

Westland Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Learning: Wayne-Westland teachers are learning at workshops how to help their students with the MEAP./A3

AT HOME

Flavor favorable: Storage units, such as those to be featured at the Home Improvement Show in Novi, protect wine from too much light and humidity./D6

ENTERTAINMENT

Benefit: The Farmington Players are opening their run "Of Mice and Men" with a benefit for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen on Friday, Feb. 4./E1

Community theater: Lonnie Valentini of Livonia as Jake heads up the cast as a man full of contradictions in the Player's Guild of Dearborn's production of Neil Simon's "Jake's Women."/E2

REAL ESTATE

A funny thing happened: Selling houses isn't a cut-and-dried, 9-to-5 job. Things happen./F1

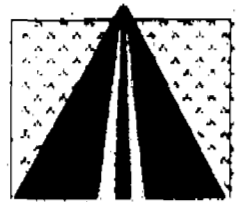
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Wayne Road work likely soon



Bumpy Wayne Road was the topic of discussion Monday night at a Westland City Council study session. Members appear likely to spend \$2.5 million on roadwork, with Wayne County tossing in additional cash.

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

Moving closer to fixing a decaying Wayne Road, Westland City Council members appear ready to spend \$2.5 million for repairs that could occur as early as this year.

"It's going to be hard, but if everything falls into place it can be done this

year," Westland Public Services Director Richard Dittmar said Tuesday.

His remarks came one day after council members indicated during a study session that they support dipping into the city's major road fund to pay the tab.

"We've actually got the cash sitting there right now," Mayor Robert Thomas said.

Wayne County would plunk down an additional \$800,000 to \$1 million to cover remaining costs, Dittmar said.

Thomas said county officials haven't confirmed the agreement, but a council decision to spend \$2.5 million could spur approval.

The city would be agreeing to shell out a much larger share than it typically pays to improve a county-maintained road, but Thomas said the benefits of a better Wayne Road would justify the cost.

Council members could officially vote on the issue at their next regular meeting, 7 p.m. Feb. 7 at Westland City Hall.

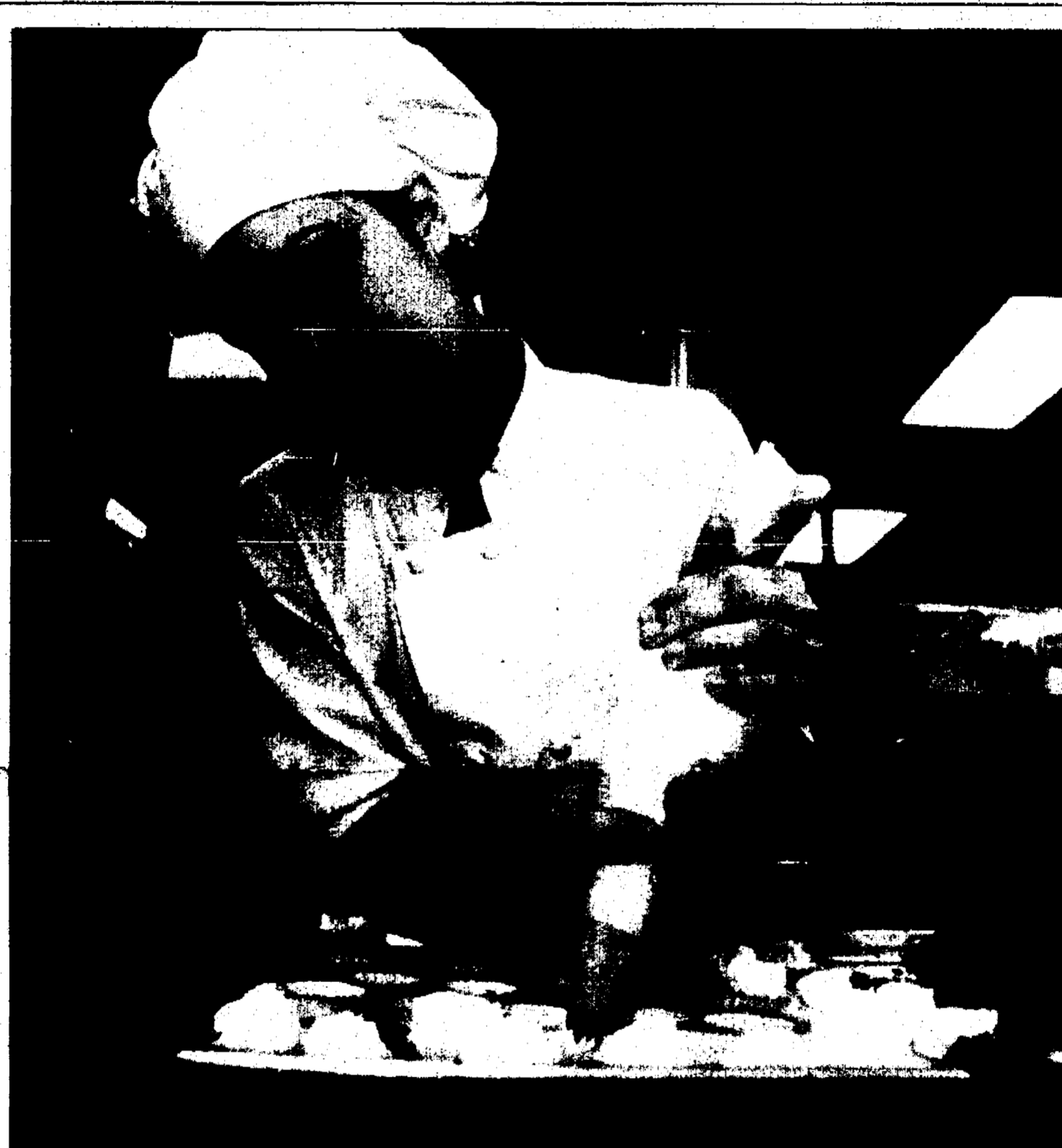
"I think everyone pretty much feels as though waiting on it would just be very destructive," said council President Pro Tem David Cox, who presided over Monday's study session.

"It would cost (motorists) a lot of money in automobile repairs," he said, adding that local businesses also could suffer if shoppers shy away from crumbling Wayne Road.

"I think the feeling is either pay for it now or pay for it later, and we'd rather pay for it now and have a new road to show for it," Cox said.

Unless the city pays the bulk of the

Please see **WORK**, A3



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

Pastry pro: Carina Bersano, a senior at John Glenn High School and first-year student in the culinary program at William D. Ford Career/Technical Center, works on a French pastry. The program assists students interested in food service careers and those with other plans in mind.

Hudson's employee suspected

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

A former employee of Hudson's at Westland Shopping Center is accused of conspiring with family members to embezzle money from the department store, police Lt. Marc Stobbe said.

The 25-year-old Detroit suspect is accused of:

- Crediting a Hudson's account for merchandise that wasn't even returned.

- Giving refunds for items that family members never purchased - but simply brought to the counter from inside the store.

- Giving away free merchandise and Hudson's credit vouchers.

A Hudson's loss prevention officer reported the embezzling on Monday, but a police report indicated it has been occurring since at least Jan. 5.

The suspect, who hasn't yet been arrested, could face embezzling charges, Stobbe said.

Embezzlement is punishable by men-fines or by as much as 10 years in prison - depending on the value of items taken.

It wasn't immediately known how much the Hudson's suspect may have embezzled with help from others.

Similar incidents have become more common in the last couple of years as

Please see **EMPLOYEE**, A6

Victim is still critical

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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A Detroit man who survived a Jan. 15 double-fatality accident in Westland has been released from a hospital, but his nephew remains in critical condition.

Timothy Andrew Twardokus, 27, who suffered multiple fractures to his left leg and pelvis, was released Saturday from University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, a public relations-spokeswoman said.

But his 20-year-old Canton nephew, Timothy Edwin Twardokus, remained in critical condition Tuesday at the hospital.

"He's still in a coma like state," Westland police Officer Jack McIntosh said.

The nephew suffered closed head injuries, McIntosh has said.

The Twardokuses survived a 91 mph, one-car crash that killed 18-year-old driver Brian O'Donnell of Westland and 20-year-old back seat passenger

Please see **VICTIM**, A6

Students learn culinary arts



Don't cry for me: Taiwan Saglton, a senior at Wayne Memorial and a first-year student, chops up onions.

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Two students in a specialized class are choosing different paths - one wants to pursue a career in the field and the other learned it wasn't for him.

Their teacher, Kathy Windiate, chalks up both as success stories.

Kristen Regits and David Zmiky take time away from classes at John Glenn High School to learn about the hospitality and culinary arts field. They're among students from all over Wayne County who attend the William D. Ford Career/Technical Center in Westland.

"The learning experience is discovering if it's a career you can excel at with long hours, hours on your feet

and working on holidays and weekends," Windiate said. "You have to have a love for the career, and a lot of people find that it's not for them. We want to have a positive image and that we're about careers and that it's a program for any student - college-bound or not."

Regits realized that becoming a chef and owning her own bakery and restaurant was her life goal.

"Before I started taking this, I didn't know what I wanted to do," Regits said. "When I come here, it relaxes me and takes my stress away."

She has been chosen to represent the career center in area competitions during the Vocational Industry

Please see **CULINARY**, A6

Helping hands

Detroit Edison employee Edward Wozniak of Westland volunteers many hours for the annual parish festival at St. Mel's Church and School in Dearborn Heights. In fact, Wozniak volunteered more than 100 hours in 1999.

It's an accomplishment heralded by Detroit Edison, Wozniak's employer of 34 years. As a result, the Detroit Edison Foundation, the grant-giving arm of the utility, awarded \$500 to the school. Wozniak was presented with the Walter J. McCarthy Award, the utility's highest-level recognition for employees' and retirees' extraordinary volunteer service efforts.

The award was created in 1990 to encourage employees and retirees to continue the tradition of volunteerism demonstrated by Walter J. McCarthy Jr., Detroit Edison's chairman and chief executive

PLACES & FACES

officer from 1981 to 1990. To be eligible, current employees must volunteer at least 80 hours within a year with a particular nonprofit organization.

Retirees must volunteer a minimum of 160 hours. During 1999, the foundation awarded \$68,500 in Walter J. McCarthy grants to various organizations in honor of 70 employees and retirees.

"Volunteer service is an honored tradition at Detroit Edison," said S. Martin Taylor, president and a director of the foundation. "Employees have helped build that tradition, contributing their own skills and time to address a wide range of community needs."

Local presence

Wilsonart International and Map Window Co. of Westland will be among more than 300 exhibitors at the eighth annual Home Improvement Show Feb. 3-6 at the Novi Expo Center.

"Our show draws the area's best companies together, to simplify the shopping experience for homeowners," said Dave Kellett Sr., president of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan and of Kellett Construction Co. in Bloomfield Hills. The nonprofit BIA is the sponsor of the event.

Wilsonart International will display laminate countertops, and Map Window Co. will feature window

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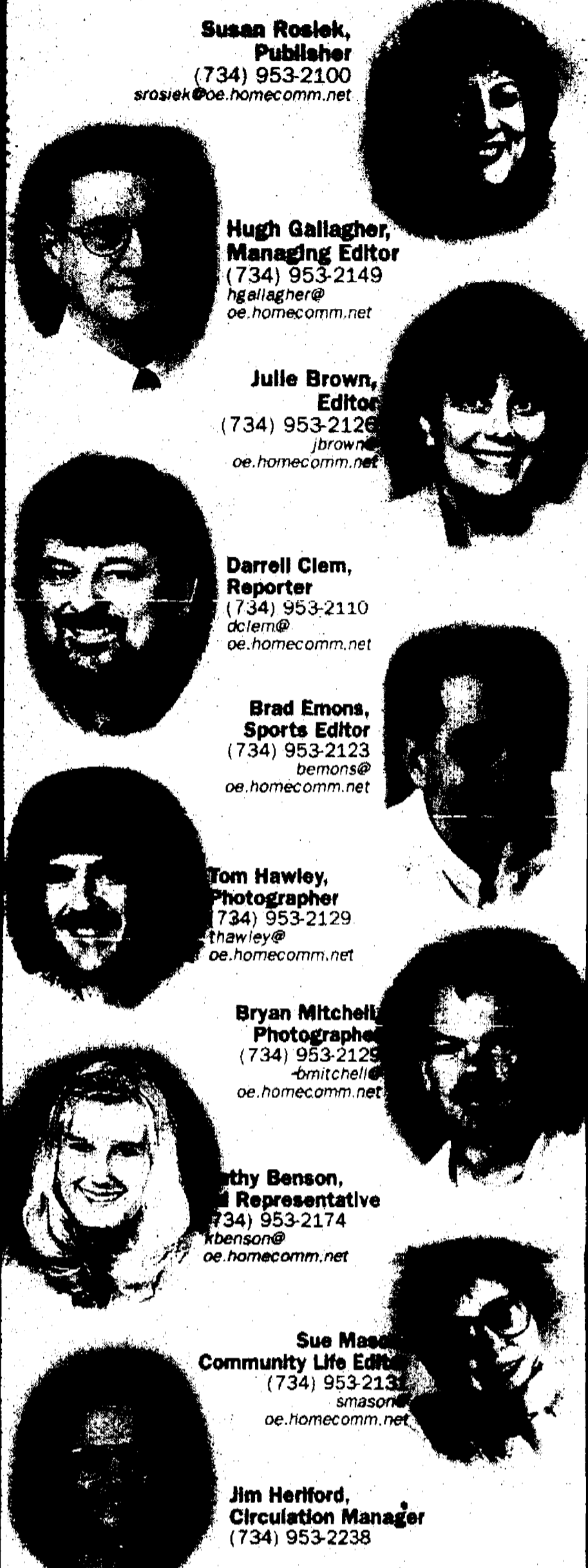
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Cooper site neighbors optimistic

**BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net**

A developer and Livonia Public Schools are short on details, but residents near the contaminated former Cooper School site like what they hear.

"As time goes on, residents are happy to see anything go up," said Lillian Russel, who lives on Badelt.

At a meeting Monday, Frank Jonna of Jonna Realty Ventures told residents of the Westland neighborhood he'd like to put for-sale housing on at least 11 acres of the 37-acre contaminated former Cooper site on Ann Arbor Trail. The school is in the Westland portion of the Livonia School District.

Remaining land would be used for yet-to-be determined recreational purposes.

For nearly two years, Livonia schools through Consumers Renaissance Development Corporation have been negotiating with Jonna Realty to sell the former landfill site.

A purchase agreement may be finalized in two weeks, officials said during the meeting at the new Cooper school.

That's good news to neighbors who not only have endured an environmental scare but have looked at an abandoned site for nearly 10 years.

"I'd rather not have rental units there because there are so many already," said Mark Benedict, who lives on Brody Street.

"With (for-sale housing), you have a more stable neighborhood,"

Added Brody Street neighbor Dave Ninowski, "And a recreational facility can always be used around here." A purchase agreement only kick starts what is expected to be a complex process.

Site plan approval and Department of Environmental Quality consent could take six to 12 months. Another task is finding a way to generate money to pay for site cleanup. Those matters will have to be settled before a deal is closed.

Any new housing is not likely to be built before three years, Jonna's attorney said.

"It's going to be a real challenge to come up with a game plan," said Grant Trigger, Jonna's attorney. "We believe we can do it."

Tax increment financing appears to be the most viable option. Under a 1996 state law, tax money can be collected from new growth to pay for brownfield site cleanup.

Such a tax-capturing authority could affect any recreational use for the remaining 24 acres, officials said.

A for-pay driving range or putt-putt golf facility would generate more revenue than a soccer or baseball field. Residents can add their input during the site planning process, a Westland city official said.

Plans for a recreational site play well with residents.

"I really think Westland would do well to spread out its treasures a little more," Russel said. "We're the forgotten side of Westland."

Land earmarked for recreation would have to be capped. Landfill material of cinders, paper, wood, brick and glass are embedded eight to 10-feet deep, said Curt Cramer of Arcadis Geraghty & Miller environmental firm.

"It's just general junk," Cramer said.

Those materials are burrowed only three feet underneath the school building, which is where the developer wants to put up housing.

Cleanup would involve moving those materials to adjacent land and regrading the soil, Cramer said.

One woman asked about dust and dirt that could blow towards the new Cooper school. Cramer assured her any environmental cleanup is monitored by the DEQ.

Jonna also put out a message to potential home buyers:

"They will not be living on a landfill," Jonna said. "This will be well-documented that this area will have been remediated."

Jonna's plans at least give residents hope. As he left the meeting to attend another engagement, he received applause.

His attorney explained the tradeoff of cleaning up land in order to build new housing. There is risk involved, Trigger said.

"What you're saying... is we the citizens of Westland should be grateful he is going to come in and clean up our problem," said Sherri West, a 20-year resident.

Psychic remembered for her zest for living

Judith Landis was a psychic before it became popular. When she died Jan. 21 at age 52 of complications from long-term diabetes, she had personally counseled tens of thousands of people and lived a very full life of her own.

Ms. Landis began giving psychic readings at age 12 and considered her insights a gift from God. She was an ordained minister in the Universal Life Church and a devout Christian.

