights in preseason rankings.

Senior Brian Barker also returns at 160 along with sophomore Imad Kharbush, who earned third-team All-Area honors as a freshman.

Junior Mike Falton, who missed most of last season due to a broken leg is also back along with junior Mike Radley at 170. Sophomore Chris Cooperider will wrestle at 130 or 135.

"We have the same problem as last year: not a lot of experience at the heavier weights," Stevenson Coach Don Berg said. "It will be tough for us to fill all 14 spots."

Even though the Spartans return talent, Stevenson will be missing three first team All-Area performers. Notable losses are Dan Seder, second at the state tournament at 135, Katsuhiko Sueda (141-25) and Chris Goins (40-9) at 119 last season.

"We're trying to reload but we're not sure how many bullets we have," Berg said. "It will be interesting to see how we do. I'm not sure if there is a dominant team in the league this year other than Northville."

"The big thing for us will be to see how well we do come February when it's time to prepare for the state tournament. That's what matters."

## LIVONIA CHURCHILL

It will be a building year for the Livonia Churchill wrestling team.

However the Chargers return three wrestlers who are among the best in the area at their weights.

Returning from injury is senior Steve Vasiloff, who compiled a 20-11 mark at 125 pounds last season before breaking a bone in his leg.

Also back is senior Brandon LaPointe, a second-team All-Area

wrestler at 152 pounds. He recorded a 28-10 mark last season.

The third member of the impressive trio is junior Mike Carter at 145. Carter placed fourth at the Observerland meet last year and compiled a 24-11 record.

"I like to say these three are in the upper echelon of wrestlers but you never know in this sport," coach Marty Altounian said. "These three are real good people, understand their roles and how to handle certain situations. They lead by example and the rest of the team will learn by watching."

The remaining spots will be taken by young wrestlers. Making early good impressions are freshmen Tom Vandebosche at 215 and Brian Jones, who will compete at 135 or 140.

"This is the largest amount of young wrestlers I've ever had," he said.

## LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Former Eastern Michigan University Ken Meinhardt takes over the Livonia Franklin wrestling program this season.

Meinhardt will have his work cut out for him. He got the coaching job less than two weeks ago.

The Patriots have had only three days of practice under Meinhardt, who declined comment about his team until he has seen them more.

According to the new coach, 26 potential wrestlers showed up to the team's first practice including All-Area honorable mention performers Ryan Shiplett, Eric Toska, Steve Mylinsky and Derek Azzopardi.

Franklin opens its season Thursday at a quad meet at Dearborn Fordson.

## WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

A new face is leading the Westland John Glenn wrestling program this season — sort of.

Taking over for David Hill as head coach is Keith Zimmerman, who assisted Hill the past nine seasons. What's the difference?

"The paperwork," Zimmerman said. "It's incredible how much there is. But other than the responsibilities, there's not too much different."

One thing different is that John

Fedulchak, who had over 100 career wins, is no longer around.

The Rockets will also be without the services of 215-pounder Jake Tharp, who injured his leg in the football team's victory over Wayne and decided not to wrestle.

This leaves Glenn lean on experience and talent, but the Rockets do return senior Pete Langer at 160. Also back are juniors Jesse Purdon at 112, Jeff Albrecht at 130 and Eric McMichael at 135.

The Rockets received a lift from two football players. Senior Bobby Hagelthorn will compete at 189 and senior J.T. Pillsbury at 215.

Senior Javonn Perkins will compete at 171 while a few sophomores will play key roles. They include Chris Wolfgang at 145, Chris Smith at 119 and Derek Gismondi at 130 or 135.

"This will be somewhat of a rebuilding year for us," Zimmerman said. "We have our numbers high right now and it will help us if we can keep those numbers high. Once we get our lineup ironed out, we should be all right."

"But one thing you can be certain of — we will be ready and we will be aggressive like usual."

## WAYNE MEMORIAL

Last season saw the end of a two-year district championship streak for Wayne Memorial's wrestlers.

Though this year's squad may be improved, regaining a district crown will be tough for the Zebras because they lost several key grapplers including heavyweight William Laramie and Jason Sienko (135).

Wayne does return two regional qualifiers: senior Nate Wensko (30-12), a two-time regional qualifier at 135 pounds, and junior Jon Gregg (119).

"Nate will be one of the better wrestlers at 135 in the area," Wayne coach Dave Davis said. "He's aggressive and doesn't give up. I've seen him win several matches in the last minute."

Jon wrestled at 112 last year and he improved as the season went on and really finished strong."

Perhaps the most improved wrestler on the team will be senior Justin Beseler at 125 pounds, according to Davis. Another possible surprise will be senior Mike Kassabri at 112.

Two more seniors who should see plenty of action are Ken Raupp at 145 or 152 and Kurt Spann at 160.

"Overall, we are a slightly better team," Davis said. "We're definitely a more balanced team and we have a good mix of wrestlers in terms of experience."

Other wrestlers who may make an impact this season include senior Justin Green at heavyweight, sophomore Matt Agar at 171 and sophomore Jeff Potter at 145.

## LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Don't be surprised if Livonia Clarenceville winds up right behind Catholic Central as the area's best team. That's right, the Trojans.

Success on the mats has been rare at Clarenceville, but times have changed under second-year coach Todd Skinner.

After a 9-9-1 season last year — the first non-losing season since 1982 — the Trojans may be looking at winning their first Metro Conference championship. Last season, Clarenceville finished second to Harper Woods.

"Our long-term goal here is to create a strong program and build interest in wrestling at the middle school level," Skinner said. "Our goal for this season is to have a winning record, win the conference title and then see what comes next."

Leading the Trojans will be the same person who led them on the football field this fall — Walter Ragland. The senior, 33-10 last year, will be one of the area's top wrestlers at 189 pounds and looks to become a three-time Metro Conference champ.

Also returning is junior Josh Rose at heavyweight. Rose finished second in the conference and was 21-20.

This year's lineup will also include junior Dan Tondreau at 112. At 103 last season, he won the conference title with a 31-10 mark. Freshman Nick Elam may also wrestle at 112.

Other wrestlers at the lower weights include freshman Eric Burr at 103, sophomore Tim Sampson at 119 and freshman Matt Combs at 125.

Senior Dave Lemon, a 25-win performer last season, will compete at 130 with junior George Gostias at 135. Gostias, a soccer player, is in better shape than last season where he wrestled at 152.

At 140, sophomore Dan LeClerc will try to improve on his second place conference finish. Sophomore Mike Hudson will also see time at the 140 class.

Junior Matt Wiehl and sophomore Rob Simpson are battling for the opening at 145, while sophomore Charlie Ufford will step into the spot at 152.

Senior Tony Rachoza, who finished second in the Metro last year with more than 25 wins, returns at 160. He will be backed up by junior Jose Aguilera and freshman Ryan Smith.

Senior Adam Marcum returns at 171 with sophomore Steve Rothenberger stepping in at 215.

Some Trojans even have the possibility of advancing to the state tournament this year — another rare achievement for the school's program.

"The varsity returnees know what they have to do to advance that far," Skinner said. "We have a good mix of experienced wrestlers with younger wrestlers."

The Trojans will most likely field a wrestler at every weight class.

"Just five years ago, we had only five wrestlers on the squad," Skinner said. "This season, we have 22 on the team and will have the chance to field a complete team for the first time since 1985."

In addition, Skinner has strengthened his coaching staff with the addition of Clint Craft and former Trojans John Rose and Chris Lackner.

## LUTHERAN WESTLAND

Lutheran Westland finished third in the Metro Conference last season, but this will be a rebuilding year for the Warriors.

Coach Dennis Tuomi, now in his 12th season at Westland, has only two seniors and one junior on his squad. The other 16 spots on the squad are taken by freshmen and sophomores.

Gone from last year's squad are several seniors, most notably third-team All-Area heavyweight Matt Meyer. Junior Joshua Meyer, Matt's younger brother, is one of three key returning grapplers. He will wrestle at 189 pounds.

The two seniors who return from last season's 5-11 squad are Ryan Soos, who will compete at 145 or 150, and 171-pounder Scott Archer.

Sophomore Adam Haller, who wrestled at 103 last season, will make the move to 112 this year.

The remaining spots on the team will be battled over by a group of 10 freshmen and six sophomores.


"Most of the underclassmen have never wrestled before," Tuomi said. "This definitely will be a rebuilding year, but we expect to improve as the season goes on."

The Warriors open their season Saturday at Lutheran East.

According to Tuomi, defending Metro Conference champion Harper Woods will again be the team to beat. Macomb Lutheran North and Clarenceville should also field strong squads.


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Observer & Eccentric





# Dyer from page C1

He'll teach fundamentals, and he'll move the program forward." Clarenceville is a member of the Metro Conference and Dyer said he is familiar with the league.

The Divine Child team he's helped coach the past few seasons has played Metro basketball power Hamtramck on a regular basis.

So he knows what the top of the league looks like. Now he'll get familiar with how the other half lives.

"From what I understand," Dyer said, "realistically, if we can get some kids who are fairly competitive, we can do fairly well over here."

"I'm looking at it as a good opportunity. I've got nothing to lose."

Dyer wants to bring a little of

the Divine Child practices and policies with him."

