

Westland Observer

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Thursday
December 10, 1998

Serving the Westland Community for 34 years

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 54

WESTLAND, MICHIGAN • 76 PAGES • http://observer-eccentric.com

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Man charged in boy's murder

Rayshawn Otis Cobb, described by police as a 6-foot-1, 275-pound man, was charged with homicide/felony murder Thursday in the death of 3-year-old Darius Deshawn Conaway, who died on Monday.

By DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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A 26-year-old Westland man was arraigned today on a murder charge stemming from the death of a 3-year-old boy, who was allegedly beaten while in the suspect's care.

Rayshawn Otis Cobb, described by

life support, police said. The boy suffered severe head injuries, Sgt. Michael Terry said, but official autopsy results were pending.

Dressed in blue jeans and a black T-shirt, Cobb was arraigned on a murder charge today in front of Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos. He had been charged Friday with first-degree child abuse, but the charge was amended after the boy died.

After receiving a 911 telephone call from a man who said he had hit the boy in anger on the evening of Dec. 2, police and paramedics found the child on the floor of a residence at Hines

Park Apartments, near Warren and Cowan, Terry said.

Cobb isn't the boy's father, police said. He has been described by police as the live-in boyfriend of the child's mother.

The mother was at work when the incident occurred, Terry said.

A not-guilty plea has been placed on record for Cobb, and he remains jailed without bond as he awaits a Jan. 7 preliminary hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial.

Cobb could face a maximum sentence

Please see BOY, A3

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

SPECIAL SECTION

Gift guide: Are you drawing a blank about what to get so-and-so for Christmas this year? Check out our nifty gift guide inside this edition.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Festival time: Eight lighted candles, potato pancakes and gifts mean it's time for Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights./B1

AT HOME

Slight to see: Holiday decorating can blend the old with the new./D8

ENTERTAINMENT

Music: Pop music's top acts including the New Radicals celebrate holidays with Detroit music fans./E1

REAL ESTATE

Getting sluggish: How do salespeople cope when folks are more interested in the holidays than they are with buying or selling a home?/F1

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STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Shined and buffed: Zachary, a 10-year-old cocker spaniel, is groomed by Joy Erickson of The Pampered Pooch in Plymouth.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
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Everyday they give us gifts — some left in the corner. Nonetheless, the holidays are the ideal time to pony up for the favorite dog, cat, bird or reptile in the household.

Though some scoff at the notion of giving gifts to animals, they shouldn't, said one pet shop operator.

"There's no excuse," said Donna Nickel, manager of Livonia-based Discount Pet & Supplies. "At least nothing I can think of. There's all kinds of stuff."

Cost? Not a problem. Even a Montgomery Burns-like miser could probably part with \$5-\$6 for a bird swing or new dog collar.

Stymied on ideas? Most pet supply stores carry an array of toys, collars and treats for critters. Discount Pet & Supplies in Livonia even sells leather biker jackets for iguanas.

Of course, the first way to a pet's heart is

through his stomach.

When it comes to treats, dog owners have a pick of the litter. Rawhide chews come in peanut butter and vanilla flavors, while a bag of dog biscuits feature chicken, beef, liver, and lamb and rice.

Canines like to clamp onto boiled pig ears, snouts and beef hooves, too. A three pack of those run \$2 to \$3.

At Pet Supplies Plus on Ford in Canton, they sell stockings stuffed with pig ears, rawhide chews and assorted munch and crunch.

Kitty gifts

Unlike their canine counterparts, cats are a tad more finicky. They'll lick their whiskers at the prospect of seafood-flavored nuggets, like Kitty Bits. Pet Supplies Plus has cat stockings with ball with bells inside, balls of yarn and other toys.

Please see PRESENTS, A5

PURR-FECT PET PRESENTS



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

I'm fun: Savanna Exotic Pets has animals for all tastes, including a leopard gecko. The store has gifts for exotic pets, including a hammock for an iguana.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Lonely: The Westland Humane Society has pets ready for adoption. But families who aren't prepared to give their time and love should find a different gift. Here is Sam, a 3½-month-old kitty, who is litter-trained.

Pets don't make good surprise gifts

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
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Puppies and kittens with a red bow on top of their heads may look adorable underneath the Christmas tree, said a Michigan Humane Society spokeswoman.

"... but they usually end up knocking down the Christmas tree and chewing up the presents," added Jennifer Day, Humane Society community relations representative.

When the holiday warmth subsides, the glow turns to a glare toward the animal, which is a bundle of unwanted work and responsibility.

The Michigan Humane Society is littered

with what seemed like good gift ideas at the time. A few may be adopted but most aren't. "I think the key word is a surprise present," Day said. "It should be a family decision with everyone in the household involved."

Someone who gets a puppy for a present should expect to make a 10- to 15-year commitment caring for the animal. Guinea pigs, rabbits and "even fish," Day said, "require work in caring for them."

Canton Animal Hospital sees its fair share of exotic animals, including those mistakenly given as gifts. Those animals — lizards, iguanas and snakes — are given

Please see SURPRISE, A5

Council OKs 5-year police, fire contracts

By DARRELL CLEM
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New five-year contracts for Westland police officers and firefighters contain annual pay raises averaging 3.2 percent, city officials said.

New costs associated with the contracts amount to \$1,449,603 through June 30, 2003.

Westland City Council members Monday gave sweeping approval to the new pacts and called the five-year span unprecedented for the police and firefighter unions.

"The bottom line is that good labor relations means good service to our citizens," Councilman Charles "Trav" Griffin said.

The new agreements are retroactive to July 1.

By the end of the contract, annual

salaries for Westland Police Officers Association members will range from \$31,545 for a newly hired dispatcher to \$62,576 for a patrol officer on the job for five or more years, Finance Director Tim McCurley said.

Their pay range under the old contract was \$25,163 to \$44,917, he said.

Higher-paid police sergeants and lieutenants are covered by a separate contract, and a new agreement hasn't yet been approved for them.

New salaries for Westland Firefighters will range from \$35,960 for a new hire to \$73,846 for an assistant chief by the end of the new agreement, McCurley said.

That compares to a pay range of \$31,247 to \$59,600 under the old contract, he said.

As some police officers and firefight-

Please see CONTRACTS, A4

Youth aid program needs adult mentors

By DARRELL CLEM
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A Westland program that helps troubled youngsters by pairing them with adult mentors is in need of help.

Twelve children ages 9 to 16 are on a Youth Assistance Program waiting list.

One young man who got into trouble for retail fraud has been waiting six months for a male mentor, program director Ronaele Bowman said last week.

"There is no father in his life. He's from a single-parent household," she said. "There's nobody there for him as far as a male support system goes."

In all, nine boys and three girls are in line for mentors, who merely have to agree to spend an hour or two a week trying to positively influence a child.

"These kids just don't have anybody

who's older than they are and who can just talk to them and really be there for them and not pass judgment," Bowman said.

Youngsters and mentors engage in positive experiences ranging from seeing movies to talking about ways to improve school performance.

Youth Assistance Program advisory board member Richard LeBlanc, also a Westland City Council member, said the program works.

"I believe the program offers an opportunity for youths and their families to benefit from the experience of community folks who have diverse backgrounds and who can help guide them and influence them to make good decisions, all the while having a pretty good time," he said. "Some of these

"These kids just don't have anybody

Please see MENTORS, A4



Season's greetings: Santa Claus, holding the key to the city, greets the crowd at the city's Christmas celebration.

Wishes, songs, Santa mark holiday event

BY DARRELL CLEM
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For a child of 10, Courtney Griffin certainly plans ahead when she makes her Christmas wish list.

"I want a car," the Hamilton Elementary fifth-grader said. "I'll save it until I'm 17."

Courtney divulged her wish Monday evening as she attended the city of Westland's annual Christmas celebration and tree lighting ceremony in front of

City Hall on Ford Road. Courtney's 6-year-old sister, Lauren, had perhaps a more realistic wish.

"I want that Barbie that you dye her hair," first-grader Lauren said.

Bundled in warm clothing as temperatures plunged Monday, the girls came with their parents, Jeff and Michelle Griffin, to enjoy the festivities.

They stood among 200 to 300 people as a switch was pulled and thousands of Christmas lights illuminated the trees in



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

Children eagerly awaited the arrival of Santa, who was given the key to the city by Mayor Robert Thomas.

front of City Hall. Jeff Griffin, a city construction maintenance employee, actually helped put up the lights.

Earlier, the crowd sang along with a senior citizen Friendship Center choir to "Jingle Bells," "Silent Night" and other Christmas songs.

Children eagerly awaited the arrival of Santa, who was given

the key to the city by Mayor Robert Thomas.

"Hopefully it won't unlock the bank here in town, but it certainly will unlock the hearts and minds of the children here in Westland," Thomas told him.

Kim Kendall brought her 7-year-old daughter, Kari, and Kari's same-age friend, Meghan Wall.

"I wanted to hear the music," Kari said.

Meghan wanted to tell Santa her wish of getting a German shepherd named Max for Christmas. Never mind that she already has a black Labrador named Max and a golden retriever, Scooter.

Kendall and the girls - Madison Elementary students - seemed to enjoy the ceremony.

"I thought we'd see the lights and Santa and sing the songs and get in the Christmas spirit," Kendall said.

Children later talked to Santa indoors at the city's main fire

Musical:
The senior citizen Friendship Center choir sings "Here Comes Santa Claus" to announce his arrival at the city's Christmas ceremony.

station, next door to City Hall.

Deputy Mayor George Gillies led Monday's ceremony and announced winners of the city's annual "What Christmas Means To Me" essay contest.

Hamilton Elementary third-grader Samantha Wood won first place for her hopeful essay that the homeless would have food and shelter not just at Christmas, but all the time.

Essay runners-up were St. Damian third-grader Ashley Ballarin and Patchin Elementary fifth-grader Gretchen Heinicke. Winners won savings bonds from NBD.

Garden City Observer
(USPS 664-310)
Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Periodical postage paid at Livonia, MI 48151. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3569) to P.O. Box 3004, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-0500.

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

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

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<input type="checkbox"/> Party Trays	<input type="checkbox"/> Gift Certificates

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U.S. General Services Administration 65714

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(734) 326-6537

Celebration:
Wayne-Westland school board President David Cox checks out one of the toy trucks used as decorations at the district's "ground-breaking" ceremony on Monday.



Schools kick off building projects

BY BETH SUNDRIA JACHMAN
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Wayne-Westland schools officials were digging in on Monday.

At a ground-breaking ceremony and celebration, officials turned over a ceremonial shovel of dirt in a sandbox at the Dyer Center to signify the beginning of major construction projects in the district paid for by a bond sale.

Amid decorations including construction hats and toy tools, some 200 people helped launch the "Building Our Children's Future, Wayne-Westland bond construction 1998-2001."

Voters approved the \$103 million bond sale in early 1998 to pay for improvements and technology purchases in all the district's schools.

"This is a truly historic day for the Wayne-Westland Com-

munity Schools and the community as a whole. This is not only brick and mortar construction but also an opportunity to expand the educational opportunities for our students," said Greg Baracy, Wayne-Westland schools superintendent.

"In many ways tonight is a Thanksgiving celebration," said Charlotte Sherman, assistant superintendent for general administration.

Construction on additions to Walker-Winter and Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary Schools will begin this month. Roosevelt-McGrath will gain six classrooms and a media center expansion. Walker-Winter will gain seven classrooms and a media center expansion. Interior remodeling will be completed in the summer.

Construction will begin this spring at Taft-Galloway Elementary, Adams Middle School



Young singers: Walker-Winter Elementary School students sing during the district's ceremony on Monday.

and the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

About 85 percent of Taft-Galloway will be reconstructed, while Adams Middle School will undergo a demolition and replacement of the music rooms and some interior remodeling. The career technical center will gain additional labs and lecture rooms.

During the summer of 1999 five elementary schools will undergo interior renovations: Lincoln, Jefferson-Barns, Hoover, Kettering and Schweitzer elementaries.

"I believe the impact on attitude and achievement will be dramatic," Sherman said.

Among the festivities Monday night at the Dyer Center were the John Glenn instrumental band playing Christmas carols and singers from Walker-Winter Elementary who charmed the crowd with a Wayne-Westland version of "School Days."

Also at the ceremony were the chairs of the bond committee that worked to gain voter approval for the proposal.

"We were proud to grow up attending Wayne-Westland schools," said Skip Monit, one of the citizen co-chairs of the bond proposal committee. But with tours of the district's school buildings "our eyes were opened," he said. "We were all painfully aware that our schools were tumbling down around us." Now with the bond sale's approval, Wayne-Westland children will be in an "environment conducive to learning," he said.

"I think it's wonderful," said Laurie Horvat of Canton Township who recently moved to the Wayne-Westland district.

Her son, Desmond, is a third-grader at Walker-Winter, which will be gaining art and music rooms. "I think that's great, especially in elementary education."



Activity: Dion Askew and her 6-year-old daughter Cheyann do a little "construction" work of their own while they wait for the program to begin Monday.

Man faces trial in carjacking

BY DARRELL CLEM
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A Livonia man faces trial on carjacking and robbery charges stemming from a Nov. 18 incident at the Westland Meijer.

Thomas Lee Samborski II, 23, was ordered to stand trial after an 81-year-old woman testified against him last Thursday during a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court.

"She was a tremendous witness," Westland police Sgt. Jon Handzlik said. "She was a very, very strong witness. Her recall to detail was just fabulous."

Due to the victim's age, Handzlik and prosecutors asked 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos to conduct the preliminary hearing rather than possibly allowing the suspect to waive it.

"We have now preserved the victim's testimony on the record," Handzlik said. "I'm very pleased with the way it went."

The hearing ended with Bokos ordering Samborski to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges of carjacking and unarmed robbery.

A not-guilty plea has been placed on record for the defendant.

In court last Thursday, the judge refused to reduce a \$250,000 cash bond that has kept Samborski in jail since his arraignment.

Westland police said a carjacking occurred at 6:10 p.m. Nov. 18 while the victim was walking to her car after shopping at the Meijer store on the southeast corner of Warren and Newburgh.

The woman was robbed and her car taken by a man who posed as a store security guard and "accused her of having stolen merchandise," Handzlik

CRIME

said.

When the man got into the victim's car, the woman leaned inside and blew her horn, attracting the attention of a nearby male shopper who tried unsuccessfully to help her avert the carjacking, Handzlik said.

A suspect drove off alone in the car but was arrested by Livonia police about 15 minutes later during a traffic stop on I-96, the sergeant said. The 81-year-old victim fell on the parking lot pavement during the incident but wasn't seriously injured. Her car and her purse were returned to her, Handzlik said.

Samborski could face life in prison or any number of years if convicted of carjacking. He could face a maximum 15-year sentence if found guilty of unarmed robbery.

Arrested teen suspect in murder

BY DARRELL CLEM
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Westland police learned after arresting a juvenile in a high-speed chase that he was wanted as a suspect in an Inkster murder.

Westland officers began trailing the 16-year-old suspect shortly after 3 p.m. Nov. 30 after spotting a suspicious car traveling north on Inkster Road near Annapolis, a police report said. The car had earlier been reported stolen out of Highland Park.

The suspect led police through an Inkster residential area at

speeds up to 60 mph before losing control and crashing into another car, according to a police report that indicated no injuries.

The juvenile then got out of the car and fled but was captured by a Westland officer, who said in his report that he found ammunition but no gun on the youngster. Police also found a small amount of cocaine on the suspect when he was taken to the Westland police station, the report said.

Westland police Lt. Marc Stobbe said the 16-year-old initially lied about his name, but police learned his identity after a fingerprint investigator from the

Livonia Police Department ran a background check on him.

The fingerprint check resulted in police learning that the juvenile was wanted in Inkster on a first-degree murder charge from last summer, Stobbe said.

The Inkster detective investigating the incident couldn't be reached to comment on details of the murder case. The suspect faces charges as an adult in Inkster, according to an Inkster 22nd District Court clerk.

The teenager was scheduled for a Wednesday preliminary hearing for first-degree murder and felony firearms charges. He remains in custody.

Boy from page A1

of life in prison if convicted of murder. He could have faced a 15-year term on the original child abuse charge.

In court today, defense attorney Sheldon Halpern described Cobb as lacking money, and Halpern asked the court for help in hiring a pathologist and a neurologist to help him with the case.

Halpern also sought a gag order to prevent

police and others from discussing the case with the media.

Bokos delayed a ruling on Halpern's requests because a prosecutor assigned to the case couldn't be in court today. But the judge noted that the incident already has been reported in the local press.

"This case has gotten some degree of notoriety already," Bokos said.

4 DAYS THIS WEEKEND

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Up to 10,000 lose phone service

Many Westland residents may have had ringing in their ears over the weekend and early this week.

But they didn't have any ringing from their telephones. Phone service was cut to 9,000 to 10,000 Ameritech telephone customers in Wayne and southwest Westland Friday afternoon about 1 p.m.

Several hundred were still without phone service as of midday on Wednesday, according to Sara Snyder, Ameritech spokeswoman.

A contractor at Michigan Avenue and Second in Wayne accidentally severed several

A contractor accidentally severed several cables while installing new light posts.

cables while installing new light posts, Snyder said.

Work crews were brought in immediately, but work has been tedious, Snyder said. "The reason it takes so long is it's a very intricate process."

The 9,000 or 10,000 lines have to be spliced together individually, she said. "It's very exacting

work."

Service was cut for many customers, including the Wayne-Westland school district.

That created somewhat of a dilemma on Monday at Kettering Elementary School when the power went out after school had started.

Typically if by talking to Detroit Edison workers the district finds that the power is going to be out any length of time arrangements are made to send students home, Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent Greg Baracy said at Monday night's board meeting.

But about two-thirds of the population in that attendance area was without phones, he said.

"We will not dismiss elementary students without contact with their parents," he said.

"I still think this was the best thing to do," he said.

The day worked out for the best anyway as power was restored after an hour and 45 minutes, Baracy said.

But the day had an early start for Baracy as he went to the fire department at 7 a.m. Monday to borrow cell phones for use in schools without phone service, according to school board President David Cox.

Contracts from page A1

ers looked on Monday, council members jostled to be heard first in their support for the new contracts.

The new pacts cover 80 police union members and 75 fire department employees, according to the city's personnel office.

"Our town is secure when we have the quality of people that we have in the police and fire departments," Councilwoman Justine Barns said Monday.

Police union wages will increase 4 percent for the year that began July 1 and 3 percent for each of next four years.

Firefighters will receive on average the same percentage of increases, amounting to 3.2 percent a year when spread over five years, Personnel Director Keith Madden said.

Initially, however, some fire union members will see their pay jump significantly more than other firefighters as the city implements a new wage system intended to make fire and police contracts more comparable.

In short, the new firefighter pact requires a 21 percent pay difference between a firefighter and a captain; a 9 percent difference between a captain and a battalion chief; and a 9 percent difference between a battalion chief and an assistant chief.

Police union members already had similar gaps due to rank, officials said.

In another significant development, contracts for both unions state that "there will be a 10-year freeze on pension increases or changes."

Councilwoman Sharon Scott commended bargaining teams for what she described as "amicable negotiations."

Council President Sandra Cicirelli agreed.

"There was a lot of give and take," she said.

Griffin called the five-year length of the contracts "important for the stability of the city."

"I think it's a good deal for the city," he said, "and I'm happy I can vote for it."

In another significant development, contracts for both unions state that "there will be a 10-year freeze on pension increases or changes."

Public Library of Westland

1512 S. Parent Ave., Westland, MI 48186
734.595.8228

Community Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m.
Community Meeting Room A

Children's Book Club
The Children's Book Club is preparing for the winter season of story time.

Friends' Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m.
Community Meeting Room A

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Rod's Overhead Door
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734.595.8228

Mentors from page A1

young people have really made some incredible turn-arounds with their decision-making."

Youngsters are referred to the program by courts, schools and families, and all of them live in Westland.

The program needs mentors "who are good people and who would like to show support for youths and be internally rewarded by giving back to the community," Bowman said.

Finding male mentors has been particularly challenging,

she said.

"Sometimes men are scared off by the word mentor," Bowman said. "They think they have to be some super guy or super role model. We're just looking for honest people of all walks of life and ages who are willing to share one to two hours a week with a younger person."

To get involved, call the Youth Assistance Program at (734) 467-7904. Mentors don't have to live in Westland.

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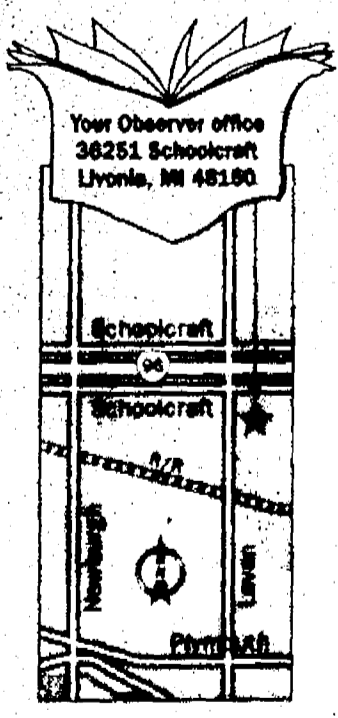
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Most area restaurant owners don't support smoking ban

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabracyk@oe.homecomm.net

Last Valentine's Day, Don Payne decided to do something special for his customers.

The owner of three Family Buggy restaurants, one of them in Livonia, made his Farmington Hills eatery smoke-free because he believed he had more non-smokers than smokers.

But so far, the prohibition hasn't helped him financially.

"We tried it there, and the effects were devastating," Payne said, as he estimates he has lost \$70,000 in business since February.

While Payne operates a non-smoking restaurant, is a non-smoker and prefers to eat without cigarette smoke permeating the air he breathes, he opposes a proposed Wayne County ordinance telling businesses they must prohibit smoking.

"I just think it's a bad idea," Payne said. "Theoretically, it's a

good idea. But the reality is it will cause businesses to fail and jobs to be lost."

Payne would prefer a statewide ban, such as in California. Such a ban countywide would hurt only the businesses in the county that bans smoking, he believes. "What we find is if you go out with one smoker, the group will not go to a non-smoking restaurant. Especially at lunchtime, they will select another restaurant out of concern for the smoker."

"If you ban it in one county, they will drive out of the county. Businesses will suffer, and people will be out of work," Payne said. Smokers who used to patronize his Farmington Hills restaurant now go to his Livonia establishment.

Despite his financial losses in Farmington Hills, Payne plans to continue the smoke-free policy in Farmington Hills but won't ban smoking from his Livonia and Rochester Hills eateries if he can help it.

Even if commissioners revised the ordinance to exempt businesses with fewer than 15 employees, that won't help Payne. He employs about 70 people in Livonia. "It doesn't take much when you count the dishwashers, waitresses and cooks and you are open all day with different shifts. Fifteen is almost a joke."

Some restaurants already are smoke-free.

Alissa Briggs, a bartender at Cafe Bon Homme in Plymouth,

said that restaurant has been smoke-free for six years. "Most of the customers are pleased with it," Briggs said.

"We lost a couple of tables when we first started, but it really didn't impact it over time."

Whether government should prohibit smoking altogether, "That's a big question," Briggs said. "I don't know. It's a big deal to the smoker, but I think it should be because of the rights

Please see RESTAURANTS, A11

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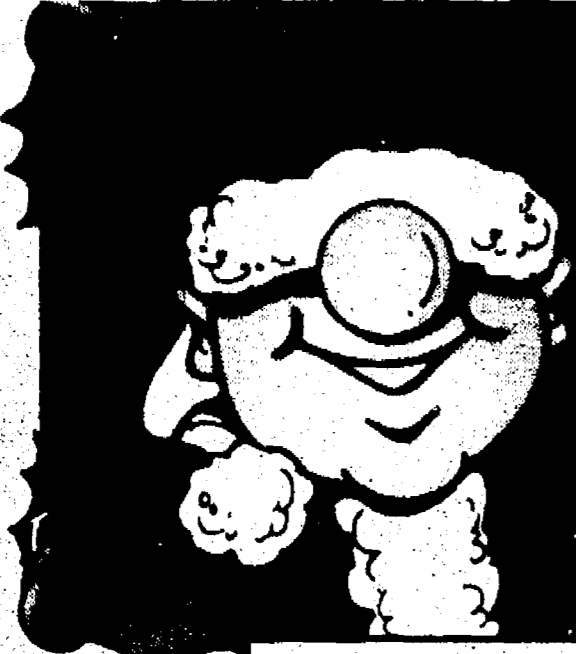
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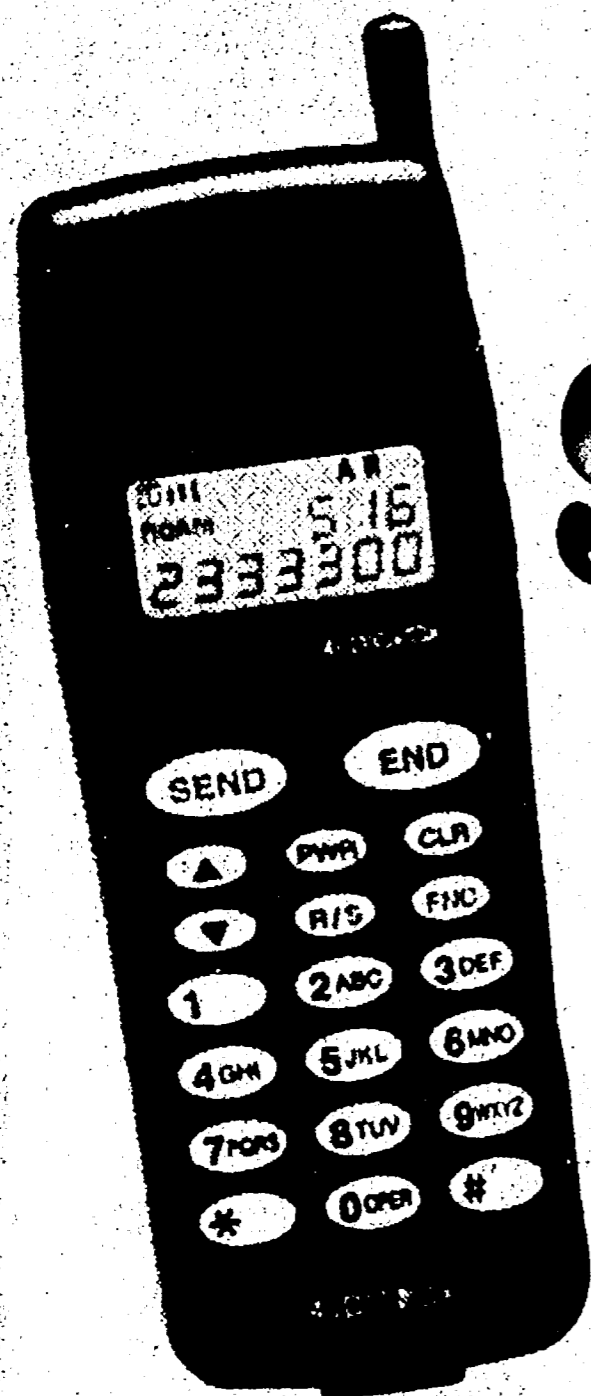
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2nd King march set for Jan. 18

BY DARRYL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
dclem@oe.homedomain.net

Westland's second annual march honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. will occur on Jan. 18, coinciding with nationwide celebrations remembering the slain civil rights leader, city officials announced.

Local marchers this year will walk west on Marquette from the Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Center and then north on Newburgh Road to the city's senior citizen Friendship Center.

The half-mile trek will start at 9 a.m. and be followed at the senior center by activities such as singing and a dramatic recitation of King's "I Have A Dream" speech.

"We are always reminded of his desire for racial equality and harmony for all Americans," Mayor Robert Thomas said in a prepared statement.

This year's observance is expected to last about three hours on the third Monday in January - the day when ceremonies are typically held across the country to honor King.

Marchers will be allowed to park at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, next door to the Dyer Center.

The Friendship Center program will begin about 9:30 a.m. and is scheduled to include a performance by John Glenn High School Singers; a recitation of King's "I Have A Dream" speech by

the Rev. George Johnson; and a performance of "Amazing Grace" by singers Matt Watroba and Robert B. Jones.

Also addressing the crowd will be Mayor Thomas, Westland City Council President Sandra Cicirelli and Wayne-Westland school Superintendent Greg Baracy.

"We are so proud to take part in this historical event," Cicirelli said in the statement announcing the event.

Longtime Westland resident John Franklin of the Southeast Homeowners Association will serve as master of ceremonies - as he did last year during the city's first-ever program honoring King.

A continental breakfast will be served at the Friendship Center as the Gratitude Steel Band performs.

The route of this year's march differs from last year's, when marchers walked from Westland City Hall to the Westland public library for a program that drew strong praise.

Some King supporters had suggested for years that the city should honor the civil rights leader who was shot dead in 1968 in Memphis, Tenn., where he had gone to show support for striking city workers.

Some still suggest the city should make the third day of January an official holiday with the closing of city offices, but that suggestion hasn't been implemented.

Rec center survey to begin soon

A survey company will contact 600 Westland residences during the next three weeks to gauge opinions on city recreation services and whether the public is supportive of a new facility.

City officials are strongly urging residents to respond to the 23-question survey to be conducted by Leisure Vision.

"It's not telemarketing," Westland Economic Development Director Scott Veldhuis said.

Rather, the company will survey residents to determine how

the city could improve recreation services and to gauge public opinion on whether a new recreation center is needed.

Leisure Vision plans to randomly phone homes to collect information that will be compiled in a report for the city.