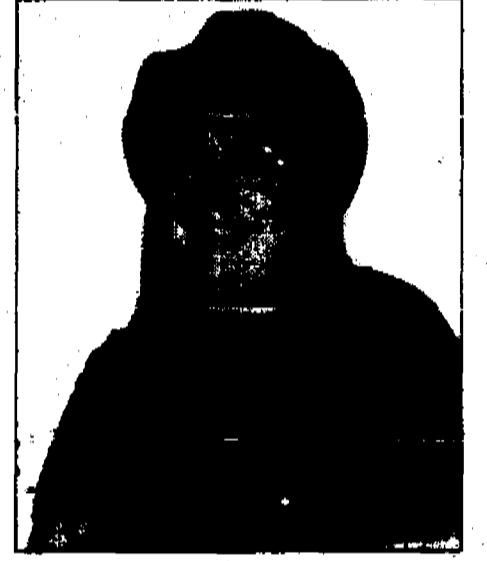
But this didn't stop her from expressing her show biz-style personality. She gave psychic readings for many prominent celebrities who were in Detroit to perform at the Fox or Fisher theaters. The Westland resident

shared top billing throughout the 1970s and 1980s on various local radio shows which featured such prominent psychics as June Lowe, Jacqui and Cleo. Ms. Landis was a frequent guest on TV's "Kelly & Company."

Police departments made use of her psychic skills while investigating crimes. Lawyers asked her to pick jurors by looking at their auras; corporations paid her to analyze the handwriting of questionable clients. She did readings and taught classes in psychic development at local metaphysical centers and psychic fairs. She also was hired to tell fortunes at Disney World in Florida.

Her specialties included palm-

OBITUARY



istry, astrology, numerology and aura reading. She wrote a book on face reading and gave out numbers for people to play in the lottery and while gambling in Las Vegas. Many won with the numbers she gave them.

Ms. Landis, who resembled Mama Cass Elliot, was renowned in local karaoke bars for her rendition of "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'."

In the early 1960s, she was a secretary for Motown and knew many of Motown's rising stars. She attended the Woodstock festival and loved Detroit's Plum Street and its counterculture.

In 1976, Ms. Landis casually dated Mark "The Bird" Fidyrych of the Detroit Tigers. In the 1980s, she dated the drummer from country singer Willie Nelson's band and traveled with them on tour.

She later ran a local dating service. She married at age 45 and was divorced at the time of her death.

She grew up in Grosse Ile, but lived in Detroit most of her life. She had lived in Westland the last seven years.

She is survived by father Wilbur (Pat) Landis; brother

Judith Landis

John (Linda) Landis; sisters Alecia Landis and Windi (Joe) Stermer; and nephews Steven and Michael Landis. Her mother, Molly Landis, died previously.

A memorial service was Jan. 26 at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Grosse Ile. A circle of sharing for friends will be 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at Mystiques West Metaphysical Center, 36356 Ford Road, Westland.

Burial is in Memorial Cemetery, Grosse Ile.

(This obituary was written by Ms. Landis' friend Rishikavi Raghudas.)

**WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG NO 2-1/18/2000**

- Presiding: Council President Griffin
 - Present: Anderson, Cicirelli, Cox, James, LeBlanc, Scott
 - Presentation of Honorable Mention certificates for 1999 Christmas Decorating Contest
 - Presentation of Plaques to 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Winners of Christmas Decorating Contest
 - 12: Approved: minutes of regular mtg held 1/3/2000
 - Adopted Budget Amendment 2000-11: Expansion of the 18th District Court, \$3,000,000
 - Introduced Budget Amendment 2000-12: Installation of 8" water main on Hix Rd, amt \$80,000
 - Approved purchase of crane for hydrant truck to Astro Truck Equipment for a Liftmore Crane, amt \$7,520 & equipment for additional attachments for sign truck to NBC Truck Equipment, amt \$9,997 for DFS
 - Change Order Nos 1 & 2, South End Water Main Project, amt \$162,040.15 to Troelson Excavating
 - Bid for Official City Newspaper to Observer & Eccentric Newspaper for total price \$6.60 per column inch
 - Accepted bid from V Micles for purchase of parcel #084-0724-000 & payment to City of bid amount & \$320 processing fee
 - 13: Reconsidered approval of bid by Peoples Community Hope for Homes for parcel #083-02-0073-002, amt \$1,000
 - 14: Rescinded approval of bid by Peoples Community Hope for Homes for parcel #083-02-0073-002, amt \$1,000
 - 16: Adopted Resolution to Schedule Special Election 5/9/2000 for purpose of Renewal of Charter Amendment Permitting the City to Levy additional Ad Valorem Tax in amount not to exceed 1 mill for 15 yrs for purpose of paying any of City's contractual obligations to Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority
 - 17: Approved the Professional Services Contract between City & Community Media, L.L.C. regarding providing television/community relations services to the City
 - 18: Closed public hearing on request from Administration on Police Block Grant Expenditures
 - 20: Granted acceptance & authorization of Police Block Grant Expenditures
 - 21: Confirmed the appointment of J Barnis to Westland Planning Commission, expires 6/4/2002
 - 22: Confirmed the appointment of A Spisak to Westland Planning Commission, expires 11/7/2001
 - 23: Confirmed the appointment of G Conant to Westland Cable Commission for 3 yr term, expires 3/18/2003
 - 24: Confirmed reappointment of S Dietrich to Local Development Finance Authority for 4 yr term, expires 1/3/2004
 - 25: Confirmed appointment of D Cox as City Representative to Local Development Finance Authority for 3 yr term, expires 9/6/2003
 - 26: Confirmed reappointment of E Johnson, E Lamp, J Mason, M Rawson, P Sawyer, M Troup & P Vavrick to Parks & Recreation Advisory Council
 - 27: Granted request of Bumpers Bar & Grill, Inc, LLC to transfer ownership of 1999 Class C licensed business, with dance permit, 6631 Newburgh
 - 28: Granted to request of W D'Aloisio to split lot #28 of Tonquish Industrial Park Sub #2, NE corner of Webb Drive at Webb Ct, S of Warren Rd
 - 29: Granted the request of R Orley for tentative preliminary plat approval for proposed Covington Estates Subdivision, N side of Glenwood, W of Newburgh with contingency
 - 31: Retained the firm of Plante & Moran as City Auditors to provide auditing & financial consulting services
 - 32: Reappointed M Harris to the Nankin Transit Commission for 2 yr term, expires 12/31/01
 - 33: Confirmed the appointment of A Plakas as City Attorney
 - 34: Confirmed appointment of T Kilroy as Planning Director
 - 35: Confirmed appointment of B Kosowski as Parks & Recreation Director
 - 36: Approved 1 yr extension of City Clerk pay plan for the period 1/1/2000-12/31/2000
 - 37: Approved 1 yr extension of the Deputy City Clerk pay plan for period 1/1/2000-12/31/2000
 - 39: Appointed D Fryta as Interim City Clerk for City effective 1/19/2000 with payment at 100% of current City Clerk pay scale & all applicable benefits
 - 40: Reconsidered that Council appoint D Fryta as Interim City Clerk for City effective 1/19/2000 with payment at 100% of current City Clerk pay scale & all applicable benefits
 - 41: Appointed D Fryta as Interim City Clerk for City effective 12:01 am, 1/19/2000 with payment at 100% of current City Clerk pay scale & all applicable benefits continued within current City Clerk Benefit Plan
 - 42: Approved Check List-480,692.75 & Prepaid-\$2,076,474.71
- Met adjourned at 10:55 pm
Minutes available in City Clerk's Office

CHARLES TRAY GRIPPIN Council President
JOANN M SEABERG Deputy City Clerk
Published January 27, 2000

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Educators hit the books to help kids

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER
jbrown@oe.homecomm.net

SCHOOLS

The teachers had worked a full school day, but still they came Monday to P.D. Graham Elementary to learn.

The goal? To improve student scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests. One such teacher was Pat Colligan, who teaches third grade at Schweitzer Elementary.

"We're really interested in doing whatever we can do to help our students be successful in the social studies MEAP test," Colligan said before the Monday afternoon workshop got started. The 13-year veteran of the district said she didn't find public reaction to low scores hurtful.

"It's new and we knew we haven't done what we could do to make our students successful," Colligan said. A new curriculum, aligned with the state's, and new materials for social studies are helping Wayne-Westland students learn. So are dedication and hard work.

"I have high expectations our tests results will go up," Colligan said, adding parents should look at the MEAP. "It's tough." Colligan is district chairwoman for elementary social studies.

Marla Murphy, a consultant and former Wayne-Westland teacher, led Monday's workshop.

the third such recent gathering. Teachers of third through fifth grades gathered at P.D. Graham Monday. Attendance has averaged 60-70, said Cynthia Swift, executive director for curriculum and staff development, and was nearly 80 for the second workshop.

"A wonderful response. This is voluntary, hours teachers are putting in," Swift said of the social studies workshops. "I am impressed with their commitment to learn. We knew that we needed to do some things differently."

The curriculum development committee for the district worked on the new curriculum, she said, and new textbooks and other materials are helping, too. Many teachers have attended conferences on their own time, Swift said.

"We're really pleased they're coming out, learning the latest information for their students," she said.

Murphy, the consultant who taught at P.D. Graham, kept the educators, including some principals and other administrators, learning. "You must use your prior knowledge," she said of the MEAP.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Kid stuff: Consultant Marla Murphy discusses student learning with Wayne-Westland educators during the Monday afternoon workshop at P.D. Graham Elementary. Please see related editorial, A14.

One question shows a map of major U.S. cities and asks which is most influenced by Mexican culture. You'd need to know Mexico's location - not shown - to answer that one, Murphy said.

She discussed putting things in context for students, such as exploring what else happened while the U.S. Constitution was being written.

"Get that historical perspective that relates to their own

lives," Murphy urged. She suggested making picture cards of key events occurring in a student's lifetime. Even though students are young, such events as the Oklahoma City bombing qualify.

Murphy used a number of children's books to demonstrate her points, such as Jeanette Winter's "Follow the Drinking Gourd."

That story tells of escaping slaves on the Underground Rail-

road, using the Big Dipper in the nighttime sky to guide them.

Murphy, who urged a connection to current events, discussed using an apple to show the portion of the world that is habitable (not much). She discussed the 2000 Census and the impact low participation would have on Michigan's congressional representation.

Murphy's workshop went over its allotted hour and a half, and

the educators stayed to learn more. Tuesday morning, Sam Barresi, assistant superintendent for instruction, called the sessions an "outstanding professional development activity."

Barresi thanked the teachers for attending and Swift and others for organizing the workshops. Such awareness is key, he said, "so that we can make a difference in our classrooms for kids."

Mom, daughter are victims of indecent exposure

A man believed to be about 50 years old exposed himself to an 11-year-old girl and her mother outside a store near Wayne and Warren roads, police said.

No arrest has been made. The incident occurred about 6:45 p.m. Friday outside a bulk food store at Westland Crossings strip mall.

The 40-year-old mother told police that she initially noticed she and her daughter were being trailed by the man inside the store.

Outside, the man ran up to the girl, pulled down his blue jeans and revealed that he was wearing a pair of women's bikini panties described by the mother as powder blue, a police report said.

The man pulled down the

panties and exposed himself to the girl - then to the mother, the report said.

Within seconds, he pulled up his pants and fled.

"He ran toward Toys 'R' Us," police Lt. Marc Stobbe said.

The mother took her daughter into another business and called the Westland Police Department.

A police officer who talked with the victims reported that the little girl "was crying the entire time I talked to her."

The mother told police she would cooperate in prosecuting the man if he is caught.

She described him as 5-foot-4 or 5-foot-5 and thin, about 50 years old, with graying hair.

Granholm to speak

State Attorney General Jennifer Granholm will be the guest speaker at the Garden City Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday, Feb. 8, at Schoolcraft College's Radcliff Center.

Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m., followed by Granholm's speech. The luncheon costs \$10 and is open to the public. Reservations can be made by calling the chamber office at (734) 462-4770 by Thursday, Feb. 3.

Granholm made history as the first female elected state attorney general in November 1998.

A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and of the Harvard University Law School, she was a clerk on the Federal Court of Appeals for Judge Damon J. Keith as well as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office where she achieved a 98 percent conviction rate.

In 1994, she became the first woman and youngest person to be appointed Wayne County Corporation Counsel.

Schoolcraft's Radcliff Center is at 1751 Radcliff, just south of Ford Road.

Work from page A1

tab, officials fear it could be three years or longer before the county fixes Wayne Road.

"Frankly, it's very dangerous," Cox said of the road.

Dittmar said it's possible the city could eventually recoup from the county as much as \$720,000 of the \$2.5 million.

Thomas said the project would stretch from the city's southern boundary of Glenwood all the way north to Nankin Boulevard.

A small stretch of Wayne Road between the boulevard and Joy Road would likely be delayed one year, so that it can be completed along with a bridge-reconstruction project near Holiday Park Townhouses Cooperative, Thomas said.

The mayor said the project could begin as early as May or June and be completed by

Thanksgiving, in hopes of avoiding roadwork during the Christmas rush.

The project may seem ambitious, but Thomas said it can be done.

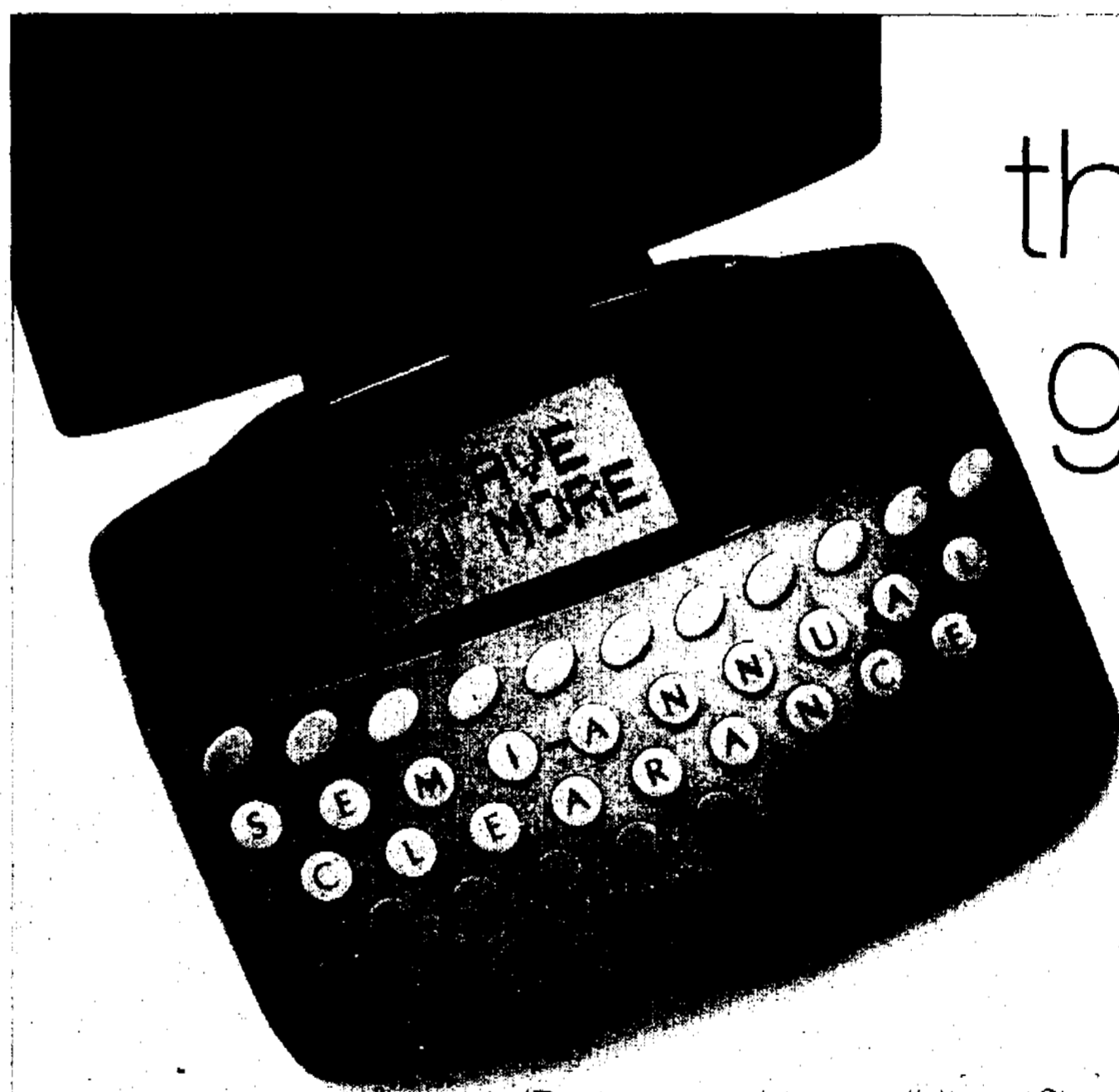
"It's just a resurfacing," he said. "It's not like they're going to tear out (concrete) and replace, and we're not widening the road anywhere."