He knows no successful program is built without hard work during the "off" season and at the lower levels of the community.

"I'm hoping to some of the things we do at Divine Child," he said, "and that is to play a lot of games in the summer, under a lot of conditions."

"I've got a good program for lifting (weights), running, conditioning."

"If we get kids excited, interested, that should help us in the long run."

"I feel that if you show a little bit of interest, a little bit of effort, and you get the same return from the kids, you shouldn't have any problems at all."

Dyer also wants to get some-

thing started in the lower grade levels.

Installing a system pays dividends in the long run. All the successful programs are built from the bottom levels up.

That's a secret all good coaches know.

"We want to teach them the same things, run the same plays, so that when they get to the varsity level it's not a whole new experience."

"And I want them to have expectations. They have to know what they have to do to be successful."

Just like their coach.

Sorentino has known Dyer for some time. He was one of the candidates the Trojans' AD contacted to replace Larson.

Dyer played high school basketball at Divine Child, finishing

with the Falcons in 1984.

He went to Central Michigan for a year, then transferred to Madonna University, where he played from 1986-88.

He passed on his final season of eligibility to complete his work toward his degree.

Dyer then started coaching track, middle school girls basketball and had been working with the Falcons' boys high school team for the past five seasons.

"I'm hooked. I'm addicted (to coaching), I guess. And when you teach, your schedule is set up so that if you like to do things like that, it's available."

"My wife, Sue, stays at home with our two kids. That affords me the ability to do that."

Brad Emons also contributed to this report.

# Whalers, Ambassadors win

Harold Druken offered more offense than the Peterborough Petes could handle.

Druken, the Ontario Hockey League's leading scorer, got three goals and an assist to lead the Plymouth Whalers to a 6-3 victory over the Petes at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

The win kept the Whalers atop the OHL's West Division with a 20-4-2 record; Peterborough dropped to 14-11.

Druken scored his first goal on a power play 3:21 into the game. He added two more in the second period, giving him 33 for the season. Adam Colagiaco and Julian Smith added a goal and an assist apiece, with Jamie LaLonde also getting a goal. David Legwand and Shaun Fisher contributed two assists each.

Detroit led 2-0 after one period and 4-1 after two. Two quick goals by the Petes early in the final period narrowed the margin to 4-3, but Smith and LaLonde both scored in the last

six minutes to insure the win. Robert Holsinger was in goal for the Plymouth win; he made 28 saves. Mike Pickard made 24 stops for Peterborough.

## Ambassadors still No. 1

Two weekend wins assured the Compuware Ambassadors they would retain first place in the North American Hockey League.

The Ambassadors improved to 18-4-1 with a 5-0 win over Team USA in Ann Arbor Friday and a 4-2 triumph over the St. Louis Sting Saturday at Compuware Arena. Five different players scored in the win in Ann Arbor Friday, and goalie Craig Kowalski had 25 saves in earning his second shutout of the season.

In Saturday's win over St. Louis, Troy Milam and J.J. Swistak each got their second goals of the weekend. The Sting's Aaron Smith scored in the first period to end his team's string of 167 consecutive scoreless minutes against Compuware.

# CC hockey team hot, too

Detroit Catholic Central's hockey team gave the school's fans more to cheer Saturday night with a 7-0 victory over Dearborn Divine Child at Redford Ice Arena.

The win came hours after the CC football team won its second-straight Class AA state title.

CC goaltender Ben Dunne earned the shutout with 27 saves as the Shamrocks improved to 3-0.

CC junior forward David Moss had a hat trick and sophomore linemate David Spiewak added two goals.

The Shamrocks, who led 3-0 after one period and 6-0 through two, had four power play goals.

Brad Holland and Matt VanHeest had the other CC goals.

Todd Bentley and Keith Rowe collected three assists each and Chris Morelli two. Van Heest, Ryan Yost, Nick Lewarne, Sean McGowan and Spiewak assisted on one goal each.

"Any time you get four (power play goals) in a game, that's OK," CC coach Gordie St. John

said. "They're still young, got a lot to learn, got to learn the discipline of the game."

St. John said he doesn't have a No. 1 line among his four but Moss, Spiewak and Bentley are sure playing like it.

"They are playing very well," St. John said. "If you can throw out four equal lines, you wear out opponents who are only using three. We don't have a first line and if we did I'd switch it around to get equality."

A recent 6-4 win over the Red Wings Old-Timers, whose roster included Gary Bergman, Alex Delvecchio and more recent NHL players John Ogronick and Mark Hamway, helped St. John reach the 100 win mark in his sixth season as CC coach.

St. John downplayed the win because he remembers the Shamrocks' 1997 Class A state champion team getting whipped by the Red Wings Old-Timers.

"I don't think (the Red Wings old-timers) had been skating that long," St. John said. "You play them in January and they'd be a whole lot stronger."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

AAU HOOP TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the Livonia Lassies girls AAU basketball team will be 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Livonia Stevenson for the girls 10-under and 11-under teams with tryouts for the 12-under team to be 7:30-9 p.m.

Girls playing CYO or LJAL or at the YMCA are welcome. Those who cannot make the tryout but are interested in the team are asked to call Wayne Henry at (248) 624-7839.

Tryouts for the Oakland Lady Hawks 14-year-old girls AAU basketball team will be held 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8 at the Evans Rec Center and on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Royal Oak Township Recreation Hall.

The Evans Rec Center is on 13950 Joseph Campau, between McNichols and Davison Freeway. The Royal Oak Township Rec Hall is on 21272 Mendota.

There is a \$10 fee each day. Call Loretta Tindle at (248) 548-8869 or Linda Tate at (313) 893-5482 for more information.

BASEBALL TRYOUTS

The Michigan Yankees Rebels will hold tryouts for its 1999 Little Caesars travel team for 10 year olds and under at 3 p.m. Dec. 13 and 20 at the Sports Academy in Northville.

The team plans to play 5-6 tournaments including trips to Knoxville, Tenn., and Chicago in a schedule of some 50 games.

To register or for more information call Bob Ramsey at (313) 928-5691 or (313) 562-4667.

BOYS GOING STRONG

Tony Goins (Westland John Glenn) continues to climb the Wayne State basketball all-time scoring list.

The senior needed 202 points entering tonight's game against Michigan Tech to become the Tartars' all-time leading scorer.

He entered the game with 1,410 points, fifth on the list. He was fifth in field goals made (528) and fourth in shots attempted (1,124).

MICHIGAN SOCCER WINS

Three players from Livonia schools helped the University of Michigan's Men's Club Soccer team win its National Championship Nov. 19-21 in Phoenix.

The Wolverines defeated Arizona State, 1-0, in the semifinals and Weber State, 2-1, in the

championship game.

Team members included Pete Lechowicz of Stevenson and Schoecraft College, Brian O'Beirne of Churchill and Jason Buelow of Franklin.

PEE WEE WINNERS

The Livonia Pee Wee Avalanche team earned a runner-up finish in the Monroe Thanksgiving Tournament.

The Avalanche were defeated in the finals, 2-0, by Lincoln Park with the second goal coming into an empty net.

Goalie Nick Hill recorded an 8-0 shutout win against Monroe House III in the tournament opener with Justin Stadler getting a hat trick.

The team followed with a 7-1 victory over the Grosse Pointe Psycho Penguins and a 4-1 victory over the Lincoln Park House team. The Avalanche are coached by Bob Stadler, Bob Hill and Dave Quenneville.

Other team members include Mike Baaso, Kevin Bendert, Marc Bokas, Pat Cooper, Matt Dunatchik, Mike Gardner, Frank Gribeck, Reed Klaff, Cory Quenneville, Steve Rakoczy, Ryan Rowe, Kenny Sinclair, Joe Swenders and Tim Wilson.

The Livonia Pee Wee Penguins (Division B) team took first place in the Thanksgiving Tournament at City Sports Arena.

The Penguins swept five games to take the title in their division. The team is coached by Kevin Gentry with assistants Rick Leirstein, Matt Leirstein, Tim Hollandsworth and Steve Vesey.

Penguin team members include Tim Nawrocki, Justin Zagata, Chris Marsh, Joe Kozlowski, Jon Szeliga, Joe Padden, Nick Dahlstrom, Matt Warren, Pat Meier, Sean O'Neill, Jeff Hollandsworth, Shawn Martin, Stephen Parker, Jacob Pierzynski, Jamie Murray and Bryan Walters.

CURL BREAKS IN

Sophomore right guard Eric Curl (Livonia Stevenson) is being tabbed a key member of the Bowling Green State University offensive line next season.

Curl started two games at right guard as a freshman and 11 games this season. The Falcons, who were 5-6 this season, return five veteran offensive linemen in 1999.

Good for a half century

Madonna University celebrated its 50th anniversary with a basketball game at the University of Michigan. The Crusaders defeated the Wolverines 74-61.

The Crusaders' halftime lead was largely the result of strong first-half shooting. They converted 15-of-28 shots (53.6 percent) to Albion's 14-of-32 (43.8 percent).

Led by Tim Czarnocki's 25 points on 12-of-13 floor shooting, Albion was a remarkable 22-of-27 from the field in the second half (81.5 percent). The Brits were equally dominant on the boards, outrebounding Madonna 34-21 — which included 13 offensive rebounds compared to the Crusaders' 12 defensive boards.