"These are professionals who are going to be getting information for us," Veldhuis said.

Leisure Vision could begin contacting residents by late this week, he said.

The company is working with

Sverdrup Facilities Inc., a company overseeing the city's recreation study.

Residents not contacted by Leisure Vision will have an opportunity to respond to the same questions, which will be available in the Westland City Hall lobby, Veldhuis said.

Those surveys will be compiled separately from the formal survey and should be turned in at the Bailey Recreation Center, Veldhuis said.

Presents from page A1

"We have tons of stuff," said Joe Gasiewicz, manager of the Pet Supplies Plus in Canton.

Then there is always cat nip, which sends feline's senses into nirvana. Farmington Hills-based Backdoor Friends Cat Shoppe sells two varieties - in a toy or loose form - of the herb.

"The cat nip we sell is premium grade," said Anne Breneman, Backdoor Friends owner and cat lover. "It's stronger, and it's homegrown by a master gardener, a woman in Farmington Hills."

If the tabby is a tubby, Breneman has some ideas, too. Along with assorted clippers, combs and brushes, Backdoor Friends has plenty of cat toys that make the pets feel the burn.

The No. 1 seller is the "Da Bird," which simulates a live winged creature when turned with its feathers and string. The item is \$6.95. For a sedentary cat who doesn't get a lot of exercise, Breneman said, "it's a good toy to get them to jump and leap around and get some exercise."

There's also an assortment of cat collars with bells or Christmas stockings filled with toys and treats. Backdoor Friends has T-shirts, sweatshirts and nightshirts for cat lovers, too.

Those who want to splurge, there are the increasingly popular cat trees. The carpeted structures are made of real oak, birch or ash limbs and range from 30 to 72 inches in height. Prices range \$45-\$350.

Material goods are just one option. If Scruff is looking shaggy, a mutt makeover might do wonders.

Plymouth-based Pampered Pooch and Redford's Pampered Pet Salon are two groomers who spiff up pedigree and mixed-breed dogs with equal aplomb. The Plymouth grooming business also does cats.

Prices range from \$20 for smaller dogs to \$100 for Bouviers and other hulking breeds.

Dogs are bathed, blown dry, brushed and combed. Their ears are also cleaned, and they're bedecked with a bandanna or bow.

"Some of them just prance around. You can tell they know they've been groomed," said Shirley Keller, Pampered Pooch manager.

Dogs and cats are not the only pets to think of at the holidays.

Bird lovers can present their feathered friends with cuddle bones, swings and rolling bells to keep their beaks busy. Discount Pet & Supplies specializes in items for parakeets to macaws. Items can cost from \$5-\$6 for a plastic toy to \$200-\$500 for snakedwood perches.

Those who like their pets small and furry - guinea pigs, hamsters and chinchillas - can buy critter crawlers for their pens. Those, too, are sold at several pet supply stores.

"There's all kinds of stuff," said Nickel of Discount Pet & Supplies.

Surprise from page A1

without the proper information about how to feed and care for them.

"That's where people really get in over their heads, and it can be a disaster," said Dr. Mark Drake, Canton Animal Hospital veterinarian.

Cute, cuddly and seemingly low-maintenance pets such as bunnies and hamsters shouldn't be given as presents without a good deal of thought,

Drake said.

"The novelty wears off," he said. "They don't realize the amount of care and grooming that is involved, and the animal gets shunted aside."

"We forget they're basically wild animals and they hide their illnesses very well. Unfortunately, by the time you notice they're sick, they are very very ill."

OBITUARIES

RICHARD W. LOSACCO

Funeral services for Richard Losacco, 31, of Adrian, Mich., were Nov. 27 in St. Mary's Catholic Church with burial at Northview Cemetery in Dearborn. Arrangements were made by Uht Funeral Home.

Mr. Losacco, who died Nov. 22 in Adrian, was born and raised in the Wayne-Romulus area. He was a baggage handler with Northwest Airlines.

Surviving are wife, Allison; daughter, Alexis; parents, Michael and Karen; brothers, Steven (Gerald) and Greg (Melissa); sister, Doreen (John) Skrabal; one aunt; and three nieces. Mr. Losacco's siblings and aunt live in Westland and Livonia.

Memorials may be made to the Alexis Jade Loss Education Fund.

ROY W. FORSYTHE

Roy Forsythe, 78, of Westland died Dec. 4 in Taylor. He was born in Detroit. He was a brick mason.

Surviving Mr. Forsythe are his sons, Lawrence of Tempe, Ariz., and Gregory of Detroit; and daughter, Diane Forsythe of Westland.

EDWARD F. SPONTACK

Funeral services for Edward Spontack, 85, of Westland were Dec. 7 in St. Richard Catholic Church with burial at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia. Officiating was the Rev. John F. Hall. Arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home in Westland.

Mr. Spontack, who died Dec. 4 in Westland, was born in Uniontown, Pa. He was a member of St. Richard Catholic Church. He was owner of a bar. He served with the Navy during World War II.

Surviving are son, Edward (Adriano) of West-

land; daughter, Jerrle (Robert) Drozdowski of Hawaii; and sister, Margaret Spontack of Uniontown, Pa.

Memorials may be made in the form of Mass cards.

MICHAEL L. PIZZUTI

A funeral Mass for Michael Pizzuti, 62, of Westland was Dec. 5 in St. Richard Catholic Church. Officiating was the Rev. Terence Treppa. Arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

Mr. Pizzuti, who died Dec. 1 in Westland, was born in Detroit. He was a dispatcher for concrete products.

Surviving are wife, Patricia; sons, Jeffrey of West Palm Beach, Fla., and Jason of Westland; daughters, Doreen (Charles) Davis of Inkster, Colleen Pizzuti of Westland and Geri (Lyn) of Westland; brother, Ollie Antonu; sisters, Angeline Morabito of Roseville, Dorothy Lofaro of Florida and Marlene Cook of Southfield; and two grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the family fund.

JOSEPH B. PICCOLA

Funeral services for Joseph Piccola, 102, of Westland were Dec. 7 in John N. Santolu & Son Funeral Home with burial at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi. Officiating was the Rev. Arthur Mack from St. John Episcopal Church.

Mr. Piccola, who died Dec. 8 in Ann Arbor, was born in Castelemare, Italy. He was a lineman.

Surviving are wife, Velma; son, Joseph (Rhond) Piccola; daughters, Marguerite (Murry) Goldstein and Joelyn (Bill) Gaston; stepsons, Robert (Janet) Vogelei and Gerald (Bobbie) Vogelei; 24 grandchildren; and 42 great-grandchildren.

County to run juvenile program

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabracyk@oe.homecomm.net

Gov. John Engler and Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara may disagree on issues such as roads, but apparently they agree on a block grant program that will allow the county, rather than the state, to administer a juvenile justice program.

Two remaining pieces of a legislative package were approved by the state Senate on Dec. 2 and were sent to the state House.

The first bill amends the Emergency Municipal Loan Act to authorize state loans to Wayne County, which would be considered a "county juvenile agency" under previous legislation. This bill adds more legislation to the original package, which allows Wayne County to receive a block grant to provide juvenile justice services.

"We'd give them the money with the theory that they could do it more efficiently because they understand the local needs better," said Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville.

Introduced by Geake, the bill was approved on Dec. 2 by a 20-16 vote. Two senators did not vote. Geake's bill also allows the Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board the ability

to authorize loans to Wayne County.

A second bill would amend the Health and Safety Fund Act to allow money distributed from that fund, supported by cigarette taxes, to be used by Wayne County. That was approved, 20-18.

Both were sent to the state House, but it was not known whether the House would approve the two bills and the legislative package before the holiday recess.

If it is rejected this week, Geake expected the package will be reintroduced next year, because Engler wants the package approved. "I'm sure someone will introduce it," Geake said.

Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, voted against both proposals last Wednesday and the rest of the package when the Senate acted



In agreement: Gov. John Engler (above right) and Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara may disagree on a lot of issues but they agree on a block grant program that will allow the county, rather than the state, to administer a juvenile justice program.

on it earlier this year.

"I am very, very concerned about this whole process of giving money to Wayne County, and the whole lack of accountability with money sent to Wayne County," Bennett said.

"I don't want to get into a yelling match with the county, but you look at the road dollars and how they

refused the state to audit their funds. I'm not convinced of the accountability of the county at this point in time," Bennett said. Wayne County also would be alleviated of an \$80 million debt to the state.

But Mike Duggan, assistant county executive, said this program will address the problem that 64 percent of juveniles released from the state in its current system are arrested and convicted of a felony at a later

date. Juveniles generally receive probation for a first offense, then are returned to the street without any detention time unless a second or third offense is committed, Duggan said.

"It's extremely expensive and these kids aren't turned around," Duggan said. "We will treat the first offense much more seriously."

Duggan said Wayne County hopes to create a program similar to its program for adults who are sentenced to two years in jail. Through drug treatment and job training, that program has assisted 800 adults with finding full-time employment since 1993.

Duggan estimated the legislative package would yield about \$50 million in block grant money for Wayne County. The county's Department of Community Justice would start administering the program on Oct. 1, 1999.

Geake called the package "extremely controversial."

"There were concerns from union members who now work for the state could lose jobs or benefits," Geake said. "It's clear the state plans to save money by giving it to the county. The county is saying they can save money."

Revenue sharing bill helps suburbs, protects Detroit

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
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After days of back-room maneuvering, the state House of Representatives produced bills that will protect Detroit's share of state revenues but cut its city income tax.

Suburbanites working in Detroit would see their city income tax rates drop from the current 1.5 percent to 1 percent over 10 years -- if the House bills become law.

Gov. John Engler was visible after meetings with the House Republican caucus on behalf of the state-Detroit deal. But Rep. Judith Scranton, R-Brighton, said, "You didn't hear any bones cracking in my caucus," meaning Engler's pressure was light.

The House on Dec. 3:

Overwhelmingly approved a bill paring Detroit's city personal income tax over 10 years. Residents will see their rate drop from 3

to 2 percent, non-residents from 1.5 to 1 percent, under HB 5391. (Detroit's council and mayor could cut the tax unilaterally, but future officials could raise it again. Detroit has a special state law that permits it to levy the high rates.)

Approved 58-33 a revenue-sharing bill that freezes Detroit's share at \$334 million and revises the formula to help suburban and rural areas.

The House revenue-sharing bill will get a harsh reception in the Senate, where Glenn Steil, R-Grand Rapids, is beating the drums to cut Detroit's aid over six years to \$281 million.

Steil pictures Detroit as a city with 10 percent of the state's population gobbling up 25 percent of the shared revenue. He sees Detroit's being rewarded for losing population while having the highest

Please see SHARING, A12

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Commissioners react to ordinance Restaurants from page A5

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
k.abramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

Commissioner Kathleen Husk, R-Redford, calls smoking a public health concern, but she also doesn't want bad legislation passed by county commissioners in prohibiting the activity in Wayne County.

Husk said Tuesday she expects Commissioner Bernard Parker, D-Detroit, to revise his ordinance to exclude businesses with 15 or fewer employees from the smoking ban.

"That way it won't affect the mom-and-pop businesses," said Husk.

Parker could not be reached Tuesday for comment on the possible revisions. He said earlier the National Center for Disease Control has reported that cigarette smoking is the most preventable cause of death with one in five deaths smoking-relat-



ed. "In fact, scientific studies have linked secondhand smoke to heart disease and lung cancer," Parker said.

Husk added that she has received several phone calls from constituents who support the smoking ban.

"I personally think it's a good idea," Husk said. "It's important to have a healthy environment for people, but it's also important that the ordinance we pass as

commissioners is good legislation."

The ordinance is expected to bring a spirited debate next Thursday at the county commission meeting if it is revised and approved today by the commission's Health and Human Services Committee.

Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, who opposed the ordinance on Dec. 2, believes Parker will need to take the smoking ban up with the state Legislature. "The reality is he has no power to legislate in that area. State pre-emption applies. State law supersedes the county."

"The Wayne County Commission should not be trying to regulate the economy and businesses."

McCotter said the commissioners should not act without economic studies on the possible effect on Wayne County businesses. "We can't run our own airport, now Wayne County is

going to tell people how to run their businesses?"

Husk believed studies showed businesses were not hurt, as she cited a survey conducted by the Center for Hospitality Research at Cornell University that found non-smokers were eating out more often since the ban and a report that indicated New York City restaurant business had not suffered since a smoking ban was initiated there last year.

"So what I see happening is when you make a transition, it's difficult to work through in the beginning, but overall it will be healthier for everyone," Husk said.

Commission Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland, said she hasn't read the ordinance yet, so she would not comment. She has received phone calls on the matter. "Some are for it, some are against it," Beard said.

of the nonsmoker."

Anthony Gatto, general manager of Roman Forum in Canton, called the ordinance "a real dumb idea."

"The industry is getting real tired of government telling us what to do," Gatto said. "Cigarette smoking is not illegal. It should be left up to the customer to go where they want to go, and the businesses, on whether or not they want to allow smoking."

Gatto said his establishment has no problem offering a no-smoking section and discourages people from smoking cigars. "We're in the business of taking care of people. They can eat here if they want and, if it's too smoky, they can eat somewhere else. They can work here if they want or if (the smoke) bothers

them and they don't want to work here, they can quit and go down the street."

"Hopefully, it's a free country. What's next? Will they tax steaks because you might have a heart attack or hardening of the arteries?"

Tom Tomovski, the owner of Alexander the Great in Westland, does not smoke, but disagrees with the proposed ban.

"You would think it's bad for business, because there are a lot of smokers out there," Tomovski said. "We have 50 percent of our customers who smoke, and 50 percent who are non-smoking. Banning smoking will hurt us probably."

Tony Grabanica, owner of Vic's Diner in Garden City, said he was "indifferent" toward the ban.

Commission committee to review smoking ban

The ordinance to prohibit smoking for most Wayne County businesses and workplaces was expected to be discussed today (Thursday) at 10 a.m.

If committee members approve the ordinance, it will be returned to the commission Thursday, Dec. 17. A public hearing on the ordinance will be held at the meeting.

Workplaces not subject to the

ordinance include private residences, except when used as a childcare, adult care or health care facility; retail tobacco stores; public areas where bingo is held, where at least 40 percent of the seating area is designated and maintained as smoke-free.

Only private functions in restaurants, hotel and motel conference rooms would be exempt.

The size of smoking areas in restaurants and bars will be restricted over a one-year period to smaller areas until smoking is ultimately prohibited.

As of March 1, 1999, restaurants and bars may designate a smoking area no greater than 50 percent of its seating capacity, but it must be designated in a room.

Beginning Sept. 1, 1999, smok-

ing will be reduced to no more than 20 percent of the seating capacity. Beginning March 1, 2000, there will be no designated smoking areas in restaurants.

Owners, operators or managers permitting violations of the ordinance may be found guilty of a civil infraction and subject to a fine of \$50 for a first offense and \$100 for each subsequent offense.

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Hot toys!

Young shoppers have long lists for Santa this season

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Pushing a miniature basket purposefully through the aisles of Noodle Kidoodle recently, Daniel Calleja, 4, was a shopper who knew what he wanted. And he wasn't going to consider a purchase from the Northville Township store until he made sure the merchandise, especially the Kawasaki guitar, worked.

The Livonia youngster was browsing with his dad, Jeff, when he quickly explained that besides the guitar he also wanted a Play Doh Play Shop, a remote control tower crane and a keyboard.

Calleja was among a number of young shoppers, surveyed recently to get a glimpse of the hottest toys this holiday season. Many of the kids chose popular items, like "A Bug's Life" characters and Teletubbies. A lot of their other choices were traditional, long-time favorites, like Legos, Barbies and yo-yos.

The toys that grab Calleja's attention and the millions of children around the country amount to a \$22.6 billion annual business. A whopping 50 percent of those sales are rung up during the holidays.

If you're wondering what to buy the children on your holiday shopping list, here are some ideas from experts, like David Shore, 7, a New Hampshire resident who was interviewed while recently visiting relatives in Livonia. He was checking out the stock at the Northville Township store with his mom, Sue Shore.

Standing next to a bin filled with Beanie Babies, Sue Shore explained: "He's always looking for Beanie Babies and especially the new ones."

Nintendo, videos, Legos and yo-yos are also some of his top choices.

Finding the right toy

Char Crawford of Novi walked out a happy customer after learning that she bought the last Pinky Winky talking Teletubby



Holiday mood: Daniel Shore, 4, of Livonia fills his shopping cart with all his favorite toys for the holiday season at Noodle Kidoodle at Six Mile and Haggerty roads.

that her nephew, Jake Gosselin, 2, of Livonia wanted. His mother "looked everywhere and couldn't find it," Crawford explained.

Mike Aja, an 8-year-old Livonia resident and student at St. Michael Catholic School in Livonia, was shopping with his dad, Rich. They were looking for Legos Mind Storms. But, before he left the store, a display of yo-yos also caught his eye and prompted a convincing sales pitch to his father.

Behind the cash register and in the storage room, Shannon Prince, Noodle Kidoodle, store manager, and Traci Johnson, assistant manager, see firsthand which toys are going out the door the most. They ranked pottery wheels, a Crayola adjustable Easel, a Barbie digital camera, Blues Clues toys, yo-yos and Mind Storms as the best selling toys so far this season.

High expectations

Some kids we talked to were quite particular; others had general ideas about what they wanted. Some had simple wants. Others, like Dina Salhani, 7, of Dearborn Heights had higher expectations.

She was shopping recently at Toys R Us in Westland with her mom, Debbie and brother, Jordan, 9 months.

"I want everything," Salhani stated emphatically. Then she began naming her top picks, which included a basketball-playing Rebecca Lobo Barbie. A big basketball fan, Debbie Salhani explained that Dina wanted to name her brother Michael Jordan and the family settled on Jordan instead.

"She likes the hand-held Twister game and electronic everything," Debbie Salhani

Please see TOYS, A14

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The Michigan Education Trust (MET) will accept new applicants Dec. 1, 1998 to Feb. 1, 1999. The MET program provides an opportunity to pre-purchase future college tuition costs for a Michigan child. MET is not guaranteed by the state of Michigan. It is

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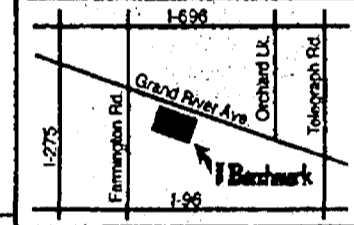
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Sharing

from page A9

property, local income and utility taxes in the state while "growth" areas foot the bill. The Senate passed his version of revenue-sharing last summer on 30-6 vote.

Rep. Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, voted against the revenue-sharing bill in the House Appropriations Committee Dec. 2 but for it on Dec. 3 when the full House adopted it. Their reasons were identical.

Bankes voted no in committee because of the rush job. "The Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association and Michigan Association of Counties had not had the bill long enough to do an analysis," said Bankes, who is term-limited out. Her effort to protect Detroit and Wayne County, however, will help her politically when she takes office Jan. 1 as a Wayne County commissioner.

Here is how area lawmakers voted on the House revenue-sharing bill:

YES - Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights, Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills.

NO - Deborah Whyman, R-Canton.

ABSENT - Gerald Law, R-Plymouth.

Michigan has two revenue-sharing pieces of legislation:

■ The constitution, which distributes \$568 million per year on a per-capita basis. Only the voters can change it.

■ A 1971 law, which spreads \$792 million on the basis of a complicated formula that takes account of "relative tax effort." Steil calls that a "perverse incentive of giving more revenue-sharing dollars to communities that increase taxes."

The Steil bill cutting Detroit aid is SB 1181. The House bill freezing it is HB 5989 and is sponsored by Nick Ciaramitaro, D-Roseville.

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Bindings - Marker M-28 V-tech	\$190	
Poles - Scott Classic	\$44	
Total Retail \$584		
Skis - Olin Discovery	\$350	\$355
Bindings - Salomon Quad 600	\$180	
Poles - Scott Classic	\$44	
Total Retail \$589		
Skis - Salomon X-Tree 08	\$420	\$315
Bindings - Salomon Quad 600	\$180	
Poles - Scott Classic	\$44	
Total Retail \$644		
Skis - Dynastar Speed Team Jr	\$125	\$115
Bindings - Salomon Quad 300	\$120	
Poles - Scott Storm	\$29	
Total Retail \$299		
Skis - Rossignol Cut 10 4	\$369	\$330
Bindings - Marker M-28 V-tech	\$190	
Poles - Scott Classic	\$44	
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Special toy: Alex Smith, 3, listens to her C Watch tell her the time and then say, "You Go Girl!"

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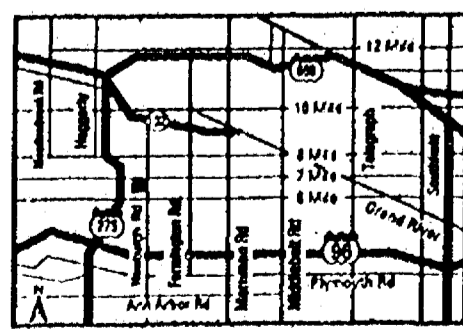
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Toys from page A12

added. Other kids, like Ricky Lorenz, 8, of Livonia had simple needs. "I'd like Legos and a pad of paper," said Lorenz, who likes to draw.

He also wants Beast Wars figures and color pencils. The ticket prices got higher and higher as he continued to ponder the question.

"I'd also like a camera case for my camera and oh yeah, Game Boy," Lorenz added.

To put it simply, his mother, Betty explained: "He wants everything that he sees on TV."

Suheil Shatara held his two children, Fred, 4, and Freda, 5, by their hands as they walked through the store. Fred wants Santa to bring a remote control motorcycle and Freda wants a Barbie car.

Billy Garbinski, 7, of Garden City hopes to see "A Bug's Life" character under his Christmas tree Dec. 25.

"I like Star Wars, PlayStation cartridges and smelly markers," he added.

Andrei Dit, 10, tried the video games as his mother watched. What does he want for Christmas? "Video games," he said simply.

Standing near the Pokemon's display, Beverly Swantner shopped with her son, George, 10.

"Well, let's see, I'd like a Vtech



Searching: The Shatara family of Westland (from left) Freda, 5, father Suheil and Fred, 4, stroll the aisles the Toys R Us in Westland to get gift ideas.

computer, Pikachu Number 25 Pokemon, Rad Robot and that's it," he exclaimed.

Alex Smith, 3, of Belleville looked professional as she held a Spice Girls microphone that her mom, Alysia planned to buy. Don't tell, but the toddler is also getting a Go Girl C-watch, a Mickey Mouse telephone and an

ice cream maker for Christmas.

Popular picks

Smith and the other local kids picked many of the same toys listed by KayBee Toys as the most popular this year.

The country's largest mall-based toy retailer said the following are the hottest toys:

A Bug's Life, by Mattel, for ages 4 and up; Blues Clues Musical BlueAges, by Fisher Price, for children 1 and older; Bouncing Tigger, by Mattel, for children 18 months and older; Furby, an interactive Gremlin creature who speaks two languages; and Holiday Barbie and Holiday Sisters, by Mattel for children 3 and older.

Hot Wheels Mechanix, by Mattel for children ages 6 and older; Spice Girls by Galoob, for children 3 and up; Talking Teletubbies, by Hasbro for children age 1 and older; WCW/WWF Wrestling Figures, by Original San Francisco, for children 4 and older and Yomega X-Brain Yo-Yo by Bandai for children age 8 and older also made the top 10 list, according to Yahoo on the Internet.

But trying to track down, these and other, popular toys can be a daunting experience. No one knows that more than Gary Buckingham, night manager at the Meijer store on Warren Road in Westland.

He regularly sees cases of fad toys, like the Teletubbies, being snatched up minutes after they are delivered to the store. Other customers, however, leave empty-handed.

His advice: "Don't give up and don't let the holidays get you frustrated."

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Madonna business students win top honors

Several students from Madonna University's School of Business were honored for their academic achievements recently during the school's 14th annual Honors Convocation.

Shannon Warner of Novi received the Meta and Bernard Landuyt Award for High Achievement. A senior majoring in business administration and pre-law, Warner received the most prestigious honor a student may attain in the Madonna School of Business. It is awarded to a senior with a grade point average of 3.7 or above, who has completed a minimum of 30 semester hours and 25 semester hours within the School of Business.

Gregory Leverette of Southfield was awarded the Frank E. and Angileri Quality Award. A graduate student in quality and operations management, Leverette received an award for demonstrating a significant contribution to quality improvements in the automotive industry and maintain a 2.5 grade point average. The award is given to a student, full- or part-time, connected with the automotive industry, pursuing a

master's degree in quality and operations management.

Madonna University's School of Business offers a program in quality improvement in conjunction with the Association for Quality and Participation in which participants earn a nationally recognized certificate in quality. The AQP pilot program is the only one of its kind in the state of Michigan. Upon completion of the program, the certificate may apply towards a master's degree in quality and operations management at Madonna.

Twenty-two students were inducted into the Epsilon Gamma Chapter of Delta Mu Delta, a national honor society in business administration. The motto of the society is "Through Knowledge, Power." A School of Business Faculty member, Tim Brennan of Livonia, was also inducted into Delta Mu Delta as an honorary member.

Receiving Highest Achievement Awards were Carol Bouchin, an accounting major from Detroit, Karen Bedy, a business administration major from Redford, Theresa Gentner, a computer information systems major



Honored: Five students honored with the Highest Achievement Award in their major at Madonna University are (clockwise from left) Carol Houchin of Detroit, Karen Bedy of Redford, Alice Pfohl of Wixom, Ruth Hodges of Novi and Theresa Gentner of Livonia.

from Livonia, Alice Pfohl, a management major from Wixom, and Ruth Hodges, a marketing major from Novi. These awards are given annually to students from each major who attain the

highest grade-point average. To be eligible, each student must have completed 40 semester hours in the major, 30 semester hours at Madonna University and 15 hours within the past

semesters. Additionally, 63 students received High Achievement Awards, which are given to students who have completed a minimum of 30 semester hours

at Madonna University, and 15 hours within the major with a grade-point average of 3.5 or above.

These students include: Roxanne Delozier, Christine Gerak and Patricia O'Rourke, of Canton; Christopher Bouschet, Lynn Hoag, Shanker Pathak, Carolyn Payne and Nayda Schwartz, of Farmington Hills, and Mary Barney and Pamela Leming, of Garden City.

Also, students honored from Livonia were Lynne Bain, Sheri Bajorek, Stephen Bolla, Linda Cosgrove, Irene Duncan, Maria Gardner, Nadine Janette, Christine Johnson, Sharon Kallas, Jeanette LaForge, Elaine Nading, Beverly Niedbala, Ann Rajt, Dennis Respecki, Rachelle Roy, Jamie Weaver and Sandra Wilson.

From Plymouth, Ryan Bayer, Marilyn Brindamour and Carol Stone were awarded, while Redford residents Julianne Gillis, Joanela Grimes, Michelle Mohr, Constance Pawlaczyk, Cynthia Raisanen and Darren Sims were honored.

Westland residents Michael Baker and Albert Fuciarelli also received awards.

Seat belt use up slightly - study

Michigan's just-released safety belt use rate is up only slightly from last year, according to a survey conducted by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI).

Use of safety belts is 69.9 percent in 1998 versus 67.6 percent in 1997. The national rate in 1997 was 67.6 percent.

This is the first year Michigan and other states are reporting safety belt use rates as the average for passenger vehicles, sport utility vehicles, vans-minivans and pickup trucks.

Lowest rate of usage is among

pickup truck drivers, 54.1 percent.

It's highest among those who drive vans and minivans, 75.7 percent.

Belt use is lowest for those aged 16-29, at 63.6 percent, and highest for the 4-15 age group, 75.2 percent.

Last year Michigan traffic crashes claimed 1,446 lives. Of those who died, less than half were buckled up.

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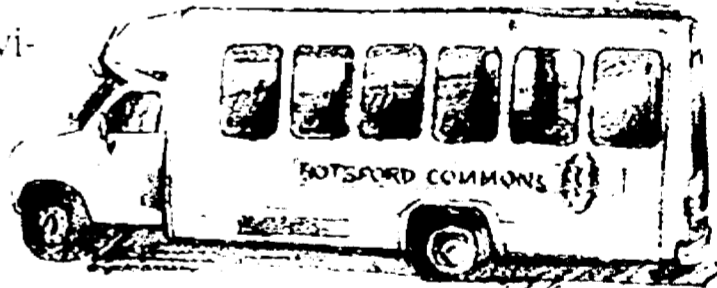
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OPINION

A16(W)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1998

Survey says Rec center opinions sought

Westland residents will have their chance to have some input on the city's proposed multimillion dollar recreation complex as part of a survey being conducted this month.

A telephone survey of some 600 residents is being conducted over the next few weeks by an outside firm.

The council is also considering allowing those people who are not surveyed by telephone to have the chance to fill out the survey by picking one up at Westland City Hall. We hope that opportunity is given to residents who are not surveyed by phone.

Results of the survey are expected in February.

While the survey is lengthy (it takes about 20 minutes) and the call may not come at a convenient time, we hope residents on both sides of the issue will take the time to answer the questions.

Only completed surveys will be counted, so only answering one or two questions or just saying you oppose the center will result in your voice not being heard.

The idea of building a recreation center in Westland using money gleaned from a special taxing district may appeal to some residents

■ A telephone survey of some 600 residents is being conducted over the next few weeks by an outside firm.

and not to others.

Also, those who favor building the center may want to express their views on what it should contain.