Only one lane at a time would be closed for work, allowing traffic to move in both directions, Cox said.

Thomas said county approval "looks real good at this point." He said the project would result in a smoother road for years to come.

"It should be in brand new shape for about 10 years," Thomas said.

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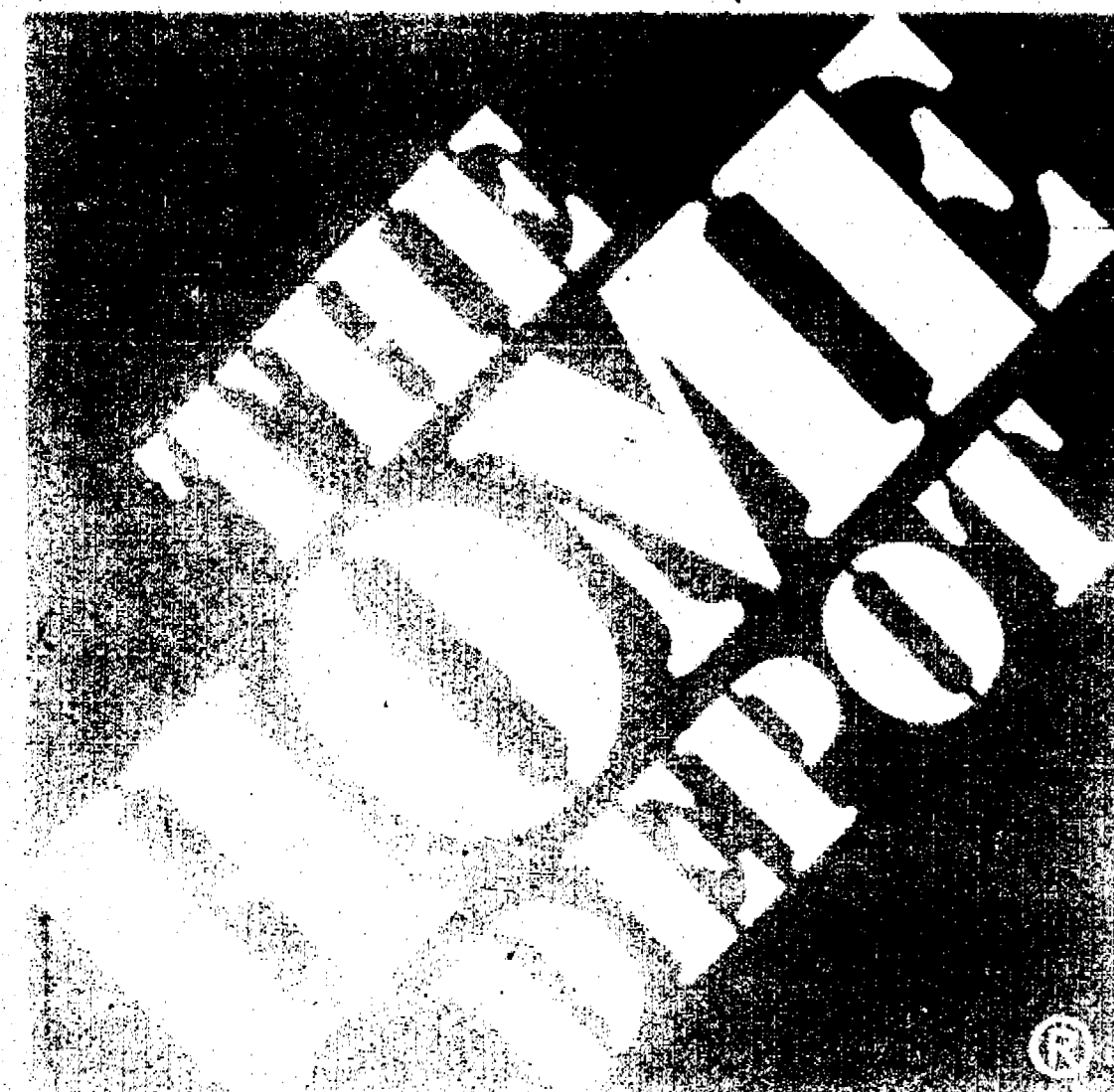
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Culinary from page A1

Club of America. And she comes to the challenge with a winning attitude: "I want to learn everything I can learn and to be the best at everything I learn."

Zmikly said he loved the class, but after three semesters he understands that working in restaurants isn't his first career choice.

"I thought I wanted to pursue a career in the culinary field, but I like the outdoors, and I'd like to become a fisheries technician," Zmikly said. "But this is something I can fall back on. With the training I got here, I could get a job in a restaurant. The class is a lot more diverse, also covering restaurant management and tourism, than I thought it would be."

The school's kitchen serves as a classroom. Students prepare and serve fast foods to other students at the center 8:45-10:15 a.m.; the technical center staff are served meals 10:15-10:45 a.m. The Cafe Marquette is open 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The cafe is at the front of the complex on Marquette east of Newburgh and south of Ford. It's open to the public.

"We have regular clientele who come here two to four times a week and as far away as Dearborn Heights," she added.

Windiate's students also manage a bakery service 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. when they serve fresh breads, rolls, pies, specially designed cakes and other baked items. A carryout service includes meat trays and vegetable trays and is also available to the public.

While working at all these entities, students are learning more than 120 skills applicable for food service, travel/tourism and lodging and hospitality. They're learning things like how to communicate with customers, Windiate said, which is useful in these areas and all career choices.

"In the restaurant field, the end result is not just

"I thought I wanted to pursue a career in the culinary field, but I like the outdoors, and I'd like to become a fisheries technician. But this is something I can fall back on. With the training I got here, I could get a job in a restaurant. The class is a lot more diverse, also covering restaurant management and tourism, than I thought it would be."

David Zmikly
—student

being a chef," said Windiate, who has taught at the career center for 16 of her 26 years in the Wayne-Westland school district.

"There are many job opportunities and levels of capability in this industry," she said. "We have an enthusiasm here that we hope to relay to the students. It's not all about fun and games, because we do work hard. But they're learning skills no matter what they do, like being on time and working cooperatively."

While Windiate easily rattles off a list of success stories among the graduates of the class, including restaurant owners, she also emphasizes that the students who decide against pursuing a career related to the class benefit, because they didn't waste their time pursuing something they ultimately wouldn't enjoy.

Call (734) 595-2195 for bakery and carryout services.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Learning by doing: Robert Williams, a junior at John Glenn and first-year student at the William D. Ford Career/Technical Center, prepared the hamburger for lasagna. At right is chef Dave Hatten.

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Victim from page A1

Scott Velasquez of Canton. The Twardokuses were back-seat passengers in the 1997 Ford Escort.

A fifth man, 23-year-old front-seat passenger Donald Raymond Woodruff of Westland, was treated and released at a local hospital.

The accident occurred at 3:07 a.m. Jan. 15 on westbound Cherry Hill Road near Carlson, after the five young men left a party in Westland, McIntosh has said.

O'Donnell lost control of the Escort, which spun out of control and slammed into a tree in front

of Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, police Sgt. Peter Brukas said.

The driver's side of the car hit the tree, and O'Donnell was declared dead at Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis in Wayne. O'Donnell attended Westland John Glenn High School.

Westland police have confirmed that marijuana and alcohol are being investigated as a possible cause in the accident, but McIntosh said official autopsy results may not be available for several weeks.

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Employee from page A1

employers have found it increasingly difficult to find good workers, police say.

"Some of these employees will have their friends come in, and they will pretend they're ringing up items when they're not," Stobbe said. "They're letting their friends walk out with these things."

Some mall-based employees who know each other also exchange favors of giving out free merchandise, he said.

Nearby a few weeks ago, an employee of Toys 'R' Us, north-east of Wayne and Warren roads, didn't even bother trying to be sly about taking money.

"It was her first day on the job, and she had been there for a couple of hours," Stobbe said. "She was put on a register, and she walked off leaving a line of people at the register."

Store managers found \$900 missing.

"Some of these employees will have their friends come in, and they will pretend they're ringing up items when they're not. They're letting their friends walk out with these things."

Lt. Marc Stobbe
—Westland police

*SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION Livonia Public Schools- 15125 Farmington Road December 6, 1999

"The following is a summary, in synopsis form, of the Board of Education's regular meeting of December 6, 1999; the full text of the minutes is on file in the office of the superintendent, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, and in the principal's office of each school, and is available on request.

President Timmons convened the meeting at 7:01 p.m., in the Board Room, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia. Present: Kirsten Gaika, Daniel Lessard, Joanne Morgan, Patrick Nalley, Kenneth Timmons. Absent: Frank Kokenakes (arrived at 7:30 p.m.); Dianne Nay.

Amend Agenda: Motion by Morgan and Lessard that the Board amend the agenda to delete Item No. VILE Ratification of AFSCME/LECA Contract. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

Golden Apple Award: Trustee Morgan presented the Golden Apple Award to Ronald Ingram, Marshall Elementary volunteer, for his outstanding contributions to the Marshall school staff and students as a loving and caring adult role model.

Recess: President Timmons recessed the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

AIDS Quilt Display: Jay Young, director of Community Services, introduced Julie Paddison, a former LPS employee and active Livonia PTA member, who made a presentation of the AIDS quilt panels as part of the NAMES project.

Audience Communications: Charlotte Worthen, 20313 Ellen, a member of the Alpha Delta Kappa Tau Chapter, informed the board of scholarship money raised amounting to \$3,000 which will be granted to each of our high schools in the spring.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Lessard and Morgan that the Board approved the following consent agenda items as recommended by the superintendent: IV Minutes and Synopsis of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 1999. V.C Move that the Board purchase the following textbook for the secondary course: *Sociology, Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach*, 4th ed., 1999, Interactive Edition by Prentice Hall/Allyn and Bacon for \$24,482.50. V.LA Move that general fund check nos. 325880 through 326823 in the amount of \$5,763,807.62 be approved for payment. Also, move that general fund wire transfers in the amount of \$3,223,090.42 be approved. V.LB Move that the Board authorize the low bid of \$132,060 from Amtek Electric to renovate lighting fixtures at Lowell. V.LC Move that the Board, based upon the recommendation of the Construction Manager, George W. Auch & Company, authorize the Construction Manager to prepare the contracts between Livonia Public Schools School District and the Str-K Construction, Milford, for \$17,880. V.LD Move that the Board approve a resolution to collect one-half of the school property taxes in the summer and the Secretary of Board be directed to write a letter to the cities of Livonia and Westland be requested to collect those taxes in the summer on behalf of the district. V.LE Move that the Board authorize the purchase of 10 iMac DV computers, 5 Imation super disk drives, 10 iBook laptop computers, 10 Airport cards for iBooks, 1 Airport base station, 1 Power Macintosh G4 computer with monitor, 2 iMac DV special edition computers and 1 Multimedia learning and design tool kit from Apple Computer, Inc., the sole supplier, for a total purchase price of \$34,595. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

GHS-Tonyson Chevrolet: Motion by Lessard and Kokenakes that the Board accept the generous gift of \$36,262.87 from Tonyson Chevrolet for enhancements to the Livonia Career/Technical Center's Auto Technology program. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

Presentation-Emerison SIP: Tom Tube, principal of Emerson, along with many staff members and department heads, presented a comprehensive Powerpoint slide presentation of their school improvement program, goals, and accomplishments.

1999-2000 Budget Amendment: Motion by Gaika and Nalley that the

Board adopt the following amended budgets for the 1999-2000 school year: General Operating, Special Education, Debt, Building and Site, Milk and Lunch, Health and Welfare Fund, Scholarship, Athletic, Building & Technology, Special Maintenance, and Capital Projects-Sinking Fund, Funded Projects. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

High School Annex Lockers Purchase: Motion by Kokenakes and Gaika that the Board based upon the recommendation of the Construction Manager, George W. Auch & Company, authorize the Construction Manager to prepare the contracts between Livonia Public Schools School District and Rayhaven Equipment Company in the total amount of \$94,380. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

Teacher Tenure: Motion by Gaika and Lessard that the Board accept the recommendation of the superintendent and grant tenure status to the following teachers effective on the respective dates: Mitzi Castelli, effective 2/16/2000, Kathleen Gagnon, effective 2/6/2000; and Catherine Greig, effective 2/21/2000. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

30-Year Recognition: Motion by Lessard and Gaika that the Board accept the proposed resolutions of appreciation for 30 years of full-time service with the district for: Marlene Bihlmeyer, Ann Brady, Paul Derwich, Sheila Dobbie, Kathleen Donagrandi, Frederick Krueger, Marilyn Lombardi, and John Struzik. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

Retirements: The Board unanimously adopted the resolutions of appreciation for the services rendered by: Carole Breslin, Earl Dawson, Joan Mason, and Patricia Morgan.

Ratification of the LPA Contract: Motion by Gaika and Lessard that the Board enter into a four-year contract with the LPA union which was ratified on December 6, 1999, by LPA members. Said contract is to commence July 1, 1999 and expire June 30, 2003. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

Reports from the Superintendent: Dr. Watson introduced the following all-state athletes from SHS for their outstanding accomplishments: Erin Mazzoni (tennis); Andrea Parker (cross country); Jessica Markowski (cross country); Andrea Hura (swimming); Katie Clark (swimming); Lindsay Dolin (swimming); Tom Eller (soccer); Mike White (soccer); and Joe Zawatski (soccer); and acknowledged receipt of letters commending teachers Doug Curry, Jill Barling, and parapro Shirley Little.

Recess: President Timmons recessed the meeting at 8:43 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Second Reading of Policy JD: Motion by Nalley and Lessard that the Board accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee and adopt the policy language for Board Policy JD-Student Discipline. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

Resolution Opposing SB 290, 291, 292: Motion by Lessard and Morgan that the Board adopt a resolution opposing Senate Bills 290, 291, 292. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

Change of Starting Time for Board Meeting of 1/17/00: Motion by Gaika and Lessard that the Board begin its regular meeting of January 17, 2000, at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Education offices, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

Hearing from Board Members: Board members extended congratulations to Ronald Ingram; thanked the Alpha Delta Kappa Chapter for their generous scholarship donation; commended Emerson Middle School for their in-depth school improvement presentation; commended Julie Paddison on her dedication and endless hours spent on the NAMES Project, applauded all the SHS all-state honorees for their awards, and wished everyone happy holidays.

Recess to Closed Session: Dr. Watson canceled the Closed Session meeting.

Adjournment: Motion by Morgan and Lessard that the regular meeting of December 6, 1999 be adjourned. Ayes: Gaika, Kokenakes, Lessard, Morgan, Nalley, Timmons. Nays: None.

President Timmons adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL RECORD OF ATTENDANCE 1-1-99 through 12-31-99

Pursuant to City of Westland Council Resolution No. 8-85-441, the following record of attendance of Council members at regular and special meetings is published.

Councilperson	Number of Meetings	Meetings Attended	Percentage
Glenn S. Anderson	24	23	96%
Justine Barnes	24	23	96%
Sandra A. Cicirelli	24	24	100%
David R. Cox	12	11	96%
Charles "Trav" Griffin	24	23	96%
Richard LeBlanc	24	24	100%
Charles W. Pickering	8	8	100%
Sharon P. Scott	24	23	96%

PATRICIA A. GIBBONS
Westland City Clerk

Published January 27, 2000

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Tuesday, February 1, 2000, the Westland Police Department will conduct a Public Auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin promptly at 11:00 A.M. at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Road, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
1989	FORD	ESCORT	DR. WHITE	1FAPP9196KW324109
UNKN	TRLMOBILE	TRAILER	BLUE	: NONE FOUND

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

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION

Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after February 5, 2000, unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time.

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
UNKN	TRAILER	TRAILER		0176445

Published January 27, 2000

PTA national president will speak in Livonia Feb. 16

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

This year's Livonia Parent Teacher Association Founders Day features more presidents than Mount Rushmore. National PTA President Virginia "Ginny" Markell highlights a list of dignitaries who will attend the 46th annual event at St. Mary's Cultural Center Wednesday, Feb. 16.

Michigan PTA chief Ron Coleman and, naturally, Livonia PTA Council President Nancy Stramecki will be present. Founders Day marks the PTA's birthday.

In Livonia, there is much hoopla for good reason. The 13,000-member chapter is the state's largest if not most active, members say.

A visit by the PTA national president is considered a major coup.

Markell is in her first year overseeing the 6.5 million-member national PTA, which is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the country. Her term runs through 2001.

"It's a great honor," said Livonia's PTA council president Stramecki. "We're very excited."

"It's not every day the national president comes along to visit."

Grant Elementary Principal Lynn Babcock assisted in securing the national president. As president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, Babcock crossed paths with Markell and invited her.

Babcock, who first met Markell during a conference in Washington, D.C., describes the PTA president as "warm and personable."

"I just saw her and she and I were excitedly talking about her coming here," said Babcock, who returned Thursday from a conference. "I naturally told her how proud we are of our PTA, how active it is and how it is a

large organization. "I love it that we're able to show off before the national organization."