Michael Massey's 11 points was best for Madonna; Mike Maryanski and Narvin Russaw added nine points each and Nick Hurley (from Plymouth Canton) had eight. Russaw and Hurley also had three assists apiece.

Erick Shaffer and Steve Conger chipped in with 10

points each for Albion.

Stamm's 20 points

was best for Tyndale. "We played up to our capabilities," said Briggs. "We didn't let down. There's a tendency in games like this to let down and play to the level of the competition. We didn't do that."

The Crusaders got up quickly and were rebounding in a 10-0 lead by halftime, in part due to a defense that limited the Brits to 31 percent shooting; Madonna shot 44 percent.

Murray converted 10-of-12 floor shots and 5-of-6 free throws, scoring a game-best 26 points. She grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds, had three assists and three steals.

Other major contributors Lori Enfield and Michelle Miala with 10 points apiece; Chris Dietrich with nine; Kristi Fiorensi (Plymouth Canton) with six points and 10 boards; and Carissa Cizicki at 10.

A strong first-half defensive

effort and Mary Murray's superb all-around effort helped Madonna University's women's basketball team rebound from its first loss of the season to win easily at Albion College, 74-61 Tuesday.

The Lady Crusaders say 5-1. Albion's 1-3.

Madonna opened up a 10-0 lead by halftime, in part due to a defense that limited the Brits to 31 percent shooting; Madonna shot 44 percent.

Murray converted 10-of-12 floor shots and 5-of-6 free throws, scoring a game-best 26 points. She grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds, had three assists and three steals.

Other major contributors Lori Enfield and Michelle Miala with 10 points apiece; Chris Dietrich with nine; Kristi Fiorensi (Plymouth Canton) with six points and 10 boards; and Carissa Cizicki at 10.

Five points and five assists

Madonna scored 13 points and eight rebounds good Albion, Madison State and 39 points and 20 rebounds.

Madonna recovered from a 10-0 lead in the game (24 percent) to Albion, shooting 67.4 percent. The Crusaders also had a commanding edge on the boards, outrebounding the Brits 68-38.

Last Saturday at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., unbeaton Bullies pounded Madonna 98-69 to move to 6-0.

With five minutes gone the Crusaders were down 18-12. That's when the roof collapsed, as Rollins put together an 18-2 run to increase its lead to 20. Madonna trimmed that deficit to 48-34 by halftime, but the Crusaders were never able to completely recover.

Murray's 13 points was best for Madonna; Enfield added 10.

Harrison reflects on title

Another championship season ended Friday for Farmington Harrison's football team, and there was no practice this week for the first time in four months.

So you probably think everything was back to normal and business as usual again Monday at the school.

Not so for coach John Herrington, who finished his 29th season and was starting preparations for the next one.

"Today was a very hectic day, as busy a day as there is during the year," he said. "It takes a week to get settled back into the regular routine."

Besides his daily teaching load, Herrington was fielding phone calls from college recruiters, ring salesmen and city hall, which plans to honor

the team with an official proclamation.

Then, there was the "glorious part of football," according to Herrington — the end-of-season equipment return and inventory.

After school Monday, Herrington also met individually with a dozen seniors who aspire to play college football. On Tuesday, there were sixth-hour talks with juniors and more after-school sessions with sophomores and freshmen.

"The season never really ends; it just moves to the next phase," Herrington said.

The 1998 season ended with the Hawks winning a second consecutive Class A title and their ninth state championship overall with a 35-13 win over Hudsonville in the finals Friday.

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## Entsminger's return gives Shamrocks lift

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER  
skowalski@cc-homecomm.net

It was an unfamiliar role but Redford Catholic Central senior Kyle Entsminger was back in uniform for the Class AA state football championship Saturday at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Entsminger, who started the first nine games of the season at running back, dressed for the first time since injuring his knee in the Shamrocks' 12-7 regional semifinal playoff victory over Dearborn Fordson on Nov. 7.

Entsminger didn't have any carries but played on special teams in a 27-23 victory over Rockford as CC repeated as state champion.

Entsminger returned a kickoff 13 yards to the CC 20 to start the second half.

His starting backfield mate most of the year, John Kava, scored 13 plays later to cap an 80-yard drive and cut the Shamrocks deficit to 16-14.

Entsminger gained 736 yards in 131 carries for a 5.6 yard average and seven TDs prior to the injury. His seven-yard run in the final minutes against Fordson was the game winner.

### Timely return

A 29-yard kickoff return by Steve Ivy gave the Shamrocks possession at Rockford's 43.

The good field position led to a 12-yard touchdown pass from CC senior quarterback Dave Lusky to senior tight end Nick Brzezinski with 1:45 left in the first half.

### Creative thinking

Rockford's offensive playbook had the CC players' heads spinning on two of its touchdowns.

Rockford went ahead 23-14 with 1:38 left in the third quarter when Keith Wurn took a lateral from quarterback Dan Richard and faked a pass, only to run around the end after a CC defensive back fell for the fake.

The Rams also scored on a 35-yard flea-flicker pass from quarterback Dan Richard to Courtney Yon to take a 6-0 lead in the second quarter.

Richard started the play with a hand-off to a halfback, who pitched to a wide receiver.

The wide receiver then threw a lateral across the field to Richard, who was a yard behind the line of scrimmage before throwing the ball.

"It wasn't funny then but I laugh about it now because I never saw that before," said Lusky, one of the players in the CC secondary.

Richard's 13 completions (in 21 attempts) were a new Class AA finals record.

### A numbers game

CC outgained Rockford, 151-128, in rushing yardage but the Rams had a better average per carry. Rockford rushed 30 times for a 4.3 yard average and CC 45 times for a 3.4 yard average.

Lusky completed six passes to five different players, led by Brzezinski with two catches for 47 yards.

Casey Rogowski, Derek Andersen, Matt Loidas and Jeff Potts had one catch each.

### CC's Sgroi outstanding

The Shamrocks have to be excited about their kicking game the next two seasons, the way sophomore Mike Sgroi handled the placekicking on Saturday.

Sgroi nailed three extra points and put two of his five kickoffs into the end zone for touchbacks.

He also kicked one to the four, another to the seven and quib kicked a ball to the 10 that stayed in-bounds and was returned only six yards.

Sgroi, who missed much of the season due to a leg injury, ended a recent CC practice with a 55-yard field goal.

CC's Jack of All Trades, Lusky, handled most of the placekicking this season.

Rockford punter Dave Rysko showed why he came in with a 41.0 yard average. Rysko averaged 47.3 yards for four punts, all of which had great hang time. He had a long of 53 yards.

Lusky punted twice for a 36.0 yard average.

### Harrison vs. CC?

Farmington Hills Harrison and Detroit Catholic Central may meet on the football field some time in the next millennium but don't hold your breath about a matchup any time soon.

The debate is brewing over who had the better team this year: The Class AA champion Shamrocks or the Class A champion Hawks, who finished their seasons undefeated.

## Bishop Borgess one step closer to crown

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER  
skowalski@cc-homecomm.net

Hampton Inn is a popular motel chain, but on Tuesday night it was a phrase often heard from the mouth of Redford Bishop Borgess girls basketball coach Dave Mann.

"Hampton, in," is what Mann would say when he'd need a spark off the bench. And in went freshman forward Raechelle Hampton to the Class C quarterfinal game against Sandusky.

Hampton, who didn't get into regional victories over Detroit Communication and Media Arts and Riverview Gabriel Richard, provided five points, a handful of rebounds and solid defense in a 52-33 victory at Troy Athens.

Sandusky, 20-4 overall, has lost to Borgess in three of the last six quarterfinals.

The win means the Spartans could make reservations (at the Hampton Inn, just for good luck?) again for Mount Pleasant, the site of the Final Four. Borgess, the defending Class C state champion with a 16-10 record and 10-game winning streak, meets Freeland in a semifinal at 2:50 p.m. Thursday at Central Michigan University's Rose Arena.

Freeland, a 52-44 winner over Grand Rapids Baptist, is 23-2. The final is at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Hampton doesn't care if she sits or plays, but was glad to contribute.

"If me sitting on the bench makes us win, I'll do it," she said. "I played more than I expected tonight."

Hampton and another freshman, 6-foot-1 center Joei Clyburn, should form a formidable front line in the future.

"Raechelle really gave us a lift and when she scores it's a bonus," Mann said. "I didn't play

her last week, not because she's not playing well or because I don't have confidence in her, but because the kids I had on the floor I was comfortable with."

Mann couldn't get comfortable against Sandusky until late in the third quarter when consecutive baskets by senior guard Tiffany Simon gave the Spartans a 35-26 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

Borgess started the fourth quarter on a 12-2 run, highlighted by three layups off steals by sophomore guard Michelle Catchings for a 47-28 lead.

The run also included a basket after a delay in the half-court offense by Simon and two buckets in the paint by sophomore forward DeShawna Hoskins.

"They're so aggressive and physical, we just couldn't handle it," Sandusky coach Al DeMott said. "We hit our peak at the end of the year and I'd like to go one more step (in the state playoffs) but I'm extremely proud of them."