Here's the chance to be heard. The survey asks residents about how often they currently use recreational facilities of any type. It asks about current use of the city's Bailey Center and whether those facilities are adequate.

It also asks about which recreation facilities should be included in a new center such as ice-skating rinks, swimming facilities, a running/walking track and banquet facilities or meeting rooms.

Residents will also be asked if they favor user fees and whether the facility should be self-supporting.

The survey could provide the city with some valuable information about residents' opinions of a proposed recreation center for Westland.

We hope residents will take the time to be heard.

Service as scarce as the Furby

There are just over two weeks until Christmas and even some confessed shopaholics we know are ready to call it a season.

That's because the reality of hitting the mall these days seldom matches the image conjured up in the media. Shopping - holiday or otherwise - is portrayed in newsprint, on television and even at the movie theater as an experience or even a "lifestyle choice." Why else would the opening of an outlet mall on the fringe of suburbia generate story after story, day after day, for weeks on end? Why else would otherwise sane people line up at 6 a.m. on the Friday following Thanksgiving so that they can purchase this year's Tickle me Elmo - the Furby? And why else would retail analysts predict increased holiday sales each November only to have retailers turn around in January and say sales didn't quite match their expectations?

But shopping in the real world is not nearly as fun as it's made out to be. It's not just finding the time in overextended schedules or battling the crowds of holiday shoppers, either. We've seen a real slide in customer service during the 1990s.

Good, knowledgeable, courteous sales help is disappearing faster from major department stores than those hard-to-find "retired" Beanie Babies. Walk into a store on any given night and you're likely to find as many unstaffed cash registers as staffed ones. Even the large electronic stores have become virtually self-service. While product displays include price and a list of features, any customer seeking additional information via human contact is just about out of luck.

Contributing factors undoubtedly include the current labor shortage, which affects low-paying service jobs more severely. But global competition, mergers and the squeeze on retailers' bottom lines have an impact as well. On-the-job training at many retailers is almost non-existent.

In fact, real customer service has now become the domain of a few, high-end department stores and specialty shops. Neiman Mar-

■ Good, knowledgeable, courteous sales help is disappearing faster from major department stores than those hard-to-find 'retired' Beanie Babies. Walk into a store on any given night and you're likely to find as many unstaffed cash registers as staffed ones. Even the large electronic stores have become virtually self-service. While product displays include price and a list of features, any customer seeking additional information via human contact is just about out of luck.

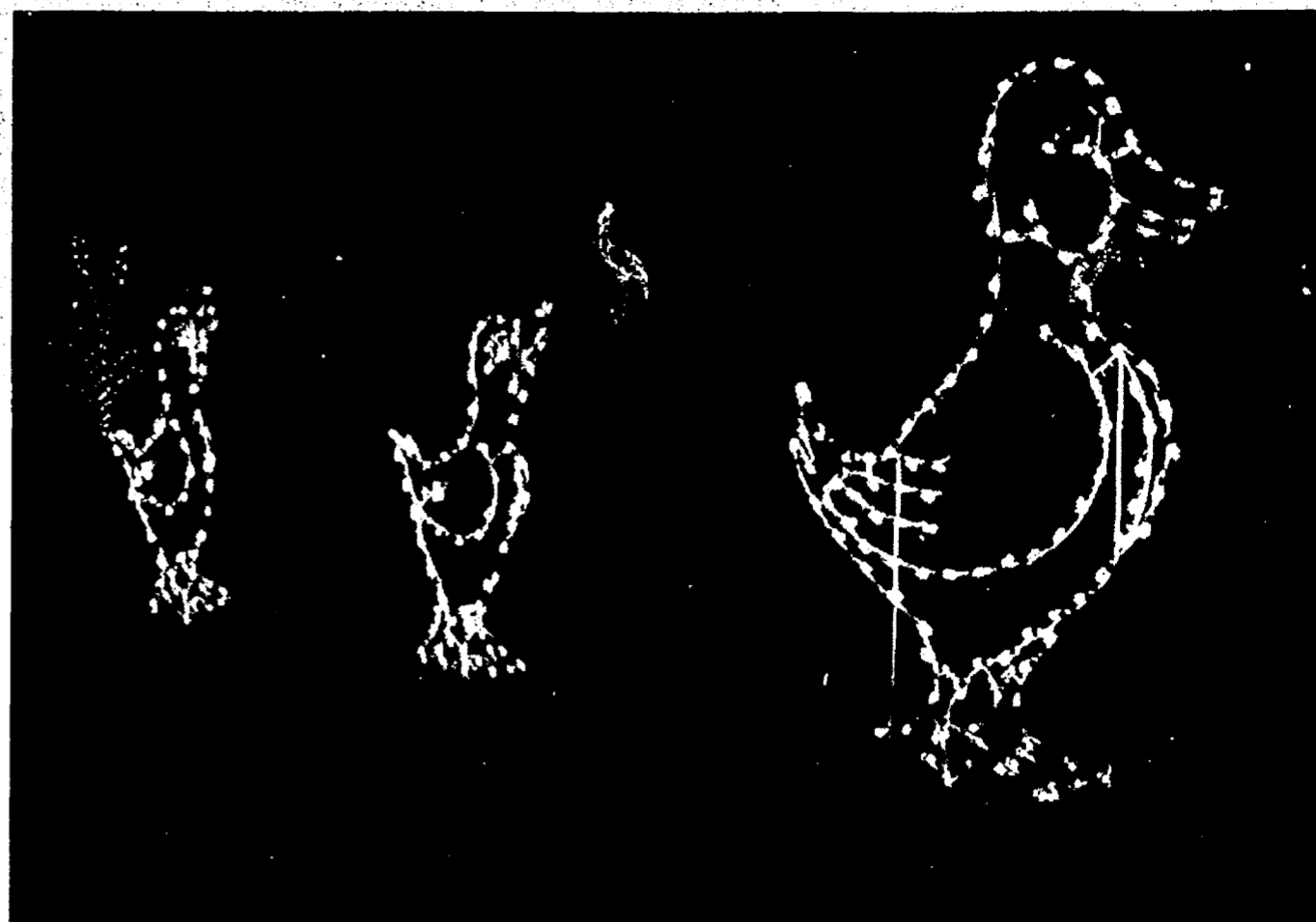
cus and Nordstrom have carved out reputations based on going the extra mile for their clientele.

Unfortunately, what's good for top-drawer stores isn't necessarily good for retailing as a whole. There are far more shoppers - and more aggregate dollars - at the middle end of the spectrum. Surveys repeatedly show that the overwhelming majority of people who receive poor customer service never complain to management. However, they never return to the store either and they usually tell at least four other people about their experience.

Also, the evidence is mounting that middle-class consumers are beginning to vote with their computer mouse. Shopping over the Internet - really just a high-tech catalogue collection - is expected to reach \$2.3 billion during the 1998 holiday season and online sales have more than doubled every 12 months, according to Consumer Reports Magazine.

All this spells trouble for the traditional retailer, which typically counts on generating as much as half of its annual revenue during the holiday season. We can only hope the "experts" figure it out while shoppers are still willing to make the trip.

All aglow



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Just ducky: Wayne County LightFest is lighting up the night skies along Hines Drive in Hines Park. Use the Merriman Road entrance in Westland. The show is open nightly, 7-10 p.m. through Jan. 1, but will be closed Dec. 25.

LETTERS

Sadly missed

A "gentle giant" will be sadly missed. "Marky Mark" Romanchuk was a friend to all, a gentleman, always in a class of his own. If you were around him and not laughing then something was wrong with you. He was very active in his community whether it be patrolling the streets with the CB patrol, selling peanuts for the Kiwanis or working with disabled children including playing Santa Claus.

Mark never knew anyone as a stranger. All the many people Mark met, he loved them and they loved him. Mark worked at many establishments as a bartender. He was better than Tom Cruise in the movie "Cocktail." He also was a karaoke host, and that's how he got the nickname "Marky Mark." He worked for First Edition, K.C.'s Dive, Good Time Charlie's and The Stables.

The family of Mark Romanchuk would like to thank everyone for their support, kindness and generosity through his illness.

Gail Romej
sister, on behalf of the family of Mark Romanchuk

Source of help for stutterers

We applaud your article, "Stutter support," and your efforts to shed some light on this complex disorder affecting over three million Americans.

However, your readers should also know how to contact an excellent nonprofit source of help, the 50-year-old Stuttering Foundation of America.

We provide a nationwide resource list and accurate information on stuttering compiled by the leading authorities in the field of speech pathology. For more information, offered free of charge, your readers may write us at P.O. Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749, e-mail: stutterfa@aol.com, visit us at www.stutterSFA.org, or call our toll-free Hotline on Stuttering at (800) 992-9392.

Jane Fraser
president, Stuttering Foundation of America

Make your wishes known

As families gather this holiday season, it is the hope of nearly 60,000 Americans that

conversations include a discussion of organ, tissue and eye donation. They are the ones waiting to have their lives begin again through a transplant.

One Michigan cornea transplant recipient stated, "We never talked about donation in our family because it just didn't seem important to us. Not until my eye injury forced me into blindness. Now that I can see again, I make it a point to help others realize the importance of family discussion and the impact that a donated cornea has made in my life. I am thankful to my donor family every day of my life."

Most people think that filling out a driver's license sticker regarding their donation wishes is enough. But it most definitely is not enough. People need to realize that the decision to donate organs and tissues ultimately lies with their next-of-kin. Family members ultimately make the final decision about donation. It is much easier to talk about your wishes before death and to find out how others in your family feel, rather than be faced with the decision during a time of grief.

For the thousands of Americans who have had their lives renewed through transplantation the message is clear; they are living healthy, joyful lives not because others died but because of the gifts they gave that allowed lives to continue.

For free information about donation, contact the Michigan Eye Bank at (800) 247-7250 or visit our Web site at www.mebtc.org.

Patrick Pruitt
Canton

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity and brevity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a daytime contact telephone number. No anonymous letters will be published.

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

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

Pretend you're a weather forecaster. What will Michigan's winter be like?

We asked this question last Thursday at the Westland Kroger on Ford Road.



"Mild until Jan. 3, and then it will be severe."

Robert Burch



"Bad starting in February."

Bill Martin



"Come January or February, I believe it's going to be bad - a lot of snow."

Becky Regits



"Hopefully, it's going to be mild."

Margaret Shay

Westland Observer

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OUR MISSION: "Because we publish community newspapers, we think about community journalism in a fundamentally different way than our bigger competition. They consider themselves to be independent from the stories and communities they cover, swooping in to write the unusual or sensational and then dashing off to cover something else. We regard ourselves as both accurate journalists and as caring citizens of the communities where we work."

— Philip Power

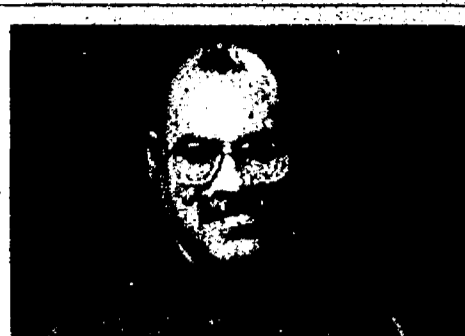
POINTS OF VIEW

Tree search bears strong resemblance to a beauty contest

It may well be that some of the romance has gone out of this affair, but what can you expect after so many years? The allure and intrigue of this oft-repeated ritual have dropped off a bit in favor of more practical considerations. Now, instead of eyeing some beauty from afar, then moving in closer until the fragrance fills my nose, and finally observing the suppleness of the limbs, I now buy my Christmas tree at one of those huge home improvement centers. I know all about needle retention and that stuff; we've tried all the varieties and nothing holds up like a Fraser fir. The branches are firm, the needles are soft and they last a long time. We've had spruces that scratched our arms into hamburger, and we've had a Scotch pine or two whose needles got caught in the carpet for months before coming out stuck in the bottom of someone's foot.

To paraphrase Neil Young, "I've seen the needles and the damage done." Every year at this time, the newspapers and the TV news have reports on how to pick out a fresh Christmas tree. These reports are basically elementary drivel — strictly for amateurs. Sure, freshness is important — dried-up trees are ugly and dangerous (that almost sounds like a column on Kevorkian). Beyond freshness, the other important factors are color, fragrance, balance, branch spacing, and dimension. I'm here to tell you, at least when it comes to Christmas trees, size really does matter. The perfect tree, when placed in a stand and with the star on top, will come within a quarter-inch of the ceiling. I can't help being envious of my friends, Eric and Gary, whose ceilings are about 14 and 18 feet, respectively. Both of them are also confessed tree fanatics. Frankly, I think the taller

QUEST COLUMNIST



GARY BELANGER

tree space was the main reason Gary bought his house.

Choosing the perfect tree is much more than just simply understanding the physical characteristics. The art of the hunt is even more important than the technical knowledge. First of all, you have to look at every single tree — then you need to mark the semifinalists with a stick or some twine.

The finalists, usually two or three trees, are checked out with at least one tape measure, a transit, and a framing square. It's a lot like a beauty pageant except that the winner gets bound in plastic netting and tied to the roof of the minivan. Beware, because a good tree hunter knows how to watch other tree hunters, and you often see them scouting out each other's trees.

Tree Envy is a powerful emotional force that can ruin your holiday season. Don't get jealous because someone else scored a better-looking tree than you did — you should be happy for them and admire them. Remember the 11th commandment: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's conifer."

One of the worst cases that I ever saw involved my brother-in-law. Since his sister had purchased a 10-foot tree, he decided to top her by getting a 12-footer. He dragged that proud and

pricey evergreen into the living room, which only had an 8-foot ceiling. He quickly found himself with only two options: display the tree horizontally, or whack off about 4 feet. Since he didn't have a wall-mounted tree stand, he went for the saw instead. Now, here's where thinking might have paid off — he probably should have cut off the bottom of the tree instead of the top. He ended up with a massive, blunt bush that needed a star the size of Alpha Centauri.

Picking the right tree is a lot of work, but it's all worthwhile when you get a compliment like I did a few years ago when a friend said "Your tree is just perfect. Is it artificial?" It took her until Easter to get the pine cones out of her nose.

Gary Belanger lives in Redford. He can be reached at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1890.

Public votes in the dark on appellate judge races too often

It was no secret, but only one medium blurted it out: Judge Myron Wahls was dying of cancer even as he campaigned last fall for a new six-year term on the state Court of Appeals.

Wahls was handily re-elected Nov. 3, but died later in the month. Had he lived, he would have been 67 on Dec. 11.

The medium who spelled it out was Observation Balloon, a newsletter published in Detroit by a one-man show named Bradford G. White, formerly a Kennedy Democratic liberal and now a bastion of political incorrectness.

White has a propensity for rubbing a lot of politics the wrong way, so naturally he and I are good buddies. I quote from his July 24 report:

"Myron Wahls ... has been ill for years with cancer, reportedly incurable. In many other instances, judges


retire rather than seek terms they possibly won't complete.

"But Judge Wahls is rumored to have personal concerns that make him loath to leave office. Among the compensations of appeals judges is a life-insurance policy worth upwards of \$200,000. The judge is said to want to leave this to his grandchildren; but the policy is only valid while he is in office and is reduced, or ceases, upon his retirement. Judge Wahls has been seen campaigning actively in this season, however ...

"Obviously, the judicial community should find a better way for Judge Wahls to provide for his progeny."

So what?

Well, the public is fooling itself when it thinks voters elect judges. Gov. John Engler will appoint Wahls' successor. The chief executive has shown a propensity to lean to the political right, as witness his appoint-



TIM RICHARD

ment of Michael Talbot, of basketball-score sentencing fame, to the same court.

Wahls himself came up by the appointment route. His background seemed Democratic — a member of the same law firm as John Conyers and Damon Keith and membership in the National Lawyers Guild. But under Gov. Bill Milliken, Wahls chaired the Michigan Employment Security Commission Appeals Board and was Mil-

liken's choice in 1974 to be the GOP sacrificial lamb against Attorney General Frank Kelley.

(Wahls apparently wanted to forget that race and didn't list it in his official state biography. Nor was it in his obituary. Nor was it in the obligatory legislative resolutions passed last week.)

The next year, 1975, Milliken rewarded Wahls by appointing him to a vacancy on the Wayne Circuit Court and in 1982 to the Court of Appeals.

I knew Wahls a little from interviews and our activities in the stage show "The Trial of William Shakespeare," relished his wit, read many of his moderate opinions and wish I could have known him better.

A lot of people — including boss Phil Power, former State Bar President Tom Kienbaum and Appeals Judge Martin Doctoroff — think there should be a better way to pick appellate

judges: a merit system that would involve appointments.

Frankly, the public can't know a whole lot about appellate court candidates, hence the propensity to elect people with Irish surnames, regardless of judicial philosophy. And as my buddy, Brad White, suggests, we need to find better ways for the judiciary to care for their progeny.

If we can't go to an appointment-merit system for picking appellate judges, we should have a separate election for all members of the judiciary, from Supreme Court down to circuit and district courts.

Maybe then the public could pay better attention.

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

Downtowns a vital part of community health, well-being

One of the very few catalogs I extract from the seasonal tidal waves of junk mail before they hit the trash bin is the one from Neiman Marcus.

Increasingly, I find I need a jolt of outrage at the onrushing materialism and fakery of our culture every Christmastime, and the special offerings from the good folks at Neiman Marcus seldom fail me. In past years, we've had his and hers business jet airplanes (thoughtfully painted blue and pink, in case you wondered), along with hot air balloons and God only knows what other upper-upper scale rubbish.

This year's special is a British Ferret Mark 1 armored car. "Carries a crew of two, one of two 'friendly' people may be added to the commander's seat for cruising around the ranch." If you hurry, you can still get delivery in time for Christmas for only \$25,000.

So much for this year's monument to materialism.

For a good spell of anti-fakery, I suggest you take a leisurely stroll through your downtown shopping area. Not the mall or even the discount mall. But your own hometown downtown. It turns out that as the Christmas season is (ahem, in light of the recent weather) heating up, small downtowns all across Michigan are on a roll.


"What we're seeing is a renaissance on Main Street," according to Tom Scott of the Michigan Retailers Association.

Main Streets are hardly going to steal all the business from the malls, national chain stores or big box discount centers. But retailing experts say downtowns, once mourned as near dead, are finding their own special niche that's increasingly attractive to real people in search of real things sold by real people in real, human-sized stores.

"There are an increasing number of successful small downtowns," says Norman Tyler, director of Eastern Michigan University's Urban and Regional Planning Program. "People like to come downtown. There is a certain comfort about it."

Plainly, downtowns are not likely to compete on price only with the big retail chains or discount malls. But the ambiance, scale and personal quality of good downtowns are increasingly attractive to anybody who has ever had to pound on the counter to get the attention of the bored and alienated clerk in the outlet store.

Professor Tyler's research shows that downtowns are helped by a good facade, trees, land



PHILIP POWER

scaping, new sidewalks. A good mix of unusual and authentic businesses helps, too, such as flower shops, specialty shops, book and gift shops. "You want to get people on the sidewalk and make them want to walk up and down the sidewalk," says Tyler.

Tyler says parking may not be as important as many city planners think. "You have to have the businesses. The parking doesn't bring the people, the businesses do," he says.

He cites a formula for downtown success: Keep your costs low. Work cooperatively with other businesses. Attract a good mix of stores. Provide excellent service and selection within your particular niche. Offer your customers something they can't get at Wal-Mart.

Brenda Sternquist, who teaches merchandising management at Michigan State University, gives this advice: "Stay away from national brands, especially national brands that have been discounted. It is the kiss of death to compete directly with national discount stores."

One of the fundamental objectives of this newspaper is to nourish the communities we serve and assist the success of local businesses. Our theory is very simple. If the hometown community flourishes, the hometown newspaper will thrive.

Our downtown is a vital part of the life and spirit of our community. That it and other small downtowns like it all across Michigan are thriving is a happy sign as we come into the Christmas season hoping for immunization against the excessively materialistic and the crassly fake.

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 ppower@coonline.com

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Families celebrate at Nankin Mills



PHOTOS BY RON POKKEY

Special visit: Allison and Derek Boatright talk with Santa at last week's family party sponsored by Friends of Nankin Mills.

Approximately 100 Wayne County residents joined Wayne County parks staff and Friends of Nankin Mills Saturday for a tree lighting ceremony and children's activities at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center in Westland.

Nearly 50 children enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus, games and crafts before the tree was lighted outside in the 60-degree weather.

Children played games to celebrate the season, such as "fruitcake bowling," said Carol Clements, a naturalist with Wayne County parks. "They used 'fruitcakes' made from Nerf balls to knock down pins that looked like little elves," Clements said.

Children played a bean-bag-toss game through a wreath hanging on the ceiling and pin-the-nose on Rudolph. The youngsters participated in several crafts as they decorated gingerbread cookies, created a reindeer out of old clothespins and dressed up pine cones.



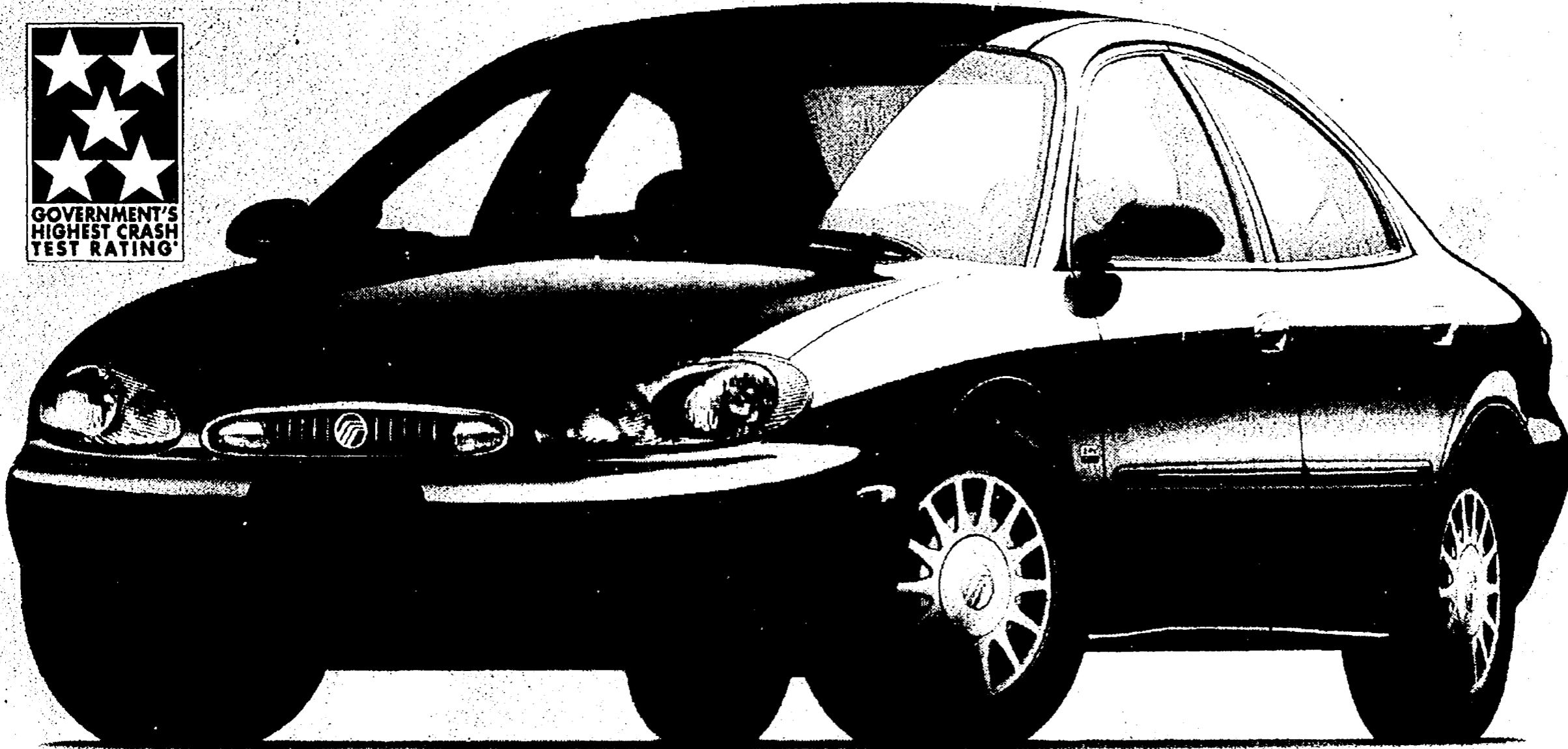
Yummy!: Katie Reid, 3½, enjoys a Christmas cookie at last Saturday's tree lighting.

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COMMON SENSORS



JACQUE MARTIN-DOWNS

P.E.T. helps kids develop brain power

met a woman several years ago who told me a sad story which could have been titled, "The Child That Wasn't Wanted." She told me about her unplanned pregnancy and lethargic attitude about taking care of herself during the pregnancy, mainly because she didn't want the baby.

So, she drank, she smoked, she ate junk food, she stayed up all night with friends and took little interest in staying healthy for the baby.

She talked about the depression she felt when the baby came and how she would ignore the baby's needs for a time before changing her and giving her a bottle. She talked about how the baby grew, and although she was cute, the mom hated her whining and seemingly endless crying.

She remembers thinking, "I didn't like her father and she reminds me too much of him." So she ignored her. When her second baby arrived, she admitted that she acted completely different with him.

The sadness I heard in her story was only heightened by the sadness I felt for the little girl. This little girl did not ask to be born, and yet, now

Please see SENSORS, B2

Festival of Lights

Jewish congregations prepare for Hanukkah

■ Eight lighted candles, potato pancakes and gifts mean it's time for Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, and two area congregations are preparing celebrations filled with plenty of food and merriment.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

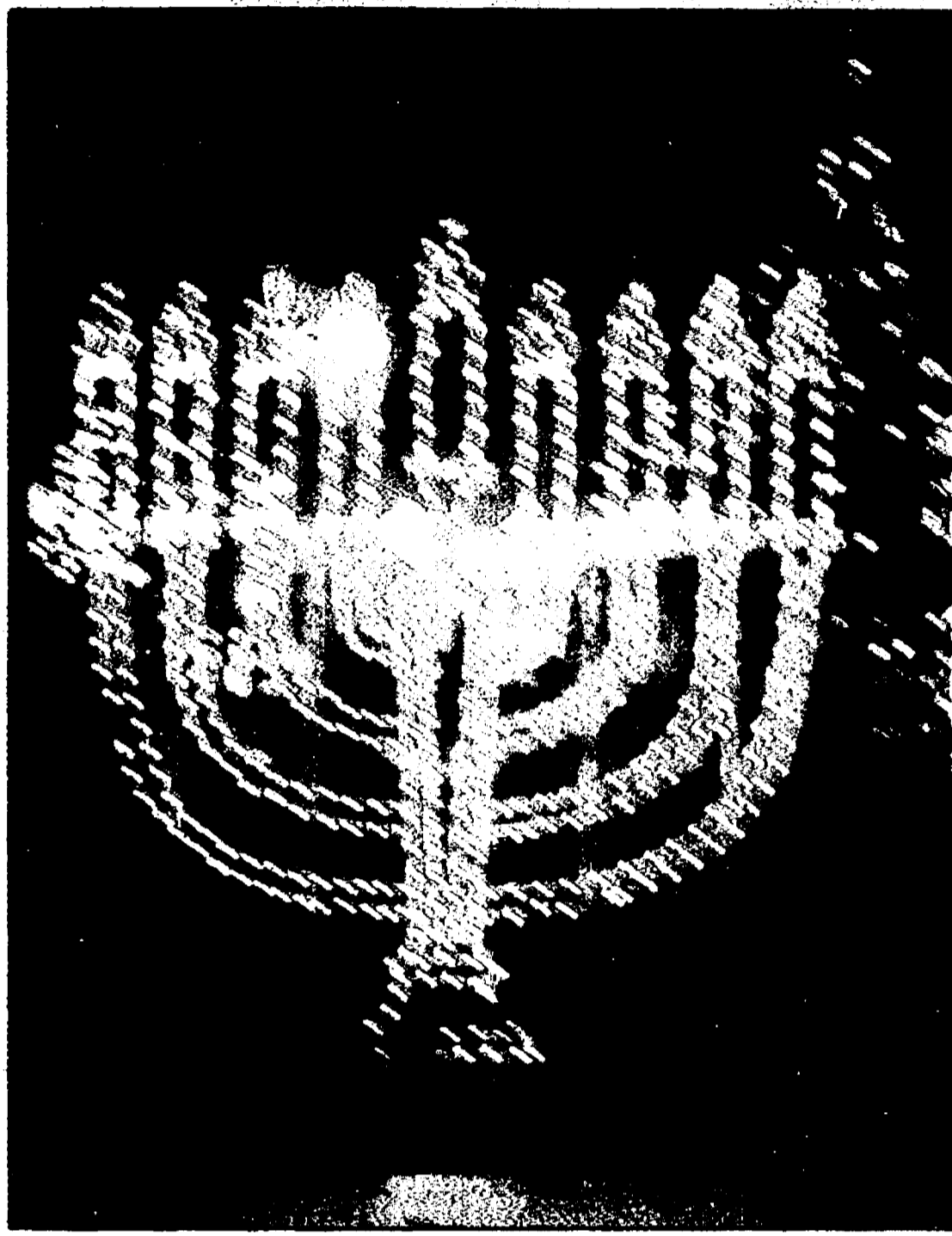
Elaine Gittleman, the self-proclaimed "leader of the band" for Congregation Beit Kodesh's Hanukkah celebration, sees the holiday as a cholesterol fest.