While PTA councils nationwide mark Founders Day, Livonia's program has a different twist. The council honors five high school students, who in turn, recognize three teachers who had a profound impact.

The council also honors Livonia Public Schools Teachers of the Year Washington Elementary's Kathy Frame and Churchill High's Jennifer Dallacqua.

Markell will speak during the program. The Clackamas, Ore. resident is a registered nurse and former health

science teacher. Markell is director of the North Clackamas School District Family Resource Center. She sits as one of five non-industry members on the TV Parental Guideline Oversight Monitoring Board.

In the past, attendance has been between 550-600 people.

That figure is expected to swell beyond the 600 mark with Markell and other state PTA board members attending.

"It's called networking," said Livonia PTA's Lynda Scheel, who's helping organize the event.

Hospital takeover announced

BY MATT JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER
mjachman@oe.homecomm.net

Livonia's Felician Sisters, who have run St. Mary Hospital for 40 years, are turning its operations over to a larger Catholic health-care network backed by another religious order.

In an agreement expected to be completed this spring, Mercy Health Services and the Detroit Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy will take over the hospital, making it the 10th MHS health-care system in Michigan.

The Felicians will continue to serve in the hospital and will be represented on a new hospital board, said Julie Sproul, the hospital's director of community

relations. They will continue to own the building and property.

The order's desire to expand its mission of health care and offer new programs and services is behind the union, Sproul said. The Felicians have been in discussions with MHS for over a year.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to build on St. Mary Hospital's strengths - our loyal physicians, employees and volunteers - and our mission of serving the people in our community," said Sister Mary Renetta Rumpz, the hospital's president, in a press release. "St. Mary Hospital and the community will benefit from the resources of an outstanding Catholic health system."

The hospital is expected to

adopt the new name of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Sproul said. It will also get a new chief executive officer, and Sister Renetta will assist in the transition.

The Felicians will continue to operate, separate from the hospital, their other Livonia health-care facilities: Marywood Nursing Care Center, for skilled nursing care; Marybrook Manor, an assisted-living center; and Angela Hospice.

The Felicians also plan to start a new foundation that will serve the community in the areas of education, child care, care of the elderly, social services and health care. Details on the foundation will be announced later, Sproul said.

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- WXYZ's Ask the Handyman segment, hosted by Bob, is on hand to help you with your home projects.
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State and local police join on Plymouth Road sweep

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

People driving along Plymouth Road last Friday and Saturday night had good reason to slow down and mind their road manners.

Michigan State Police troopers and officers from Redford Township, the City of Livonia and Plymouth Township conducted a two-night sweep of the busy thoroughfare.

It resulted in 172 traffic stops, with 120 citations issued and five arrests made. Some 123 verbal warnings also were given out.

The joint effort "wasn't just to write tickets, but to get people to watch their driving and slow down," said its organizer, Sgt. Dave Robertson of the state police's Metro South Post in Taylor, who noted some 123 verbal warnings also were given out.

Safer, slower driving was especially in order Saturday night, when it snowed and the situation got "pretty nasty," Robertson said.

"A lot of people (were) cutting (traffic) lights a bit short and in that weather, they're apt to get hit by someone coming through an intersection who can't stop."

However, there were no reported accidents or injuries during the sweep and that, coupled with the heightened awareness from the heavy patrolling, had participating local officers agreeing with Robertson that the effort was "very successful."

"I think it's a great project," said Redford Traffic Officer Scott Corso, whose officers wrote 41 tickets and gave out about 40 verbal warnings in making almost 60 of the stops. "We'll help them (State Police) out whenever we can."

Redford, which contributed 22 man-hours to the project, had the bulk of the traffic scofflaws, with 124 traffic stops, 87 citations issued and four arrests made, including one of the two for drunken driving. The other collars were for outstanding warrants. A total of 108 verbal warnings also were issued.

Stops were made for "seat belt violations to running traffic lights to speeding and unsafe lane change," as well as for equipment violations, registration and insurance violations and not using proper child restraint, said the state patrol's Robertson.

"We weren't looking for just one thing," he said.

"Our combined goal was to provide a safer road for the citizens and prevent any accidents or injuries which could occur due to the actions of unsafe drivers."

"It is our belief that our objective was very successful,"

Robertson said. "I think it was very productive," said Plymouth Township Police Sgt. Robert Antal, who reported 15 citations written and 10 verbal warnings issued in 25 stops in his community.

Although there's only about a half-mile of Plymouth Road in the township, Antal noted it still has "quite a bit of traffic."

"All the violations we wrote were either for speed or (no) traffic signal," with the speeders doing 12 or more miles per hour over the limit.

Antal said most of the tickets he issued on Friday night were

to township residents. Livonia police and state troopers made a combined 23 stops and arrested one person for driving drunk.

Robertson said the effort, which was funded at the patrol level with both grant money and post overtime funds, was the second such he's conducted.

"We did one on Ford Road awhile back and it was a raging success," he said. Police from Dearborn Heights, Westland and Canton Township participated.

He promised more such operations through October. "It'll depend on what police agencies

would like us to focus on - Michigan Avenue, the Dix/Toledo Highway, Telegraph Road," he said.

A side benefit is that such operations gives state troopers a chance to develop closer working relationships with local police than they normally have in communities which don't border free-ways.

"It also lets local agencies know if they need something, all they have to do is give us a call," he added.

"We'll do what we can to help them."

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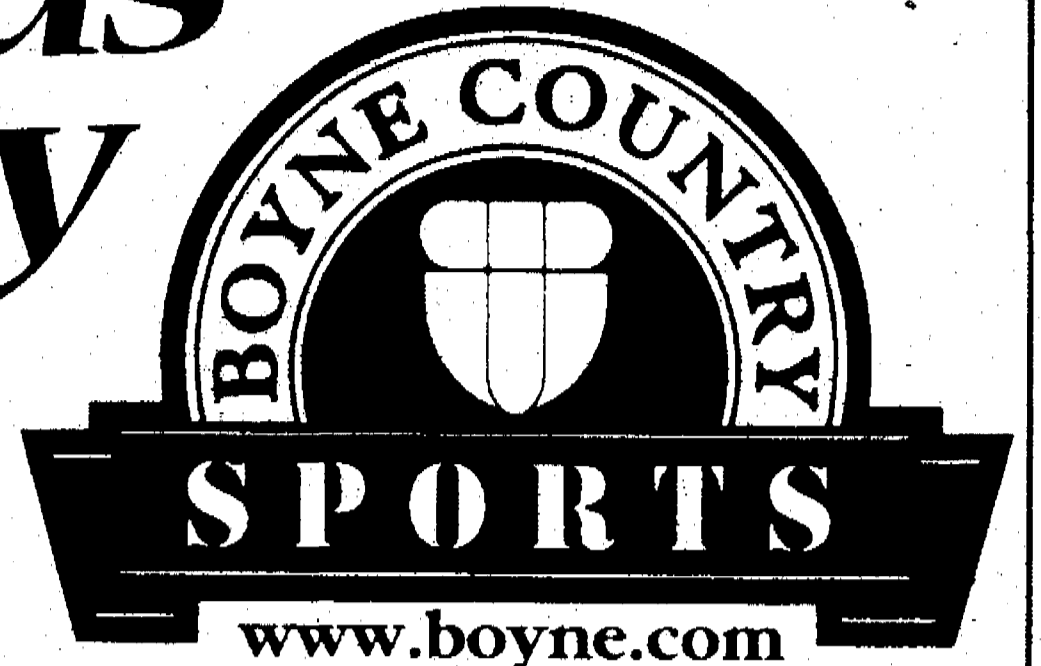
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OBITUARIES

DALPHINE R. DEPETRO
Services for Dalphine Depetro, 86, of Wayne were Jan. 24 in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia. Officiating was the Rev. Jack Baker.
Mrs. Depetro, born Nov. 15, 1913, died Jan. 21. She was a homemaker.
Surviving are her son, Emil Jr. (Esterella); daughter, Teresa (Raymond) Allen; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren reside in Livonia, Westland and Canton.
Mrs. Depetro was preceded in death by her husband, Emil Sr., and brothers, Joseph Knapp, Edward Knapp and Albert Knapp.

DOLORES V. VANHULLE
Services for Dolores VanHulle, 67, of Westland were Jan. 7 in First Baptist Church of Wayne with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland. Officiating was the Rev. Larry Rowland.
Mrs. VanHulle, born March

10, 1932, died Jan. 4 at her residence in Westland. She was a homemaker.
Surviving are her husband, Giuliam "Bill", son, William (Maureen) VanHulle; daughters, Kay (Greg) Reikowski, Sandra Lang and Keri (Richard) Eisiminger; mother, Jenny Johnson; brothers, Walter Johnson and Bernard Johnson; sisters, Elaine Mishler, Charlotte Harvey and Carol Bowman; and nine grandchildren.

Mrs. VanHulle was preceded in death by her father, Carl Johnson.
Arrangements were handled by Uht Funeral Home.

AUBREY K. GASCOIGNE
Services for infant Aubrey Gascoigne, 6 1/2 weeks, of Westland were Jan. 22 at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland. Officiating was the Rev. Jack Baker.
Aubrey, born Dec. 5, 1999, died Jan. 20.
Surviving are her parents, Gregory and Jennifer; grandparents, James and Rhonda Jod-

lowsky; and grandmother, Beverly Gascoigne.

GEORGIA MOUNTS
Services for Georgia Mounts, 78, of Wayne were Jan. 24 in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Arbor Crest Cemetery, Ann Arbor. Officiating was the Rev. Robert McDonald.

Mrs. Mounts, born Nov. 14, 1921, died Jan. 20 in Garden City. She was a head cashier.

Surviving are her husband, Arthur; daughter, Georgia (Richard) Dilworth and Doris (Richard) Simmons of Westland; sister, Edith Urban; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

MARIE V. RIDDLE
Services for Marie Riddle, 86, of Westland were Jan. 25 in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia. Officiating were the Rev. George Turner and the Rev. George Huntsman.

Mrs. Riddle, born April 30, 1913, died Jan. 22 in Garden City. She did house maintenance

in the automotive industry. She was a member of Local No. 182, Livonia Transmission Plant.

Surviving are her daughter, Patsy (Donald) MacDonald; four grandchildren, Cynthia MacDonald, Cynthia Knabel, Kathleen Perry and Daniel MacDonald; four great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Riddle was preceded in death by her daughter and son-in-law, Peggy and Bill Knabel.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Southeastern Michigan or Samaritan's Purse.

NAOMI M. REICHL
Services for Naomi Reichle, 92, of Westland were Jan. 26 in Divine Savior Church with burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Mrs. Reichle, born July 16, 1907, in Canada died Jan. 22 in Farmington Hills. She was a secretary in the retail business.

Mrs. Reichle was preceded in death by her husband, Carl.
Arrangements were handled by L.J. Griffin Funeral Home.

Auction will help ailing children get needed medical care

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital announced recently that Joseph Carli of Plymouth will conduct the "Get Sold On St. Jude Kids Auction."

This program has been developed in conjunction with the

National Auctioneers Association and is sponsored by them nationally to raise funds to help continue the research, patient care and educational programs of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

St. Jude Children's Hospital, located in Memphis, Tenn., was founded by entertainer Danny Thomas. The institution opened its doors to the public in 1962 to combat catastrophic diseases in children.

The funds raised at this event will help ensure that children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases will have a better chance to live. For more information, call Carli at (734) 451-7444.

ACHIEVERS

The following students from Westland have earned a spot on the fall Dean's List at Schoolcraft College: Athena Sherry Adomitis, Eric Lee Alexander, Peggy Ann Beams, Karen Jean Beaver, Jeremy David Becklehamer, Leonard J. Benchich, Denise S. Bennett, Deborah Ann Bevil, Carrie Lynn Blythe, Rick Edward Boron, Dawn Elaine Bovia, Jennifer Marie Bradley, Heidi Catherine Brahmmer, Keyva LaShay Bridges, Laure Ann Broadrick, Benjamin George Brown, Larry Allen Byram, Michele N. Carpenter, Erin Marie Clayton, Julie M. Coomer, Jennifer L. Dillon, Kristen Renee Dominguez, Richard Donald Dozbush Jr., Catherine Armyne Dygert, Michael David Eastman, John Michael Elliott, Richard Alan Erickson, Dana Marie Fodor, Jaime Kay Ford, Connie Sue Galbraith, David Andrew Gonzales, Linda A. Govan, Nanette Kathleen Gozowsky-Fabrey, Michael Dorian Graden, Charlene A. Guinn, Leila Abbas Haj Ahmad, Kristie Lyn Harmon, Lisa Ann Haselhuhn, Christina Marie Hatfield, Teresa A. Hearn, Theresa Marie Henning, Paula Ann Horner, Benjamin Allen Howes, Lori Jean Hubbard, Shannon Marie Jablonski, Elaine Ann Jensen, Bryan Paul Johnson II, Karen F. Johnson, Naida R. Johnson, Timothy Allan Johnson, Jacquelyn Aileen Jones, Sojeet Kaur, Jamie Louise Kay, Theresa Marie Kedzierski, Thomas Charles Kepler, Kimberley Ann Klein, Ingrid Erin Knoff, Jessica Ann Koch, Louis Karl Krause, Janice Ellen Krist, Kurt James Krist, Tuan A. La. Rebecca Marie Lankton, Alan Carl Leveille, Raeanna Dawn Lindahl,

Shirley Ann Little, Jody Ann Lucas, Elizabeth A. Luke, Alan Jeffrey Macdonald, Melissa L. MacDonald, Diane Mercedes Macreano, Kelly Eileen Malloy, Cindy L. Maloof, Ondrea Rae Masson, Bhavna Mathur, Daniel Anthony McDade, Sherell Dawn McGinnis, Kimberly Louise McNabb, Christina Linda Miller, Randy Allan Miller, Mandy Margaret Moss, Khalil Yacoub Nasser, Stacey O'Guin Neece, Robin Ann Nicholson, Kenneth John Oetzel, Beckie Lynn Oswald, Chad Jordan Pennington, Kanchan G. Phatak, Jeffrey Scott Philippi, Shawn Matthew Planko, Constance Dawn Pruitt, Jayson John Rawlins, Dorothy M. Reese-Powell, Susan Christine Regina, Margaret Reyez, Sharon E. Reynolds, Shauna Rochelle Salin, Todd Daniel Salvador, Amanda J. Schultz, Pauravi H. Shah, Purvi C. Shah, Linda Renee Shipman, Diana Dawn Silvestri, Andrew Thomas Siwarski, Anthony Dwaine Skolaris, Alissa M. Smith, Jonathan Robert Soronen, Daniel David Spohr, Joanna Lyn Spohr, Angela Marie Stodola, Suzanne Mary Thomas, Crinela Fica Todea, Maureen Frances Turel, Rebecca Louise Vlug, William K. Wade, Suzanne L. Wall, Stephen W. Williams, Kristy Lyn Will, David Arthur Wright, YuYing Xu, and Beth Kathryn Zadorecky.

Kimberly T. Malloy of Westland has been named to the President's List for fall term at Northwood University. She is a sophomore and the daughter of Fred and Judy Malloy. To achieve such recognition, students must earn at least a 3.85 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

School board members lauded

In salute to 4,200 school board members who guide the state's 550 school districts, Gov. John Engler has proclaimed January School Board Recognition Month in Michigan.

In his executive declaration, he notes "that this year's theme, 'Building Better Futures for Children and Communities,' reflects the efforts of thousands."

He said, "The service of these committed men and women represents countless hours invested in making difficult decisions

about budgets, personnel, curriculum and other matters which affect students, parents, teachers and taxpayers throughout Michigan."

At the Dec. 16 meeting, the State Board of Education joined in the praise through adoption of a resolution recognizing January as School Board Recognition Month. The national observance is co-sponsored by the National School Boards Association and the Michigan Association of School Boards.



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Safer Metro de-icing procedure saves money, too

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homedcomm.net

A new de-icing procedure set a record this week at Metro Airport signaling the way to faster, safer winter takeoffs and cost savings.

On Monday, more than 100,000 gallons of de-icing fluid runoff were collected and hauled away for recycling - the most ever in a single day.

In turn, that runoff yielded more than 31,000 gallons of pure propylene glycol for re-use in various industrial applications. It also meant a savings to Metro's pocketbook.

But more important than recycling, from a passenger's perspective, is the fact the new, scientifically designed, end-of-runway de-icing stations cut the time between de-icing and take-off.

Before, explained Brian Lassaline of Metro's public information department, a plane de-iced at the loading gate might have faced a long taxi to the runway, during which time more snow or ice could adhere to the wings and tail - the control surfaces.

Besides potentially interfering with pilot control, snow and ice add to a plane's weight at take-off, increasing strain on its engines, he added.

More efficient

The airlines find the new procedure more efficient also, because loaded aircraft taxi immediately to the de-icing pads, leaving their gates open for arriving flights, said Lassaline.

On Tuesday morning, for example, three to four Northwest Airlines jets were being de-iced on the pad at the north end of the main runway, each by a pair of specially equipped trucks spraying glycol on each side of each craft.

Shortly after each plane was coated, it took off.