The teams were tied at 8 after one quarter before Borgess had scoring runs of seven and six points in the second quarter to enjoy a 21-14 halftime lead.

Sandusky's best players are juniors: Marcy Bissett and Julie Guttowski. Bissett led the Redskins with 13 points, 11 after halftime. Guttowski had all eight of the Redskins' first-quarter points and 12 overall.

Guttowski didn't play in last year's quarterfinal because of an injury.

"I said (to his players) 'Their guards can all shoot, and 32 (Guttowski) is back in full force,'" Mann said. "Al is such a great coach, one of the best in the state, and there are certain coaches that no matter how athletic we are, they are good enough to negate the things we do. They frustrate you and hold the ball so long."

Simon had 16 to lead Borgess and Catchings added 14, 10 in the second half. Hoskins added eight and Amber Taylor six.

Sophomore forward Stacy Cobbs had a handful of rebounds and one point, totals that are shy

of her averages.

She also had an excuse. "I got my immunization shots today and my arm is a little lazy," she said. "I got three in this arm today and it's still aching."

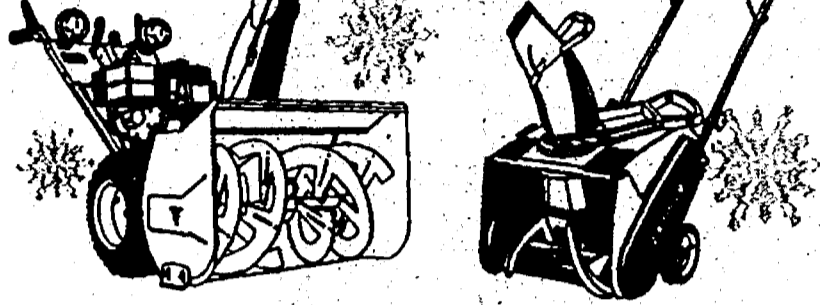
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## THE WEEKEND

### FRIDAY



The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford presents "A Chorus Line" 8 p.m. at the theater, 15138 Beech Daly, Redford. Tickets \$12 adults, \$11 seniors and students, (313) 531-0554.

### SATURDAY



You'll find a variety of gifts for everyone on your list at the third annual Village Potters Guild Holiday Show and Sale 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 340 North Main, south of Mill St. (Lilley), behind the Plymouth Landing Restaurant, (734) 207-8807.

### SUNDAY



The Michigan premiere of "Resident Alien" by Stuart Spencer opens 7:30 p.m. at the Adron DeRoy Theatre, lower level of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Tickets \$13 to \$23, call (248) 788-2900.

## HOT



Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester will delight guests of every age with "Picture Perfect Holidays" through Sunday, Dec. 6. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission for the Holiday Walk is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 13, \$6 for Oakland University affiliates with I.D., (248) 370-3140.

# Noel Night

offers a wonderland of sounds and sights



Featured performers: The Festival Singers will light up Detroit's University Cultural Center with carols and street theater on Noel Night.

BY LINDA ANN CHROMIN  
STAFF WRITER  
lchromin@oe.homecomm.net

Dressed in Victorian coats and capes, Sharon Thomas and Kevin Finke take to the streets of Detroit's Cultural Center in a holiday celebration of caroling and live theater with the Festival Singers on "Noel Night" Dec. 5. Thomas, a Waterford voice teacher, Finke of Royal Oak, and nine other members of the Festival Singers, including Thomas' husband Stephen, play 28 characters from Charles Dickens' classic tale "A Christmas Carol" with the Detroit Institute of Arts as a backdrop. They will be among the hundreds of handbell ringers and choirs joining in the event for an evening alive with singing, children's activities, a tree lighting ceremony, and horse-drawn carriage rides.

The 26-year-old tradition of "Noel Night" transforms the area into a holiday wonderland of sights and sounds, and nearly all of it is free. From puppet shows to mini dance performances of "The Nutcracker," 23 participating institutions offer an array of activities such as a Kwanzaa Card Workshop and an exhibit of dolls from around the world. The evening concludes with a community sing-a-long led by the Salvation Army Band.

"We love Noel Night," said Thomas, who majored in music at Oakland University in Rochester and began performing with community theaters such as the Bloomfield Players 20 years ago. "We think it's great that all of these arts and performing groups come together for this event."

Thomas, director of the 11 Festival Singers, founded the group four years ago to entertain crowds at the Dickens Old Fashioned Christmas Festival in Holly which runs weekends through December with singers, jugglers and fire eaters. In addition to playing Ebenezer Scrooze, Bob Cratchit and the Ghost of Christmas Past, members of the group sing songs from the more than 40 in their repertoire at 6:45 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. in the Detroit Institute of Arts' Kresge Court. In between belting out "Silver Bells" and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," the Singers perform Thomas' street theater rendition of "A Christmas Carol" outside on Woodward Avenue with audience participation sought for Marley's Ghost and the Ghost of Christmas Future. The Singers, age 24 to 41, hail from

Rochester, Troy, Royal Oak, Clarkston, St. Clair Shores, and Ypsilanti.

"We do everything acapella with five and six part arrangements," said Thomas. "For the street theater, we encourage audience participation. They help us do the sounds of Jacob Marley's ghost like rattling the chains."

Finke first enjoyed street theater during his college days when he played Davey Crockett at Disney World's Frontierland in Orlando. An account executive for the Momentum Group, a division of McCann Erickson in Troy, Finke has performed with Stagecrafters and the Avon Players, to name a few.

"It's street theater and we interact with people," said Finke. "You maintain that character with the people you meet. I enjoy lighting up people's face and getting them into the holiday spirit. On Noel Night, there's a great pool of arts talent from all different cultures around Detroit. And I enjoy being part of that, making people smile and happy."

### Some of the highlights of "Noel Night"

- The Boys Choir of Ann Arbor kicks off the festivities at 4:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward.
- Photos with a Toy Soldier (\$2) at the Children's Museum, 67 East Kirby
- The Mosaic Youth Theater and St. Paul Royal Oak Lutheran Bell Choir at the Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward

### "NOEL NIGHT"

**WHAT:** The 26th annual event to ring in the holidays features carolers, choirs, street theater, dance, hands-on art, a tree lighting ceremony, and horse-drawn carriage rides. Festivities conclude with a community sing-a-long led by the Salvation Army Band 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Woodward Ave.

**WHEN:** 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

**WHERE:** Detroit's Cultural Center (bounded by Ferry Street on the north, Forest on the south, Brush on the east, and Cass Avenue on the west). For more information or a schedule of events, call (313) 577-5088.

■ Parking is available in the Cultural Center and Detroit Science Center lots on John R, underground garage off Woodward at Farnsworth, and Reckham parking garage on Warren east of Woodward. Free shuttles run continuously throughout the evening.

■ Horse-drawn carriage and sleigh rides depart every 10 minutes from the Park Shelton on East Kirby at Woodward, \$6 adults, \$3 children.

■ Children's Ballet Theatre presents the "Butterfly Ball" and ensembles from the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra perform throughout the evening in the Prentiss Court at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward

■ Pippin Puppets perform "Rudolph, Rudolph! Where's Your Nose?" at 6 p.m., and the Foreign Language Immersion Choir sing holiday songs in several languages throughout the evening in the Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward

■ At the Detroit Science Center, Sesame Street's "Art from the Fuzzy and Famous" exhibit celebrates 30 years of Big Bird, Cookie Monster and the rest of The Muppets, 5020 John R

■ Kwanzaa Card Workshop, Adrinka Stamping on cloth, storytelling, 6-9 p.m. at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 East Warren

■ Pre-"Noel Night" entertainment takes place 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at a Young People's Concert, "Holiday Songfest," under conductor Ya-Hui Wang at Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, and during the event there's "Go Baroque," a Classical Series concert with conductor Nicholas McGegan at 8:30 p.m. Call (313) 576-5111 for ticket information.

■ The 85th annual Gold Medal Exhibition and Holiday Sales Show at the Scarab Club, 217 East Farnsworth

■ The Wayne State University dance department present excerpts from "The Nutcracker" every half hour in the Old Main Building on Cass Avenue, also view the exhibit "Metaphors" by Yvette Smith in the Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, enter at 480 West Hancock

■ Shop for the holidays at 14 different locations including Center for Creative Studies, Detroit Institute of Arts Museum Shop, Museum of African American History Gift Shop, and Detroit Historical Museum Old Detroit Shop

■ Make an evening of it by having dinner downtown at the Scarab Club, Detroit Institute of Arts' Kresge Court, or soups, sandwiches and desserts at the International Institute's "Taste of the World"

## HOLIDAY MUSIC

# Judy Collins brings her 'Amazing Grace' to Southfield

BY KEELY WYGONIK  
STAFF WRITER  
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

If she could, Judy Collins said she would like to do holiday concerts year-round. "I like the material," said Collins in a telephone interview from New York City. "It's a very special time of year."

She'll be in Southfield on Tuesday, singing some of her favorite holiday tunes, along with "Amazing Grace," "Someday Soon," "Both Sides Now," and other songs that have made her a legend. The 8 p.m. concert is part of the City of Southfield's new Celebrity Series.