"Being Jewish, all of our big holidays, whether it's Rosh Hashana, whether it's Hanukkah, whether it's Passover time, it's cholesterol city, especially during Hanukkah and Passover because it lasts so long," Gittleman said with a hearty laugh. "We just try to watch ourselves during those holidays. But the young people, they go 'Oh, the heck with it' and we say 'Oh God, the cholesterol.'"

Food will be overflowing at the Hanukkah party which begins at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at Congregation Beit Kodesh, 31840 Seven Mile, Livonia. The charge is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 3-12 and free for children ages 2 and younger. To reserve a spot, call (734) 477-8974.

"We've invited families and we're going to have potato pancakes, egg salad, salad, tuna fish, applesauce, sour cream - that's to be served with the potato pancakes - coffee and cake. Of course, we'll have the blessing before the meal," Gittleman explained.

"We will give out gifts to the children that are ages from infancy up to 12. Anybody 13 or older, they're on their



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HERSCHMANN

All lit up: The holiday display in Plymouth's Kellogg Park includes a menorah, representing the eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah.

own." The evening will also include children from the synagogue performing Hanukkah songs. The youth group will help serve the food and clean up. Gittleman expects that the party will end by 8:30 p.m.

"It should be done and everybody content and ready to go home," she said. "By that time, everybody's latked out and thinking to themselves, 'Oh, my God, all that cholesterol.'"

On the other side of town, Congregation Bet Chaverim is having its annual Hanukkah Latkefest at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, at Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Road, at Cherry Hill Road, in Canton. The event is free.

The Latkefest will include a potluck dinner with latkes and the evening Shabbat religious service. Reservations are required by Wednesday, Dec. 16; call (734) 480-8880.

"We're going to have the traditional candle-lighting ceremony, traditional food and some traditional holiday games and festival songs and music," president of the congregation Jay Miller said vaguely.

Eight-day celebration

This year, Hanukkah begins at sundown Sunday, Dec. 13, and wraps up the following Sunday, Dec. 20. The eight-night celebration of Hanukkah commemorates a documented historical event - the rededication of the Second Temple in 165 B.C.E., when a small band of Jews, led by Mattathias's son Judah Maccabee, overcame Syrian oppressors who sought to obliterate Jewish belief and convert all Jews to the ways of Hellenism, according to "Jewish Family Celebrations: The Sabbath, Festivals and Ceremonies" by Arlene Rossen Carodozo

Please see PARADE, B2

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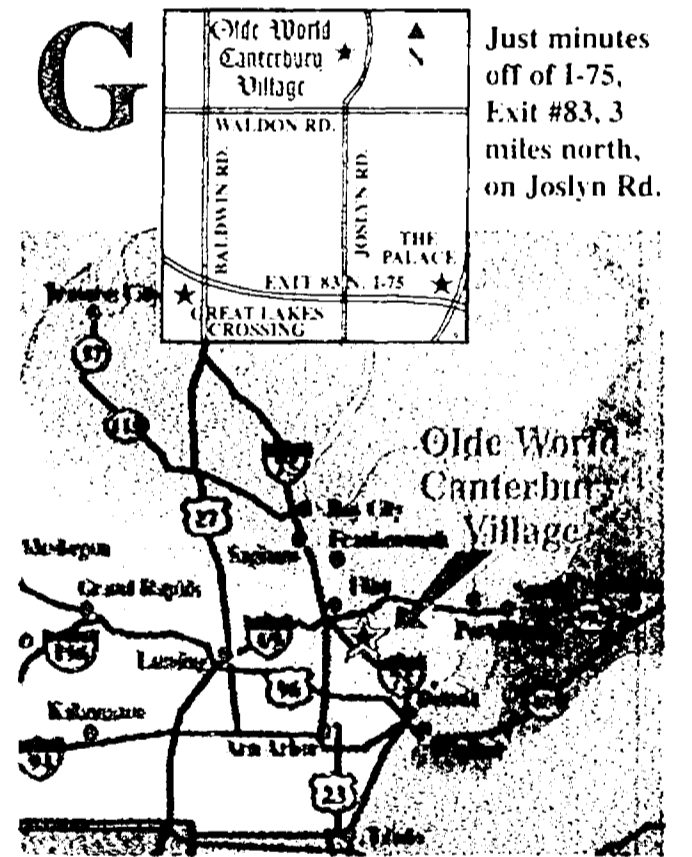
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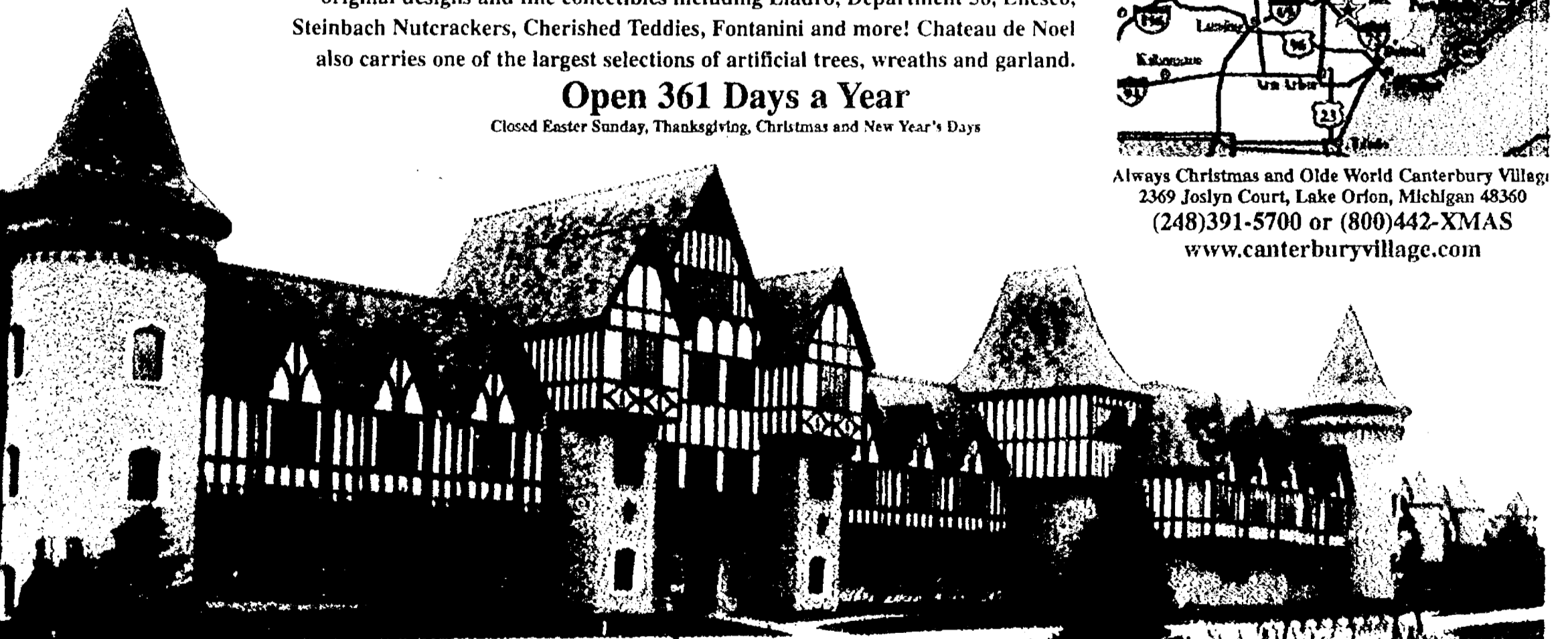
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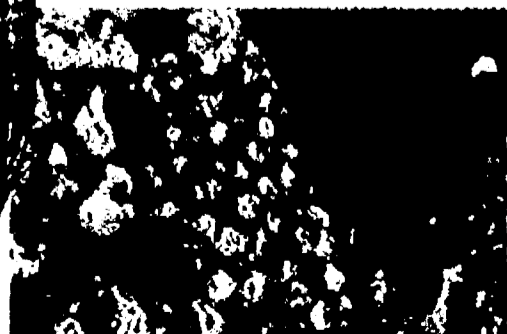
The animation will enchant you! The selection will amaze you!

Experience the bygone era of the fabulous Downtown Christmas Displays!

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Extra wide aisles with 26 check-outs make shopping at Always Christmas a breeze!



Visit Bob Cratchet, Tiny Tim and their surprise guest in their life-like setting!



Life-like animation throughout Chateau de Noel enchant all who visit!

Painting personalized ornaments fills holiday season

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

Like Santa, Sherri Tutor gets very little sleep before Christmas.

Every morning, the Canton resident rises well before the sun and descends into her basement workshop to paint personalized Christmas ornaments. She paints hundreds of snowmen, Christmas trees and village scenes. She paints football players, construction workers and dainty ballerinas.

But mostly the petite and energetic owner of "Personally Yours ... By Sherri Tutor" paints far into the night, long after all the good boys and girls have gone to bed.

"Every day I start at 4 a.m. and paint until 11 or 12 at night, until my eyes start closing," she said.

It all started 18 years ago when Tutor was looking for ways to earn extra money for Christmas. After all, four children need lots of toys. She sold her first handpainted ornaments at the Plymouth Cultural Center's spring craft show, and the rest was, as they say, history.

"It sort of snowballed from there," she said, laughing. "I couldn't believe somebody would

buy something I made."

Three years ago, Tutor started selling wholesale. Her ornaments now appear in national catalogs, such as Lillian Vernon, Abbey Press and Harry & David. Most of her designs are copyrighted. She also does handcrafted Easter ornaments.

She is considering publishing a catalog of her own. "Personally Yours" is a bonafide business with tax receipts to prove it.

"I would like to duke someone between the eyes when they say this is a nice hobby," she said.

Tutor will paint just about anything a customer requests within reason and good taste. Her most popular designs are the wedding anniversaries, births and family groupings.

Have a really big family? No problem. Tutor can fit up to 11 people on one ornament. She also does caricatures of family members and likenesses of family pets.

Tutor no longer has time for local craft shows, although she still takes orders from "ordinary people." She's fortunate she doesn't require much sleep, especially during the holiday season. Last Christmas, she spent three nights without sleep filling orders.



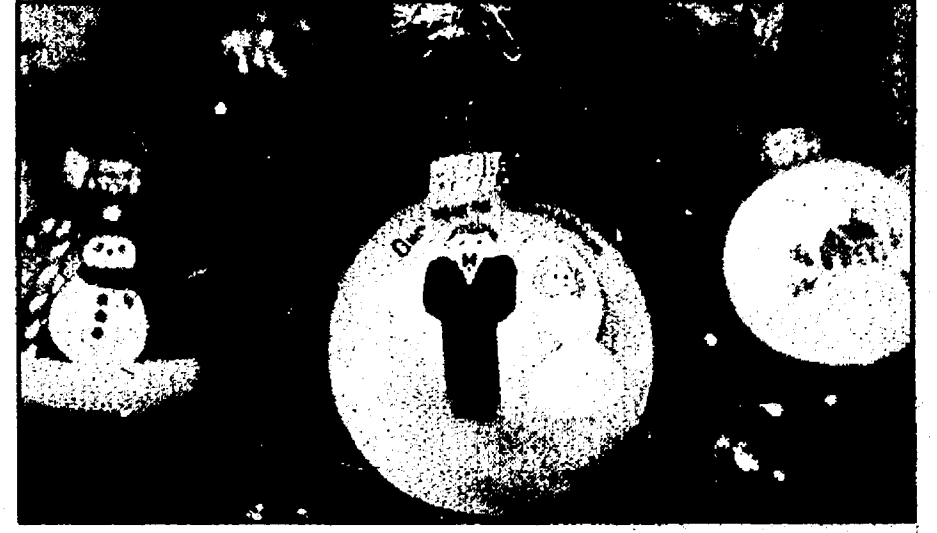
STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

"I felt like I was having an outer body experience," she said. "I would say to myself 'I just want to go to Hawaii.' That Christmas, our son gave us a trip to Hawaii."

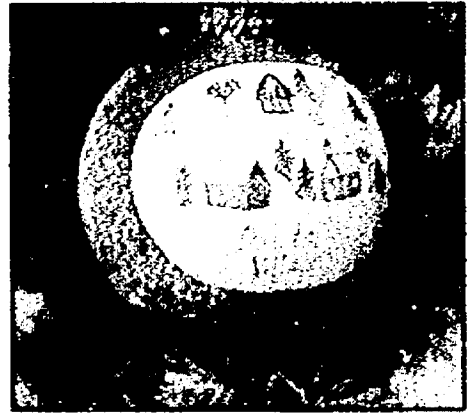
Huge mailbags filled with

boxed ornaments line Tutor's hallway. More mailbags spill across her family room floor and boxes fill an upstairs bedroom.

"I won't allow you into my basement," she warns. During the holidays, she needs



Busy season: Eighteen years ago, Sherri Tutor was looking for ways to earn extra money for Christmas. Now, through her business, "Personally Yours ... By Sherri Tutor," she busy filling orders for personalized ornaments for national catalogs.



extra help filling all the orders. Her entire family pitches in. Daughter Shelly Mitchell helps with some of the painting and sons Jeffrey, Scott and Steven do the packing.

"Last year they packaged until

they were purple," Tutor said of her grown sons' efforts.

This Christmas promises to be busier than ever. Besides not sleeping, Tutor said she's definitely not cooking.

"We order a lot of pizzas."

Downtown Hudson's Christmas was something magical

HOOKED ON HISTORY



VIRGINIA PARKER

Just mention Christmas at downtown Hudson's and you see faces brighten and reminiscences flow. My husband, Don, is one of those people.

"Hudson's has always held a special place in the hearts of most senior Detroiters because it was a place that was magical - around Thanksgiving for the parade and Christmastime for the displays.

And," he added, "that was where the real Santa Claus was

located."

The fun began with the ride downtown. Some folks took the bus, but Don caught the trolley.

"At the time, Michigan Avenue was all brick," Don said. "We'd walk to the middle of the street, which is where the trolley cars ran, and we'd stand on a little island until the streetcar came."

"It wasn't a very long drive into downtown, but it was still pretty exciting when I was a kid."

Cheryl Andrzejewski also remembers the excitement of trips to visit Hudson's Santa.

"My aunt would give me \$5, and I could use that either to have lunch or buy a toy. I would eat as little as possible, so I'd have enough change to bring

home a souvenir or something from Toyland."

Santa always gave the kids a treat, too. One year, it was a little ornament. Other years, there were candy canes or coloring books.

Reaching Santa once you were inside Hudson's was an adventure in itself. Parents and children wound their way in a roped-off line up a stairway, and each floor had something different; Christmas ornaments, toys, and of course, Santa himself.

Lynn Spietz worked at Hudson's as a Christmas fairy, dressed in a short red velvet skirt with white fur trim, a hat and white gloves, to guide the children to Santa.

"Visitors were very cleverly

dispersed into six separate lines, and you weren't aware you were going to see one of six Santas," she confided. "The initial line, before it split, covered two floors of stairwell. It was a very long process, although the lines moved pretty quickly because of the eventual splitting up among the six Santas."

Wondrous displays

Most people delight in memories of the wondrous displays they saw around each corner of that winding, multi-floor path.

"There were animated characters and lots of lights, and you felt like you were walking into a forest, which is why I think the path system worked so well," said Spietz. "And one of the

advantages to being a little kid is you're really short, so you don't see that other people are separating off. You're just dazzled by the displays there."

Most people remember details of the animation.

"They had elves that moved. I can also remember deer and their little heads moved," said Andrzejewski.

Don said riding the elevator up to the brilliantly decorated department where the line began was part of the fun.

"The elevators were really cool because they had operators who announced each floor and what was on it. When we got to the toys and Santa Claus, we'd step onto a floor that was just like a fantasyland. There were dis-

plays, Christmas scenes and life-sized figurines. It was like a winter wonderland, almost like the North Pole."

According to Spietz, not everyone wanted to go there. There were kids who screamed because they were terrified of Santa. One of the biggest problems was that excited kids often wet their pants, so Santa had to change clothes during the day.

Santa Claus arrived in Detroit via Hudson's Thanksgiving Day Parade, which came down Woodward Avenue and stopped, naturally, at Hudson's. The store's many windows, particularly at Christmastime, were glimmering showcases. Above them on the front of the building was an

Please see HUDSON'S, B10

Howell Nature Center

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- Tree Shaking • Live wildlife exhibits on weekends • Crafts, wreaths, roping & refreshments

Santa arrives 1st 2 weekends in December

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Reservations required
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Scotch Pine Blue Spruce, Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce and White Pine.

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Choose & cut a beautiful tree at one of our two locations. Fresh wreaths & roping. FREE tree wrap. Saws & tree carts provided.

OXFORD - 4780 Seymour Lake Rd. (Between Baldwin & Sashabaw Take I-75 to Exit 89, N. on Sashabaw for 5 mi. E. on Seymour Lake for 3/4 mi. Farm on right.)

WE ARE A SNOWFRESH FARM FOR GUARANTEED QUALITY.

Choose from 10 varieties including Fraser Fir, 6-8 ft., 20 to 60 dollars. Visit our new baby deer and ewe exhibit. Open 11-7 Noon-5, Sat & Sun 9-5

LAPEER - 2401 Farnsworth Rd. (N. on M-24, 2 mi. past city of LaPeer E. on Daly for 1/2 mi., N. on Farnsworth for 1 mi. farm on left.)

Need a BIG tree for a high ceiling? This is the place. Thousands of beautiful spruce & pine up to 14 ft. Only \$5 per ft. In LaPeer! Open Sat & Sun 9-5. (248) 628-8899

2 off tree with this ad.

1998 Christmas Tree Guide

Fodor's Christmas Tree Farm

You cut or fresh! Fraser, Concolor & Douglas Fir, Blue & White Spruce, White & Scotch Pine. All Sizes. All Prices.

Wreaths, Gifts, Snacks. FREE rides, animals, animation. Santa weekends. Saws & Tree cleaning provided.

Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
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104 West Exit 150 • Follow Signs
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For information about advertising in this unique section please call Rich a 734-953-2069

Trees 60% Off

Jimmies Rustics is closing out all artificial Christmas tree

Hurry!

Only white supplies last
Livonia (734) 522-9200
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A Family Event Northville Tree Farm

Prices start at \$20
Scotch Pine 4 to 10 feet

8 Mile Road
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Once again we have a fine selection of trees. All sizes. Lots of premiums...

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Daily 9am-5pm
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\$3 OFF any tree with this ad.

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Location: 796 Warren Rd.
Between Pontiac Trail and Whitmore Lake Rd. in Ann Arbor Twp.

Tue. Thru 12 noon-dart • Fri-Sun 10am-dart
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CALENDAR

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND

UPCOMING EVENTS

TREE OF MEMORIES
Angels from Community Hospice Home Care Services can be inscribed for a donation to be placed on a remembrance tree in the front lobby of the Westland library through Thursday, Dec. 24. To obtain an angel or more information, call (734) 522-4244.

GIFT BASKETS
The Westland Jaycees are seeking sponsors for holiday gift baskets for needy families. The cost to sponsor a basket is \$10 for a small basket, \$20 for a medium and \$30 for a large food basket. The sponsor's name will be included in the basket. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 14. Baskets will be distributed Dec. 20. Checks should be made payable to the Westland Jaycees and mailed to P.O. Box 85191, Westland, MI 48185.

AT THE LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY
The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library meet 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The Friends also hold a Friends Shop Book Sale during regular library hours at the library.

WESTLAND CENTER

WALKERS CLUB
The Westland Walkers meet the second Wednesday of each month, except during the summer. Westland Center opens its doors to walkers beginning at 7 a.m. through Arcade 2 by Olga's Kitchen. Mall walking ends at 10 a.m.

RECREATION

RECREATION AND FUN
A recreational get-together for teens and adults who are disabled is the second Friday of each month at the Westland Bailey Center. Call (734) 722-7620.

FIGURE SKATING
The Westland Figure Skating Club has formed an adult introductory precision team. The team is for those who want to have fun with other skating adults and get exercise. Practices are 6-6:50 a.m. Saturdays. All levels are welcome. Call (734) 722-1091.

SCHOOLS

MCKINLEY COOPERATIVE
McKinley Cooperative Preschool, housed in Good Shepherd Reformed Church, Wayne Road at Hunter, is holding registration. Morning and afternoon classes are available. Call (734) 729-7222.

SUBURBAN CHILDREN'S
Suburban Children's Co-op Nursery has openings in all classes 18 months through 5 years old. Located in Livonia bordering Westland. Call Michelle at (734) 421-6196.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
The Wayne-Westland Community School District has ongoing registration for the preschool programs at Stottemyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Programs include an Early Intervention Program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a Pre-Primary Impaired program

and Sparkey Preschool. Registration is 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 695-2660.

CHURCH PRESCHOOL
The Westland Free Methodist Preschool has openings for 3- and 4-year-olds in the morning and afternoon sessions. The younger pupils attend Tuesdays and Thursdays, other pupils on Mondays and Wednesdays. A Friday enrichment class is also available. The preschool is at 1421 S. Venoy, Westland. Call (734) 728-3559.

GARDEN CITY CO-OP
The Garden City Co-op nursery has openings for preschool classes for ages 18 months through 4 years. Tots class meets on Wednesday mornings and 3- and 4-year-olds meets Mondays and Thursdays. Parental involvement is required. Call Kelli at (734) 513-7708.

ST. MEL PRESCHOOL
St. Mel Preschool, 7506 Inkster Road, north of Warren Avenue in Dearborn Heights, has morning and afternoon classes for both 3- and 4-year-olds. Registration has begun. Call (313) 274-6270.

YWCA READINESS
The YWCA of Western Wayne County Early Childhood School Readiness Program is available to 4- and 5-year-old children. The YWCA is at 26279 Michigan in Inkster. Call (313) 561-4110.

CHARTER SCHOOL
The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves kindergarten through seventh grade. The school emphasizes a basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills. The school offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

LITTLE LAMBS
Little Lambs Preschool, on Farmington Road south of West Chicago in Livonia, is accepting registration for the 1998-99 school year. Classes meet Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoons and Tuesday-Thursday mornings for 3- to 5-year-olds. Little Lambs is a nonprofit, nondiscriminatory preschool. Call (248) 471-2077.

FRANKLIN PTSA
The Franklin High PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and community, and members aren't required to have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy in Livonia 48150.

TUTORIAL PROGRAM
A free tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, is for students ages 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Leau'Rette Douglas, (734) 722-3660.

MOM'S MORNING OUT
Children, ages newborn to 6, and their mothers are invited to a "Mom's Morning Out" 9-11:30 a.m. every Thursday at Newburg United Methodist Church, on Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne and Newburgh. Children are grouped together by ages in rooms with two caregivers per room. This program is an optional co-op, with parents working once each month. Call (734) 422-0149.

LIVONIA COOPERATIVE
Livonia Cooperative Nursery, a preschool at 9601 W. Chicago, has openings for 3- and 4-year-olds. To enroll, call Donna at (734) 266-8185.

HISTORY ON VIEW

WESTLAND MUSEUM
The Westland Historical Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays at 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill. Call (734) 326-1110.

FRIENDS MEET
Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet 7 p.m. on the second Tuesdays of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Westland Meeting House, 37091 Marquette between Newburgh and Wayne roads. Call President Jim Franklin at (734) 721-0136. Everyone is welcome.

FOR SENIORS

SENIOR CHOIR
A Friendship senior choir, under the direction of Robert Cassidy, has been started at the Westland Senior Resources Department Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Those who enjoy singing are invited to join. The choir meets at 9 a.m. Thursdays.

EXERCISE
Musical Chairs is a new program from Jazzercise designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low to moderate workout geared for the older adult which improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates resistance exercises using rubber tubing and light weights with walking and jogging patterns. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Robert Cassidy is the certified Jazzercise instructor. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

TRAVEL GROUP
The Travel Group meets 12:45 p.m. every Friday in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, unless a trip or program is planned. Programs include speakers, films, celebration of birthdays and weekly door prizes. There is a \$3 membership fee for residents, \$12.50 for non-residents. Call (734) 722-7632.

CARD GROUP
The Friday Variety Card Group at the Westland Friendship Center meets at 2 p.m. People play euchre, pinochle, bridge, Uno, rummy and poker. Light refreshments are served. Call (734) 722-7632 for information or just show up to play cards. The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh.

MONTHLY MEAL/DANCE
The Wayne Ford Civic League for people 50 and



Seeing Santa: Santa Claus is available to hear Christmas wishes at Westland Shopping Center 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays. Digital Image photographs are also available. The mall is at the corner of Wayne and Warren roads in Westland.

older schedules its senior meal 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at the league hall, on Wayne Road two blocks south of Ford. Cost is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. The meal includes beer, beverages, dancing to Big Band music and door prizes. Call (734) 728-5010.

WORK REFERRAL
Information Center Inc. refers workers to seniors who need help. The program is for people interested in providing transportation, yardwork, housework, etc. Workers can specify the type of work they are willing to do and the communities they want to serve. Call (734) 422-1052.

DYER CENTER
The Wayne-Westland School District's Dyer Senior Adult Center has activities Monday through Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, Kitchen Band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.; a Hawaiian dance exercise class will be 1 p.m. every Wednesday in the Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 Newburgh, Hall A. Instructor is Kammo Oris. Sign up at the front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

CLUBS IN ACTION

CHADD
CHADD of Northwest

Wayne County meets the first Thursday of the month throughout the school year at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile. CHADD is a nonprofit, parent-based, volunteer organization whose aim is to better the lives of individuals with attention difficulties. Call (313) 438-3099.

T.O.P.S.
Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. MI28, a support group for sensible weight loss, meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland. Call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

T.O.P.S.
Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. MI53 meets weekly. Weigh-in is 6:7-15 p.m., meeting is 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Med-Max building, 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland. Call Suzanne at (734) 728-8437.

PUBLIC SPEAKING
The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club No. 6694 (formerly Holy Smokemasters) urges people who want to learn the art of public speaking to attend the club's weekly meetings at 6 p.m. each Thursday at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 N. Wayne Road next to Westland Shopping Center. Call John Elbe at (734) 326-5419.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are 8:30-9:30 p.m. Sundays and Wednesdays at Garden City Hospital (north entrance), 6254 Inkster Road in Garden

Lean your ear this way

City. Call Woody, (734) 778-3415.

BINGO

DEMS' BINGO
The 13th Congressional District Democratic Party sponsors bingo games at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays in the M.J. Hall, 35412 Michigan, next to the Farmer Jack Supermarket in Wayne. Call 421-1517.

MORE DEMS' BINGO
The 13th Congressional District Democratic Party holds bingo games at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Cherry Hill Hall, on the southwest corner of Cherry Hill and Venoy. Call 421-1517.

ST. MEL CHURCH
Bingo games are held at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church's activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren Road. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

WFCL BINGO
The Finesse Girls Travel Softball Boosters hold bingo games at 6:30-9:45 p.m. every Monday to raise money for the girls' softball program. The bingo games are at the Wayne Ford Civic League hall on Wayne Road, two blocks south of Ford.

MORE BINGO
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club sponsors bingo games at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Joy Manor Bingo Hall, on the south side of Joy, east of Middlebelt. Proceeds are used by the club to sponsor Little League baseball teams, the Salvation Army and School for the Blind. Call 422-5025 or 729-8681.

SHAMROCK BINGO
There will be bingo at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road, Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food available. Proceeds go to charity. Call 728-3020.

SMOKELESS BINGO
"Smokeless" bingo meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at St. Simon and Jude Parish Hall, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. Offered are three jackpots of \$400, \$300 and \$200.

K OF C BINGO
Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus

Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman, Livonia. Call 425-2246.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

SCREENINGS
Free breast and Pap screenings are available at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, on Annapolis west of Venoy in Wayne. Appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 467-5555 for early registration.

AIM
Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics In Motion) meets 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.

RATIONAL RECOVERY
Rational Recovery is a nonprofit, self-help organization for people experiencing problems caused by alcohol and/or substance abuse or other self-defeating behaviors. The group meets at 12:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Garden City Hospital Community Health Center, on Harrison north of Maplewood in Garden City. Call (248) 476-2657.

CHILDBIRTH CLASSES
Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a "refresher" childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teenage women. For information on programs, call 468-4330.

CHILDBIRTH ASSOCIATION
Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Caesarean preparation also offered. Call 459-7477.

CALENDAR FORM

The Observer Newspapers welcome Calendar items. Items should be from non-profit community groups or individuals announcing a community program or event. Please type or print the information below and mail your item to The Calendar, Westland Observer, 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or by fax to 734-591-7279. Deadline for Calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. Call 953-2104 if you have any questions.

Event: _____
Date and Time: _____
Location: _____
Telephone: _____
Additional Info.: _____

Use additional sheet if necessary

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

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 Shayn 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.

Miller-Flanagan

Ronald and Gayle Miller of Pembroke Pines, Fla., announce the engagement of their daughter, Stacy Lynn, to Patrick Michael Flanagan, the son of Patrick and Irene Flanagan of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 1987 graduate of Miramar High School in Miramar, Fla., and a 1992 graduate of Florida State University with a master of science degree in speech-language pathology. She is employed as a speech pathologist with a private practice.

Her fiancé is a 1986 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School. He also is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in aviation technology and operations. He is employed by Emery



Worldwide Airlines as a DC-8 first officer.

A January wedding is planned at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Boynton Beach, Fla.

Nelson-Johnson

Parnell E. Johnson Jr. and Linda S. Nelson announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is employed as a recruiter for Draw-Tite Inc. of Canton.