For a major airport like Metro, one of the busiest in the world, that can mean faster arrivals and departures for the 35 million passengers that use it.

It also means a cost savings, because the design, construction and operation of the pads - two of which are located at opposite ends of the main runway - allow for the collection of more concentrated de-icing fluid and also reduce the fluid lost.

In the past, according to Michael Conway, public information director, the overspray and drippings from de-icing at the gates went down the drains on the ramps, which led to a retention pond, he said. That was then discharged to the Wyandotte Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The fluid, which mixed with snow and rain, was too diluted to economically recover and recycle. In fact, the airport paid up to \$1.5 million per year to the Wyandotte plant for treatment costs and sewer flow fees.

It's concentrated

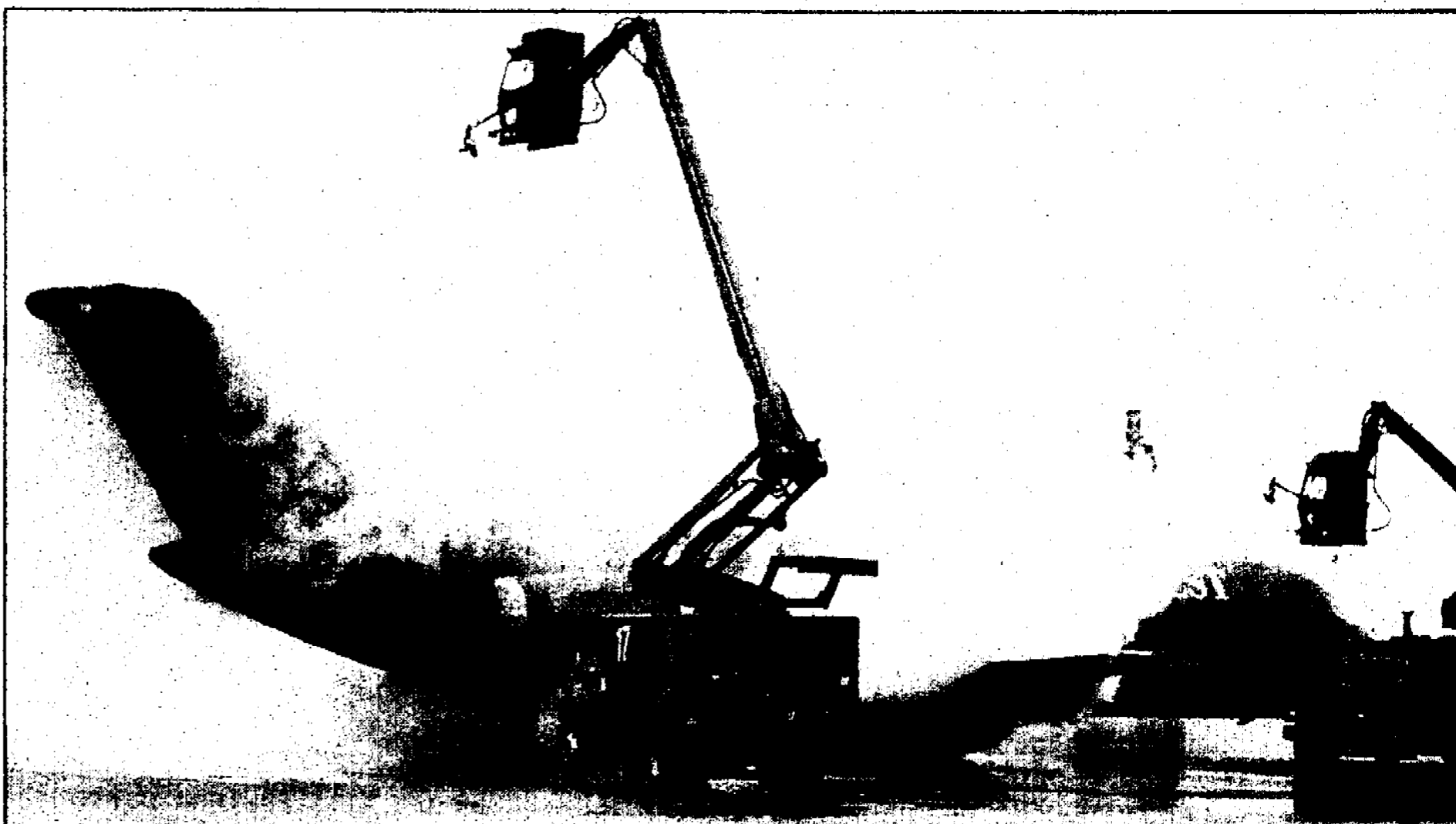
With more and more aircraft de-icing at the pads, the fluid is now more concentrated and it is economically feasible to harvest the runoff and recycle it, Conway said.

So far this winter, over 500,000 gallons of de-icing fluid runoff have been hauled from the airport for processing into new products, saving Metro approximately \$225,000 in sanitary sewer treatment costs, he said.

The fluid is collected by Environmental Quality Co. of Romulus which pays the airport for the rights to the spent fluid.

"EQ has been active in assisting airports across the United States with the management of spent de-icing fluids for the past several years and is committed to (the) continued success" of the Metro Airport program, according to Todd Brinkel, the EQ project manager working at the airport.

Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara said the county and the airport's hub carrier, Northwest Airlines, "worked together on the design, construction and operation" of the three de-icing stations.



De-icing: Boom-equipped trucks on one of Metro Airport's new de-icing pads spray propylene glycol on a Northwest Airlines jet just minutes before it takes off Tuesday at Metro Airport.

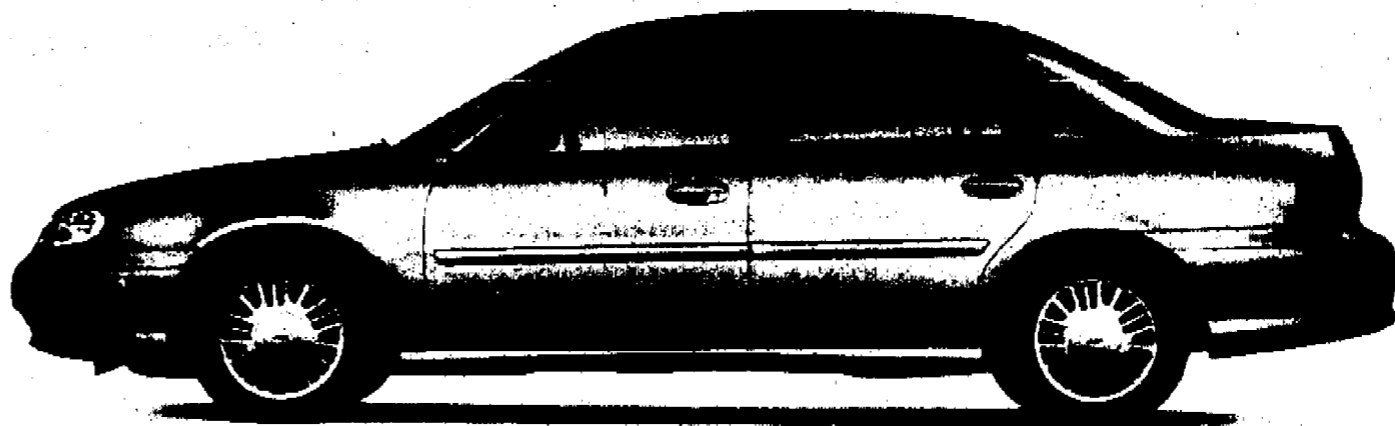
STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Features include lead-in lighting to guide aircraft in low-visibility conditions, control buildings and "a sophisticated drainage system to keep the runoff concentrated and recyclable," McNamara said.

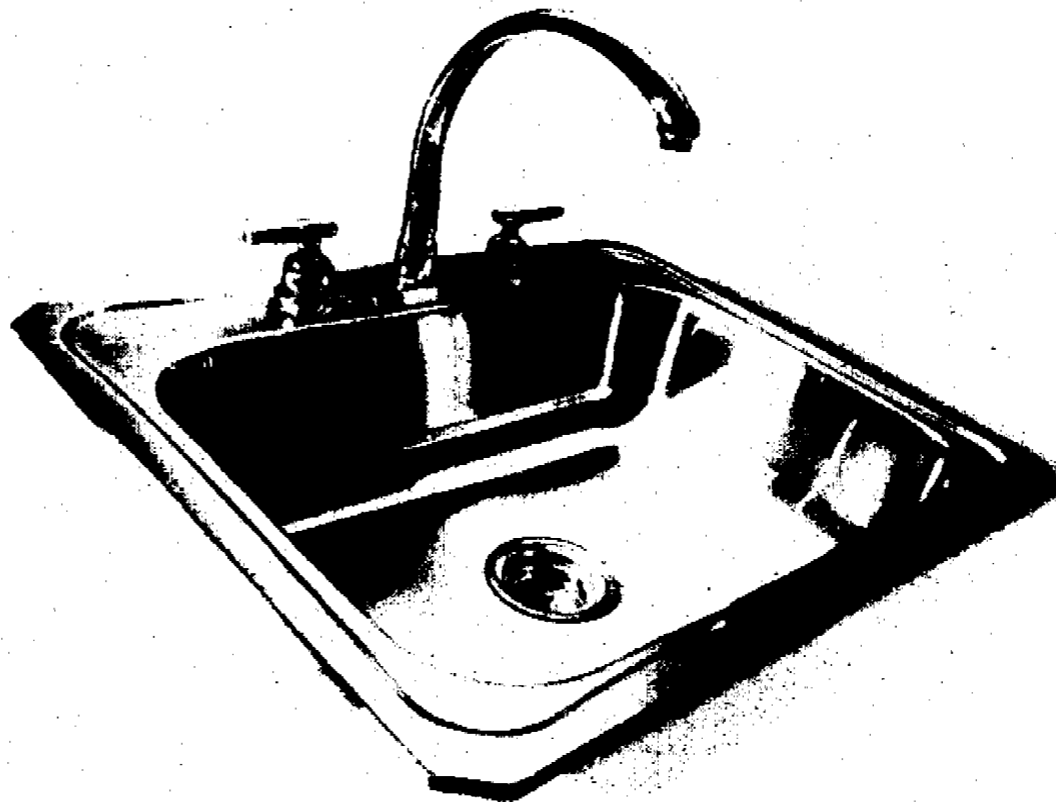
Metro's environmental staff "works cooperatively on the airfield" with Northwest and such firms as EQ and Signature Flight Support "to maximize the pads' design efficiency," he added.

"Everybody wins with these new state-of-the-art runway-end de-icing pads," said Metro Airport Environmental Administrator Bryan Wagoner.

"The Federal Aviation Administration and the airlines recognize the safety and efficiency benefits," he said. "Wayne County saves money on treatment costs. A local Romulus company is providing jobs and the reduced treatment plant load is better for the environment."



Everything but.



Airport panel OKs lobbyist

BY RICHARD PEARL
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The Wayne County Commission's airport committee unanimously recommended Jan. 20 that the commission approve a three-year contract for former east-side U.S. Rep. Dennis Hertel to be its lobbyist in Washington, D.C., and also recommended a two-year agreement with Palace Sports and Entertainment of Auburn Hills to manage its advertising.

Both recommendations now go before the entire board of commissioners, who are expected to vote on them at their regular meeting at 10 a.m. today in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Building.

The \$504,000 contract for Hertel would make him an independent professional consultant in Metro's behalf on matters involving the federal government.

For the past three years, he has been a subcontractor to Metro through the lobbying firm of Smit, Hellesen & Eichner in Washington, but Airport Director David Katz told committee members the county will realize a savings of \$60,000 over the term of the contract.

The county commissioner said the \$2.7 million contract with Palace Sports to operate and manage the display advertising and sponsorship concession in the Smith, Davey and Berry terminals at Metro was "a better deal for the county" financially.

It will also "improve the signage" and make Metro "look better," said Commissioner John J. Sullivan.

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Health care, safe schools top agenda of Democrat response

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
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Access to health care, retirement for senior citizens and safe, successful schools topped the list of the Democratic party's agenda when it responded to Gov. John Engler's State of the State Wednesday, Jan. 19.

Following tradition, the minority party puts out its view of what the state's agenda ought to be following the governor's annual speech. This year's address was read over Michigan Public Radio by Sen. Dianne Byrum, D-Onondaga, Rep. Patricia Lockwood, D-Fenton, and Rep. Andy Neumann, D-Alpena.

Byrum took up the issue of health care and Health Maintenance Organizations.

"We have learned that almost one million Michigan residents still do not have health care insurance and many families fear that they will lose their coverage soon. We understand that families are frustrated when their health plans deny them access to services and do not let them get a second opinion. Almost three million Michigan residents now belong to an HMO. It is time that we start taking their complaints seriously," Byrum said.

When patients do appeal HMO decisions, through the current Patient Bill of Rights system, she said, "the state rules in favor of the patient only 26 percent of the time."

She proposed:

- Giving customers the right to sue HMOs over health care decisions.

- Creating a managed care ombudsman to assist consumers having difficulty with their HMO.

- Improving the appeals process already in place.

- Improving the quality of care in nursing homes.

- Protecting communities from losing local hospitals.

- Providing seniors with an affordable solution to "skyrocketing" prescription costs.

Lockwood said her party's top priority would be education this year, focusing in four areas: higher standards, smaller class sizes, improving building conditions and making schools safer.

She proposed:

- Using the latest techniques, including distance learning and technology, to set and achieve high goals.

- Lowering class sizes by legislation for kindergarten through third grade.

- Establishing a state fund to help school districts pay the interest on voter-approved building bonds.

- Setting up a statewide violence hotline, where students can report activities they believe may be a danger.

- Legislation to make sure violent students expelled from schools are kept off the streets. Neumann took up the issue of retirement. He proposed:

- Using the state's tobacco settlement money and an additional \$30 million from the budget to help seniors cover the cost of prescription drugs.

- Allowing seniors to defer property taxes to avoid being taxed out of their homes while in retirement and living on fixed incomes.

Quirky ballot counts only for GOP

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

ELECTION

Lyndon LaRouche will win the Democratic Party primary election in Michigan Feb. 22. Donald Trump will walk away with the Reform Party balloting that day.

Poll results? No. They are the only candidates whose names appear on the ballot in the primary election for their respective parties.

Not that it matters. Neither party will recognize the outcome of voting in Michigan's open primary election.

Only the Republicans will.

This quirky aspect of the presidential primary ballot is the result of the way Michigan election law interacts with party politics.

Might it just serve to confuse voters?

"The media has done a fairly good job of explaining that Republicans vote in the primary election Feb. 22 and that Democrats will vote in caucuses in March," Elizabeth Boyd, communications director for the Secretary of State, said. "But I can't speak for all 6,640,000 voters in Michigan either."

The process for deciding which candidates would appear on the

ballot began last November. Boyd explained. At the time, Secretary of State Candice Miller listed 11 names, including all of the Republican candidates - George W. Bush, John McCain, Steve Forbes, Orrin Hatch, Alan Keyes and Gary Bauer - and both Democratic contenders - Al Gore and Bill Bradley. The list also included three Reform Party candidates - Trump, Pat Buchanan and Jesse Ventura.

LaRouche was not on the list. Election law allows the Secretary of State to draw up her list from those candidates who are "generally advocated" by the national news media to be potential nominees.

At the time, Miller said she did not believe LaRouche to be a serious contender.

Petitioning

But the law also allows candidates to add their names to the ballot through the petition process, and that's what LaRouche supporters did. Required to file 9,949 signatures, LaRouche's group turned in 22,652, of which the State Board of Canvassers

found at least 10,800 to be valid, Boyd explained.

The process also allows candidates to withdraw their names, which is exactly what Gore and Bradley did. The Democratic National Committee has decided it won't recognize the outcome of votes in "open primaries," because such primaries allow for crossover voting.

Instead, Michigan Democrats will vote for their candidate in "Iowa style" caucus meetings to be held around the state on March 11. Altogether in the room at the same time. Democrats will vote by raising their hands in those meetings.

So that leaves only LaRouche on the Democratic side of the primary ballot Feb. 22.

Ventura also withdrew from the Reform Party ticket in Michigan's primary. In the affidavit he filed with the Secretary of State's office, Boyd explained, he said he did not consider himself a candidate.

Buchanan also withdrew because, like Democrats, the Reform Party won't recognize the results of Michigan's primary. In fact, the Reform Party isn't recognizing any individual state's results. Instead, it'll hold its own national primary election

later this year.

So only Trump's name remains on the Michigan ballot for the Reform Party.

The main reason

For Republicans, the ballot will count. And that's the main reason for the election: Republicans, who prefer the "open primary" process, will take citizens' votes in regular election polling that day. The date of the primary was moved up this year by the state Legislature to increase the state's impact on the process. Michigan will be the first large industrial state to cast ballots for their nominee.

If the purpose of the Democratic party, in withdrawing from the open primary, was to eliminate crossover voting, it likely won't have that effect.