"I saw her last year and I fell in love," said Nimrod Rosenthal, director of Community Relations for the City of Southfield. "When she sang 'Amazing Grace,' I had tears in my eyes. She was

### Judy Collins Special Holiday Concert

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8  
**WHERE:** Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road (south of 10 Mile Road). Concert is part of the City of Southfield's new Celebrity Series and will include traditional and new songs.

**TICKETS:** \$30 and \$35 per person, available weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Southfield City Hall, Main Reception Desk, 26000 Evergreen Road or the Parks and Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, evenings 5-7 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Tickets also available at all Ticketmaster Ticket Centers including Hudson's and Harmony House stores. Call (248) 354-4854 for more information. To charge tickets, call (248) 645-6666.

**HIGHLIGHT:** Special pre-concert dinner, \$25 per person, offered by the Golden Mushroom Restaurant, 18100 W. 10 Mile Road (at Southfield). Call the restaurant (248) 559-4230 for reservations/information.

### Mark your calendar

The Southfield Celebrity Series at Southfield Centre for the Arts will feature Nancy Wilson, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 24. Tickets are \$30 and \$35 per person, available at Southfield City Hall or the Parks & Recreation Building, and Ticketmaster Ticket Centers.



Folk legend: This photo of Judy Collins is from her new CD "Both Sides Now," released this fall by Platinum Entertainment.

Please see COLLINS, E2

# Collins from page E1

enchanting."

After the concert, "A Judy Collins Christmas at the Biltmore Estate," which Rosenthal watched on TV, he went to work to see if Collins would be available to perform at the Southfield Centre for the Arts. "She's wonderful," he said.

Collins will be accompanied by the Southfield-Lathrup Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Robert A. Martin. The concert will include traditional holiday songs and new songs for Christmas and Hanukkah.

To make it an especially memorable evening, the Golden Mushroom Restaurant is offering a special pre-concert dinner at 6 p.m. before the concert. The dinner is \$25 per person and begins with chilled smoked chicken breast on mixed field greens, red wine vinaigrette, crumbled blue cheese and avocado.

Diners can choose between two main courses - smoke-roasted beef tenderloin with roasted garlic whipped potatoes, grilled vegetables and wild mushroom gateaux, or bronzed Atlantic salmon on lemon risotto with artichokes and tomatoes.

Dessert will be a chocolate flourless torte with strawberry sauce and mint cream.

Southfield is just one of Collins' many concert stops this month. She'll also be performing in Sacramento, Calif., Cincinnati, Milwaukee, and Syracuse, N.Y. A self-described "road warrior," Collins said she enjoys touring - "I've got to make a living," she said. But there's more, "I love it (performing) it's a tremendous gift. I've had a successful career, it's been wonderful."

While most of us are fretting about holiday gifts, Collins is on the road bringing holiday cheer to millions of fans. Her fondest, holiday memory is of standing around the piano with her brothers and sisters on Christmas Eve and singing carols. Her favorite is "The Holly and the Ivy."

After singing carols, led by her father, Chuck Collins, a singer, composer and radio broadcaster, the family would



**Legendary singer: Judy Collins will be presenting a special holiday concert at the Southfield Centre for the Arts on Southfield Road.**

sit down to a big dinner.

If you're not able to attend the concert in Southfield on Dec. 8, you can tune into the A&E Network 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, and watch "A Judy Collins Christmas at the Biltmore Estate" on TV. You can also learn more about her latest projects, including a new release of Christmas songs from the Biltmore Estate concerts, on the Web at [www.judycollins.com](http://www.judycollins.com). Collins has released 30 albums, many of them certified platinum and gold, over her career which spans 3-1/2 decades.

Trained as a classical pianist, Collins began taking piano lessons at age 4. Her repertoire includes folk, rock, spiritual and Broadway show tunes.

In 1969 Collins made her stage debut as an actress at the New York Shakespeare Festival where she played Solveig in

**"I've got to make a living. I love it (performing). It's a tremendous gift. I've had a successful career; it's been wonderful."**

*Judy Collins  
at Southfield Art Center*

"Peer Gynt" opposite Stacy Keach.

She also appeared in the Arnold Schwarzenegger film, "Junior," the CBS series "Christy," and has a cameo in the soon-to-be-released remake of a Rod Serling story, "A Town Has Turned to Dust," directed by Ron Nilsson.

This fall she released "Singing Lessons: A Memoir of Love, Loss, Hope and Healing" (A Pocket Books Hardcover, \$24). In the book, Collins looks back on her life and career, the triumphs and mistakes. Each chapter is separated by meditations she wrote in the period after her son Clark's suicide. He was 33 years old. A CD with a new song, "Singing Lessons," is included in the book.

"Singing and writing helped me heal," said Collins. "I sang my way through the pain and began to write daily prayers, which I included in this book."

"My song writing and prose writing are interconnected, one feeds the other."

A tireless performer and writer, Collins said she "feels very grateful to have had this much career."

But she's not ready to slow down. "I'm always looking for new projects."

"Both Sides Now," a new Platinium Entertainment release of new recordings of songs that have made Collins famous such as "The Times They Are A-Changin'," "Morning Has Broken" and "Blowin' in the Wind," includes a tribute to her dear friend the late John Denver.

"I never recorded any of his songs," she said. "I'm glad to have had the opportunity."

# Hilberry 'Scapin' delights

Wayne State University's graduate theatre company presents Moliere's "Scapin" in rotating repertory through Feb. 3 at the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Avenue and Forest on the Wayne State campus in Detroit. Tickets are \$10-\$17. Performances are scheduled 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19. For reservations, call (313) 677-2972.

BY SUE SUCHYTA  
SPECIAL WRITER

Moliere's "Scapin" is a comic romp with as many plot twists and turns as there are pratfalls and tumbles. The humor is both intellectual and physical, as clever wordplay is liberally interspersed with comically timed trips and flips.

Scapin is a street-smart servant who plays his masters like a game of chess, both for amusement and thrill. When the sons of two wealthy fathers fall in love with unapproved women when the fathers are out of town, Scapin agrees to not only help the young men gain their fathers' approval of the matches, but to bamboozle them out of the funds the young men need to finance their romantic endeavors. Scapin, who loves a challenge and survives by his wits, sets in motion a hilarious series

of escapades, and defends his own honor along the way.

Fred Shahadi is captivating as the clever Scapin. He artfully handles the subtleties of his character, employing to pull off his scams, playing the humble, contrite servant one minute, and a fast-talking schemer the next, while cleverly planting ideas in his dupes' minds. Shahadi's fast pace and excellent timing used Moliere's clever script to its full comic advantage. Shahadi also used multiple characters and accents in rapid succession as part of the ruse, a challenge he pulled off without missing a beat, much to the delight of the audience.

Octave and Leandre, the love-smitten sons, played by Mike Schraeder and Erik Gratton, were fun to watch as the earnest and gullible swains, easy prey for Scapin's manipulations.

The fathers, on the other hand, presented more of a challenge to Scapin. He needed them until he found their Achilles heel, then exploited it.

Garonte, Leandre's father and a notorious tightwad, was played with penurious perfection by Aaron Lake. Lake captured the character's fiscal distress with laughter-provoking physical reactions as well as verbal chagrin.

Likewise, Octave's father, Argante, played by Lucas Caleb Rooney, captured the dilemma of parting with his hard-earned fortune in both physically and verbally entertaining ways. Proud and pompous, Rooney's Argante held on to his control and dignity for as long as possible before unraveling under the unrelenting ruses of the clever Scapin.

Oreste Arcuni as Silvestre, a hapless servant and Scapin's reluctant accomplice, drew his share of laughter for his many pratfalls and woebegone expressions. Hyacinthe, Octave's lady love, played by Sara Wolf, and Zerbinette, the sexy Gypsy desired by Leandre, played by Tanisha Gonzalez, began as polar opposites and ended up having startling similarities. Both used exaggerated feminine wiles to garner laughs.

The set was a colorful explosion of undersized and rakishly angled doorways. The costumes also accentuated the absurd. Scapin was dressed like a well-tailored clown, with keyboard trim on his clothing alluding to his ability to play people like a piano. For Scapin is a master manipulator producing laughter not only for what he does, but for the gullibility he expresses in others.

# Show boasts knowledgeable hosts

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

I realize that everyone is probably missing Backstage Pass, but we are off the air temporarily for a good reason, the annual winter Pledge Break. Please don't forget to call and make a donation to Detroit Public Television, because it's the viewers that make shows like Backstage Pass possible. So the winter pledge left me with a dilemma, what to write for this week. Then it came to me, of course, I should have thought of this before. I am going to introduce and give some background on the hosts I mention in the columns every week. There are more hosts than there is

room in this newspaper, so I am going to pick a few then focus on the rest next time.

Gerry Craig is a visual artist and writer. She graduated from Cranbrook Academy of Art with an MFA and from the University of Kansas in 1982 with undergraduate degrees from Art History and Textile Design. She was executive director at the Detroit Artists Market from 1990 to 1995 and previously worked for the Detroit Institute of Arts and Cranbrook Art Museum. Gerry's art has been exhibited throughout the United States, Japan, England, Australia, Mexico and Canada. Her writings have also been published in many art publications.