Her fiancé, a resident of the Canton-Plymouth area, is a part-time firefighter for Plymouth and is employed at Ford Motor Co. as a molding technician.

The couple has five children - Kenneth Johnson, Karrie Johnson, Stacey Nelson, Kelly Draeger (Lars) and Patrick Nelson. The bride-to-be also has one granddaughter, Toree Burrell, daughter of Stacey and Robert Burrell.

A February wedding is



planned at Garden City Presbyterian Church.

Coyle-Kimsal

Brad and Joy Coyle of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Melissa, to Matthew Bryan Kimsal, the son of Jackie Stockton-Hojna and Joseph Hojna of Clinton Township and Kenneth and Teresa Kimsal of Russell Springs, Ky.

The bride-to-be, 1994 Plymouth Salem High School graduate, is studying engineering at Michigan State University and expects to graduate in May. She is employed as an engineering intern at TB Simon Power Plant in East Lansing. She also is a mathematics tutor at MSU.

Her fiancé is a 1994 Chippewa Valley High School graduate who is studying engineering at Michigan State University. He expects to graduate in December. He also is a mathematics tutor and in the U.S. Air Force ROTC at MSU. Following graduation, he will be stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc, Calif.

A January wedding is planned at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth.



Ayers-Curcuro

Providenza Curcuro and Jason Alan Ayers were married on Sept. 12 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth.

The bride is the daughter of Serafina Curcuro of New Baltimore and the late Filippo Curcuro. The groom is the son of Mona Jones of Indianapolis, Ind., and the late Mark Ayers.

The bride is a graduate of the University of Michigan. She is employed by the Livonia Public

Schools as a paraprofessional. The groom is employed by ChryslerDaimler Corp. as a product/body engineer.

The bride asked Sera Lewan to serve as matron of honor with Phyllis Curcuro, Grace Curcuro, Renee Curcuro and Amy Ayers as bridesmaids.

The groom asked Doug Lewan to serve as best man with Keith Hall, Jeffrey Ayers, Nick Curcuro and Vito Curcuro as groomsmen.

The couple is making their home in Canton.



Announcement forms available

Forms to announce weddings, engagements, births and anniversaries are available at our offices in Livonia - 36251 Schoolcraft - and Plymouth - 794 S. Main St.

They also are available by calling Sue Mason at (734) 953-2131 or Tiffanie Lacey at (734) 459-2700.

Selling Beanie Babies!!!

111 Canyon, Loopy 111 Erin, Princess, Peace 111 Glory
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 Puff, Sissy, Stripes, Fench, Scoop 111 Puffy Legs, Seaside,
 No 111, Boodle, Zip, Wave, Speedy 111, Hot, Spot 97
 Teddy 111, Bubbles, Spooky, Tusk, Gunt, Seamon 111, Fast,
 Splash, Digger, Br Teddy 111, Chop, Sing, Manny, Kw 111
 Luffy, Puffy 111, Libeany, Other Special 111, Clabby 111
 Mables 111, Britana, Bubbles, 111, Cr, Teddy 111, Puff
 Humpty, Ours 111, 111, 111, 111, 111, 111, 111, 111, 111
 Best Acrylic Cases \$1.79 ea. Official Ty 1st print card \$45 \$59
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 Prices Lower For Non-Member Beanie Babies - No Phone Quotes
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 Bay 7 & 8 Mile on Macomb L 888-888-8888

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A spectacular photographic journey through Michigan's National Lakeshore.

Over 120 stunning color photos by award winning photographer Thomas Kachadurian

— DECEMBER 4TH — 7:00 p.m.
 Grosse Pointe, Barnes & Noble

— DECEMBER 5TH — 3:00 p.m.
 Farmington Hills, Borders

— DECEMBER 10TH — 7:00 p.m.
 Birmingham, Borders

— DECEMBER 11TH — 7:00 p.m.
 Rochester Hills, Barnes & Noble

— DECEMBER 12TH — 2:00 p.m.
 Troy, Barnes & Noble

— DECEMBER 13TH — 2:00 p.m.
 Shelby Township, Barnes & Noble

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 — Westland —
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 29150 5 Mile Rd.
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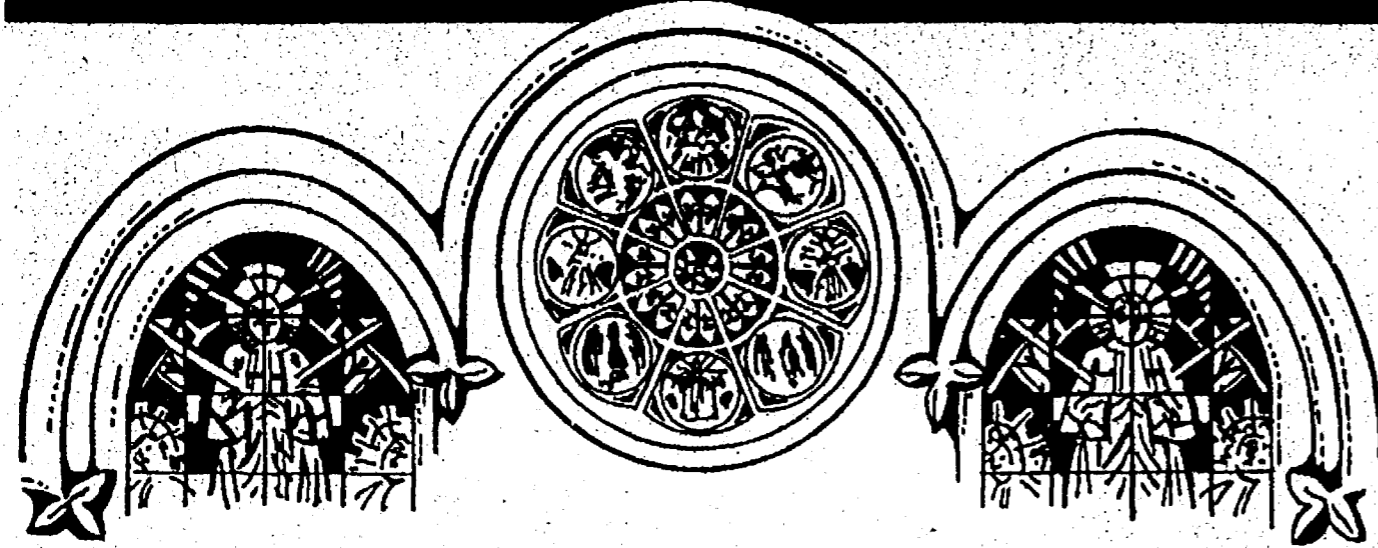
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FOR CHURCH PAGE CHANGES, PLEASE CALL MICHELLE ULFIG (734) 953-2160, THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION.
FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ADVERTISING IN THIS DIRECTORY PLEASE CALL RICH VICULIN (734) 953-2069

BAPTIST

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

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

December 13th
11:00 a.m. Guest Speaker
6:00 p.m. Guest Speaker

"A Church That's Concerned About People"

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
YOUTH AWANA CLUBS

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

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

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

There Is A Key To Happiness

Yes, there is a "key" to happiness, and we want to share it with you.

Tri-City Christian Center
Michigan Ave. & Hannan Rd.
326-0330
Sunday 9 am, 11 am, 6 pm

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills
(248) 661-9191

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Child Care provided for all services
Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Activities for all ages • Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

CATHOLIC

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

23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan
5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121
Priests Phone (810) 784-9511

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

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL
1160 Penniman Ave.
Plymouth • (432) 0326
Rev. John J. Sullivan

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

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187
451-0444
REV. RICHARD A. PEFETTO

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

OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH
23816 Power Rd. at Shilawasco
(South of 10 Mile between Farmington & Orchard Lake Rds.)
Farmington, MI 48336

WEEKEND LITURGY SCHEDULE
Saturday: 4:30 & 6:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m.
1:00 & 5:30 p.m.

Worship Together

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

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

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

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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
20805 Middlebelt, west of I-96 & Middlebelt Farmington Hills, Mich.

WORSHIP SERVICES
Saturday Evening 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning 9:15 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:10

Pastor John W. Meyer • 474-0675

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

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

Gary D. Headolph, Administrative Pastor
Kurt E. Lambart, Assistant Pastor
Jeff Burke, Principal D.C.E.

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

Worship Service
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided
Rev. Victor F. Halboth, Pastor
Rev. Timothy, Halboth, Assoc. Pastor

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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

NewLife Lutheran Church

Sunday Education - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.
(with children's message/nursery)
Sunday Fellowship - 11:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Providence Chapel
16115 Beck Rd. (between 5 & 6 Mile Rds.)
Pastor Ken Roberts (ELCA)
734 / 459-8181

UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
474-3444
Rev. Jean Love

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

NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
29887 West Eleven Mile Road
Just West of Middlebelt
248-476-8860 • Farmington Hills

Worship Service at 9:15 and 11 a.m.
Church School at 10 a.m.

December 13th
"Refusing to be Comforted"
Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack

Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack
Rev. Kathleen Groff
Rev. Jane Bergquist
Rev. Robert Bough
Mr. Melvin Reukus

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36500 Ann Arbor Trail
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.
422-0149

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

December 13th
"Patient Living In An Impatient World"
Rev. Thomas G. Badley, preaching

Contemporary Worship
5:00 p.m.
Faith

Mr. Keith Nation, preaching
[visit our website: www.ghm-umc.org/newburg-umc](http://www.ghm-umc.org/newburg-umc)

3 Styles of Creative Worship

8:00 a.m. - Cozy, Traditional, Basic
9:30 a.m. - Contemporary, Family
11:00 a.m. - Traditional, Full Choir

9:30 - Adult; 11:00 - Children-Adults

Dec. 13 - Matt. 11:2-11
"Are You The One?"
Rev. Diana Goudie, preaching

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
5 Miles W. of Sheldon Rd.
From M-14 take Gottfredson Rd. South

734-459-9550
Dr. Wm. C. Moore - Pastor
8:00 Prayer & Praise Service
9:30
Lifeline Contemporary Service
11:00 Traditional Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL (NURSERY PROVIDED)
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST SERVED
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages

WARD
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We welcome you to join us at our new location!!

40000 Six Mile Road
Northville, MI
248-374-7400

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Worship Services
Sunday School
8:30, 10:00, 11:30 A.M.
Evening Service
6:00 P.M. In the Chapel

Nursery Provided

Worship Service Broadcast 9:30 A.M. WMUZ-FM 103.5

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Rev. Donald Lintelman, Pastor

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

CONGREGATIONAL

Mt. Hope Congregational Church
30330 Schoolcraft Livonia • 734 425-7262
(Between Middlebelt & Merriman)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Nursery Care Available

"The Church You've Always Longed For"

First Congregational Church of Wayne, Est. 1848
Michigan Ave. at Wayne Rd.
(734) 729-7550
Sunday Worship, Sunday School & Nursery 10:30 a.m. Welcome!

Would John Hancock sign with any church that didn't encourage independent thought?

Congregational Christian Churches encourage individual freedom of belief. Which naturally attracts great thinkers. And which explains why so many of our followers have been leaders. Simply put, we honor every sincere conviction and exactly our Lord. And we do so together in fellowship, each Sunday.

A Congregational Christian Church
First Congregational Church of Wayne, Est. 1848
Michigan Ave. at Wayne Rd.
(734) 729-7550
Sunday Worship, Sunday School & Nursery 10:30 a.m.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Agapé Family Worship Center
"A PRACTICAL CHURCH ON THE MOVE"

45081 Geddes Road, Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-0357

New Service Times
Sunday Worship Services - 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday - Family Night - 7:00 p.m.

Agapé Christian Academy - K through 12

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Brightmoor Tabernacle

Assemblies of God • Calvin C. Ratz, pastor
26555 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI (I-696 & Telegraph • West of Holiday Inn) • 352-6200

Sunday Service Times - 10:00 am Worship Service • 6:30 pm Evening Service
8:45 a.m. Family Sunday School Hour • Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Family Night

Dec. 13th, 10:00 AM Pastor Doug Rhind
Dec. 11, 12 & 13, 7:00 PM
The Christmas musical, "Somebody It's Snowing"
24-Hour Prayer Line 248-352-6205

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Brightmoor Tabernacle

Assemblies of God • Calvin C. Ratz, pastor
26555 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI (I-696 & Telegraph • West of Holiday Inn) • 352-6200

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Dec. 11, 12 & 13, 7:00 PM
The Christmas musical, "Somebody It's Snowing"
24-Hour Prayer Line 248-352-6205

Religion from page B7

ian Church's Children's Christmas Pageant will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 9601 Hubbard Ave., Livonia. It will feature The Children's Pageant Choir performing "The Cow Said and the Donkey Replied" as written by church member Dixie Elam.

CHRISTMAS CHORALE

The St. Valentine Choir will present a Christmas Chorale to praise the birth of Christ at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 14841 Beech Daly Road, Redford. The concert is free of charge. Call (313) 535-8364.

'GIFT OF LOVE'

"The Father's Gift of Love," a Christmas music drama, will be presented at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy, between Lilley and Sheldon, Canton.

The choral drama will feature the Celebration Choir, soloists and drama ministry of Calvary Baptist in telling how the innkeeper's wife and one of the magi discover in their own ways the significance of the newborn "King of the Jews."

There will be a separate Christmas party for children during the 8 p.m. Dec. 18 performance, and a nursery will be available at all performances.

Call (734) 455-0022.

LIVE NATIVITY

Fair Haven Baptist Church will have a living Nativity at 7 and 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 17-18, at the church, 34850 Marquette, east of Wayne Road, Westland. The display is free of charge. For more information, call the church at (734) 728-4549.

Cherry Hill Baptist Church will have a living Nativity, "O Night Divine," 6:30, 7 and 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, at the church, 1045 N. Guiley Road, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 565-1469.

HANUKKAH LATKEFEEST

Congregation Bet Chaverim will celebrate its annual Hanukkah latkefeest at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, at the Cherry Hill United Methodist Church in Canton. There will be a pot luck dinner with latkas and all the fixings, followed by the evening Shabbat religious service. For more information, call (734) 480-8880. Bet Chaverim is a western Wayne County Jewish congregation that offers monthly Shabbat services led by a rabbi, a religious school and support for life cycle events.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which pro-

vides spiritual, social and support assistance to divorced and separated Christians, will have a White Elephant gift exchange at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, Haggerty south of Five Mile, Plymouth Township.

The group meets regularly on Sundays for breakfast and Mass - 10 a.m. at the Redford Inn, Five Mile west of Beech Daly, Redford, and at 11:15 a.m. at St. Aidan's Church, 17500 Farmington Road (north of Six Mile), Livonia - call Val at (734) 729-1974 - for coffee and conversation at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Archie's Family Restaurant, 30471 Plymouth Road, Livonia, and for pinocle at 7 p.m. every other Friday - call Rose at (734) 464-3325.

TLC STORYTIME

For children and their parents, there will be a TLC Storytime on Saturday, Dec. 19, Jan. 16 and Feb. 20, at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Joy Road, Livonia. There will be crafts, Christian stories, snacks and prizes. The books chosen are for children age 3-10. Reservations aren't necessary. For more information, call the church at (734) 427-2290.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Sunday school and weekday school students of Faith Lutheran Church will present "The Advent Tree" at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at the church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia. The Sunday School Choir and Youth

Choir/Bells also will perform. Punch and cookies will be served following the performance. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-7249.

NEW BEGINNING

"Moving On" will be the topic when New Beginnings, a grief support group meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, east of Merriman, Livonia. 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. For more information, call the church office at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (734) 462-3770.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience for married couples to improve their communication skills, learn the value of intimacy and renew their love for each other Feb. 5-7 and March 19-21 at the St. John's Family Life Center, 44011 Five Mile Road, Plymouth Township. The registration fee is \$50. Call Bill and Carol at (248) 528-2512 or Dan and Debbie at (810) 286-5524 or at www.net/detroit/vwme.

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. For more information, call the store at (734) 459-1250 or e-mail the church at fpcp@juno.com

KID'S CLUB

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church is holding Kid's Club meetings 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the church, 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago, Livonia. The club is for children in first through the sixth grades. Youngsters do not have to be members of the church to participate. There will be crafts, games, fun and refreshments. For more information, call Dixie Elam at (734) 422-0494.

SUNDAY LESSONS

Join Barbara Clevenger and Church of Today West-Unity at 10 a.m. Sundays at Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29200 Meadowbrook south of 13 Mile. The church offers youth education and fellowship follows the

service. Women in Unity, a new group organized to help with today's transitional women's role, meets 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the last Saturday of the month at the Novi Library, 45245 10 Mile Road, Novi. A Thursday Night Study Group, led by Clevenger, also meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the library. For more information, call (248) 449-8900 or visit the Web site at www.cotwest.com.

RITE OF INITIATION

Adults interested in joining the Catholic church are invited to "inquire" at the ongoing Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at St. Theodore of Canterbury Church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The process is open to any interested adult including baptized Catholics who have not completed their initiation with First Communion and/or Confirmation. For more information, call Lorraine Short, pastoral minister, at (734) 425-4421.

6 women join UM-D sorority

Six western Wayne County women were among 16 recently initiated into Delta Phi Epsilon International Sorority at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

The women, who successfully completed a six-week educational stint, represent the excellent academic and social standards of the sorority.

The new members include Melissa Carabott, Kate Kings-

bury and Danielle Voyles of Canton, Kerri Klinck of Garden City, Jennifer Kesler of Livonia and Jeannie Castillo of Westland.

Delta Phi Epsilon was founded in 1917 at New York University's School of Law. There are now 80 chapters in the United States with more than 32,000 initiated members. UM-D's Alpha Mu chapter was founded in 1989.

WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wayne County Commission will hold a public hearing on the certification of revenues and appropriated budgetary expenditure adjustments to the FY 1997-98 Appropriation Ordinance as follows:

1. Certification of additional General Fund Tax Revenues for FY 1997-98 totaling \$37,400,000 and an accompanying budget adjustment to appropriate \$37,400,000 in the General Fund and to certify \$18,700,000 of revenue and appropriate the same in the Budget Stabilization Fund.
2. Certification of additional General Fund Tax Revenues from various sources for FY 1997-98 totaling \$7,900,000 and an accompanying budget adjustment to appropriate \$7,900,000 in the General Fund and to certify \$5,300,000 of revenue and appropriate the same in the Child Care Fund and to certify \$1,500,000 of revenue and appropriate the same in the General Debt Service Fund;
3. Transfer of appropriations for FY 1997-98 from the Health Fund and the Mental Health Fund appropriation units to other Health Fund appropriation unit totaling \$2,000,000.

in accordance with Budget Adjustment Nos. 98-35-180, 98-35-181, and 98-35-182.

The hearing will be held:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1998, 10:00 a.m.
Wayne County Building
600 Randolph, Commission Chambers
Detroit, Michigan

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

Publish: December 10, 1998.

WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wayne County Commission Permanent Subcommittee on Veterans Services will hold a public hearing to consider:

An Enrolled Ordinance introduced by Commissioner Beard to establish guidelines for benefits provided for the relief of indigent Veterans of Wars and military expeditions in which the United States has or shall take part. (98-88-012)

The hearing will be held:

Wednesday, December 16, 1998
10:00 a.m.
600 Randolph St. Room 402
Wayne County Building
Detroit, Michigan

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

Publish: December 10, 1998

WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wayne County Commission, Committee of the Whole, will hold a public hearing on the following:

An Ordinance to provide for smoke-free work environments in public and private facilities in order to protect the health of all Wayne County residents.

At its meeting held:

Tuesday, December 15, 1998, 10:00 a.m.
Wayne County Commissioner, Hearing Room 402
600 Randolph, Detroit, MI 48226

Copies of the above items may be obtained or reviewed at the Commission Clerk's Office, 406 Wayne County Building, 6000 Randolph, Detroit, MI 48226. (313) 224-0903.

Publish: December 10, 1998

We Have Come
So Far



St. Mary Hospital

And so has women's health care. That's why St. Mary Hospital developed the Marian Women's Center.

The Marian Women's Center is dedicated to keeping women healthy. Women of all ages can now receive health education and support in a warm, caring environment close to home. Our kind, compassionate staff offers services like diagnostic testing and health screenings just for women. A breast health clinic. A resource library. And, of course, the complete family services that you've come to expect from us.

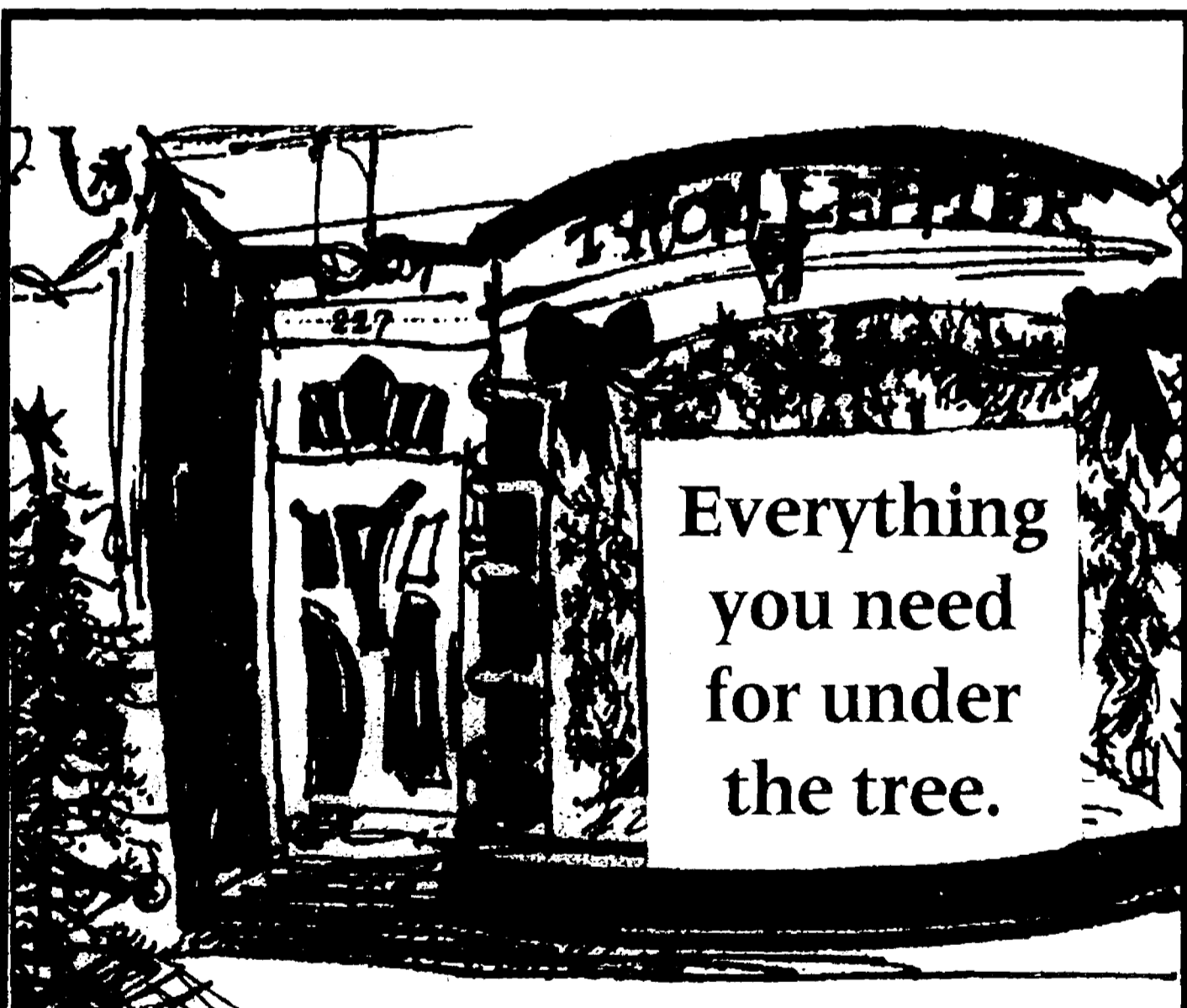
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There are ways to cope with holidays for those who grieve

The holidays are an especially difficult time for someone who has lost a loved one. Each and every holiday tradition serves as a reminder of happier times.

Cathy Clough, director of bereavement services for Arbor Hospice, has a few suggestions that have helped people who are grieving cope with the holiday season.

Since family get-togethers may be extremely difficult, Clough suggests people be honest about their feelings. They should sit down with the family and decide what they want to do for the holiday season.

"Don't set expectations too high for yourself or the day," Clough said. "If you wish things to be the same, you are going to be disappointed. Undertake only what each family member is able to handle comfortably."

There's no right or wrong way to handle the day. Some people may wish to follow family traditions; others may choose to change them, Clough said. But what people chose to do the first year doesn't have to be done the next.

"The more you try to make it the same as it was before, the more obvious your loved one's absence will be," Clough said.

Other things people can do:

- Keep in mind the feelings of your children or other family members. Try to make the holiday season as joyous as possible for them.

- Be careful of "shoulds." It is better to do what is most helpful for you and your family. If a situation looks especially difficult over the holidays, try not to get involved.

- Set limits. Realize that it isn't going to be easy. Doing the things that are very special and important to you. Do the best you can.

- Once you have decided how you and your family will handle the holidays, let friends and relatives know.

- Emotionally, physically and psychologically, the holidays are draining. You need every bit of strength, so try to get enough rest.

- One possibility for the first year may be to visit relatives or friends or even go away on vacation. Planning, packing and the like keeps your mind somewhat off the holiday and you share the time in a different and, hopefully, less painful setting. If you feel you need to be home on Christmas Day, make plans to leave

the next morning.

- Consider not sending or cutting back on your cards this year. It is not necessary to send cards, especially to those people you will see over the holidays. You might consider sending a Christmas letter, sharing your loss and your appreciation of those who are there for you.

- Holidays may magnify feelings of loss of a loved one. It is important and natural to experience the sadness that comes. To block such feelings is unhealthy.

Keep the positive memory of your loved one alive.

- Don't forget: Anticipation of any holiday is so much worse than the actual holiday.

"Often after the first year, people in your life may expect you to be 'over it,'" Clough added. "We are never over it, but the experience of many bereaved is that eventually they enjoy the holidays again. Hold onto that hope."

Clough also has some tips for friends and family members of

the grieving person:

- Do talk about the person who died. Grieving individuals feel worse if you don't. It makes them feel others didn't care about him or her.

- Do include them in your holiday card list. In that card, mention their loved one and how he or she is missed. If you have a picture of that person or a special memory, share it.

- Do include your bereaved friends in your family gatherings. Setting extra plates for din-

ner is a simple thing for you to do and means a lot to the person who is grieving. Don't assume that others are including them. Give them a chance to decide if they are up to it or not.

- Do call your bereaved friends on Christmas morning and tell them you're thinking of them. Bereaved individuals, even those surrounded by family, need to know that others care and are thinking of them on special days.

- Do give your grieving

friends options. Instead of saying, "Call me if you need me," say, "We can go to dinner Friday or I'll make dinner for you. Which would you prefer?"

- Do offer to help them with their Christmas shopping this year or offer to take their young children shopping. Grieving individuals often find it difficult and overwhelming to go places where holiday cheer is evident and expected.

The moments that define our lives don't take place on the grand stage of public view ~ but rather in the warmth and love of the place we call home.

Gibson holds annual girls' conference

Gibson School for the Gifted in Redford is holding a special conference specifically designed for girls ages 9-13.

The school's Third Annual Conference for Girls will be 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at the school, 12925 Fenton, Redford.

Women professionals representing many different careers will offer a variety of workshops and hands-on activities throughout the day. Each girl will be able to participate in four workshops.

Dr. Alexa Canady, renowned pediatric neurosurgeon from Children's Hospital of Michigan, will present the opening remarks.

Participants are asked to bring a significant adult with them to the conference. The adults - parent, guardian or other significant person in the girl's life - will attend concurrent workshops to learn effective support techniques.

All workshops will focus on strategies to help girls make the best of their potential and keep their options open for the future.

The cost is \$7 per person and includes lunch and refreshment. Pre-registration is required due to limited seating. To register or for more information, call the school at (313) 537-8688.