There is nothing in law, Boyd explained, and no system for cross-checking to determine if a voter casts ballots in both the Feb. 22 primary and the March 11 caucuses. In the primary, any registered voter may participate. In the caucus, Democrats ask only that voters declare themselves to be Democrats when registering. To participate in the caucus, voters need not be actual party members.

Madonna offers intellectual property workshop

Madonna University in Livonia will offer a weekend workshop introducing the basic concepts of patents, trademarks and copyrights.

"Intellectual Property" will be taught by Sheila Reaves, a Detroit paralegal. The workshop will meet on three weekends, March 3-4, March 17-18 and March 24-25. The Friday ses-

sion will meet 6-10 p.m. and the Saturday classes will be held 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Classroom discussion will focus on real people and actual business problems of inventors, writers, musicians and artists.

Registration is now under way for the workshop. This workshop may be taken for continuing edu-

cation credit by practicing paralegals who are not interested in accumulating credits toward a degree.

Madonna University's Legal Assistant Program is approved by the American Bar Association and has maintained its status for 15 years. The program offers associate and bachelor of science

degrees, as well as a post-baccalaureate certificate in the field. The nurse paralegal certificate program is designed for nurses who hold a bachelor of science degree in nursing and wish to pursue a different career path.

For more information, call Jennifer Cote, director of Madonna's Legal Assistant Program at (734) 432-5549.

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Westland Observer OPINION

A14(W)

36251 SCHOOLCRAFT, LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48150

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2000

Good MEAP move Workshops address concerns

It's certainly a step in the right direction. Monday afternoon, a group of third through fifth-grade Wayne-Westland teachers gathered at P.D. Graham Elementary. What brought them together was a workshop aimed at improving district scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test.

This was the third such workshop in Wayne-Westland, and the teachers who showed up volunteered their time. Cynthia Swift, executive director for curriculum and staff development, lauded the educators' commitment to learning. The workshop was led by Marla Murphy, a consultant and former Wayne-Westland teacher.

We agree with Swift's assessment. This newspaper regularly reports MEAP scores, and many of those scores have been disappointing. The district's curriculum development committee is working hard to align the curriculum with the state's for all grades and working to bring those scores up.

The workshops aren't the only efforts teachers in Wayne-Westland have made. Many have attended conferences on their own time, Swift said.

The MEAP is a tough nut to crack, and other school districts have had their difficulties with it as well. In his State of the Schools

Let's not forget in all this that the MEAP is but one measure of student achievement, an important one, certainly, but not the only one.

address recently to the Westland Chamber of Commerce, Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy vowed to improve MEAP scores. It's good to see the district not just blaming the test, but rather acknowledging that Wayne-Westland students can learn and do well on the MEAP.

We applaud the teachers who have attended workshops and conferences on their own time. This shows true concern for their students and a desire to help them learn. We also applaud the administrators who have put these measures into place.

Let's not forget in all this that the MEAP is but one measure of student achievement, an important one, certainly, but not the only one. We congratulate the Wayne-Westland district for taking the initiative to raise student scores, and applaud those individuals who realized the importance of doing so.

Local input needed in schools

We'd never have guessed it 10 years ago, but it appears John Engler wants to mold his legacy as Michigan's Education Governor. With the state on rock-solid economic footing and the need for fiscal belt-tightening a distant memory of Engler's first term, the governor devoted about half of last week's State of the State address to education issues.

So while the \$1 billion surplus, state income tax rate cut and further welfare reform efforts - seen as big-time gubernatorial accomplishments in previous years - drew polite applause, the gimmicky disbursement of "Golden Apple" cash incentives to high-achieving school districts was hailed as innovative and revolutionary by Engler supporters.

Whatever the governor's motivation, we're glad to see a renewed emphasis on strengthening K-12 education throughout the state. The Observer has long believed education is the cornerstone to building a sound environment for all Michigan families. It is one issue that ties directly into all else - everything from the state's continued economic prosperity, to the physical and mental health of its citizens, to public safety and the quality of life for Michigan residents.

And the governor wasn't just playing to the crowd in the House chamber. Engler has put forth some substantive proposals and set worthy goals with his latest initiatives. In particular, we praise the move to increase the state foundation grant for public education to \$6,500 per student from the current \$5,700, state-supplied laptop computers and Internet training for teachers and the governor's call to "tear down those walls" limiting student movement between districts. With these proposals, Engler is sending a strong signal to legislators that a cash-rich state needs to apply its resources to secure its future.

State Rep. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, said Engler is looking "to put some entrepreneurial spirit into education." We like that analogy. For too long, Michigan's educators have approached their field as being above and beyond the scope of performance measures

adopted by other disciplines. Many school districts have become mini-fiefdoms run by protective chiefs who believe they are immune to criticism from the outside world.

But while there's certainly a lot to like about this new-found Lansing "agenda," we continue to question the fairness and equity with which the Engler administration approaches education, particularly the traditional public school model that has been largely successful in Michigan since the 19th century.

And we wonder how an executive who buys so heavily into the philosophy that the (federal) government that governs least, governs best can with a straight face continue to push for more authority for the state to take over failing school districts, particularly urban districts where Democrats and unions hold sway.

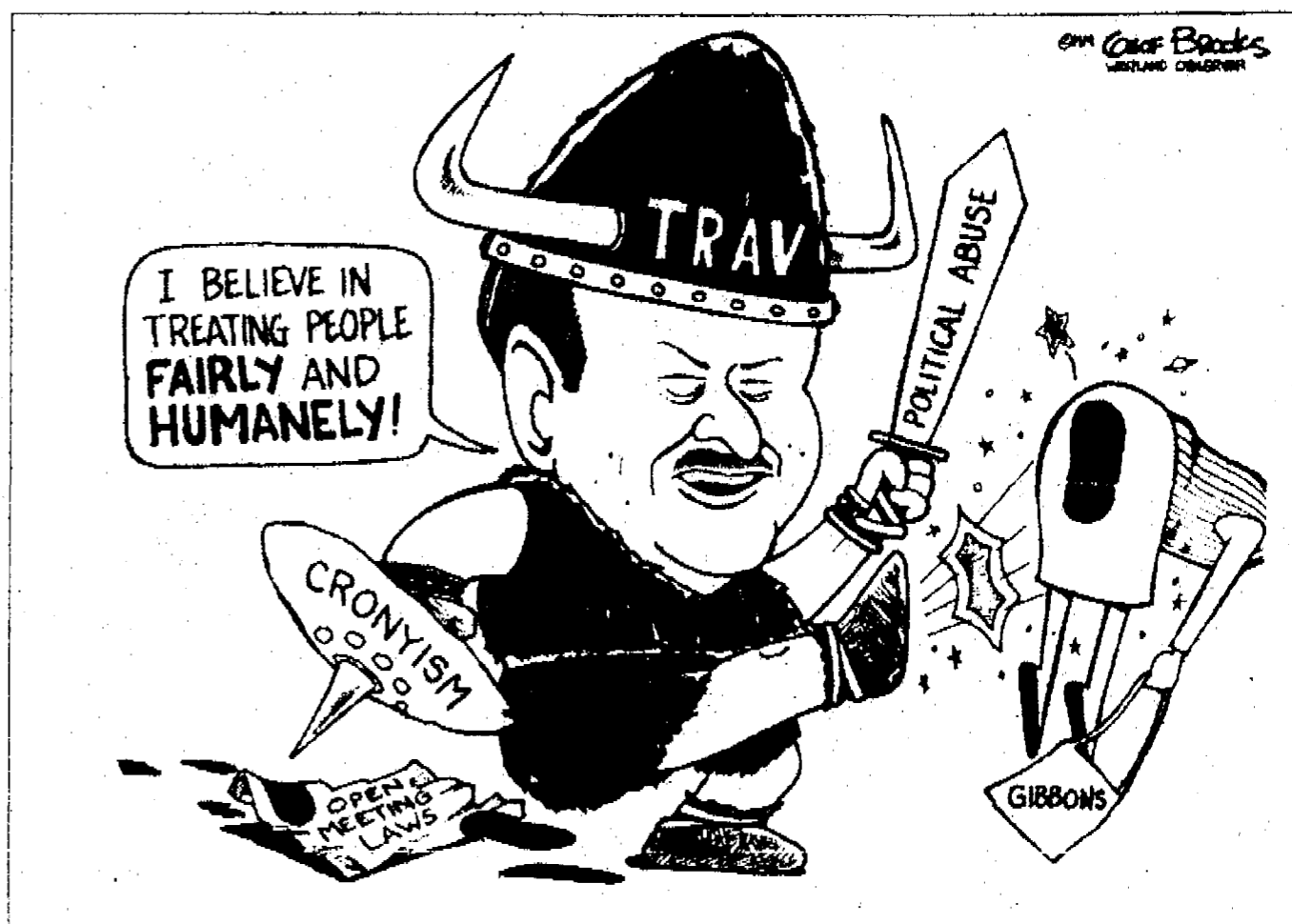
We find it troubling that the governor's call for accountability on the part of educators seemingly applies only to traditional public schools. How else can we explain his "Principal's Bill of Rights," which includes exclusive authority to hire and fire building staff? Or his continued insistence that the cap on charter schools be lifted with no questions asked?

While charters offer families some needed alternatives, especially in troubled districts, there's no solid proof that the 1993 law allowing their creation has even marginally boosted student performance to date. With for-profit companies involved in charter school administration there needs to be more accountability, not less, if this experiment is to work.

Farmington Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield summed up our thoughts best in his reaction to Engler's speech: "We ought to be happy he devoted most of his speech to education issues," Maxfield said. "But I wish some of the things he discussed would have been discussed with local districts ahead of time."

But then local control - or even accepting local input before drafting policy on such a critical issue - doesn't seem to fit in the way Gov. John Engler approaches his job these days.

GEORGE BROOKS



LETTERS

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas; that's why we offer this space for your opinions. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you provide a contact telephone number and if mailing or faxing a letter, please sign it. Letters can be mailed to: Julie Brown, Westland editor, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, faxed to her at (734) 591-7279 or e-mailed to jbrown@oe.homecomm.net.

Back recall

The recent power play by the now mayoral crony majority on our city council only reinforces the absolute need of our citizens to apply their given right to vote. The very poor turnout in the last election gave the mayor exactly what he wanted, a council which will bend to his will, be it the new tribute to him, which will stand on land they may need to condemn to get, or appointing people to the various positions within the city that will also do as he wishes.

I voted for Mayor Thomas the first time around, even the second. It wasn't until I saw a man who once stood for the people of this city become a power monger with a huge ego, more intent to pursue his own glory, that I voted differently in the most recent mayoral election. I feared with a low outcome in the most recent city elections, we would be instilling even more power to the mayor, and I was correct. Until the absentee ballots, which are predominantly the senior votes, came in these three men were losing. I cannot understand the hold Mr. Griffin has on the seniors, so much so that it would also allow Cox, who was turned out by the voters of this city, and James, another with seemingly little experience within the political ranks, to come along with him.

I hope now with the treatment of Mrs. Gibbons, the voting public, the citizens of this city, will realize the paramount mistake they have made in their voter apathy. There can be no change for the better, no voice for the citizens, for the people, if you do not exercise your civic duty and vote.

Mr. Griffin was put in the position of president of the council merely because there is now a majority of the mayor's people on the council, although Richard LeBlanc, Glenn Anderson and Sandra Cicirelli hold the very real distinction of being the top vote-getters in this city in their re-election bids.

As usual, these three members have shown courage, strength and character in their denouncement of Griffin, Scott, James and Cox in their political maneuverings of late. For any of these four to claim that it was NOT political, that Mrs. Fritz had not been contacted prior to their dismissal of Mrs. Gibbons, that they would not speak of Mrs. Griffin's role in James' campaign, or of Mrs. Gibbons' wrongdoing, only proves that they believe themselves to be superior in intellect to the

people of Westland, that we indeed are too ignorant to recognize a political power play when we see it.

Griffin had a bone to pick with Mrs. Gibbons. She dared to reprimand him for his use of city stationery for a political mailing. He did lie in wait for his opportunity to punish her, and the opportunity presented itself when he became president of the council. The very sad component to this punishment was that he was able to align the other three to do his dirty work with him.

I am appealing to the voters of this community to get involved in the recall now being organized. Give voice to the manipulation which will continue throughout the terms of these four council people. Take back our city council and restore it to one of character and truth. A council for the citizens, for our city, and not for the political power of "Trav" Griffin and his cronies.

Brenda Gracin

Housecleaning needed

Griffin, Cox, Scott and James are scabs on the soul of Westland - ghastly embarrassments to true public servants. If they had any sense of honor, they would resign and save Westland the messy and expensive business of a recall.

What we have here, unfortunately, are prime examples of small-town political hacks. They do know the usual political jingoisms, however. Tough decision. Vote my conscience. Does anyone above the intelligence of a slug believe these petty politicians should ever use the word "conscience" the rest of their lives?

If not satisfied with the way Pat Gibbons managed the clerk's office, the council could have expressed their concerns at her performance review in February. Treating her like a common criminal is the worst example of bad government in my 69 years in Nankin and Westland.

One step toward better government would be to make the clerk's office an elected one - so momentary tyrants cannot treat it as their private fiefdom. Westland needs a thorough housecleaning, from the top down. The sooner, the better.

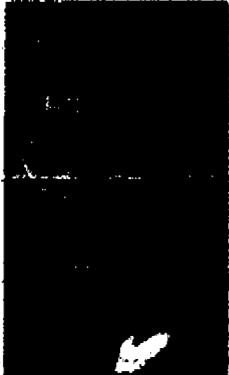
Bob Weibel
Westland

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

Who will win Sunday's Super Bowl, St. Louis or Tennessee?

We asked this question at the Westland library.



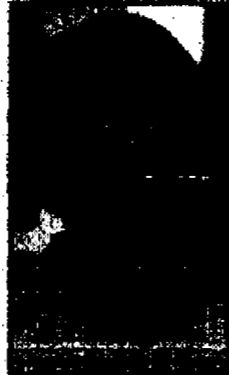
"The team with the most points. Tennessee, naturally. We're from Tennessee."

John Angwin
Westland



"Tennessee. Lucky guess. We'll see."

Dave Habermehl
Wayne



"That's a tough question. I'd probably say St. Louis."

Ryan Wetter
Garden City



"St. Louis. But that's what everyone around me says."

Jennifer Kottke
Livonia

Westland Observer

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— Philip Power

LETTERS

City Hall concerns

Say it ain't so, how true. I am mad, mad - what a shame. What the four council people did to our fine city clerk, Pat Gibbons. This is not NEW. Wake, people of Westland. Go back to the '80s, same person and ex-council people wanted person for job and we went through a recall election. Also stage play in City Hall, council, all this at taxpayers' expense. I have lived in Westland 31 years and I am 72 years old and never missed an election. I know a lot of what has gone on in our City Hall. I also feel the city clerk job should be an elected position. All of this for what - MONEY. God bless the people of Westland. Marge Connors

What's going on?

What's going on Westland? By this, of course, I mean the recent ruckus concerning the Westland City Council's (a.k.a. the "Fab Four") dismissal of City Clerk Patricia Gibbons. David Cox, Charles "Trav" Griffin, Sharon Scott and David James are the chosen ones. They are now the ones who will dictate the city of Westland at least until the 2001 election. I am sure, just as we saw with the Wayne-Westland school board, puppeteer Cox will yank the strings of the other inanimate objects we call council members. Even if that leads the others into breaking the law! Sometimes I wonder why I even bother anymore. Now that I am no longer a citizen of Westland, I should just turn my back and run from Westland as fast as I can. However, in good conscience, I can not see what these people are doing and turn away. How does the "Fab Four" get off walking in and firing a 23-year employee of the city of Westland without so much as a thought from the other board members, or a thought from the community? Trav Griffin walks into City Hall and tells Gibbons to pack up and get out. She is then forced onto "paid leave" until Tuesday when they can vote and make their decision. Hey,

Trav, have you ever heard of the Open Meetings Act? For those of you that don't know, the Open Meetings Act is a state law that says members of a city body can not meet about city matters or make decisions without it being in a meeting format and with notice to the public. How do we know that they decided to take this action before the meeting? Because Griffin told Gibbons Friday that she would NOT be reappointed come Tuesday's meeting. Which of course means he talked to others regarding her job. At Tuesday's meeting, Griffin said that he was being thoughtful by warning Mrs. Gibbons that she might not be reappointed. However, how is telling someone to hand over the keys and get out a warning? A warning would have been to calmly tell her that she should open up her options on other jobs because there is a chance that she will not be reappointed. Of course, that didn't happen. Oh, and if you want to hide behind the idea of a closed session, try again. Those have to be approved by the board as a whole and minutes need to be taken. The "Fab Four" who proceeded with this should be prosecuted and fined the maximum penalty.

However, this is not the first time Cox has demonstrated his ignorance and disregard of the OMA. When he was president of the W-W school board, NONE of his subcommittees complied with the OMA. So what does all this mean? We can't stop the mighty, can we? There is hope. Some citizen just might bring legal action against you all for this. In fact, I want concerned residents to know that if they do bring legal action and they will, not only would these (council members) face fines, they would also be forced to pay for the legal costs of the one who brought the action against them. "A public official who intentionally violates this act shall be personally liable in a civil action for actual and exemplary damages of not more than \$500.00 total, plus court costs and attorney fees to a person or group of persons bringing the action." (OMA sec. 15.273) FREE FREE FREE!