Lex Kuhne is a lawyer by training, but has a role on Backstage Pass as pop culture provocateur. Lex was a Metro Times columnist for more than eight years, with the popular "Word of Mouth" column. He also developed the format for 89X and was pop culture commentator both there and later for The Planet 96.3. Lex is a graduate of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Wayne State University Law School.

Kim Hunter is a native and lifelong Detroit. Kim graduated from Wayne State with a degree in radio, television and film. Kim enjoyed a five-year

stint as the host and producer of Radio Free Earth, a nightly, multi-cultural music program that ran on Detroit Public Radio. Kim also finds time for another favorite, writing. His music reviews and poetry have been published locally and nationally. He is currently the music reviewer for Against the Current magazine.

Marsha Miro has long been a recognized and respected voice in Detroit art scene. She attended the University of Michigan as an undergraduate, concentrating in political science with an art history minor. She then attended the London School of Economics before focusing on art, returning to Detroit to earn an MA in art history from Wayne State. Marsha has been an instructor at Oakland Community College at the Cranbrook Academy of Art and at the Center for Creative Studies. Marsha is currently the writer and documentarian of new architectural additions, working on both the book and film "Cranbrook: Evolution of a Dream" for the Cranbrook Educational Community. She writes criticism for Glass magazine and has published articles in American Ceramics.

Reading the long list of credentials the hosts on Backstage Pass possess I realized we are a very lucky group.

## Gibraltar

Monday Nov. 30th <b>OPEN</b> 12-9	Tuesday Dec 1st <b>OPEN</b> 12-9	Wednesday Dec 2nd <b>OPEN</b> 12-9	Thursday Dec 3rd <b>OPEN</b> 12-9	Friday Dec 4th <b>OPEN</b> 12-9	Saturday Dec 5th <b>OPEN</b> 10-9	Sunday Dec 6th <b>OPEN</b> 10-8
Monday Dec 7th <b>OPEN</b> 12-9	Tuesday Dec 8th <b>OPEN</b> 12-9	Wednesday Dec 9th <b>OPEN</b> 12-9	Thursday Dec 10th <b>OPEN</b> 12-9	Friday Dec 11th <b>OPEN</b> 12-9	Saturday Dec 12th <b>OPEN</b> 10-9	Sunday Dec 13th <b>OPEN</b> 10-7
Monday Dec 14th <b>OPEN</b> 10-9	Tuesday Dec 15th <b>OPEN</b> 10-9	Wednesday Dec 16th <b>OPEN</b> 10-9	Thursday Dec 17th <b>OPEN</b> 10-9	Friday Dec 18th <b>OPEN</b> 10-10	Saturday Dec 19th <b>OPEN</b> 9-10	Sunday Dec 20th <b>OPEN</b> 8-9
Monday Dec 21st <b>OPEN</b> 9-10	Tuesday Dec 22nd <b>OPEN</b> 9-10	Wednesday Dec 23rd <b>OPEN</b> 9-10	Thursday Dec 24th <b>OPEN</b> 9-9	CLOSED Merry Christmas		Sunday Dec 27th <b>OPEN</b> 10-9

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THEATER

# Talented cast steps up to challenge of 'A Chorus Line'

The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford presents "A Chorus Line," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5 at the playhouse 16138 Beech Daly, Redford. Tickets \$12 adults, \$11 seniors and students, call (313) 531-0554.

BY BOB WEIBEL  
SPECIAL WRITER

They step, they kick, they touch, shimmy and shake. They are the talented singer/dancers in the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford's spirited production of "A Chorus Line."

With music by Marvin Hamlisch, this Tony Award winning show tells of the chaotic, inse-

ecure life of theatrical performers. The show features an uninhibited, free-form that was new to musical theatre when "Chorus Line" premiered on Broadway in 1975. There are no lavish sets or costumes (except white tuxedos and top hats for the finale). There is no plot per se.

Rather, there is a bare stage upon which dancers in rehearsal outfits warm-up an audition. The director barks out, "Tell me about yourself, why do you want to be in this show." Some are hesitant, others embarrassed.

No matter how much they reveal, the director badgers them for more. Which leads to person-

al stuff (and adult language and subject material) which in context of the show is not offensive.

Mark Hammell, as the director, gives a convincing performance as a hard taskmaster. Yet, we see his soft side, when we learn of a personal relationship with one of the dancers. Christine Maurer, a former star, creates a high-voltage moment as she begs for a job as just a member of the chorus.

The director has to be tough, because Broadway is a tough business. Only eight of 16 dancers will be cast; the others rejected. That's the nature of show business. As we hear their

stories, we are as happy for those who succeed as we are sad for those who don't make it.

Each story begins differently, but all end the same - dancers desperately needing the applause, the approval of an audience. They will pay any price, make any sacrifice to dance. That's the context of the show's hit song, "What I Did For Love" sung beautifully by Jenny Florkowski.

Mathew Leland is most appealing as a young man following his sister's footsteps in an acrobatic "I Can Do That." Rubber-faced, Marci Mitchell, is a comic delight as one who wanted

to be Doris Day, but cannot sing a note.

Valerie Mangrum scores as a sassy babe near the end of her career.

In a riveting whispered soliloquy, Alonzo Luzod, recounts his search for dignity and the embarrassment of having his parents learn he is dancing in a gay bar. On the lighter side, John Luther, all decked out in puce, is a scream telling us he was always "a strange one" - "breaking into people's houses, not to steal anything, but to rearrange the furniture."

Other cast members include: Justine Blazer, Anna Bonde,

James Cargill, Alicia, Christoff, Nicole Gauvin, D.J. Oliver, Jamie-Lynn Perry, Darren Pierson and Emily Tyrryon. The whole cast marvelously strut their stuff in the show's big production number, "One (Singular Sensation)." Ken Pletzer impressively provides full orchestration via computer and digital piano for two hours. There is no intermission.

Director/Choreographer Stephanie Stephan makes good use of the Guild's smallish area, in staging complex pieces such as "At the Ballet" and "Hello Twelve, Hello Thirteen, Hello Love."

# Meadow Brook Theatre creates animated Christmas card

"A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, adapted by Charles Nolte. Through Sunday, Dec. 27. Meadow Brook Theatre, Wilson Hall, Oakland University campus, Rochester. Performance times vary, call for information. Tickets: \$25-\$30.50; (248) 377-3300, or (248) 370-3316.

BY FRANK PROVENZANO  
STAFF WRITER  
fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net

The genius of "A Christmas Carol" is not only the layers upon layers of allegory and parable, but the sheer message of eternal hope in the face of the impulse to buy, buy, buy. Certainly, the notion of worship takes on an entirely material connotation during retailers' most blissful season.

Of course, material gain - as the plight and redemption of Ebenezer Scrooge teaches - is not a substitute for spiritual sustenance.

And who could argue that that's a lesson worth learning, again and again.

Appropriately, during the busiest shopping time of the year, Meadow Brook Theatre's annual homage to Charles Dickens and the true spirit of Christmas is a priceless counterbalance to the nausea caused by conspicuous consumption.

Indeed, attending Meadow Brook Theatre's 16th annual production might be a requisite before stepping into a mall to do your duty. Or at least before the electronic strip on your plastic credit card runs thin.

Thanks to Charles Nolte's

**Booth Colman not only looks the part but adds subtle touches that make Scrooge look less than a lump of coal and more like a person whose insecurities and emotional vacuousness sowed the seeds of his desolation.**

adaptation, the production is as timeless as Dickens' tale. Under Nolte's direction, "A Christmas Carol" blends high theatrics, calculated pyrotechnics and measured doses of melodrama into a perpetual animated Christmas card.

At times, however, the mawkish spirit of the season drips like sap onto the carpet.

The sugary feeling gets a little out of hand during the Cratchit's Christmas dinner, which comes complete with a tiresome description of holiday food, prayers, song and toast.

The emotional gush, much like an overbearing uncle, is bearable given the relentless holiday cheer. And hey, if you can't get overly sentimental at the holidays then you might have the heart of a wet log.

And speaking of moribund souls, there's little doubt that for two hours the body and soul of Scrooge has been transferred to veteran actor Booth Colman, who has performed the role at Meadow Brook more than 600 times since 1981.

Colman not only looks the part, but adds subtle touches that makes Scrooge look less than a lump of coal, and more

like a person whose insecurities and emotional vacuousness sowed the seeds of his desolation.

But "A Christmas Carol" isn't O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh." Rather, the Dickens' classic is about rediscovering those feelings of youth that made life more of a magical mystery, than a onerous task. And clearly at Meadow Brook, the cast is up to the challenge.

Particularly, Paul Hopper in the dual roles of the earnest Bob Cratchit and the daffy Fezziwig; and, Geoffrey Beauchamp as the Ghost of Jacob Marley recall the transcendental appeal of the story to be both a high moral lesson and pleasingly entertaining.

Meanwhile, director Nolte has added enough surprises to keep audiences searching for the next appearance of the ghosts and special effects. All made possible, of course, by the intricately magical scenic design of Peter Hicks and the jewel-tone period costumes of Barbara Jenks.

Ironically, Meadow Brook's "A Christmas Carol" has become as much of an annual tradition as those last-minute shopping trips to the mall.