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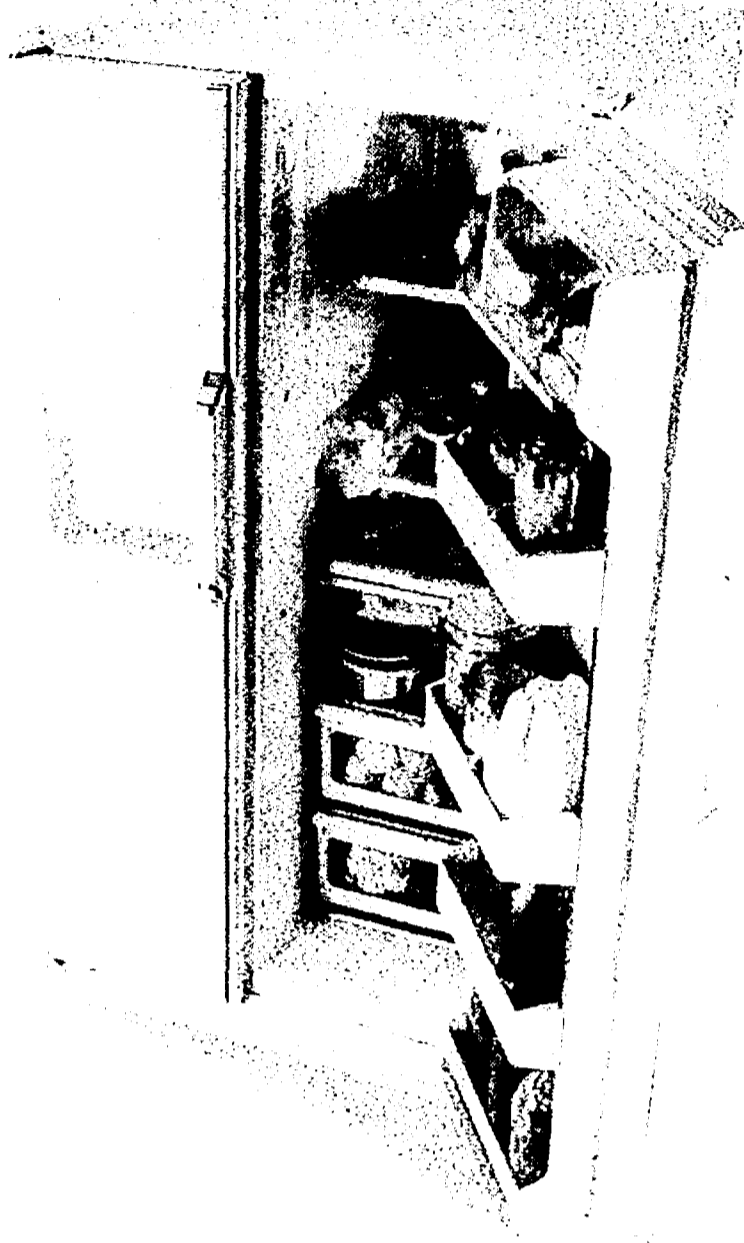
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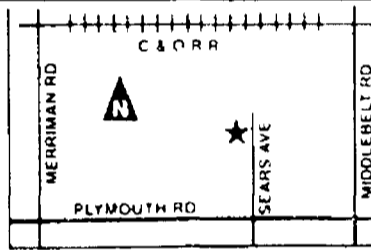
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Historical museum to hold workshops

The Detroit Historical Museum is providing children and their families the opportunity to learn and have fun at workshops this holiday season.

Two toy train family workshops will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the museum, Woodward at Kirby in Detroit's Cultural Center. The cost is \$12 per child. Parents and children will enjoy a brief talk about trains and model train history and tour the Glancy Trains and the new Frontiers to Factories exhibits before making their own toy train car to take home.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, there will be an Old-Fashioned Christmas Family Workshop, also costing \$12 per child. Participants will learn about the roles of women and girls in the household a century ago as families prepared for the holidays. The workshop will include making a

holiday decoration to take home, food and toys of the past.

Advance registration is required and regular admission fees - \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for senior citizens and children ages 12-18 and free for those under age 12 - apply. Reservations can be made by calling Amy DeWys-VanHecke at (313) 833-9720.

The Children's Hanukkah Family Workshop will be 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19. It will feature films, a discussion of the traditions and meaning of "The Festival of Lights," the chance to play games with the dreidel and the opportunity to make gifts to take home. Refreshments also will be served.

This special workshop is for children ages 5-10. There is no fee for the program, but advance registration is required and regular admission fees apply.

Hudson's from page B3

day castle and a big tree, all decked out. Santa stepped onto the overhang to greet the crowd.

Something magical

Spitz recalled something else magical. The Salvation Army had bell ringers and small groups playing music at the various entrances, but, she says, the bells under the overhang had a special resonance, different from the jingling of bells on street corners.

"The sound reverberated; it was louder than anywhere else," she said.

Andrzejewski took her children in the early 1980s to visit Santa the last year he was at the downtown store, but it had changed by then.

"You just had breakfast or lunch with Santa, and they got to sit on his lap. But they didn't get that thrill of going through all the floors because the store didn't do it any more."

The store may be gone, but not

'I can remember it being so lit up. It was just mesmerizing to me as a child, and I'll never forget any of those memories.'

Cheryl Andrzejewski
-remembering Hudson's

the memories.

"People came from everywhere to Hudson's," she said. "The store was always decorated spectacularly inside and out. I can remember it being so lit up. It was just mesmerizing to me as a child, and I'll never forget any of those memories."

Neither will the rest of metro Detroit's grownup children.

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

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CLASS REUNIONS

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

BIRMINGHAM GROVES

Class of 1969
A reunion is planned for July 17 and a reunion picnic for July 18. (248) 737-1398 or srdcarlson@aol.com

BISHOP BORGESS

Class of 1989
A reunion is planned for August 1999. (313) 271-3050, Ext. 189 (days), (248) 552-8020 (days), or (248) 723-1907

CHERRY HILL

Class of 1983
Reunion and alumni family picnic is planned for August. (734) 729-6783

DEARBORN FORDSON

Class of 1989
Aug. 14 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club, Westland. (248) 366-9493, press #8

DETROIT CENTRAL

January-June classes of 1944
May 23 at the Hotel Baronette, Novi. Marcia Pollock, 29393 Laurel Woods Drive, No. 201, Southfield 48034

DETROIT COOLEY

Class of 1950
A reunion is being planned. (313) 421-3150 or (734) 525-2503

DETROIT PERSHING

Classes of 1949-53
Are planning a reunion. (248) 471-5609 or P.O. Box 530-244, Livonia 48153-0244

DETROIT REDFORD

Class of 1949
May 15 at Plum Hollow Country Club. (248) 476-4957 or (248) 644-7540

DETROIT SOUTHEASTERN

Class of 1959
A reunion is planned for Sept. 25. (313) 884-1243

DETROIT WESTERN

Class of 1949
Is planning a reunion. (313) 274-3214

GARDEN CITY WEST

Class of 1968
A reunion is planned for September 1999. (517) 522-4893, (734) 213-4350 or (248) 486-5170

HENRY FORD TRADE

Class of 1949
A reunion is planned for June 1999. (313) 565-2392 or (734) 261-8546

HIGHLAND PARK

Class of 1969
Is planning a reunion. (313) 864-5943, (313) 583-5418 or (313) 867-3201

LADYWOOD

Class of 1988
March 13 at the Italian-American Club of Livonia. (313) 255-8078

LIVONIA BENTLEY

Class of 1964
July 24 at the Holiday, Laurel Park, Livonia. (734) 416-5993 or Tink@mediaone.net

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Class of 1979
Aug. 7 at the DoubleTree Suites, Southfield. (248) 366-9493, press #3

NORTH FARMINGTON

Oct. 2 at the Double Tree Suites, Southfield. (248) 360-7004, press 2

NORTHVILLE

Class of 1979
July 10 at Italian America Club, Livonia. (800) 677-7800 or by e-mail at reunions@taylorpub.com

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Class of 1980
A reunion is planned for Dec. 26. (202) 546-4377 or kbrady@erg.com; (734) 455-5475 or gearns@pccs.k12.mi.us; or ebdoherly@aol.com

PLYMOUTH

Class of 1969
Aug. 6-8 at the Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi. (248) 446-1028 or Karlancast@aol.com, or (734) 420-3811 or PHS1969@aol.com

PLYMOUTH CANTON

Class of 1979
Aug. 7 at the Holiday Inn-West in Livonia. (734) 397-8766 or www.reunion-works.com

REDFORD UNION

Class of 1979
Aug. 28 at the Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi. (313) 592-8537 or (734) 416-0807
Class of 1949
Is planning a reunion for September 1999. (313) 937-9329 or (734) 427-4208

or (248) 349-1331

ROCHESTER ADAMS

Class of 1989
June 5 at the River Crest in Rochester Hills. Cost is \$50 per person. (248) 393-1151, (248) 969-8313, (248) 852-8744 or (248) 952-0444

ROCHESTER ADAMS

Class of 1979
Aug. 7 at the Somerset Inn, Troy. (248) 366-9493, press #6

TRENTON

Class of 1989

Aug. 28 at Arnaldo's Banquet Center, Riverview. (248) 360-7004, press 6

WALLED LAKE CENTRAL

Class of 1979
A reunion is planned for July 24. (248) 363-8211 or (248) 366-3337

WALLED LAKE WESTERN

Class of 1979
Aug. 14 at DoubleTree Guest Suites, Southfield. (248) 366-9493, press #1

WATERFORD

Class of 1979

Is planning a reunion. (248) 674-3946

WAYNE

Class of 1950
Is looking for classmates for its 50th class reunion. (734) 428-9379 or (734) 721-8036

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Class of 1983
Sept. 26 at Roma's of Garden City. (248) 360-7004, press 1

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Arbor Hospice support group aids widowed

Arbor Hospice has a group for young widows and widowers who are under age 46. It meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month at the First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth Township. For more information about the group and other age- and loss-specific programs for adults and children offered by Arbor Hospice, call (800) 783-5764 or the Arbor Center in Northville at (248) 348-4980.

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ANNIVERSARIES



Kenny

Raymond and Elenor Kenny Sr. of Lake City, Mich., recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at St. Edith Catholic Church in Livonia and a dinner reception, hosted by their children, at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland.

The couple met at the Third Order of St. Francis in Detroit. They were married at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Dearborn on Sept. 25, 1948. She

is the former Elenor Schneider. They have 10 children - Kevin and wife Claudia of Holly, Karen Dei and husband Tim of Brighton, Joseph and wife Anne of Plymouth, Carol Selleck and husband Ronald of Livonia, Eileen Kenny and husband Matt Schneider of Westland, Maureen Kenny of Dearborn, Shawn of Cadillac, Ray Jr. and wife Jeanine of Westland, Timothy and wife Joy of Detroit and Terry of Dearborn.

They also have 13 grandchildren.

McQuesten

Richard and Jean McQuesten of Livonia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at a reception at the Scotsdale Apartments clubhouse in Westland on Oct. 30.

They also renewed their vows on Nov. 1 at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Livonia. Their son, the Rev. Mark McQuesten, officiated.

The couple exchanged vows on Oct. 30, 1948, at St. Mary

Catholic Church in London, Ontario, Canada. She is the former Jean Smith.

They have four children - the Rev. Mark of Norway, Mich., Gail of London, Ontario, Janice of Westland and Kurt of Miami, Fla. - and nine grandchildren.

Retired four years, he was a traffic manager for Don Cartage Co. for 24 years. She is a homemaker.

Their hobbies include dancing, bowling and travel.



Jacobs

Frank and Ginger Jacobs of Moran, Mich., formerly of Livonia, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a dinner and show at the Detroit Opera House.

The couple exchanged vows on Oct. 8, 1938, at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church in Detroit. She is the former Ginger Dybas.

The couple has four married children - Eileen Urick and husband Michael of Livonia, Ronald and wife Laurie of Grosse Ile, Donna Yergler and husband Kary of Laguna Hills, Calif., and

Richard and wife Liz of Belleville. They also have five grandchildren.

He retired from the Ford Motor Co. Rouge plant after 40 years in supervision and was active in the Knights of Columbus in Livonia. She also worked for Ford before becoming a homemaker.

They enjoy bowling and are members of St. Michael's Parish in Livonia, where they lived for 35 years. They also enjoy traveling and quality time with their grandchildren.



Thomas

Wayne and Phyllis Thomas of Westland celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by repeating their vows on Oct. 24 at the First Baptist Church of Garden City.

The ceremony was followed by refreshments on the lower level of the church.

The Thomases exchanged vows on Oct. 30, 1948, at the same church. She is the former Phyllis Horchem.

He retired in 1987 from the Ford Motor Co.'s Livonia Transmission Plant. She was a dental assistant for Dr. Francis Schmitt.

Their hobbies include collecting stamps, coins, post cards and antiques.



Burke

Jerry and June Burke of Redford celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by gathering with family members for Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church and dinner at Hawthorne Gardens. The couple exchanged vows on Oct. 9, 1948, at St. Theresa Church in Detroit. She is the former June Berry.

The couple has four children - Kevin and Diane, both of Livonia, and Sue and Michael, both of Redford. They also have seven grandchildren.



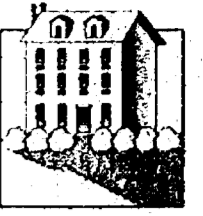
Gutowski

Ed and Cindi Gutowski celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary with family and friends on Oct. 12.

They have two children, Adam and Sara.

The son of Jane and Theodore Gutowski of Livonia, he is currently employed with Chrysler Corp. The daughter of Helen and Samuel Hassen of Dearborn Heights, she is employed by the Livonia Public School District.

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Thursday, December 10, 1998

The Observer

INSIDE:

Prep wrestling, C3
Top swimmers, C6

L/W Page 1, Section C

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Malewski All-America

Madonna University sophomore middle hitter Brandy Malewski (Redford Thurston) was recently named NAIA second-team All-America after leading the Lady Crusaders to a 44-7 season.

Malewski, who led Madonna to a 12-0 regular season record in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and a WHAC championship, recorded 589 kills (3.25 per game) and a .403 hitting percentage.

She also led the team in all blocking categories, including 112 solo blocks, 355 assist-blocks and 2.58 blocks per game.

Scholar-athletes hailed

Senior Rayna Vert (Flint Carmen-Ainsworth) and junior Deanne Helsom (Grand Blanc) were both named to the NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete team in women's volleyball.

Vert, an outside hitter majoring in Elementary Education, has maintained a 3.62 cumulative grade-point average. She was also named first-team All-WHAC and All-Great Lakes Region after finishing second on the team with 2.53 per game. Vert also led the Crusaders in digs with 528.

Helsom, a setter majoring in Communications, carries a 3.5 GPA. She averaged better than 11 assists per game and led Madonna with 79 service aces en route to second-team All-WHAC honors.

In women's soccer, Madonna junior midfielder Vimbai Tsodzo (Zimbabwe) and junior forward Angie Negri (Flint Powers) both made the NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete Team.

Zsodzo, majoring in Dietetics, carries a 3.66 GPA. She played in all games for the Crusaders.

Negri, majoring in Nursing, sports a 3.57 GPA. She tallied one assist and played in all 16 games.

All-America Scholar-Athletes must be at least a junior and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better.

Glenn grads sparkle

Six former Westland John Glenn High graders combined to win their division, Nov. 28-29, in the Budweiser Go-Deep 4-on-4 Flag Football Tournament held in Canton, Ohio.

The team of Brian Morrison, Matt Howton, Lou Hartwig, Bernie Toby, Matt Griglio and Todd Viccelli outscored their opponents 166-23 en route to a 6-0 record.

They defeated Glory of Ohio in the championship final, 28-7.

Collegiate notes

Despite a game-high 27 points Saturday from senior forward Tony Goins (Westland John Glenn), host Wayne State University dropped its first men's basketball game of the season to Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference foe Northern Michigan, 71-63.

The loss dropped the Tartars, ranked No. 13 in NCAA Division II, to 6-1 and 3-1. NMU is 5-2 and 2-1.

Siena Heights sophomore forward Nicole Tobin (Livonia Stevenson) was recently named MVP, All-Great Lakes Region and NAIA honorable mention All-America in women's soccer.

Kalamazoo College freshman full-back Stacey Nastase, who helped the women's soccer team of an 18-3 record, was named third-team NCAA Division III All-Great Lakes Region.

Youth hockey champions

The new Arctic Pond Arena Bantam A travel hockey team recently captured the Regional Silver Sticks Tournament held in Midland.

The three-day tournament ended in victory for the Penguins on Dec. 6 with a 6-0 shutout over the Traverse City Hawks.

Team members include: Ryan Droze, Mike Dugan, James Kerbawy, Justin Maedel, Jamey Messer, Brent Newsted, Jonathon O'Neill, Nathan Pavach, Mike Rini, Tom Sculthorpe, Adam Staber, Chris Stevens, Nick Strauch, Rob Thomas, Mike Tyrna and Ryan Wischmeyer.

Coaches are Craig O'Neill, Doug Wischmeyer, Don Strauch and Kris Kerbawy. Manager is Sandy Yates.

The team will go on to play in the Silver Stick State Tournament in Port Huron in January.

What an opener!

Garden City overcomes Franklin in 4 OTs, 70-65

BY BRAD EMMONS
STAFF WRITER
bemons@oe.homecomm.net

The Observerland boys basketball season started with a bang Tuesday. Make that a Hudson's style implosion.

Garden City needed four overtimes to subdue host Livonia Franklin, 70-65, as the two teams filled the void left by the NBA lockout by going a total of 48 minutes.

Franklin trailed in each of the first three overtimes, but each time out forced an extra four-minute session by making clutch shots.

GC, however, absorbed the blows, outscoring the Patriots 9-4 in the final OT to finally settle the score.

"We've worked our tails off in practice and we take it seriously and we proved it in the third and fourth overtimes," Garden City junior point-guard Brian Harnos said. "It was exciting. We had great crowd support. It was like being at home."

Geoff Beckerleg, a 6-foot-5 senior forward, led the Cougars with 20 points. Jess Webb came off the bench to score nine, while Harnos and Robert Hudson each contributed eight.

"We were in a stall and we had to keep the ball moving and not stand around," said the 5-10 Harnos, who was making his varsity debut. "We did a great job of that and we were able to come back and play some pretty good defense. We knew what we were doing because we had practiced these situations — being four points up and four points behind."

Jason Burke was Franklin's top scorer with 21 points. His shots with 31.7 and 14 seconds, respectively, forced the second and fourth overtimes.

Brendan Quigley chipped in with 11 points, while Dustin Kuras added nine before going down late in the fourth quarter after being submarined going to the basket.

"It's tough when you lose two of your best players (Kuras, then point-guard Derek Schema to fouls)," Franklin coach Dan Robinson said. "The no-call on Dustin was a big one."

Schema, a junior who set up many of Franklin's hoops with his pinpoint passing, stunned GC when he nailed a three-pointer two steps behind the top of the key — at the buzzer — to force a third OT.

"I don't think I've ever been in a four-overtime game, maybe a three," GC



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Blurred vision: Garden City guard Brian Harnos (middle) tries to pass through Franklin defenders Brendan Quigley (left) and Jason Micallef.

Another OT game: Chiefs nip Wayne



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HIRSCHMAN

Turning the corner: Plymouth Canton's Jason Waidman (right) makes the move on Wayne defender Justin Goins.

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

As first games go, it was a first game.

Plymouth Canton struggled past ragged Wayne Memorial, 55-53, on Scott Samulski's tip-in with 12 seconds left in overtime Tuesday night to get the boys basketball season started for both teams.

The Chiefs and Zebras both had moments of quality play as they began their annual searches for a team identity.

"We made a million mistakes," coach Chuck Henry of Wayne said, "and he (Coach Dan Young of Canton) probably felt his kids did, too."

Both teams had the game "won" at various points but it took a buzzer-beater of at least 32 feet by Canton junior Jim Reddy to send the contest into overtime.

Taron Smith's pair of free throws with 16 seconds to play in regulation gave Wayne a 51-46 lead.

Reddy made two free throws with eight seconds left to pull the Chiefs up to 51-48. The Zebras missed the front end of a 1-and-1 with five seconds left and Canton called a quick timeout.

The Chiefs inbounded the ball to Joe Cortellini, who drove to the top of the key and dished off to Reddy when met by two Zebras. Reddy's shot was in the air when the buzzer sounded and it went through the rim like being pulled by a string.

Smith knocked in a shot from the right baseline at 2:27 of overtime to start Wayne out with a 53-51 lead but the Zebras, who turned the ball 11 times after holding a 45-37 lead with 4:41 left in regulation, couldn't score again.

Jason Waidman, who led all scorers with 22 points, made a free throw with 1:16 left to make it 53-52 and Joe Cortellini's free throw with 45 seconds to play tied the score.

BOYS BASKETBALL

seventh-year coach Greg Williamson said. "I thought we were in control a majority of the time, but then they (Franklin) would make a great play."

"I tried to tell them we were in control and had to stay in control. We just needed to play and not hang our heads."

Ironically, Franklin led throughout the game, but couldn't close the deal in the final period.

The Patriots led 22-18 at halftime and 37-34 after three quarters.

Webb's basket for Garden City with 1:47 remaining in regulation tied the game at 41-all.

Both teams shot poorly in the final quarter — Franklin 1-for-10 and GC 2-for-9.

For the game, GC was 25 of 67 (37.3 percent) and the Patriots 23 of 64 (35.9 percent).

The Cougars committed 23 turnovers, while Franklin made 28.

"We had our chances in the fourth quarter to get it up to 10, but then we made some turnovers, a couple of bad decisions and they (Garden City) came back and scored," Robinson said. "We had our chances, but we just didn't execute when we had the four-point lead. We gave them too many opportunities to win."

"And down the stretch we had guys tired and guys playing out of position."

The big discrepancy came at the free throw line.

GC made 17 of 37 (45.9 percent) and Franklin 13 of 19 (68.4 percent).

"We had some guys who logged some heavy minutes," Williamson said. "Jeff (Beckerleg) did a good job of getting the jump balls to start the overtimes."

"And Brian (Harnos) handled the ball and took charge. He (Harnos) had a good summer and shows good leadership qualities."

Despite loss, Robinson called the four overtime affair "a learning experience."

"One of our goals is to improve every game and learn from our mistakes," he said.

Williamson also praised the Patriots' effort in defeat.

"Franklin played hard and they're well coached," he said. "They're a young team just like us."

Both teams return to action Friday — Franklin at Dearborn and Garden City at Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

Canton got the ball back on a turnover and missed a shot. But Samulski skied at just the right time and tipped the ball off the palm of his left hand. It nestled softly into the basket to break the tie.

Wayne's three-point attempt as time expired was off the mark.

"We did a great job of making plays when we had to," Young said, "and we really picked up our defense down the stretch."

Wayne's three-guard offense and pressure defense led to an 18-12 third quarter that contributed nearly put Canton out of the game. The Zebras led, 36-27, at one point.

"We're small," Henry said, "so we have to be a perimeter-oriented team. We have to be to give ourselves a chance to win."

The Zebras tried putting their two bigger players on the perimeter and cutting the guards underneath late in the game but that didn't net much.

Wayne was head, 15-11, after the first period but trailed, 23-21 at halftime. Canton got back into the game with an 8-3 run to end the third quarter and ran off nine points in a row after the Zebras were up 45-37.

Nathan Wade had 16 points to lead seven Wayne scorers. Gary Johnson scored 10, Mike Zielinski eight, Robert Price and Smith scored six apiece.

Waidman scored 10 of his points in the second quarter and did a nice job of setting screens. Six other Chiefs scored between four and seven points each.

"We passed the ball better," Young said, "and I was pleased with the different people scoring."

Canton got some mileage out of offensive and defensive substitutions as the game wound down.

"It gives us more energy," Young said, "and makes us fresher at both ends. I credit our assistants, especially Jeremy Rheault, for coming up with that."

WEEK AHEAD

1998 Schedule: Thursday, Dec. 10: Eagle Kickoff at PCA, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11: Huron Valley at MHS Tour, 6:30 p.m. St. Agatha at Ceresville, 7 p.m. Anytown at Lark, Westfield, 7 p.m. Redford Union at Church Hill, 7 p.m. Franklin at Dearborn, 7 p.m. Fordson at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Wayne at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Garden City at Crestwood, 7 p.m. Taylor Truman at Thurston, 7 p.m. A.A. Huron at Salem, 7 p.m. Lapeer West at N. Farmington, 7 p.m. Canton at Monroe, 7:30 p.m. Harrison at Lapeer East, 7:30 p.m. N.D. Prep at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12: Borgess at Country Day, noon. Eagle Kickoff at PCA, 1 & 5 p.m. Huron Valley at MLHS Tourney, TBA. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 11: Madonna at Bethel (Ind.), TBA. (Kalamazoo Valley Tourney) Oakland CC vs. Lakeland, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12: Siena Hts. JV at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m. Madonna at Bethel (Ind.), TBA. Kalamazoo Valley Tourney, TBA. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 10: Madonna at Wayne State, 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12: Ferris State at Madonna, 2 p.m. Cuyehoga (Ohio) at Schoolcraft, 2 p.m. Oakland CC at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m. ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Friday, Dec. 11: Whalers at S.S. Marie, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12: Ply. Whalers vs. Erie Otters at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m. PREP HOCKEY Thursday, Dec. 10: W.L. Central vs. Redford Unified at Redford Ice Arena, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11: Franklin vs. Church Hill at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m. Farm. Unified vs. Dearborn at Farm. Hills Arena, 8 p.m. Stevenson at W.L. Central, 8:20 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12: RU at W.L. Western, 2:20 p.m. Farm. Unified vs. B.H. Andover at Detroit Skating Club, 8:30 p.m. TBA — time to be announced.

Lady Crusaders sweep Concordia Classic foes

A strong defensive effort combined with solid shooting propelled Madonna University's women's basketball team to an easy 98-60 triumph over the College of Mount St. Joseph (Ohio) in its second game at the Hampton Inn-Concordia College Classic Saturday in Ann Arbor.

The victory pushed the Lady Crusaders' record to 7-1 overall. St. Joseph fell to 2-6.

Five Crusaders reached double figures in scoring, led by Katie Cushman and Kathy Panganis with 17 points apiece. Cushman, who was named to the all-tournament team along with teammate Chris Dietrich, also had six assists and two steals.

Lori Enfield added 16 points and six rebounds, and Dietrich and Kristi Fiorenzi (Plymouth Canton) scored 12 apiece. Dietrich also had seven assists, while Fiorenzi collected 10 rebounds and three blocked shots.

St. Joseph got 22 points from Shauna Bemmes and 15 from Nadeana Stormer.

Madonna connected on 38-of-76 floor shots (50 percent) while limiting St. Joseph to 22-of-57 shooting (38.6 percent). The Crusaders also outrebounded their opponents 45-38 and forced 19 turnovers while committing just nine.

Madonna men falter

The trip to that Mecca of college basketball — Lexington, Ky. — was fruitless for Madonna University's men's basketball team.

The Fighting Crusaders were winless at the Transylvania University Tournament last weekend, losing to the host team 75-72 on Friday and to the College of West Virginia on Saturday, 110-71.

COLLEGE HOOPS

The losses left Madonna with a 2-7 record. Transylvania is 4-2; West Virginia is 8-3.

Against Transylvania, Madonna trailed 39-33 at the half and was behind 72-56 with 4:29 left. The Crusaders managed to trim that to 74-72 with 0:45 left, but never caught Transylvania; a desperation three-pointer at the buzzer by Nick Hurley (Canton) missed.

Although they shot 60 percent from the field (27-of-45) and committed just 11 turnovers, the Crusaders lost the game with poor rebounding. They were outboarded 42-26, including a 18-4 Transylvania advantage on the offensive boards.

Mike Massey led Madonna with 31 points; he nailed 11-of-13 floor shots, including 5-of-7 three-pointers. Next best, however, was Narvin Russaw with 10 points. Eric Lietcke's 26 points paced Transylvania.

In Saturday's loss to College of West Virginia, the Crusaders still came up short in the rebounding department (by a 46-38 margin), and this time they couldn't match their foes' shooting prowess. West Virginia hit 44-of-84 shots (52.4 percent), including 15-of-36 three-pointers (41.7 percent); Madonna made 28-of-70 floor shots (40 percent). West Virginia led 54-27 at the half.

Best for Madonna was Russaw with 17 points and nine rebounds. Mike Maryanski, Massey and Hurley contributed 12 points each.

Steve Staton did the damage for West Virginia, scoring 38 points (7-of-11 on triples).

snaps drought, Wyandotte Bears

PREP HOOP WRAP

Wyandotte Bears snapped a scoring drought Tuesday night by scoring 40 points in the second half to defeat Dearborn, 78-65. The Bears were able to overcome a 19-14 lead after Dearborn scored and expanded it to 38-30 at the half. Wyandotte started its comeback with a 12-0 run in the second half. "We finally picked it up," Newman said. "We had some trouble in the first half making choices. We didn't handle their offense very well so we made some adjustments. The biggest difference was in the fourth quarter we made 14-of-15 free throws." Jeff Mehi had 24 points for Wyandotte to lead all scorers but he was clamped down on in the second half when he scored just nine. Jeff Powell and Chris Wayda each had 12 and Damien Mehi had 10.

For the game, Stevenson made 22-of-31 free throws and Wyandotte sank 9-of-16. A.A. Huron 77, JOHN GLENN 68: The middle two periods made the difference as the visiting River Rats outscored the Rockets, 37-25.

Imani Wilson paced Huron with 19 points, Andrew Walton had 17 and Amir Kasham and Derek Ginyard 15 apiece.

Ty Hayward led Westland John Glenn with 18, Bill Foder scored 16 and Ben Harris 14.

Junior guard Eric Jones was scoreless in the first half and scored seven in the second.

Huron led, 22-17, after the first quarter and John Glenn outscored the River Rats 23-22 in the final eight minutes.

The Rockets made just 7-of-25 free throws, compared to 14-of-22 for the River Rats. Huron also held the edge in triples, 5-2.

CHARGERS 66, CHURCHILL 54: The Chargers couldn't get the ball up the floor against host Dearborn's full-court pressure and ended up paying the price.

"That's a real solid Dearborn team," coach Rick Austin of Lincoln Churchill said Tuesday night. "We didn't get the job done.

"We played solid half-court defense, but we didn't

rebound as well as we could." Ryan Cole, Clint Williams, Chris D'Amico and Junior Sean Turner scored 12, 13, 15 and 16 points, respectively, for Dearborn.

Junior guard John Bennett paced the Chargers with 24 points and junior forward Avery Jensen had eight.

It was 31-10 after the first quarter and 54-24 at halftime as Dearborn breezed to the win.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 60, ST. ALPHONSUS 44: A strong second half helped the Warriors open their new season successfully.