Wow, makes me want to do it. Westland politics are unbelievable ... Now we got Glenn Anderson, Sandra Cicirelli, and Richard LeBlanc. Speaking to you three, I admire how you stood up to the "Fab Four." However, beware of the suction from the puppeteer. It is dangerous. It is also dangerous that you are only three and they are four. We may just have to watch this next year go by and let the voters out the waste. Why am I doing this? Because I have a message that NEEDS to be heard and I will not let anyone stop me from doing what I can to help my fellow humankind. In addition, the biggest reason of all, most of the "leaders" in Westland have forgotten the fundamental objectives for which they were hired: to serve the people ... David Cox has never left things better than when he arrives. This is obvious from the first time Westland voters told him to take a hike; then again proven when he leaves the students of W-W with a D- rating. You are a bad leader, David Cox, plain and simple. I have never seen a group of people put such regard on self-importance. I do hope that the remaining assets to Westland, including Robin Moore, Teresa Robbins, Anderson, Cicirelli and LeBlanc can and will somehow overcome their particular obstacles and work from the heart, not the ego. Joseph Mifsud

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'Went too far'

It is disappointing to see members of our city government behaving as the gang-of-four has recently done in firing our city clerk. Probably Ms. Gibbons could have expected something to happen, after all, you can't call attention to these guys on an embarrassing thing like that totally inappropriate letter and expect them to overlook it once they get in power. I do believe they went too far, and I am pleased to see the word recall being used. I hope that the fact that they apparently violated the Open Meetings Act is not exemplary of their regard for the niceties of civil govern-

ment, and that they will consult with their civics teacher before their next big move. Jim Cook Westland

Wake up

I have hesitated to write any letters to the citizens of Westland or its new media since the November election. I was concerned that my so-called "anti-majority" stance on most issues would be perceived (or quickly pointed out by my opponents) as sour grapes or backlash from losing the last election. But, if I care about my city as much as I said while knocking on your doors during the campaign - I must speak out. Wake up, Westland. Citizens of Westland, you must understand the one basic thing that drives (and controls) our city. The fact that less than 10 percent of the residents vote regularly! Out of these voters, approximately 3,000 votes are controlled by the incumbents. These voters are employees, contributors, relatives and people who will gain directly if we keep the status quo. As long as our elected officials know this - and they do! - they will continue to look out for these people who get them elected. The problem is, they don't have to worry about the rest of us quite as much. They know that unless they really anger us with large tax increases, not enough people will go to the polls to vote them out of office. Wake up, Westland.

What happened to Patricia Gibbons is just the tip of the iceberg. It's not the fact that she was not reappointed - it's how they did it without a meeting of the full council. There are a lot of other things going on that most people don't know about. Citizens need to realize that the biggest problem with a "majority council" that dictates policy and is so predictable in their direction is the fact that the council president will have a lot of control on what items are put on the agenda, what items or issues are discussed in public and what is eventually voted on in public. The only way to get our elected officials' attention is for more people to voice their opinions and vote in the next election. We must not have a small minority of vot-

ers controlling the direction of our city. Wake up, Westland. Mike Kohrer concerned citizen resident since 1966

MEAP results

I am writing to clarify the MEAP results for the 11th-grade students. If you read both articles in the Jan. 16 Observer, it is presented that only 9.7 percent of students in the Wayne-Westland School District passed the MEAP, while 60 percent of Livonia's students passed. The articles state only 9.7 percent of local Wayne-Westland high school juniors scored high enough to meet state standards. A similar article written that same day about Livonia states 60 percent of Livonia's students met the basic requirements for social studies endorsement. If we are going to present basic requirements as opposed to meeting state standards, it misrepresents the actual scores of both districts. In essence, only about 30 percent of Livonia's students met state standards. The other 30 quoted in the article met the basic requirements and the other 40 percent failed. In Westland, 9.7 percent of the students met state standards, however, 40 percent met the basic requirements and 60 percent failed. Meeting the basic requirements provides state endorsement. So comparing both districts, in Wayne-Westland approximately 40 percent of students met basic requirements or above and 60 percent failed. In Livonia, approximately 60 percent of students met basic requirements or above and 40 percent failed. Presenting the facts allows people to objectively evaluate a situation. I agree that the Wayne-Westland School District has a way to go, but do not knock our efforts and ignore our improvements, portraying that our students, teachers, administrators and parents are not diligently striving to make our district one we can all be proud of. Let's work together as a community to provide the best for our future, the children. Ann Kalvelage

Engler's focus on job training

With Michigan enjoying the longest sustained economic recovery in half a century and the state treasury looking at a \$400 million surplus this year, Gov. John Engler's State of the State speech last week could not have been difficult to write. Although the speech covered a long list of topics for legislative action during this election year, Engler's speech concentrated on education, devoting 17 of 40 printed pages to the topic. The governor's priorities are right on, because it's now clear that labor shortages and lack of skilled workers are the major barriers to continued good times in Michigan. At the biannual revenue-estimating conference at the Capitol last week, University of Michigan economist George Fulton said worker shortages are particularly acute in the construction trades and in jobs having anything to do with computer skills. These, in turn, are exactly the jobs that will require training after students leave high school. That's an area that Engler stressed in his speech. The groundwork was laid down by a commission appointed by Engler last September to study ways to help parents get kids through college. Headed by Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus, the commission found that working class families can't save enough to pay for ever-increasing college tuition bills, while poor families have trouble saving anything. In the State of the State, Engler proposed two new programs arising from the commission's findings. For middle income families, the governor wants a new kind of savings account that provides tax breaks for setting aside money for college expenses. The Michigan Education Trust (MET) program, the first prepaid college tuition plan in the country when it was adopted in 1988 during the Bligh Administration, has turned out to be too expensive for most families. Engler's college savings plan would allow parents or grandparents to set aside a nest egg to pay for college expenses and deduct up to \$8,000 from their incomes subject to Michigan income tax. The money would build up, with taxes deferred until families needed the cash. If approved, the deferral would complement a federal tax break already in effect. In the federal income tax code's 527 Accounts, when the money is withdrawn it is taxed at the student's rate, not the parent's. Given the fact that federal rates vary from 15 percent to nearly 40 percent, this could be a terrific savings. For families that earn less than \$40,000 a year, Engler wants a new program that provides two years of free tuition at Michigan community colleges. Once again this makes sense



PHILIP POWER

Learning to be a stone mason or a finish carpenter doesn't require a degree in philosophy from the U-M, while community college course catalogues are chock-filled with courses in computer technical subjects and information technology. Engler also proposed a number of other initiatives in the skills arena, including: ■ Operation Fast Break, a set of worker training programs through community colleges and high schools to teach employees who need it "reading, writing, computer skills and the personal discipline needed in the workplace." ■ Partnership for Adult Learning, which would provide career and job counseling to Michigan residents through Michigan Works! Service centers, schools, colleges and libraries. ■ Increasing spending on adult education from \$80 million to \$100 million. ■ Michigan Technical Excellence Program, a "skills credentialing system" to show when Michigan workers have received training in specific technical areas. Much of the thinking behind this part of Bohler's speech is coming from Dr. Barbara Bohler, whom Engler recruited from Texas to be the head of the newly created Department of Career Development. For a bureaucracy-slasher like Engler, creating an entirely new department of state government provides ample proof of the importance these issues hold in the governor's mind. As someone who served as the chair of Michigan Job Training Coordinating Commission in the 1980's, it's nice to see that notions of investing in the skills and human capital of Michigan's workers are getting higher and higher. After all, what politician wouldn't kill for an environment in which cutting taxes and spending more on pet programs are both possible on the state's agenda? Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@hometown.net

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JACK GLADDEN

Stupid is as stupid does?

It's been a pet peeve of mine for years. Some of my colleagues roll their eyes and listen politely when I get started, but I'm sure they're thinking, "There he goes again." And sure enough, there I go.

"I can put up with incompetence," I proclaim. "I can abide arrogance. But I can't stand both traits in the same person."

In my case the ranting often begins when I'm editing a news story that is badly written, but I know that the writer is so in love with his own words that any criticism, constructive or otherwise, would be dismissed as the grumbings of a curmudgeonly copy editor who doesn't know what he's talking about.

Bad writers never recognize the badness of their own writing, nor do they recognize good writing when they see it. John Ciardi - poet, professor, literary critic - wrote about that phenomenon in the 1970s.

Now a study from Cornell University indicates that Ciardi was right and that my pet peeve - arrogance and incompetence in the same person - is not that uncommon.

The study, "Unskilled and Unaware of It: How Difficulties in Recognizing One's Own Incompetence Lead to Inflated Self-Assessments," concludes, in effect, that incompetence and arrogance often go hand-in-hand.

"For example," the researchers write, "consider the ability to write grammatical English. The skills that enable one to construct a grammatical sentence are the same skills necessary to recognize a grammatical sentence, and thus are the same skills necessary to determine if a grammatical mistake has been made."

Expanding the writing example to broader terms, they conclude:

"In short, the same knowledge that underlies the ability to produce correct judgment is also the knowledge that underlies the ability to recognize correct judgment. To lack the former is to be deficient in the latter."

In a corollary to their findings, the researchers concluded that people who do things badly but don't have the ability to recognize that they do things badly are usually much more confident of their abilities than are people who do things well.

"Because people usually choose what they think is the most reasonable and optimal option," they write, "the failure to recognize that one has performed poorly will instead leave one to assume that one has performed well. As a result, the incompetent will tend to grossly overestimate their skills and abilities."

Even the researchers acknowledge that their findings are nothing new, citing an 1871 quotation from Charles Darwin: "Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge."

Please see **STUPID**, B2

HOPELESSLY Romantic

Calling all romantics. We're looking for readers to write, call or e-mail us the "most" romantic thing anyone has ever done for them.

Has your mate made you the subject of a love poem, wooed by roses and candlelight dinners, whisked away to a cozy bed and breakfast without having to pack a bag or does your significant other make you breakfast in bed every Saturday? Whatever the gesture we want all the details. Send us the information no later than Monday, Feb. 7 to be published in the Thursday, Feb. 10 issue of the Community Life section.

Send your stories to:
Kimberly Mortson
Community Life Editor
36251 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150

Or call:
(734) 953-2131

Or e-mail:
kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

A star is born

Modeling club promotes self-confidence in kids

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER
kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

Debbie Aue believes every child is a star.

A child model herself and former 1995 Mrs. Michigan Pageant runner up, Aue is furthering that philosophy through the establishment of the "Sears Model's Club" for children ages 7-18.

Aue runs the four-week program, based at the Sears store in Livonia, for children who want to be a model, make friends and improve their confidence in front of a live audience.

"The skills they learn in the modeling club set the foundation for abilities they'll need and use as adults such as public speaking. I have fond memories of modeling as a young girl at Montgomery Wards. It can do a lot for a child's self-esteem and for their comfort level in front of a crowd," said Aue.

Employed as a music and art teacher at The Montessori Children's Center of Allen Park, Aue said she saw a notice on the Internet calling for people interested in coordinating modeling clubs through Sears. "I thought it would be a good way to supplement my income part-time," said Aue, a mother of three who works with the Southgate Youth Theater, and vocal coaches young people privately.

The first class of Aue's will complete their four-week program with a fashion show at 1:45 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Sears store in Livonia.

The Taylor School Board trustee and resident says the fashion show before a live audience is just one of the reasons she believes her modeling club exceeds the benefits of other modeling groups because the children are guaranteed to model twice during the four-week program that meets for 90 minutes - four consecutive Saturdays a month.

"In the current class we have a young lady that has been attending a modeling school for seven months and has never modeled in front of an audience. She has spent a lot of money and she truly won't know if modeling is for her until she actually gets the chance to do it," said Aue. "I believe that this is more than a beginners program. It is also great for those children that are enrolled in full-scale modeling schools because it allows them practice time."

The registration fee of \$89 (no tax) includes four Saturday classes that



Trio: (l-r) Abrilia Jones, 9, from Detroit; Colleen Kong, 9, of Redford; and Heidi Haller, 7, from Livonia work in a group.

gather at the Livonia Sears store from 1-2:30 p.m. During the four sessions each child will model in two separate events and will participate hands-on in the "behind the scenes" experiences of being a model such as skin care, runway walking, poise, stance, confidence, team work, mannequin modeling and live fashion show techniques.

"I think it's very important to give the kids a chance to model," said Aue. "I equate it with taking a dance or drama class. Can you imagine spending \$800-900 on the class and never having the chance to dance. Just spending all your time in a classroom talking about dance. Kids aren't going to know whether or not modeling is for them if they don't get the chance to be on stage and work in front of an audience."

Aue's first class attracted a diverse group of 22 students from the tri-county area including Detroit, Livonia, Redford, Oak Park, Southfield, and Farmington Hills and has been averaging 3-5 inquiries every Saturday about the program since the first class Jan. 8.

Family, friends and Sears shoppers are encouraged to attend the Jan. 29 fashion show inside the Livonia Sears store. The modeling club coordinator said the event isn't about the clothes but about the kids themselves.

The young models wear Sears clothing (they have the option to purchase) and appear on the runway several times throughout the show. Participants receive a 10 percent discount card that is good on any clothing purchase the entire time they are enrolled in the program.

"We read bio's about the models and don't talk about looks, body shapes or even the clothes, but about the children," said Aue. "I try to emphasize to the kids that no one single person is the star; that it's all about team work and everyone is a star. An opportunity like this really builds on their self-esteem."

Registration is held every Saturday at 3 p.m. in the children's department at the Livonia Sears store. All children ages 7-18 are welcome to come to the store at this time and register to model in the next available event at Sears. For information please call (313) 295-3283.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Vogue: Twelve-year-old Celika Pimpleton of Detroit strikes a pose for the camera and shoppers at Sears in Livonia. (Below) Amber Hall, 14, from Farmington Hills looks through clothes in the juniors department for an outfit to model.



Opera theatre serenades Livonia

The Livonia Town Hall played host to the renowned Michigan Opera Theatre during a live performance at the Jan. 19 quarterly lecture series at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

Michigan Opera Theatre brought the magic of their live performances to guests through their production of the "Best of Broadway - Past and Present."

The fast paced celebration of hit songs old and new included the dynamic, cabaret-styles of Maria Cimarelli, soprano; Betsy Bronson, soprano; Karl Schmidt, tenor; and Mark Vondrak, baritone.

Soprano Betsy Bronson performed songs from the childhood classic, "Mary Poppins."



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Quartet: Michigan Opera Theatre singers Karl Schmidt (l-r), Betsy Bronson, Mark Vondrak and Maria Cimarelli performed Broadway hits from "Mary Poppins," "Cats," and "My Fair Lady."

the Reagans. Chef Haller's creations are known the world over. For more information call (248) 474-7213.

Editor named to Community Life section

Health and business reporter Kimberly Mortson has been promoted to the position of editor of the Community Life section of the Observer Newspapers.

As a member of the Observer Newspapers features group, Mortson will be responsible for the content and layout of the Community Life sections of the Observer Newspapers. She will be working with Stefanie Casola, who writes feature stories for the Community Life and Entertainment sections of the Observer Newspapers.

Kim is a well organized, enthusiastic and hardworking community journalist," said Keely Wagonik, assistant managing editor of the Observer features group. "Kim is a good listener and works hard at getting stories our readers will want to read. Her Health section was a must read on Sundays. She has lots of contacts in the commu-

Mortson

Please see **EDITOR**, B2

Charity dance benefits First Step shelter, families

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER
kmortson@oea.homecomm.net

The impact the annual First Step Charity Dance has had on children and families is immeasurable.

The tens of thousands of dollars that are raised each year, according to First Step Executive Director Judy Ellis, goes directly back to serve people in a number of capacities from providing free counseling to purchasing goods such as food and clothing.

"The number of people that have come out over the years and supported this effort is really noteworthy," said Ellis. "Last year we sold at least 5,800 tickets to the dance."

Founded 10 years ago by Livonia resident, Realtor and current city council-

man, Brian Duggan, the annual fundraiser has grossed approximately \$100,000 over the last decade and has simultaneously grown in popularity.

"This event is a great way to raise money for an important community program and to have fun at the same time," said Duggan.

Catalyst

In 1990 Duggan said it was Ellis who spoke at a function he was attending and he swept away by the critical need for a shelter of this nature in the community. "It was a real educational experience for me to learn about this population of battered women and children who really count on the services First Step is able to offer," said Duggan.

The 10th Annual First Step Charity Dance is scheduled from 7:30 p.m. to 1

'This event is a great way to raise money for an important community program and to have fun at the same time.'

Brian Duggan

—First Step Charity Dance organizer

a.m. Friday, Feb. 4 at Burton Manor in Livonia. Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be served and door prizes awarded throughout the evening. Steve King and The Dittlies will take the stage as the featured entertainment with local musician Jamie Cole making a guest appearance.