Holiday classic: Booth Colman (left) and Richard A. Schrot in a scene from Meadow Brook Theatre's production of "A Christmas Carol."

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# F-111 sees big things for Control Freq.



CHRISTINA FUOCO

If Andrew Goldstone of F-111 Records has his way, the Detroit-based band Control Freq. and its debut album "Freq. Show" will be huge.

"We really feel like it's a mainstream (release) or can be a mainstream pop record. At the same time, we're going to attempt to cultivate some interest on the underground," said Goldstone, co-director of the Warner Bros.-affiliated label F-111.

"It's not a Spice Girls Record. It's got a lot more musicality to it."

Control Freq. is the latest project from singer/leader Dennis White, keyboardist Ken Roberts and guitarist Steve Zuccaro, all of whom are former members of Charm Farm. The band, whose album is due out in March, officially inked the deal recently.

Control Freq. signed to F-111 after former CIMX-FM DJ and Hits Magazine writer Caeri Bertrand referred the band to Goldstone.

"She told me about Dennis, and I used to run Astralwerks (Records). Dennis was doing

more techno stuff on the side and we met up at the Winter Music Conference two years ago," Goldstone explained.

"When he sent me a tape of five songs, it was mostly just to say, 'Hey, this is what I'm up to.' He didn't know I was about to make a move to go to Warner Bros."

As soon as Goldstone heard the demo, he knew he had to have them.

"We're very happy to have them. It was pretty much the first thing we signed. They weren't officially signed until relatively recently. But it was a done deal shortly after we came aboard at Warner Bros. in March."

Control Freq. just returned from New York where it did a photo shoot at a "serious prop house," according to guitarist Zuccaro. For the shoot, the band used props from "Back to the Future."

"We were inside a spaceship and in a cockpit. We got all these fresh shots that we'll probably use for promo photos and the record," he said.

Charm Farm released an album, "Pervert," on Mercury Records and had a hint of success with the song "Superstar." The band was dropped shortly thereafter.

Guitarist Zuccaro said that already he's pleased - but cautious - about working with F-111 and Warner Bros.

"I'm not really as excited as before. I know what can happen. I'm kind of just like ho-hum about it because of what happened last time."

**Rubbing elbows**

Country singers Joseph James of Rochester Hills and Carl Larson of Farmington rubbed elbows with some of their genre's top singer/songwriters at the three-day prestigious songwriter retreat in Nashville.

"It was a great experience," James said. "If you're a songwriter, you're sort of in your element. We also had three days of working on even better songs."

During the three-day retreat, James and other songwriters worked on improving their songwriting ability by interacting with fellow songwriters and breaking into small groups.

"We were whisked off from downtown Nashville at 8 in the morning on Greyhound buses. We were taken to an inn, an old Victorian home built 70-80 years ago," he explained.

The leaders of the group would perform the participants' songs and afterward critique them. Songwriters were chosen to

participate based on a tape of two songs that they were required to send.

In 1998, James released his debut CD "Back in Love," which featured the song "Car Country." The song hit No. 1 on two of the independent charts. Earlier this year, he performed a showcase at the Opryland Hotel during the Country Radio Seminar.

James, who also hosts "The Money Show" at 3 p.m. Saturdays on WCM-AM 990, is due to release his sophomore effort early next year. To hear samples of his new disc, visit <http://www.joseph-james.com>

**Big winners**

The hard pop band Sensitive Clown has reason to celebrate. It was named one of the four first-prize winners of Sony Music's DEMOlisten Derby battle of the bands.

Each member of the band - guitarist/singer Todd Wicks, drummer Joel Wicks, guitarist Rock McClain, and bassist Lawyer Ned Friendship - received a Sony mini-disc player.

Todd Wicks, a Rochester Hills resident, entered the contest after stumbling across information about it on the Web.

"There's probably a dozen or so of these things that bands enter each year. For some reason we

lucked out this time. It's hopefully a little more recognition. I can't say that anything has directly come from it yet, but it's something on our resume, as they say," Wicks said.

Although Sensitive Clown didn't get the grand prize of studio time, Wicks said it's still a nice surprise.

"It's a tiny little bit of validation that encourages you and makes you think I'm not insane to think that this is something good. If a huge faceless corporation like Sony likes it, maybe there's a future for us after all."

Sensitive Clown performs at 9

p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the New Way Bar, 23130 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. For more information, call the bar at (248) 541-9870 or visit Sensitive Clown's Web site at <http://www.msu.edu/user/wickajoe>

Christina Fuoco is the pop music reporter for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. If you have a question or comment for her, you can leave her a message at (734) 953-2047, mailbox No. 2130, or write to her at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or [cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net)

# Offspring finding time to be a band

By CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER  
[cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net)

After hitting megastar status with the albums "Smash" and "Ignny on the Hombre," the Offspring is finding time to be a band.

"We're practicing this week for the live show. It's been fun. We didn't practice yesterday. We just did interviews and photos. It was one of the funnest days I remember having in a long time," said guitarist Noodles, via telephone from his Orange County, Calif.

"We were cracking each other up, and playing and having fun. Everything is coming together really well."

The Offspring's "Americana" (Columbia) is poised to be just as successful thanks to the first single, the instantly memorable "Pretty Fly (For a White Guy)" and its catchy line "Give it to me baby."

"We had a lot of fun doing that, actually. It all came together once we were laying all the different layers down and all the different voices," Noodles

explained.

The key to the song, he said, isn't the sample of Def Leppard's "Rock of Ages," or the line "all the girls say I'm pretty fly for a white guy." It's his fat guitar licks.

"It's in the same vein as the funk 'Low Rider' kind of thing. I just added the rough Offspring edge to it."

"Pretty Fly (For a White Guy)" pokes fun at white gangster wannabes, who frequent talk shows wearing tilted baseball hats, baggy pants, flavor-saver goatees, and tattoos.

"He thought we'd write this song about wannabes and this white guy, this white suburban middle class kid, who thinks he's down with the urban hip-hop kids and not cutting it," Noodles said with a laugh.

"We've all tried to fit in. Everybody kind of relates to trying to be something other than what we are. But it's also funny knowing people like that. You can be horrified but at the same time find the humor in it."

Characters on talk shows

played a big part in the writing of "Americana," according to singer Dexter Holland, who earned a Ph.D. in microbiology. "She's Got Issues" shares Holland's thoughts on emotional baggage-carrying women: "Now I know she'll feel abandoned/If I don't stay over late/And I know she's afraid to commit/but it's only our second date."

"Why Don't You Get a Job?" rips on people who take advantage financially of their lovers.

"Lately, I've been into this warped sense of Americana. The whole daytime talk show culture fascinates me. It seems like the stuff that used to be the fringe is more and more the everyday reality," Holland explained.

"If America was barbecues, big cars and life in the suburbs in the '50s, it's now totally a freak show. I want to show that ordinary, average American life isn't so average."

In the midst of all that is a surprising cover of the 1970s ballad "Feelings."

"It gets the point across in the very Offspring matter. At first we thought it could come out a

little more metal sounding. That was how we even kind of attacked it from the beginning, with a heavy metal guitar solo and everything," Noodles said.

"But it didn't sound right so we were backing off and it fell into that Offspring groove. Plus, everybody knows the melody, everyone can sing-along. It's going to be fun to do live."

"Americana," recorded in February with producer Dave Jerden at his El Dorado Studios in Burbank, Calif., closes with the eight-minute, mostly instrumental, Middle Eastern-tinged "Pay The Man."

The Offspring and Unwritten Law perform a sold-out, all-ages show at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT or visit <http://www.961melt.com> for more information. To learn more about the Offspring, visit <http://www.offspring.com> or write to them via snail-mail at P.O. Box 5956, Garden Grove, Calif., 92846.

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# Fusion creates more than East meets West cuisine

BY ELEANOR & RAY HEALD  
SPECIAL WRITERS

Perhaps you've noticed that Matt Prentice, President of the Unique Restaurant Corporation, likes bringing you new restaurants. Call him restaurant trend setter or creative genius, innovation is his specialty and Fusion in Farmington Hills is his latest.

Fusion is located in URC's former Relish. When a theme such as Relish lost its identity, Prentice said "makeover time." Diners never caught on to the Relish theme of salaas, Pacific Island sambal, Indian chutney, piccalillis, Indonesian, blatjangs or atjars served with wood-smoked fish and meats. So Relish backed off, gave diners what they wanted, and a new theme found room on the drawing board.

Prentice looked at dining trends and a bowl concept evolved. What do we like to eat in bowls? Noodles, rice and mashed potatoes. Asian noodle shops are popular around the world. They serve rice there too. But this is America and we love mashed potatoes or in new lingo "mash!"

Prentice needed a name to fit his ideas. He ran a contest. Fusion won and opened Nov. 19 in the Farmington Hills location of the former Relish. Decor and architectural design by Birmingham's Marc Therrien are new, more open and red/gold bright. But only 85 percent complete until mid-to-late December.

At its simplest, fusion cuisine refers to the blending of flavors created by the ancient technique of wok cooking. URC's Fusion takes them to the next level.

"Our concept goes beyond Asian," Prentice explained. "However it will follow a healthy Asian diet with dishes that are about 60 percent carbohydrates, 30 percent vegetables and 10 percent protein. This reverses a traditional American diet that is about 60 percent protein, 20 percent carbohydrates and 20 percent vegetables."