"We stayed the same in the second half," coach Dan Ramthun said Tuesday night after his team blitzed its way to a 37-17 post-intermission. "We played man-to-man.

"We were getting good shots all night. We just started hitting them in the second half.

"Our defense was better in the second half, too, so we got some turnovers and some transition baskets."

Lutheran High School Westland got 16 points from forward Tom Habitz, 14 from junior guard Charlie Hoef and 13 from forward Ryan Ollinger.

Host St. Alphonsus led, 14-13, after one quarter and 27-23, at the half. It was led by junior forwards LaMondre Bonny, who scored 12 points, and Travis Spencer, who had 10.

HURON VALLEY 42, SALINE CHRISTIAN 37: A solid finishing kick put the boot to Saline Christian.

Visiting Huron Valley Lutheran expanded a one-point margin with a 16-12 final period Tuesday night against a Saline Christian team that had already played four games this season, losing them all. The Hawks trailed, 20-19, at the intermission.

"We finally got the jitters worked out," Coach Bill Ohlsson said. "We went to our aggressive half-court trap and they couldn't handle it."

Brian Johnson scored 13 points, six in the final quarter, and had 10 rebounds. Rene Amal had 10 points and four steals and Alan Kleinke scored 11 points, leading the fourth quarter rally with four steals.

Greg Montel had 12 points and Brennan Ball 11 for Saline Christian.

INTER-CITY 90, CLARENCEVILLE 54: A stronger second quarter might have let Bill Dyer earn a victory in his varsity coaching debut.

But host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist outscored Livonia Clarenceville, 20-10, in the second period and kept the Trojans at bay with free throws down the stretch.

Sophomore center Scott Wilson scored 24 points in Dyer's first game as the boys basketball coach at Clarenceville while junior forward Rick Burack contributed 11. Scott Hall made some big plays down the stretch for the Trojans.

"We shot the ball well," Dyer said of his team's 23-for-37 shooting. "but we turned the ball over too many times." Jared Garner's 13 points paced Inter-City Baptist while B.J. Golden scored 10 and James Davis nine.

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On Thursday, February 4th, 1999 the Elysia Pefley Foundation will host their 3rd Annual Skate-A-Thon with the Detroit Red Wings at Joe Louis Arena. All proceeds from the event will go to the McCarty Cancer Foundation, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, Michigan Pediatric Hospice Foundation. Elysia Pefley was the little girl who was adopted by the Red Wings as their little angel. Although she lost her fight with cancer on St. Patrick's Day 1996 her courageous spirit lives on through the Foundation and Detroit Red Wings. Everyone is invited to participate! Concourse activities are open to the public and include an interactive Hockey Hall of Fame, large Silent Auction with a variety of sports memorabilia, Zamboni Photographs, Octo Bowl, Hourly 50/50 Raffles, Clowns, plus much more! Any person who raises \$50 or more in donations will skate at the "Joe" with the "stars" and receive a T-shirt and refreshments. All individuals that raise pledges of \$300 or more will receive an autographed photo plaque by one of the Red Wings. The top four individuals who raise the most in donations will receive a special autographed Red Wing memorabilia. For those who want to participate please complete the donor sheet, collect donations in advance and submit them to the foundation. Early registrants will receive ice time preferences. Donations can still be accepted after one has registered, just bring the additional funds on February 4th. * At this time we are unable to list celebrity skaters. • Sponsored by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Pre-Registration 11 am-2 pm. Devonshire Arena - Livonia & Compuware - Plymouth Dec. 12th, 19th, Jan. 9th, 16th, 23rd. Great Lakes Sports City - Former Fraser Arena (11 am-3 pm) Dec. 12th, 19th, Jan. 9th, 23rd. St. Claire Shores Civic Arena Dec. 12th, 19th, Jan. 16th, 23rd. Royal Oak Arena & Trgy Arena Dec. 12th, 19th, Jan. 9th, 23rd. For Pledge Kit Information and Corporate Donations, Please Call 888.583.9914

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING ROUNDUP

Trojans earn 4th in Rouge tourney

Livonia Clarenceville, buoyed by two individual firsts, made a strong showing Saturday in the 17-team River Rouge Invitational wrestling tournament.

Sterling Heights, Woodhaven and Garden City garnered the first three spots in the team standings, while Clarenceville was a strong fourth.

"Eight of our 13 placed and my guys wrestled hard," Clarenceville coach Todd Skinner said. "We're in good condition. Our conditioning is paying off."

Senior captain Dave Lemmon captured the 130-pound crown, pinning three of his four opponents including Don Brockway of Dearborn Divine Child in the final, the fall coming in 59 seconds.

Senior Tony Rachoza added a first for the Trojans in the 160-pound class. He went 3-0 on the day including a 2-1 decision over Keith Jackson of Inkster in the final.

Senior Adam Marcum (171) went 3-1, finishing second before losing to Chris Alayson of Sterling Heights on a pin in one minute.

Four other Trojans took thirds — sophomore Dan LeClerc (140) pinned Waleed Nazni of Sterling Heights in the consolation final in 2:19; senior Walter Ragland

(189), a 7-3 winner over Mike Farrar of Riverview; and junior Josh Rose (heavyweight), who beat Mike Gaffke of Livonia Churchill, 8-0.

Juniors Dan Tondreau (112) and Matt Wiehl (145) took fourth and fifth, respectively, for Clarenceville.

Chargers finish sixth

Nine wrestlers placed Saturday, including first-place finisher Mike Carter, as Livonia Churchill took sixth place with 117 points in the Rouge tourney.

Carter, a 145-pounder who yielded just four points in four wins, defeated Mike Roberts of Riverview in the championship final, 10-1.

Churchill senior Brandon LaPointe (152) earned a second place losing in the finals, 13-7, after scoring a victory over state qualifier Marlon Franklin of Inkster in the semifinals.

"Mike did a great job and pretty much dominated everyone he wrestled," Churchill coach Marty Altounian said. "LaPointe looked real sharp, but in the final he just ran into a kids that was a little bit better than that."

Fourth-place finishers included freshman Steve Lenhardt (103), and senior Mike Gaffke (heavyweight), both going 2-2 with two pins apiece.

Sixth-places went to freshman Tom Vandembosche (215), senior Steve Vasilloff (125), junior Steve Abar (160), junior Tom Allen (171) and senior Jeff Sinning (189) — all finished 3-2 with Abar and Sinning recording three pins apiece.

"It surprised me a bit because a lot of these kids hadn't wrestled varsity before and to take sixth place out of 17 teams was pretty good," Altounian said.

Spartans 1-5 at Davison

Livonia Stevenson lost four of five matches Saturday in the Davison Team Tournament.

The Spartans fell to the host Cardinals (63-12), Milford (54-25), Flushing (40-39) and Mt. Morris (51-27), while beating Alpena, 48-33.

Stevenson individual standouts on the day included Joe Moreau (103) and Brian Barker (160), each going 5-0 on the day.

Three other Spartans finished 4-1 — Dustin Obeid (125), Imad Kharrush (140) and Mike Falzon (145).

Matt Radley (130) and Tim McCarthy (189) each captured two matches, while Del Loranger (215) and Mark Costella (heavyweight) earned one victory apiece.

In other dual meet matches last week.

WAYNE MEMORIAL 42 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 35 Dec. 3 at Wayne

103 pounds: Carlos Gammans (WJG) dec. Rob Ochalek, 17-2; 112: Mike Kassabri (WM) dec. Jesse Purdon, 12-2; 118: John Gregg (WM) pinned Chris Smith, 1:04; 125: Paul Goyt (WM) p. Evan Waddell, 0:27; 130: Jeff Albrecht (WJG) dec. Justin Beseler, 8-6; 135: Nate Wensko (WM) p. Eric McMicheal, 3:13; 140: Melissa Fogarty (WM) dec. Alan Waddell, 12-4; 145: Ken Raupp (WM) dec. Chris Wolfgang, 9-7; 152: Joe Reilly (WJG) won by void; 160: Pete Langer (WJG) p. Kurt Spand, 1:56; 171: Matt Barker (WJG) dec. Jason Quinn, 16-6; 189: Javonn Perkins (WJG) p. Tim Grzecki, 1:12; 215: Kevin McLaughlin (WM) won by void; heavyweight: James Wallace (WM) p. Terry Peterson, 1:20.

FARMINGTON HIGH 47 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 21 Dec. 5 at Clintondale

103: Double void; 112: Brian Proven (F) won by void; 119: double void; 125: Adam Hughes (LF) won by void; 130: Tony Lema (F) pinned Chris Eklund, 1:52; 135: Chris Audette (F) p. Steve Doig, 1:11; 140: Tom Mahon (F) p. Dan Hughes 1:28; 145: Ryan Shiplett (LF) p. John Pawlak, 3:23; 152: Mark Ostach (F) p. Allen Duff, 3:05; 160: Mike Martland (F) decided Brian Rupp, 21-4; 171: Eric Toska (LF) dec. Ben Lukas, 12-7; 189: Steve Myslinski (LF) p. Andy Wood, 5:09; 215: Jenkins Ebiware (F) p. Don Rinke, 1:34; 275: Brian Brinsden (F) won by void.

COACHES' WRESTLING POLL

This is the inaugural Coach's Wrestling Poll. The poll includes the inaugural Coach's Wrestling Poll. The poll includes the inaugural Coach's Wrestling Poll. The poll includes the inaugural Coach's Wrestling Poll.

TEAM STANDINGS
1. Redford Catholic Central.
2. Plymouth Salem.
3. Redford Thurston.
4. Garden City.
5. Livonia Clarenceville.

INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS (by weight class)
103 pounds: 1. Joe Moreau (Livonia Stevenson); 2. Josh Gurtman (Livonia Stevenson); 3. Chris O'Kara (Redford CC); 4. Danny Jondreau (Clarenceville); 5. Kyle Pitt (Plymouth Canton).

112: 1. John Mervyn (Salem); 2. Pat Szym (GC); 3. Mike Kassabri (Wayne Memorial); 4. Ronnie Thompson (Salem); 5. Jesse Purdon (Westland John Glenn).

119: 1. Vinnie Zoccol (GC); 2. Jon Gregg (Wayne); 3. Justin Schaefer (Farmington Hills Harrison); 4. Jim Gourlay (Redford Union); 5. Dustin Obeid (Stevenson).

Schoolcraft Community College offering variety of health options

Schoolcraft College is offering almost 60 four-week mini physical education classes during the month of January including yoga, aerobics, water-based exercise, swimming, karate and strength training. Fees range from \$9 to \$43 with registration continuing through Dec. 16.

A \$35 fee reserves a court along with equipment beginning the week of Jan. 4. Enrollment is limited and courts are scheduled for doubles play. Participants must furnish their own locks and towels.

Schoolcraft College's 13-week Sunday Health Club will begin Jan. 3 and continues through March 28. Individual membership cost is \$32 or \$4 per visit. Family membership is \$70. Participants can use three gyms, six racquetball courts, weight machines, pool and sauna. Adults must accompany children under 16 and non-swimmers must be 45 inches tall at the shoulder to use the pool.

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MHSAA adopts new football playoff plan

The Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association voted Dec. 2 to expand its post-season football playoffs to a five-week, 256-team tournament, effective in 1999.

The plan would double the number of playoff qualifiers and add a week to the post-season.

Schools that play a nine-game regular-season schedule, beginning a week earlier than years past, may qualify with at least six wins. Teams that opt to play an eight-game schedule may qualify with five victories.

Under the adopted proposal, those schools whose win total qualify them for the playoffs will be ranked by enrollment following the completion of the regular season, and then divided into eight divisions of 32 schools each. If fewer than 256 schools qualify by win total, the excluded teams with the highest computer playoff averages would be added to fill out the field, with an equal number of schools coming from Classes A, B, C and D.

No teams with losing records would qualify. In the unlikely event that more than 256 schools qualify by win total, the teams with the lowest playoff averages would be deleted from the field in an equal number from each class. In 1997, 230 schools would have qualified by win total.

Once the 256-team field is set, the 32 teams in each division will be drawn into districts and regions. The four-team districts would have the team with the top playoff average hosting the fourth-ranked team and the second hosting the third.

The second week of the tournament would be the district final, played at the site of the highest ranked team. The regional championship would be played the following weekend, with the method host either being predetermined by draw or by playoff average.

Semifinal games would continue as in the past, with predetermined regional champions playing each other at prearranged sites, and the finals continuing to take place at the Pontiac Silverdome on Thanksgiving weekend.

The modification to make five wins the qualifying number for schools playing eight-game schedules was made to better accommodate schools which either had difficulty in securing a nine-game schedule or did not wish to begin their regular-season a week earlier.

In a seven-year calendar, football playing schools would begin practice only two days earlier on five occasions. Schools with a nine-game schedule would have only one preseason scrimmage.

The Council also voted to recommend that schools which intend to keep a nine-game schedule slide entire schedules forward by one week to accommodate the change, and to do the same with the officials assigned to those contests.

This is the fourth expansion of the playoffs since they began in 1975 with four teams in each class. The tournament expanded to 32 teams in 1977, 64 teams in 1985, and then doubled the number of teams again by splitting each class in 1990, upping the number of schools to 128.

Following the presentation of the plan to member schools during the fall, football-playing institutions were surveyed. Of 454 valid surveys returned, 91 percent favored the plan, and 85 percent favored expansion in 1999.

In other action, the Representative Council voted to eliminate the separate Upper Peninsula Girls Volleyball Tournament and to include Upper Peninsula schools with Lower Peninsula schools in a unified girls volleyball tournament beginning with the 1999-2000 school year.

The Council also approved a five-year extension of its contract to play the football finals at the Pontiac Silverdome through the year 2004, and voted to return the Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals to Michigan International Speedway for the next two years in Brooklyn.

SCHOOLCRAFT HOOP HEAVENS
The Schoolcraft College men's basketball team is unbeaten through six games and has several players listed among the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference leaders.

Lamar Bigby is second in the conference in scoring (17.3 points a game), first in three-point accuracy (53.2 percent), third in floor shooting (63.3 percent), and 13th in rebounding (5.1 per game).

Matt Bauman, a Livonia Franklin graduate, ranks fourth in scoring (16.3 points), sixth in both assists (3.5 a game) and shooting accuracy (61.7 percent), and seventh in blocks (1.0 a game).

Dashawn Williams is first in shooting (69.2 percent), 12th in scoring (13.3 points), fourth in rebounding (6.3) and second in

steals (3.5), while Scott Elvey ranks 18th in scoring (11.1 points) and 11th in point shooting (51.7 percent).

SC is the top scoring team in both the conference and NJCAA (114.67 points a game).

AAU GIRLS HOOP TRYOUTS
Tryouts for the Livonia Lasers girls AAU basketball teams will be from 8-10 a.m. (10 and under), 10 a.m. to noon (11 and under) and noon to 2 p.m. (12 and under) Saturday, Dec. 19 at Livonia Stevenson High School.

Divisions refer to ages as of Jan. 1, 1999.

Girls playing CYO, LIAL or YMCA teams are welcome.

If interested, but unable to attend on Dec. 19, should call Wayne Henry at (248) 624-7839.

Michigan Motion, an AAU girls basketball program, will hold tryouts Saturday at Novi

Andrew School, 25549 Taft Road between Grand and Van Mile Road in Novi.

Age group tryouts will be: 2-10 a.m. (12-13); 3:30-5 p.m. (10-11); 6-8:30 p.m. (10-11); 8:30-10 p.m. (12-13).

All players are welcome.

For more information, call Mike Tuck at (248) 486-1515 (between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.) or (248) 474-8986 (after 6 p.m.).

Tryouts for the AAU Livonia Lightning — girls 17-, 16-, 15- and 14-and-under will be from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20 at Livonia Ladywood High.

YOUTH SOCCER CHAMPS
The Livonia Y Meteors, an under-10 boys soccer team, won a divisional title during the fall indoor session at the Soccer Zone with a 7-1 record. The Meteors overcame a 2-0 deficit to beat the Livonia Slammers, 3-2.

Members of the Meteors, coached by Dave Burton, include: Kyle Bogenschutz, Ben Burton, Evan Chapman, Bret Driscoll, Andrew Eschaki, Alex Grimes, Steve Hart, David Herbeck, Matt Loney, Kevin Murphy, Bryon Niemczak, Matt Rzepka, Ben Schroeder and David St. Amant.

Assistant coaches include Dave Schroeder and Gary Niemczak.

TRAVEL BASEBALL TRYOUTS
The Michigan Indians Baseball Club's Pee Wee Reese Division travel team (11-year-olds, born after July 31, 1987) is searching for three serious young players to fill its roster for the 1999 season. Indoor practice clinics begin in January. The season will consist of approximately 60 games.

For more information, call Nick Marrone in the evenings at (734) 459-0695.

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Observer & Eccentric

**TACYLILIER
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ILLITERACY**

The number of lives affected by illiteracy is staggering. One out of every five Americans has difficulty reading and writing.* For them, life can feel like an endless series of obstacles.

But these people *can* learn—all they need is someone who can give them the confidence to take the first step.

That's why Philip Morris Companies Inc. developed a learning program called Gateway: Paths to Adult Learning. By making the Gateway materials available at no cost to community organizations, Philip Morris provides an easy way for adult learners to take the first step to literacy—and the first step to a better life.

If you would like to volunteer to help someone, or if you know of someone who needs help, call 1-800-671-6200 for more information about Gateway, or contact your local literacy coalition.

* U.S. Department of Education, 1993.

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



SHORTS

Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Players present "Shorts - A Theatrical Potpourri," featuring works by Edward Ablee, Robert Harling, Louis Phillips, Neil Simon and Tom Topor, 8 p.m. at the Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road at I-696. Tickets \$8 adults, \$5 students, available at the door, or call (248) 471-7667.

SATURDAY



Join Alabama for a Country Christmas 8 p.m. at the Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Tickets \$24.50, (248) 645-6666 or (248) 377-0100.

SUNDAY



St. Dustan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook presents "The Sleeping Beauty," 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. at the playhouse, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$6 per person, call (248) 644-0527.



Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents "The Nutcracker" with Ballet Internationale, featuring ballet stars from around the world, and opulent new sets and costumes. Over 85 young dancers from metro Detroit area will also appear in the production, Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 10-13 and Dec. 17-20 at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets \$16 to \$35, call (313) 576-1111 or (248) 645-6666.

STOCKING STUFFERS

Pop music's top acts celebrate holidays

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

A quarter-filled St. Andrew's Hall looks dank. Stage lighting reveals gum stuck on the hard wood floors, the sticky film of spilled drinks, and a thin haze of swirling smoke.

The first of Cheap Trick's three nights at the club were sparsely attended, but Grosse Pointe native Gregg Alexander took it as an opportunity to show Detroit why he left home.

Alexander, singer/songwriter/producer of the pop band New Radicals, ran away from home, as the story goes, about 10 years ago to pursue a music career. After two failed albums, Alexander is finally getting his due.

St. Andrew's Hall showed new life the minute his scantily clad background singer, former child actress Danielle Brisebois, took the stage reciting lines from the New Radicals sprightly hit "You Only Get What You Give."

Alternating between jumping around the stage and stretching out his long arms, the gangly, bald Alexander seemed at home pounding out a four-song, half-hour set that included two renditions of "You Only Get What You Give." Alexander, Brisebois and their five-piece band had all the energy of a veteran pop band playing to a sold-out arena.

One of Alexander's fondest memories of Detroit is seeing the rock band Almighty Strut open for Cheap Trick. Heading downstairs to the Shelter after the set, Alexander was greeted by Cheap Trick singer Robin Zander. Alexander's career had come full circle.

According to Alexander, he ran away at age 16 because he "couldn't take the Grosse Pointers," whom he compares to the cast of "The Truman Show" with "an extra \$50,000 per year in disposable income." With his parents' blessing, he went to California.

"Specifically I told my dad I was running away and he said, 'Fine, be back by September.'"

He didn't come back. "I wanted to have some adventures and make rock 'n' roll records and cause some trouble," he said.

His first album, "Michigan Rain," was recorded under the name Gregg Alexander for A&M Records in 1990.

"I made an album that came out amongst the hype of grunge that got lost. It didn't make me too bitter or anything. You can't blame yourself if your record doesn't get through the myriad of 35,000 records that come out a year," said Alexander who splits his time between California, New York City and London.

Two years later, he signed with Epic Records who re-released "Michigan Rain," and put out his follow-up "Intoxification," which also flopped.

Staying at the home of a friend who was out of town, he toiled around in the recording studio putting to tape "magic moments of a difficult time."

"When I was done with the songs, I was listening and thinking, 'God, I hope these things get heard by people.' I played it for a few friends and pretty soon

Please see STUFFERS, E2

Take note

This year's stocking is stuffed with radio station-sponsored holiday concerts. Here's a nice tidy Christmas list to prepare you for the season. Tickets for all concerts are available at Ticketmaster outlets, by calling (248) 645-6666 or by visiting <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

"Holiday Hootenanny"

SPONSORED BY WPLT-FM (96.3)

features the Goo Goo Dolls, Christian rappers DC Talk, Semisonic, Better Than Ezra and Edwin McCain, at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at Cobo Arena, Detroit. Tickets are \$15.96 and \$25.96 for the all-ages show. For more information, visit <http://www.planet963.com>.

"Rockin' for the Hungry"

SPONSORED BY ANN ARBOR'S WQBF-FM (102.5) features Candlebox, The Hunger and Blue Plate Special, at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$21.03, \$27.50 limited superfan seating includes afterparty ticket. For more information, call (734) 763-TKTS.

"WDRQ Freeze for All"

SPONSORED BY WDRQ-FM (93.1)

features 98 Degrees, Ace of Base, Voices of Theory, Monifah, L.F.O., Inoj and C Note, at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. The show is sold out. Call (248) 546-7610 for more information.

"Holiday Concert for a Cure"

SPONSORED BY WKQI-FM

features Bryan Adams and Sixpence None the Richer at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. The concert, open to those 21 and older, is sold out, but Q95 is conducting on-air contests to win tickets. Visit <http://www.q955.com> for a complete line-up. Net proceeds benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

John Berry and JoDee Messina

SPONSORED BY WYCD-FM (99.5)

perform as part of radio station WYCD-FM (99.5) Christmas show at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets are \$25 for the all-ages show. For more information, visit <http://www.wycd.com>.

"A Smooth Jazz Christmas"

with Dave Koz, David Benoit, Brenda Russell and Peter White, begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$20 and \$25 for reserved theater seating. For more information, call (313) 961-5451.

"The Night 89X Stole Christmas"

SPONSORED BY CIMX-FM (88.7)

features performances by Beck, Garbage, Everlast, Placebo and Marcy Playground, and is emceed by Kid Rock, at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Tickets are \$20.89, \$25.89 and \$30.89 for the all-ages show. For more information, visit <http://www.89x.com>.

"The River's Cool Yule '98"

SPONSORED BY CIDR-FM (93.9)

features performances by Rusted Root, New Radicals and Susan Tedeschi, at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets are \$22.50 in advance. Visit <http://www.theriver939.com> for more information.

Stocking photos above

A. Returning home: Former Grosse Pointe Gregg Alexander returns to town with his band the New Radicals to play "The River's Cool Yule '98" at the Detroit Opera House on Dec. 30.

B. Rare appearance: Swedish pop stars Ace of Base - from left, Linn Berggren, Ulf Ekberg, Jenny Berggren and Jonas Berggren - make a rare live appearance on Saturday, Dec. 12, as part of WDRQ's "Freeze for All" concert at the Royal Oak Music Theatre.

C. Holiday fete: The Goo Goo Dolls - from left, drummer Mike Malinin, guitarist/vocalist Johnny Rzeznik, and bassist/vocalist Robby Takac - are set to play Cobo Arena as part of WPLT-FM's "Holiday Hootenanny" concert on Friday, Dec. 11.

THEATER

'Resident Alien' visits Jewish Ensemble Theatre

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

Repeating the magical words "there's no place like home," Dorothy escapes the alien Land of Oz and returns home to her beloved Kansas in "The Wizard of Oz."

Dorothy always knew her heart and home was in Kansas, but playwright Stuart Spencer, who also grew up in a farming community, felt like an alien.

"I remember being four or five and telling my mother 'we ought to move to the city,' and I didn't even know what it was," said Spencer whose play "Resident Alien" is being presented by the Jewish Ensemble Theatre through Jan. 3 at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the lower level of the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. "We lived outside of a

Please see ALIEN, E2

On Stage

WHAT: Jewish Ensemble Theatre presents "Resident Alien" by Stuart Spencer

WHERE: Aaron DeRoy Theatre, lower level, Jewish Community Center, 6000 W. Maple Road (corner of Maple and Drake Roads), West Bloomfield

WHEN: Continues through Sunday, Jan. 3. Performances 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday; 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Additional matinee 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23.

TICKETS: \$13-\$23, call (248) 788-2900 or <http://ccjnet.org/jet> for more information.

HIGHLIGHT

JET will present two special New Year's Eve performances of "Resident Alien," 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31. Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. show \$35 per person includes hors d'oeuvres, champagne, and party favors. Tickets for the 10 p.m. show \$50 per person includes champagne, party favors, and breakfast. Call number listed above for reservations/information



Playwright: Stuart Spencer wrote "Resident Alien." Jewish Ensemble Theatre is presenting the Michigan premiere of his work at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the lower level of the Jewish Community Center.

Stuffers from page E1

20 labels were pounding on my door."

The result is "Maybe You've Been Brainwashed Too" (MCA), an amalgamation of pop, R&B, funk and dance. "You Get What You Give," he explained, is a hit because the lyrics hit close to home for so many people.

"There's certain aspects of the song that are hitting a core with people's lives. I sing the lyrics 'Health insurance rip-off lying/FDA big bankers buying/Fake computer crashes dining/Cloning while they're multiplying.' The lyrics of the song cover a lot of bases," Alexander explained.

"It touches upon this overall feeling of frustration about the big machine that society has built around us. The machine known as society. The song is saying don't let go, we have something that the machine doesn't have - heart, spirit, flesh, tangible gooey things."

Expanding audience

New Radicals is one of more than 30 bands coming to town to celebrate Christmas with local radio station listeners. Alexander's band performs as part of "The River's Cool Yule '98," while Beck, Garbage and others play Joe Louis Arena for "The Night 89X Stole Christmas."

Last year there were only a handful of holiday shows. Now there's nary a pop station that hasn't gotten involved. (See sidebar for more information.)

WPLT-FM gets extra points for its diversity at this year's "Holiday Hootenanny." Pop superstars the Goo Goo Dolls are co-headlining with Christian rockers DC Talk, who until now hadn't received airplay on the station. (see story inside)

English/American androgynous pop act Placebo is a baby band compared to the acts with whom it is sharing the

Joe Louis Arena stage for 89X's festival. Bassist Stefan Olsdal sees radio station shows as a way of broadening Placebo's audience.

"We're getting across to a lot of people who haven't heard you. Plus, the radio station's gonna play your records. That's what we're doing this time," he said.

Detroit debut

The voice of Ace of Base member Ulf Ekberg is being gradually drowned out by the sounds of bongo drums. He's trying his best to speak louder into a friend's cell phone but a cold is getting the best of him.

"I'm on the stage now. Our band is performing but they're singing some other songs though," Ekberg said with a raspy laugh. "They're waiting for me to finish."

Late last week, Ace of Base performed live on television in London, England. Since the release of its third album, "Cruel Summer" (Arista), Ekberg and the rest of Ace of Base - siblings Jenny, Linn and Jonas Berggren - have been running non-stop.

This month marks the first time that the Swedish pop group Ace of Base, which has scored hits like "The Sign," "Don't Turn Around" and its cover of Bananarama's "Cruel Summer," has toured the United States.

"We spent a lot of time in the States but only in Miami, Chicago and New York. The rest is actually black places for me. Detroit, I don't have the picture for Detroit in front of me. I'm very excited to go there," Ekberg explained.

Ace of Base decided to do a few radio shows in untouched markets at the suggestion of its record company. So the Swedish quartet cancelled a European jaunt and scheduled a handful of shows, including WDRQ-FM (93.1's

'I made an album that came out amongst the hype of grunge that got lost. It didn't make me too bitter or anything. You can't blame yourself if your record doesn't get through the myriad of 35,000 records that come out a year.'

Gregg Alexander
—Singer/songwriter

"Freeze for All."

"We're planning on doing a world tour next summer. This is a touch of how it feels to be performing in the United States."

Is Ekberg a little nervous about the tour? "You want to do the best you can. It's good to be a little bit nervous and have some ants in your stomach."

The album "Cruel Summer" marks the first time the band has worked with non-Swedish producers. With acclaimed producers Cutfather and Joe, Ace of Base expanded its sound with background singers, which Ekberg refers to as "choirs," and orchestras. The reliance on electronic music has lifted.

"We worked more with live instruments, live orchestras and choirs. I think we're a little bit more open-minded for people's ideas. We didn't want the same old routine. We felt like now we've done that and done it all," Ekberg explained.

"Now see we do it in a different way. The rest of the world's work was completely black. Now we started to see that. On the fourth album (due in fall 1999), which we've already started, you will hear the next step."

Alien from page E1

small town in Wisconsin, there wasn't even a neighbor nearby. I used to make up friends as a young child."

"Resident Alien" is a play about what it feels like to be an alien - different from everyone else. "It never occurred to me that this was a universal feeling," said Spencer. "I'm delighted that others see themselves in it."

Spencer says the play just "kind of evolved." Michael, and the Alien, are the main characters.

"Michael is who I am had I stayed behind in the town I grew up in," said Spencer who left to attend college, and later moved to New York. "No matter who I write about I put myself in that position. Writing a play is not always rational."

He began by imagining himself as Michael the town crackpot who enjoys listening to Beethoven and reading Kierkegaard. He's divorced and the father of a son, Billy, who is abducted by aliens as the two are walking through the woods at twilight.

How does Michael explain this to his ex-wife Priscilla? Her husband, Ray, or the Sheriff? Then there's the matter of the Alien, the green man who stays behind for a vacation. Like Michael, the Alien feels like an outcast on his planet.

"Resident Alien" is a comedy and a story about friendship with some serious undercurrents. "The Alien fits in, Michael doesn't belong," said Spencer. The Alien is surprised people are

upset by his green skin "We base our feelings about people on superficial things like skin color," said Spencer. "I tried to take it to its conclusion, I thought it was honest."

In the play, the Alien says "Nobody else in the entire universe ever heard about this 'race' thing, but here you completely obsess about it, even though at the same time you say it's not important."

We also divide people into categories according to sexual preference. The Alien doesn't. "Where I come from," he says, "we take a slightly simpler approach: you find somebody you like, and everything else - well, you work around it."

For Spencer, home is "finding where you belong - home is the place where you're centered and belong."

"Resident Alien" is about people searching for home, who are not where they belong.

Evelyn Orbach, artistic director of Jewish Ensemble Theatre, saw Spencer's play at the Humana Festival of New American Plays in Louisville, Ky. in March, and helped bring it to the Aaron DeRoy Theatre.

"In a sense it's the lightest thing we've done," said Orbach. "It was the funniest thing I'd ever seen, but it's also about prejudice, racism and people who feel alienated from society. What happens to one person can happen to any person."

John Siebert is making his directing debut at Jewish

Ensemble Theatre with "Resident Alien."

"It lends a special perspective to some people's lives," said Siebert about the play. "It forces them to think about some of their prejudices and touches on the human experience. It's a comedy with a human touch that touches on spirituality."

Jewish Ensemble Theatre and Meadow Brook Theatre collaborated on this production. Peter Hicks of Meadow Brook designed the set, Reid Johnson the lighting, and Brett Rominger the sound.

"Collaboration is on the increase," said Mike Vigilant, public relations manager for Meadow Brook Theatre. "Everyone is working hard to build a theatre audience in metro Detroit. We're constantly sharing information and resources."

For Siebert, who has been cast in a lot of Meadow Brook Theatre productions, working on this production has been a dream come true. For him, the message of "Resident Alien," is "don't sweat the small stuff. Keep it simple."

"Resident Alien" features Scott Screws as Michael, Greg Trzaskoma as the Alien, Sarah Kamoo as Priscilla, Jim Shanley as the Sheriff, John Michael Manfredi as Ray, and Scott Goci as Billy.

Ring in the New Year at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre. There are two special New Year's Eve performances. See chart for details.

Michigan Theatre presents musical treat for families: 'Babes in Toyland'

Start with Old Mother Hubbard, Jack and Jill, Bo Peep and Simple Simon, add a black-caped villain and a fairy godmother, mix in some special effects, lively music and dance, add a pinch of good old-fashioned humor, and you have Victor Herbert's much loved classic, "Babes in Toyland."

This merry holiday treat, presented by New York's Theatreworks/ USA, will be performed 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 at the

Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty, downtown Ann Arbor.

Tickets for this musical for families with children ages 4 and older are \$10, call (734) 763-TKTS or (734) 668-8397.

"Babes in Toyland" takes place in Fairy Tale Land where Mother Goose and her daughters, Mary Contrary Goose and Bo Peep Goose must sell their eggs, flowers and sheep's wool each

month to pay rent to the sinister shoelord, Barnaby Barkwell.

Barkwell is a wicked villain and raises the rent on the shoe, unless Mary agrees to become his wife, he will throw the Goose family out on to the street. Mary agrees, but is later convinced by Bo Peep to run away to Toyland, where "all the toys are magic and all your dreams come true." Soon, everyone is on the way to Toyland.

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Entries must be received by 12/14 @ 5pm with the winners notified on 12/15 between 9am - 5pm and published on 12/17 in the Observer & Eccentric classified section.

Contest Rules

- You must be 21 and over
- Employees and their families of the Observer & Eccentric & The Second City are not eligible. (*Dinner & drinks not included).
- One entry per household

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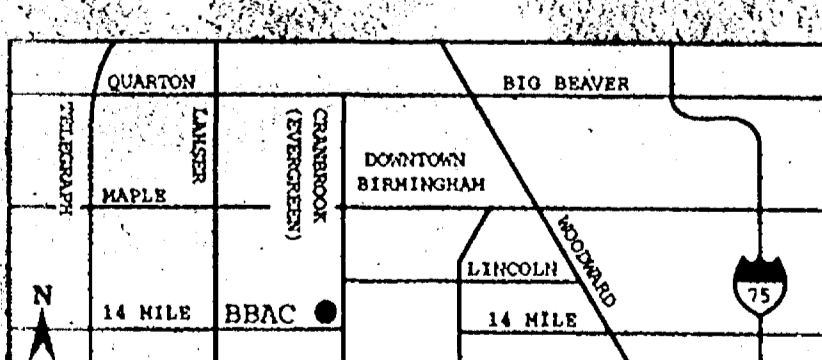
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1998

CHILDREN'S THEATER

Theater productions designed with children in mind

The 1998 holiday theatrical calendar is brimming with musicals and traditional productions of many of our old favorites, brought to life by some of the area's finest children's theaters.

CINDERELLA
 Members of Paper Bag Productions children's lunch-theater will perform Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic tale Saturdays and Sundays through December at the Players Club of Detroit (3321 E. Jefferson, one mile east of downtown Detroit).

Cost for lunch and the show is \$7.50 per person. Saturdays, lunch is served at noon with the play at 1 p.m. and Sundays, lunch is served at 1 p.m. with a 2 p.m. play performance. Groups rates are available. Call (810) 662-8118.

ONCE UPON A SHOE
 Tinderbox productions present a holiday musical for the family — Once Upon a Shoe. Dec 12 and 18 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. Performances will be hosted at The Cathedral Theatre, Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, Detroit.

Tickets are \$10 at the door; \$8 in advance. Guest performances by the Tinderbox Show Choir, the Tinderbox Jazz/Singers, and FOOTWORK, fea-

turing top notch tap dancers from the Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts. For group rates and other information please call (313) 635-8962 and leave a message.

ICICLES & SNOWFLAKES
 The junior actors of the Ridgedale Players present "Icicles and Snowflakes" and meals with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m.

"Icicles and Snowflakes," written by Suzanne Barcewicz, and directed by Barcewicz and her daughter Shauna, tells the tale of three siblings who build a snowman which comes to life. A variety of winter characters come to show the snowman how to have fun. The "Heart Miser" attempts to ruin their fun by melting them.

Tickets are \$6.50 and includes the play, a meal and a visit and gift from Santa. Reservations are a must. Call (248) 988-7049. Visa and Mastercard accepted. Ridgedale Playhouse is at 205 W. Long Lake between Crooks and Livernois in Troy.

PUPPETART'S CINDERELLA
 PuppetART is bring back its popular performance of Cinderella, featuring

classical marionettes with music by Tchaikovsky. Performance dates and times are Saturday, Dec. 12, 19 and 26 at 2 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 27 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 28 and 29 at 2 p.m.

All performances will be held at PuppetART's new home the Detroit Puppet Theater, located at 25 East Grand River (between Woodward and Farmer) in downtown Detroit.

Tickets are \$6.50 for adults and \$5 for children. Special holiday family ticket packages are available for \$20 - includes two adults and two children. Call (248) 557-8599 for tickets.

THE SNOW QUEEN
 Stagecrafters Youth Theatre will present five performances of Hans Christian Andersen's classic, The Snow Queen, Dec. 10-13 at the historic Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. All proceeds from the Dec. 11 performance will be donated to the Give-A-Christmas-Year-Round campaign. Patrons are also asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to benefit the Salvation Army's Toy Drive for needy children.

All tickets are \$5 and all seats are reserved. Call (248) 541-6430. Dates

and times include: Dec. 10, 7 p.m.; Dec. 11, 7 p.m.; Dec. 12, 11 a.m.; Dec. 12, 3 p.m.; and Dec. 13, 1 p.m.

CINDERELLA
 A musical adaptation of the classic tale of Cinderella will entertain festive audiences this holiday season at the Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main Street, Northville. Performance dates and times are: Saturdays, Dec. 12, 19, and 26, and Jan. 2 at 2 p.m.; and Sundays, Dec. 13, 20, 27 and Jan. 3 at 2:30 p.m. Weekdays performances are Monday through Thursday at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 28, 29, 30 and 31. Tickets to all general performances are \$6.50.

THE SNOW QUEEN
 The New Millennium Youth Theatre Company production of The Snow Queen will be performed Dec. 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5, general admission or \$4 groups of 10 or more. Sponsored by Hudson's, this production of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale was adapted for the stage by Ben Martin. Located at 15600 JL Hudson Drive, Southfield. Call (248) 552-1225 for information.

JOSEPH/AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
 The Dearborn Family Theatre will perform Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at 8 p.m. Dec. 11-13 at Edsel Ford High School, 20601 Rotunda Drive, 1.5 miles west of the Southfield Fwy). Tickets for the show are \$10 general admission and \$9 for senior citizens. Group rates are available. Reservations: (313) 561-0599.

THE CRICKET IN TIMES SQUARE
 Wild Swan Theater will present the first stage version of George Selden's The Cricket in Times Square, in collaboration with Henry Ford Museum. This tender Newberry Award winning tale of how the song of a gifted cricket saves the Bellini's newstand in the subway station under Times Square has become an American classic.

Appropriate for children in grades K-5, this play will be performed from now until Jan. 2 at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Tickets are \$6 for children; \$8 for adults and can be purchased by calling 763-TKTS or any Ticket Master outlet. For touch tours and audio-description, or for group reservations, call (734) 995-0530.

Little Women continues to engage audiences alike

"Little Women," based on the beloved novel by Louisa May Alcott, runs one more weekend at the Bonstelle Theater, Wayne State University's undergraduate theater. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. The Bonstelle is located at 3424 Woodward in Detroit. For information or tickets, call (313) 577-2960. Group discounts are available.

BY SUE SUCHYTA
 SPECIAL WRITER

The Bonstelle's production of the beloved Alcott classic Little Women is well-acted and staged. However, its 2.5 hour running time (with two intermissions) makes it more suitable for adults and older children.

Set in the 1860s during the American Civil War, Little Women is the story of the spirited March sisters and their optimism as they celebrate holidays and life itself with little material wealth but the riches of friends and family.

Maribeth Monroe of Fraser plays the tomboyish sister Jo, an aspiring novelist and alter-ego for Alcott herself. Monroe is bigger than life, with the expansive gestures of the impulsive Jo, and the loud, eager outbursts of the impulsive character. Although a talented actress, Monroe overshadowed the rest of the cast by constantly being more effusive than the rest.

'Tiffany Bedwell of Garden City was delightfully saucy ...'

She needs to temper her performances with more subtle manifestations of her much evident talent.

Gina Lohman of Warren plays the eldest sister Meg with equal measures of charm and naiveté. She comfortably conveys both a self-assured oldest sister and a nervous neophyte romantic.

Tiffany Marie Bedwell of Garden City was delightfully saucy as the impulsive and somewhat spoiled youngest sister Amy. She perfected the pout and the flounce, accentuated by wonderful gold curls and the spirited demeanor of a young girl on the verge of womanhood.

Julie Ann Yurconis of Detroit completed the quartet as the musically talented sister Beth, while Diana Clark, herself a mother of five, made her Bonstelle debut as their mother, affectionately known as Marmee.

The costumes were accurate to the Civil War period and reflected the limited means of the March family, while the set, the interior of the March home, was richly detailed and enhanced the warm atmosphere of the home.

A nice touch were the seasonal changes reflected by the foliage and falling snow outside the picture window.



The cast of Little Women at the Bonstelle Theatre.

Students present classic tales

Celebrate the holidays by enjoying a night at the theater. Eastern Michigan University is presenting "The Gifts of the Magi," this weekend, and Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities," is opening Friday at the Hilberry Theatre on the campus of Wayne State University.

EMU Theatre celebrates the Christmas season with the musical "The Gifts of the Magi," based on stories by O. Henry, Friday-Sunday, Dec. 11-13 and Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 19-20 at the Sponberg Theatre on the Ypsilanti campus.

Performances 8 p.m. Dec. 11-12 and Dec. 19, and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 12-13, and Dec. 19-20. Tickets are \$12 for Friday-Saturday performances, and \$10 for Sunday matinee. There is a \$2 discount for tickets purchased more than 30 minutes in advance, call (734) 487-1221.

"A Tale of Two Cities" opens 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11 on the Hilberry stage, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit, and runs in rotating repertory until March 4. Additional performances 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 and 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 17-18.

Based on the novel by Charles Dickens, the play was adapted for the stage by Nagle Jackson.

Tickets are \$10-\$17 and can be purchased by calling the box office (313) 577-2972 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The timeless joys to be found in love and giving are the focus of this musical adaptation of "The Gifts of the Magi," with book and lyrics by Mark St. Germain, music and lyrics by Randy Courts, in which six performers bring to life the story of newlyweds Jim and Della.

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Monday Dec 14th OPEN 10-9	Tuesday Dec 15th OPEN 10-9	Wednesday Dec 16th OPEN 10-9	Thursday Dec 17th OPEN 10-9	Friday Dec 18th OPEN 10-10	Saturday Dec 19th OPEN 9-10	Sunday Dec 20th OPEN 9-8
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STREET SCENE

'Hootenanny' pairs biggest Christian, secular acts



CHRISTINA FUOCO

DC Talk has won multiple Grammy Awards, sold millions of records and packed The Palace of Auburn Hills.

you used to say! 'Jesus is the way.'

The song came about during a song-writers' retreat at a chateau in France owned by Miles Copeland.

Like most of DC Talk's material, it has full crossover potential — just look at the numbers.

'Detroit is our No. 1 market. The biggest show of our tour was at The Palace. I think we had between 10,000 and 12,000.

Soundtrack stars

The way Goo Goo Dolls guitarist/vocalist Johnny Rzeznik sees it, there's two types of musicians.

'They're either dumb or they're jerks.' With this album, I was determined to have a good time because I'm miserable. I'm usually a miserable jerk.'

Recording the Goo Goo Dolls' latest album 'Dizzy Up the Girl' (Warner

Bros.) wasn't so miserable, he said, thanks to new drummer Mike Malinin.

'It shocked the hell out of me,' Rzeznik said about the success of 'Iris.'

'I'm on a record with Alanis Morissette and U2 and Peter Gabriel. I take my hat off to (soundtrack producer) Danny Branson.

Banking on that success, the Goo Goo Dolls, which also includes bassist/vocalist Robby Takac, brought in Jack Joseph Puig to mix 'Dizzy Up the Girl.'

'He's got the most unbelievable studio. We camped out there for a month with him,' Rzeznik explained.

too. It was so much fun at 2 in the morning. We'd walk out of the control room and then you could just go out to the bar. I'd mix some drinks for the boys and sit around and (talk).

The Goo Goo Dolls are veterans of radio station promotional shows. Last month the band played a show for WXDG-FM (The Edge) at the 7th House in Pontiac.

'I enjoy doing those shows. Occasionally we wind up taping those shows because they wind up being the coolest.'

Big party

Stefan Olsdal of the androgynous Brit pop band Placebo has a different take on radio gigs. It's one big party — even if it does mean missing the acts he would like to see.

Olsdal, Placebo and Everlast will come together once again to play 'The Night 89X Stole Christmas' at Joe Louis Arena on Dec. 20.

debuted on the UK singles chart at No. 4, almost wasn't.

'We went into the studio to record some b-sides and 'Pure Morning' was part of the b-sides session. We brought in a guitar loop that we would never think we would ever use, laid down some bass and drums.

'When we were done, we thought it was way too good for a b-side. This has got to be a single. We gave it to the record company and they said, 'OK. Let's put it out.'

Although 'Pure Morning' has made Placebo stars in the UK, it has merely broke the band in the United States.

'We've been playing really small clubs. We played Aerosmith's club in Boston to like 50 people. The day before we played in Paris, France, to 2,000 screaming fans. We're going back three years to the type of clubs we used to play.'

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) 953-2147, mailbox No. 2130, or write to her at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

McCain and Semisonic.

While it might seem hard for DC Talk to win over secular music listeners, band member Toby McKeethan says he just stays focused on the music.

'When we're invited by a radio station we pretty much play our music and let our music speak for who we are and what we're about. We're definitely concerned with social issues, and obviously we're spiritual and our faith is very important to us,' he said.

'But we try not to be preachy. When a radio station invites us to play a gig, the music's what got us invited there and we try to be respectful.'

In this case, it was the song 'My Friend (So Long),' a musical nod to Blur's 'Parklife' album. The lyrically acerbic song tears into a Christian band that turned secular to get attention: 'I saw your video on VH1/Looks like they spent a ton/How does it feel to be the flavor for a spell/And I remember when

ANIMATION FESTIVAL

The 6th Annual Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation debuts Wednesday, Dec. 16 - Sunday, Jan. 3

South Park creators unleash 'Frosty' in latest Sick and Twisted Animation Festival!

Determined to outdo the sold-out success of last year's festival, the folks at Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation have compiled over a dozen brand new cartoons (plus old favorites) for their latest compilation, including 'Frosty,' a never-before-screened cartoon from the creators of 'South Park.'

'Frosty' was the first cartoon made by animators Trey Parker and Matt Stone, about the battle between a homicidal snowman and baby Jesus. It features early versions of the characters who later appeared in their follow-up 'Spirit of Christmas' short and eventually the high-rated 'South Park' television show.

Essentially a pilot for 'South Park,' it's extreme rudeness makes it impossible to show on television.

Also on this year's bill: Floss: A humorous look at the many uses for dental floss.

Beyond Grandpa: A sick caricature of a typically benevolent family figure.

Monica Banana: A lewd take on the relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky.

Coco, the Junkie Pimp: In which marionettes engage in prostitution and drug use. Animalistic Times: The latest from the creator's of last year's gross-out squirm-fest, Sloaches Fun House.

Boris the Dog: About a happy-go-lucky dog who will do anything... and we mean anything... to get to the big city.

Sick and Twisted Special Games: Where bad taste meets people with special needs.

How to Get Pronged: In which the hapless Lloyd (who's self-mutilation antics have made him a festival favorite) gets a girlfriend. Plus: new episodes of No Neck Joe.

The Magic Bag began hosting the Sick and Twisted festival in 1993, unleashing Beavis and Butt-head for the first time on

unsuspecting Detroit audiences. Spike and Mike are California-based cartoon connoisseurs who have been producing and showcasing new animation for the past 20 years.

The upcoming schedule:

- Wednesday, Dec. 16 · 1 Show · Doors 8 P.M. / Film 9:30 P.M. · 18+
Thursday, Dec. 17 · 1 Show · Doors 8 p.m. / Film 9:30 P.M. · 18+
Sunday, Dec. 20 · 1 Show · Doors 8 p.m. / Film 9:30 p.m. · 18+
Monday, Dec. 21 · 1 Show · Doors 8 p.m / film 9:30 p.m. · 18+
Tuesday, Dec. 22 · 1 Show · Doors 8 P.M. / Film 9:30 p.m. · 18+
Wednesday, Dec. 23 · 1 Show ·

- Doors 8 P.M. / Film 9:30 P.M. · 18+
Closed Christmas Eve
Friday, Dec. 25 · 1 Show · Doors 8 p.m. / film 9:30 p.m. · 18+

- Saturday, Dec. 26 · 2 Shows · Doors 8 p.m. / Film 9:30 p.m. · 18+ & Doors 10 p.m. / Film 10:30 p.m. · 21+

'CAMERON DIAZ AND CHRISTIAN SLATER ARE HILARIOUS!' Directed by Peter Berg with scalpel-sharp comic timing. 'Pushes the envelope... hysterically funny.' CHRISTIAN SLATER CAMERON DIAZ VERY BAD THINGS

'this bug's for you!' 'two thumbs up!' from the creators of 'toy story' Disney PIXAR a bug's life

'A BLOCKBUSTER ADVENTURE!' 'THE RUGRATS MOVIE IS A DELIGHT!' ANITA GATES THE NEW YORK TIMES

'NON-STOP MAGICAL FUN. A DELICIOUS TREAT FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!' 'MICHAEL KEATON AND KELLY PRESTON GIVE TOP-NOTCH PERFORMANCES.' 'MICHAEL KEATON AT HIS MOST CHARMING... COOL FAMILY FUN.'

ON DECEMBER 11 MEET THE NEW FACE OF EVIL THE BATTLE FOR PARADISE HAS BEGUN STAR TREK INSURRECTION

Table with 3 columns: AMC BEL AIR 10, AMC EASTLAND, AMC LAUREL PARK, AMC LIVONIA 20, AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY, AMC STERLING CTR. 10, BIRMINGHAM 8, GENERAL CINEMAS CANTON, MJR SOUTHGATE 20, RENAISSANCE 4, SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS, SHOWCASE PONTIAC, SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS, SHOWCASE WESTLAND, STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE, STAR LINCOLN PARK 8, STAR ROCHESTER HILLS, STAR SOUTHFIELD, STAR COMMERCE TWP. 14, UNITED ARTISTS OAKLAND, UNITED ARTISTS 12 OAKS, UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER, SOORY, NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT.

Table with 3 columns: AMC AMERICANA WEST, AMC BEL AIR 10, AMC EASTLAND 2, AMC LAUREL PARK, AMC LIVONIA 20, AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY, AMC SOUTHFIELD 4, AMC STERLING CENTER, BIRMINGHAM 8, GENERAL CINEMAS CANTON, MJR SOUTHGATE 20, QUO VADIS, SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS, SHOWCASE DEARBORN, SHOWCASE PONTIAC, SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS, STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI., STAR SOUTHFIELD, STAR WINCHESTER 8, STAR COMMERCE TWP. 14, UNITED ARTISTS 12 OAKS, UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER, WHEN YOU BUY FROM US, NO PASSES ACCEPTED

Table with 3 columns: AMC ABBEY, STARTS TOMORROW!, AMC LIVONIA 20, AMC SOUTHFIELD, AMC STERLING CTR., BEACON EAST, BIRMINGHAM 8, GCC CANTON CINEMA, GCC NOWI TOWN CTR., MJR SOUTHGATE 20, QUO VADIS, SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS, SHOWCASE DEARBORN, SHOWCASE PONTIAC, SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS, STAR GRATIOT, STAR LINCOLN PARK, STAR SOUTHFIELD, STAR WINCHESTER, UNITED ARTISTS COMMERCE TWP. 14, UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER

Archie's celebrates anniversary, thanks customers

BY KERLY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

Open since 1981, Archie's in Livonia has been renovated three times. "We remodeled almost from the ground up; at least that's what the checkbook feels like," said Tom Palushaj of Farmington Hills who runs the kitchen of the family owned and operated restaurant. "You get into a project, and make changes as you go."

"We're established here, people know us," added his brother George of Livonia who manages the restaurant. Brothers Pasko, Nick, Kola and Michael also work there along with other family members. "You've got to put money back into the business. From the beginning we had the relentless pursuit to become the best restaurant on the west-side. We have the best service, the best food, and now we have the best atmosphere."

Archie's stayed open during construction, which began in 1996 with the new, expanded parking lot. To thank customers, and celebrate their anniversary, Archie's is offering 25 percent off, excluding alcoholic beverages, on Monday, Dec. 21.

The light fixtures, both coverings, floor and kitchen are new. Oak trimmed doorways, booths and tables, and glass etched accents help create a comfortable dining atmosphere.

Architect Robert J. Tobin of Tobin Associates in Troy redesigned the upscale contemporary exterior of the restaurant. The bathrooms were also remodeled. Luke Palushaj, an art director at R.J. Thompson,

Archie's
Where: 30471 Plymouth Road, (between Middlebelt & Merriman), Livonia, (734) 525-2820.
Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Closed Sunday. Will be open until 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, closed Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25 open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31, open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1.
Menu: Upscale family restaurant, daily specials, American favorites including chicken, seafood and steaks, some Italian and Greek dishes. Lots of daily breakfast, lunch and dinner specials. Children's menu just for kids under age 10.
Cost: Reasonable; dinner entrees and specials \$5.99 to \$10.50, sandwiches \$2.85 to \$5.50, breakfast \$2.00 to \$7.99.
Discounts: Senior citizens receive 10 percent off regular dinner menu. **Frequent Diner Card**, buy 15 dinners or lunches, and get \$5 off next meal.
Credit Cards: All majors accepted
Carry-out: Available
Banquet Room: Seats up to 70 people
Highlights: 17th Anniversary Celebration and Customer Appreciation Day, Monday, Dec. 21. Twenty-five percent off all day, not including alcoholic beverages.

designed the interior which has a green, beige, and brown color scheme. There are lots of hanging plants and bright red poinsettias.

The good news for customers is that prices were raised very little. "We want to make sure we keep our prices affordable for families," said Tom. "Our secret to cooking is keeping the food fresh and buy the best quality ingredients we can buy."

"A couple can have dinner with wine for under \$30," said George.

You're sure to find something to satisfy your appetite at Archie's. There are daily breakfast, lunch and dinner specials, homemade soups, and rice pudding. Often ordered dishes include Archie's Famous Fish & Chips, and the Grilled Reuben

on Rye. Broasted Chicken was added to the menu this summer.

Regular customers know what daily dinner specials to expect - Monday, baked meatloaf; Tuesday, baked Salisbury Steak; Wednesday, City Chicken; Thursday, Stuffed Cabbage Rolls, Friday, Fish & Chips, Saturday, Chicken Florentine with Fettucini Alfredo. If what you're looking for isn't on the menu, check out the numerous daily lunch and dinner specials. The ones listed are just a sample.

George welcomes many customers by name, Archie's is still a family restaurant, but now, it's a little more. "It looks like you're going somewhere really nice, it's no longer the neighborhood restaurant," said Tom. "People want to spend more time here on Saturdays," added Tom.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARRIGIE

Happy holidays: George (left) and Tom Palushaj in the newly renovated dining room at Archie's. Broiled N.Y. Steak, Broasted Chicken with mashed potatoes, and Greek Salad are among the many dishes you'll find on the menu at Archie's.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

The musical question "What are you doing New Year's, New Year's Eve?" has been asked for many decades. It's time to answer it for this year.

Whether you want a quiet dinner, one that includes romantic dancing or a grand party with midnight champagne toast and party favors, one of the following restaurants is sure to please. Please note that some restaurants require tickets paid in advance. But if you wait until the last minute to reserve, you'll most likely be disappointed just about anywhere.

■ **Big Rock Chop & Brew House** - 245 S. Eton, Birmingham (248) 647-7774.

A la carte menu including appetizers, soup, salad, main courses (ranging \$19-30), vegetable accompaniments and dessert. With any entree, one-half pound Alaskan King Crab Legs or lobster tail can be added for an additional charge. For reservations 10 p.m. or later, enjoy the music of Reggie Braxton on the Stone Terrace and ring in the New Year with champagne toast and party favors at no additional charge. Big Rock's fabulous upper level Got Rocks lounge is first come, first served, but be advised, it was packed last year at midnight.

■ **Cafe Bon Homme** - 844 Penniman, Plymouth (734) 453-6260.

From 5 p.m. to midnight an all a la carte menu has eight entree selections ranging \$29-33 and includes seafood, duck, lamb, veal, steak and Wellington of beef.

■ **Cafe Cortina** - 30715 W. 10 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills (248) 474-3033

Early diners can choose from the open menu beginning at 4:30 p.m. Starting at 9:30 p.m. there's a special package, \$85 per person including antipasto, pappardelle with pomodoro and basil, winter salad, choice of entree from among salmon, veal medallions, filet mignon or French-cut veal chop, and completed with Napoleon dessert. Also included are DJ dancing to top 40s, party hats and champagne at midnight.

■ **Excalibur** - 28875 Franklin Road, (corner of 12 Mile Road and Northwestern Highway), Southfield (248) 358-3355. New Year's Eve party (reserved seating by prepaid tickets only) with dancing and entertainment by The Warren Commission begins 9:30 p.m. at \$100 per person (not including liquor, tax or gratuity). Menu includes appetizer medley, mixed salad and choice of an entree from 2-pound lobster, veal porterhouse, sauteed chicken breast, swordfish or filet mignon, completing with dessert medley.

■ **Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro** - 26053 Town Center, Novi (248) 380-8460
Want dinner with quiet jazz music? That's on tap at Diamond Jim's between 4 p.m. and midnight. Five special entrees accompanied by a salad range \$15-19. Start with an appetizer at \$8 and add dessert for \$7.

■ **Fox & Hounds** - 1560 North Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, (248) 644-4800. Regular menu selections with entrees ranging \$18-25 will be offered. Reservations 10 p.m. and later will have party favors and midnight champagne toast. Pub entertainment throughout the evening.

■ **Opus One** - 565 East Larned Street, Detroit (313) 961-7766. Two seating periods 5 or 5:30 and 7:30 or 8 include offerings from the regular menu. A 9:30 or 10 p.m. seating at \$75 per person includes a four-course dinner from a special expanded menu. Also, at this time, you can listen and dance to the smooth sounds of B&B. Price includes party favors, but not beverage, tax or gratuity.

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