Also of note - menu items are

**Fusion**  
Where: 34555 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, between Farmington and Drake Roads (248) 489-8852  
Hours: Monday-Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday until midnight, Saturday 5 p.m. to midnight, Sunday 3-9 p.m.  
Menu: Flavors of countries around the world are fused by stir-fry techniques creating a celebration of noodles, rice and America's comfort food, mashed potatoes.  
Cost: All items under \$10.  
Reservations: Accepted.  
Credit cards: All majors accepted.

all under \$10.

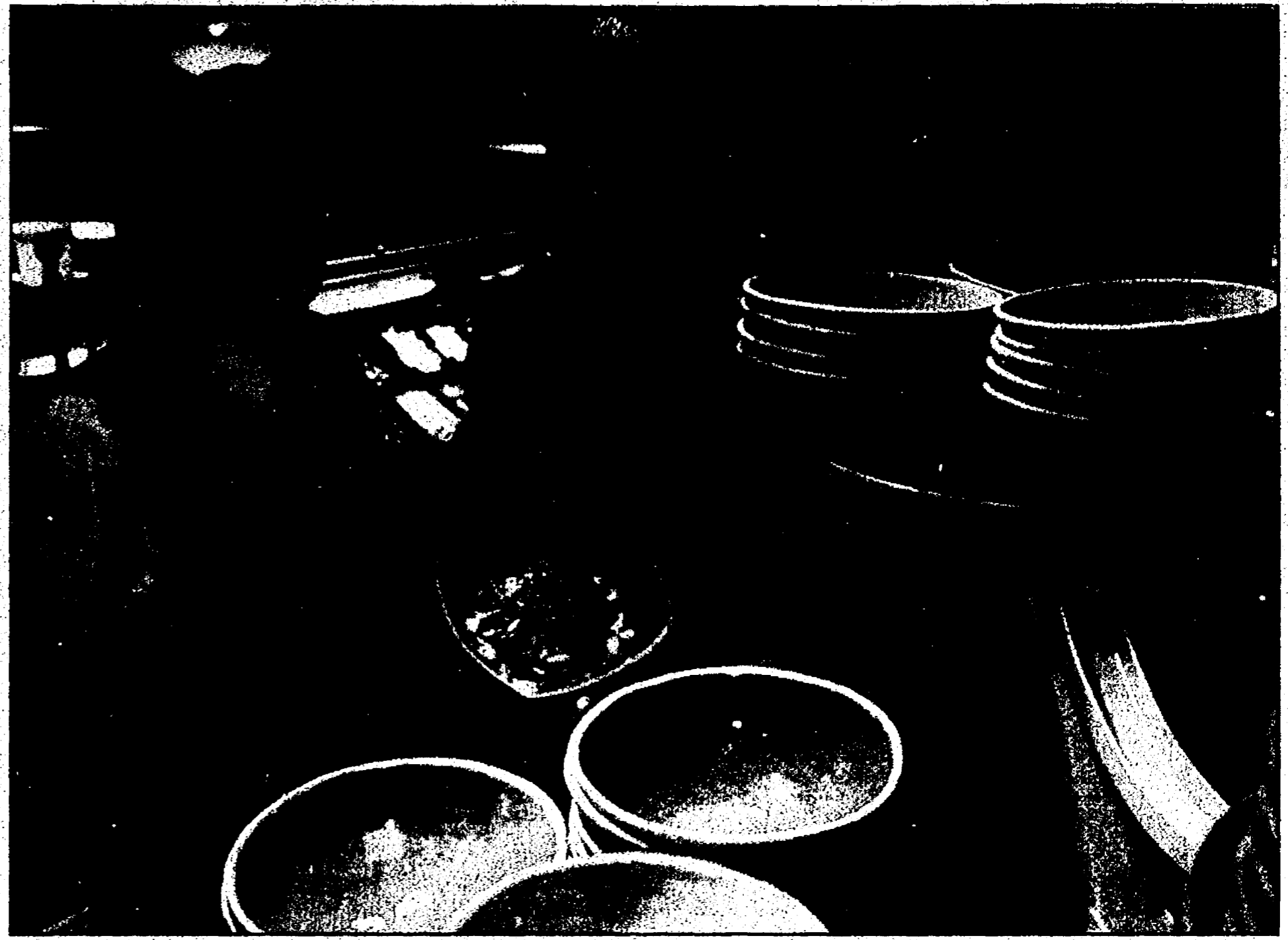
Prentice said "beyond Asian." True, but Asian oriented with serious dumplings and rolls such as steamed chicken and ginger shumai or vegetable and wild rice spring roll with orange duck sauce and hot mustard.

At Fusion you can have your mash, full-blooded American spuds, served up mini or mighty. Mini are appetizers, such as the creative Sweet Potato Mash with apple, chutney and candied pecans. Mighty versions are mega main dishes, all beyond Asian in concept. Comfort food at its lip-smacking best is Pepper Steak, slow-roasted brisket with onions, peppers and mushrooms over horseradish mash.

Among satays are tandoori chicken, but living in this state you have to try the Traverse City Special of apple cider marinated pork tenderloin with cherry BBQ and spicy mustard dipping sauces.

Prefer meatless? Go wild in the Fresh Vegetable Market. An all vegetable wok of choice with any of five sauces is \$7. Toppings such as stir-fried chicken or sirloin, seared shrimp, roasted salmon or great crispy duck can be added for \$3-6, depending on choice.

Included in the Oodles of Noodles department are stir-fried chicken in the Marco Polo;



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

Dinner in a bowl: General Manager John Muster (left) and Chef Jason Jones at the newly opened Fusion where diners can choose from a variety of dishes that are served in a bowl.

seared shrimp and green chiles in Bancokk Shrimp; Tenderloin Teriyaki; Crispy BBQ Duck; or Mushroom Madness with stir-fried shitake, crimini and oyster mushrooms with leeks, garlic, fettuccine and wild mushroom sauce.

If you agree that Rice is Nice, you can choose from just about any of the above and have it your way.

Kiddie bowls at \$5-6 feature spaghetti with tomato sauce, mac 'n cheese, chicken tenders and China bowl with crispy veg-

etables, rice and sesame-soy ginger sauce. All are served with soft drink and dessert.

Adults can choose from among four Sensational Sweets. Most unique is Mango-Ginger Creme Brulee. It's less custardy than the classic, but flavors are marvelous.

Orchestrating menu offerings created by Corporate Chef Jim Barnett is executive chef Jason Jones who climbed the URC kitchen ladder and was Executive Chef at Relish. Also out of the URC management talent

pool are General Manager John Muster and Dining Room Manager Danford Egnor who inspired the beer selections, \$3.50-4.50 in the Nuclear Fusion beverage department.

Arce and Sparks are fusion cocktails including the G-Factor and a Neutrino. The Top Quark list of 25 wines from the Global Atomic Village are all available by the glass, \$5.50-\$9.50, or by the bottle at \$20-\$45. URC's wine director Madeline Triffon likes the Von Kesselstadt Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabi-

nett best with "the broad spectrum of food offerings."

We liked both the 1997 Villa Maria Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand and 1997 KWV Steen Chenin Blanc from South Africa with appetizers. Among reds our nod goes to 1996 La Famiglia di Robert Mondavi Barbera and 1996 Folie a Deux Old Vine Zinfandel.

Guaranteed all beverages, like many menu items are "beyond Asian," but with a fusion of delectable flavors.

## WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, fax (248) 591-7279, or e-mail kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

■ **Chefs for Humanity** - On Sunday, Dec. 6 from 4-7 p.m. at the Kingsley Hotel & Suites in Bloomfield Hills, 1475 N. Woodward Ave., (just north of Long Lake Road), over 30 of Michi-

gan's top chefs will combine their talents to create and host Chefs for Humanity to raise money to aid in the relief for Honduran families ravaged by Hurricane Mitch.

Tickets are \$150 per person, call Unique Restaurant Corporation, (248) 646-0370 Ext. 219 or Tribute (248) 848-9393. Reservations are recommended. Participants include Schoolcraft College, Duet, and Steve & Rocky's. In addition to an award-winning

cuisine and wine selected and poured by Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon, patrons will include festive live music. Six of the world's finest French Champagne Houses will also participate. Patrons can savor the champagnes of Veuve Clicquot, Gosset, Taittinger, Piper Heidsieck, Perrier Jovet, and Moet et Chandon.

■ **Cafe Bon Homme Christmas Eve Special** - In addition

to its regular menu Cafe Bon Homme, 844 Penniman, Plymouth (734) 474-4800 will be featuring a special four-course dinner for two, \$100, exclusive of tax, tip and beverages. Dinner includes Foie Gras and pear appetizer; Raspberry Vinaigrette salad with toasted almonds and dried cranberries; Crown Rack of Lamb persillade; and Creme Brulee as a sweet ending.

■ **Archie's** - Check out the

renovations at Archie's, 30471 Plymouth Road, Livonia. The dining room is beautiful, and there's a new kitchen too. Restaurant hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturdays, closed Sunday. Archie's will be open until 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Call (734) 625-2820 for information. See story next week in Entertainment.



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