First Step located in Plymouth is a community-based organization working to end domestic violence and sexual assault. They provide non-residential and shelter-based services, training and development such as violence intervention for men who batter, 24-hour on call teams to meet with survivors of domestic violence/sexual assault, safety planning, legal assistance and student internships and field placements.

According to Duggan (who organizes the event with his wife Laura; sister, Cheryl Stolt; and his father, Jim Duggan) the Livonia Rotary is teaming up efforts this year to offer "Vegas Night" entertainment such as blackjack and roulette at no additional cost.

"This event has always been about raising awareness and bringing the

community closer together," said Ellis. "The support over the years has been overwhelming and grows greater every year."

Advance tickets are \$20; \$25 at the door and include door prizes drawn from ticket stubs, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres (pizza after 11 p.m.), and a cash bar. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster outlets, First Step in Plymouth (44567 Pinetree near Sheldon Road) and through the Charity Dance Hotline at (734) 422-4333.

Sponsor donations are also being sought. They include: Emerald, \$10,000; Diamond, \$5,000; Platinum, \$1,000; Gold, \$500; and Silver, \$225. To inquire about the benefits of a sponsor donation please call Brian Duggan at (734) 422-4333.

Language of love

Tell your special someone how you feel with chocolates

On Valentine's Day, millions will select a gift of chocolate to express their love. Chocolate, like flowers, is the language of love. How better to express your passion for a loved one than with a box of exquisite Belgian chocolates. But could the type of chocolate selected — white, dark or milk — be carrying a secret meaning?

Perhaps there is a "language

of chocolate" just as there is for flowers. After all, since Victorian times, flowers have been tangible symbols of emotion: A forget-me-not conveys true love while a carnation symbolizes unrequited love.

To help those selecting a Valentine's Day gift for their dearly beloved, Guylian Chocolate offers gift-givers the following guide as food for thought.

Guylian's Language of Chocolate tells us that:

■ **White chocolate** represents pure love: dedication, patience, steadfastness.

■ **Dark chocolate** is for adventurous love: sophisticated, experiential, worldly passion.

■ **Milk chocolate** stands for balanced, enduring love: tradition, true romance.

■ **And filled chocolates** (hazelnut praline, truffle, cappuccino cream) represent newly discovered love: zestful, zany, exuberance.

No matter what the sentiment to be conveyed, Guylian offers a mouth-watering selection of boxed chocolates that will demonstrate your all-encompassing love. There's Guylian's original hazelnut praline Seashells;

La Trufflina; a collection of creamy truffles enrobed in either white, dark or milk chocolate; Opus, Guylian's musical-themed collection of eight unique varieties of Belgian chocolate; La Perlina, sculpted chocolate creations with a whole Turkish hazelnut nestled in a smooth cappuccino center; Solitaire, individually wrapped milk and dark chocolates from around the world.

Say it with style

Of course, if your loved one doesn't happen to know the language of chocolate, there's still a sure-fired way to convey your ardent feelings. Select Guylian's

I Love You chocolates, a box of gold foil-wrapped, praline-filled chocolate hearts with those three little words imprinted on top. That way, you can express your meaning in a forthright manner.

For an extensive collection of chocolate related gift ideas visit www.4chocolate.com. Information ranges from cooking with chocolate to great tasting recipes, candy creations, gifts and more.

Does chocolate really translate into a language of love? Only the gift-giver and recipient know for sure. This Valentine's Day, find out for yourself.

Take care of club business with your daughter on your lap!

Members of Michigan clubs and organizations have discovered mihometown.com and how easy it is to create a FREE web site that informs others of their events and their own members about their group's activities. Put your home computer to work for you and your group.

Take a moment to log on and browse this exciting website. The organizations you'll see listed enjoy these terrific mihometown.com features—



- **HOME PAGE:** This is sort of a front door for your group. It informs members and inform people about your group.
- **NEWSLETTER:** Here's a great way to post new and changing information for your members. Say goodbye to cutting, pasting and mailing your newsletter!
- **FEEDBACK FORMS:** These let you gather opinions, conduct surveys, or collect useful information from your group. Review the results instantly online or receive it by e-mail.
- **DISCUSSION:** Your online posting board. Have a lively debate about issues important to your group, discuss just about anything.
- **CHAT:** A bit different from "Discussion," CHAT allows members of your group to talk "live" with a noted personality in (or out) of your organization. These conversations can be shared with your members at a later time.

■ **CALENDAR:** You'll love the ease with which you can keep your group and the community informed about important dates. How many times have you dreamed of automatically putting your event on a large community calendar? Now you can!

■ **MEMBER LISTS:** How many times have you struggled to distribute this information to every member? Using mihometown.com you can automatically e-mail the new information! You can also assign each member a password for adding content or participating in a discussion.

■ **PARTICIPANT LISTS:** Private member-only areas. Easily create password protected areas of your site where only your group's members can access them. Board meeting notes, budgets, internal communications can be published to the World Wide Web for viewing by only the people you choose. Can't wait to get started?

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THE Observer & Eccentric! NEWSPAPERS

www.oea.com



Rolling into town: The St. Robert Bellarmine train show begins at 1 p.m. Sunday

Train show on track

Trains are a tradition at St. Robert Bellarmine.

For 14 years, the St. Robert Bellarmine Men's Club has hosted the Ole Toy and Train Show in the school gym. From 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, the Men's Club will bring out the first major toy and train show of the 2000s. The money raised at the event goes toward paying for sports activities and programs at St. Robert Bellarmine. The show also features a

train parts dealer. The Blue-water Michigan Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society will show videos of their train trips, along with a display of the 2000 excursion open for those who are interested. The Norfolk Southern Police will show train safety videos and offer free educational coloring books to kids.

St. Robert Bellarmine is at 27101 West Chicago in Redford. Call (313) 277-2419 for more information.

Stupid from page B1

So what does all this mean to the average person? (By the way, the researchers found that most incompetent people tend to rate their abilities "above average.")

Maybe it explains why highly paid (and oh-so-serious) TV newscasters behave more like Paddy Chayefsky parodies of themselves than serious journalists. Why politicians full of confidence and bluster (but little else) get elected to public

office. Why the bosses and managers in the "Dilbert" comic strip seem more realistic than cartoonish.

You figure it out. I don't have enough confidence in my analytical ability to try to draw any conclusions.

Jack Gladden, a copy editor for the Observer Newspapers, lives in Canton. You can e-mail him at: jgladden@oea.homecomm.net.

Editor from page B1

community and is dedicated to serving readers."

"Readers can expect to see many new additions to the Community Life section of the paper in the coming months," said Mortson. "I look forward to working with the features staff in my new role and am eager to receive feedback from the community whether they have a story to share or a concern to express."

Mortson joined the Observer Newspapers in April of 1997 as a temporary reporter and began covering health and business in October 1997.

A 1988 graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland, Mortson worked as a reporter at Michigan Community Newspapers in Wayne after graduating from Central Michigan University in 1996. Her work has been recognized twice by the Michigan Press Association including a first place honor for Best Spot News and Special Sections.

She and her husband, Ken, and daughter, Grace, make their home in Milan.

You can reach Mortson by phone or e-mail at (734) 953-2131 or kmortson@oea.homecomm.net.

ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS

Mazur-Bentham

Kenneth and Ramona Mazur of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Angela Marie, to Scott Michael Bentham, the son of George Bentham of Maple Glen, Pa., and Marlene Bentham of Wixom.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a master's degree in speech pathology. She is employed at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn as a licensed speech pathologist.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Lawrence Technological University with bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He is employed a mechanical engineer at Robert Bosch Corporation in Farmington Hills.



A September wedding is planned at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church of Plymouth.

Cleland-Babut

Ronald and Tammy Cleland of Saline announce the engagement of their daughter, Stacey Michelle, to Scott Edward Babut of Ann Arbor.

The bride-to-be is a 1997 graduate of Harbor Beach High School. She is working on a degree in business at Eastern Michigan University and works at Riverview of Ann Arbor.

Her fiancé, son of Russell Babut of Ypsilanti and Terri Deahl of Plymouth, graduated from Plymouth Canton High School in 1993 and obtained his bachelor's degree in Engineering from the University of Michigan. He is working on his master's degree at U of M and is



employed by Visteon.

An August wedding is planned at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Ann Arbor.

Hooton-McDonnell

Robert and Geraldine Hooton of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Laurie Ann, to Timothy Patrick McDonnell.

The bride-to-be is a 1983 graduate of Garden City High School and has been working at a medical facility for the past 11 years.

Her fiancé, the son of Michael and Susan McDonnell, is a graduate of John Glenn High School. He is an automobile mechanic in Farmington Hills.

A March wedding is planned at West Wayne Church of God.



Shelley-Hawley

Robert and Cathy Shelley announce the engagement of their daughter, Holly Christine, to Ryan Thomas Hawley of Canton.

The bride-to-be is a Western Michigan University graduate and Kindergarten teacher.

Her fiancé is also a Western Michigan University graduate and works as an Application Engineer.

A February wedding is planned at St. John Newman in Canton.



Soronen-Baffy

John and Mary Soronen of Westland announce the marriage of their daughter, Jennifer Thressa, to Robert J. Baffy of Westland.

The bride is a 1998 graduate of the University of Michigan and works as a design engineer for Ford Motor Company.

Her husband is a 1991 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School. He works as a video game designer for Digital Eclipse.

The couple wed on Aug. 7 at Faith Lutheran Church in Livonia. A reception at Laurel Manor followed. The Baffys took



a wedding trip on a Walt Disney Cruise. They have made their home in Westland.

Norton-Holmes

Delores Norton of Westland announces the engagement of her daughter, Heather Delores, to Douglas Lloyd Holmes.

The bride-to-be and her fiancé are graduates of John Glenn High School. The couple were engaged on Oct. 31, 1998. Dou-

glas is the son of Bill and Carol Holmes.

A May wedding is planned at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia. A reception at the Knights of Columbus hall in Westland will follow. The couple plan to make their home in Farmington Hills.

Rothert-Dekiere

Gary Rothert and Barb Rothert of Dearborn announce the engagement of their daughter, Joli Heather, to Jonathan Russell Dekiere of Garden City.

The bride-to-be is a 1993 graduate of Dearborn High School and a 1997 graduate of Central Michigan University. She has a bachelor's of science degree in Exercise Science and works in sales at Bally Total Fitness.

Her fiancé, son of James and Phyllis Dekiere of Plymouth, is a 1993 graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School and a 1997 graduate of Central Michigan University. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and now works as a Dear-



born police officer.

A May wedding is planned at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dearborn.

Wishart-Malone

James and Lynda Wishart of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Lynne, to Jason Andrew Malone, the son of Andrew and Janice Malone of Spartanburg, S.C.

The bride-to-be is a 1996 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and is a senior at Cedarville College in Cedarville, Ohio, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in English.

Her fiancé is a 1998 honor grad of Cedarville College with a degree in the Bible. He is an associate pastor at Southside Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C.

An August wedding is planned



at Berean Baptist Church of Livonia.

Hefke-Sturm

Cynthia Ellen Sturm and Eric Allan Hefke were married Sept. 4 at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills.

The bride is the daughter of Michael and Barbara Sturm of Commerce Township, formerly of Livonia. The groom is the son of Norman and Suzanne Hefke of Marquette.

The bride is a graduate of Western Michigan University. She is employed as a community development director at the American Cancer Society in Southfield.

The groom is a graduate of Western Michigan University. He is employed as a procurement and inventory specialist for DaimlerChrysler.

The couple received guests at a reception was held at the El Dorado Country Club before leav-



ing on a honeymoon trip to Hawaii. They are making their home in Commerce Township.

Schmitt-McNeely

Dave and Barb Schmitt of Plymouth announce the marriage of their daughter, Karlye Nicole, to Steven Paul McNeely of Holland.

The bride is a graduate of Hope College and works as a clinical nurse at Intercare.

Her husband, son of Bill and Jan McNeely, graduated from Cornerstone University with a degree in business and marketing. He works for Carline Medical Supply Company.

A November wedding took place at Hope College Dimnet Chapel in Holland with Pastor Mike Faris. Melissa Flynn, Wendy Veal and Erin Daly were the bride's attendants. Barry Dillini, Jaime Casey and Jeff



Dresser were groomsmen

The couple received guests at Hope Country Club after the ceremony. They have made their home in Holland.

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Everything you want for a whole lot less

Canton's Mainstreet Baptist Church welcomes new pastor

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecomm.net

Jeffrey Noble didn't just move to Canton Township, he was called there.

Noble, along with his wife, Myra Kay, and their three daughters moved to Canton from Georgia last August. The family received a phone call from Deacon Wayne Dudley last April asking if Noble was interested in moving northward to become a pastor at Mainstreet Baptist Church.



Knowing him: Jeffrey Noble is the new pastor at Mainstreet Baptist Church.

While Jeffrey and Myra Kay had prayed to move closer to family, he assumed it would mean a transfer to South Carolina, where her family lived. He never expected to live so close to his parents,

who reside in Northville. "The Lord lead us here," said Noble, dressed casually and sitting at his desk. "This is where we were called to be." While adjusting to the chilly winters of Michigan may take some time, he's no stranger to it. Noble grew up in Ohio. So far, he's happy with the new address. "Canton is wonderful."

His wife couldn't agree more. "We love it here," she said. "It's a breath of fresh air to me. We prayed to be closer to family. Now we're 10 minutes away."

Myra Kay Noble works as assistant branch manager of First Federal in Plymouth. She said watching her husband preach makes her "anxious to see what God has in store for the future. We feel very blessed."

Noble is perhaps most passionate about prayer, and reading the word of God. "You hunger for it," he said, likening prayer to having a passion for music. "I really desire to spend time with it. The more I read, the more I want to know. When you have a relationship with someone, you want to spend time with them."

Noble wasn't always so dedicated to religion.

"I was a corporate climber," he said. But no matter what he achieved in the corporate world, it never seemed to be



Sharing the Word: Jeffrey Noble is excited about his new position in Canton.

enough. He sought fulfillment. It took a complete separation, from the house, car and material possessions, to find it. Noble went to a seminary and later became a music minister, leading the church in worship, leading the choir and planning and organizing special events.

"As a pastor I can empathize," he said. "It's been a fun road, really."

He had always possessed a love for music. He plays both the guitar and drums. At one point in his young life, Noble said he "wanted to become the next Phil Collins." In his quest for musical stardom, Noble found his true calling.

He was on his way to a Christian concert, on a date, when one of the musicians on-stage spoke to the audience and said something he'll never forget

The musician asked "If you were to die today and were standing before God and he asked you 'Why should I let into my heaven? What would you say?'"

Noble was speechless. He didn't know the answer. That day, in June 1978, he dedicated himself to his faith and relationship with God.

"I believe He wanted me to preach," said Noble. "I got a chance to preach whenever I could." On Aug. 25, he read his first sermon in Canton, realizing that calling "They are a sweet bunch, a great group of folks," he added of his congregation.

His wife said her hopes for the future are to see more people "come to know Jesus."

As Noble reaches out to the community and the church, he maintains a simple belief. "It's not a religion, it's a relationship."

Mainstreet Baptist Church offers Sunday Worship at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Korean Sunday Worship at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., and bible study on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesdays for all ages at 7 p.m. S.A.F.E., Setting Adults Free Eternally, meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and noon Thursdays. Call 734-454-4785 for information.

RELIGIOUS NEWS

Listings for the Religious News should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131 or e-mail kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

NEW BEGINNINGS

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia offers a year-round grief support group and this new Thursday speaker series, beginning with "The Grief Process" with the Rev. Chuck Sorquist Feb. 3; Del McPherson and "The Healing Power of Humor" March 2; the Rev. Kurt Stutz of Botsford Hospital with "Healing Grief" April 6; the Rev. Phil Seymour on "Dreams, Visions and Images" May 4; and Warren Gilbert's "Managing Memories" June 1. The series is free and open to the public. Call (734) 422-6038.

HEALING SERVICES

The Rev. Gary Seymour offers healing services for the series titled "Rise and Come Forward" the third Wednesday evening of each month at the Church of the Risen Lord, 821 N. Newburgh Road in Westland. Call (734) 397-7132.

CONCERT

The Tubbs Family will perform 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6 at Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia.

RELIEF EFFORT

The Archdiocese of Detroit, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services, is collecting monetary donations for the people of Venezuela, devastated by flooding that has left thousands dead or homeless. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-Venezuela Relief and sent to Christian Service Department, 305 Michigan Avenue, G51, Detroit, MI 48226-2605. For more information, call (313) 237-4689.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DAY

Church Women United of Subur-

ban Detroit-West will host International Student Day, with a carry-in casserole luncheon 12:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia. International Students will speak about their homeland. The program is sponsored by the Livonia Rotary Club. Bring 1 casserole for each three persons attending and paper products for the First Step Program. Call Amy Sherman by Tuesday, Feb. 1 at (313) 537-5251 for reservations and to schedule a baby-sitter.

SINGLES WELCOME

Bethany Suburban West is a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance to divorced or separated Christians. Call (734) 981-4553 about the divorce recovery workshop. Monthly meetings are held at 8 p.m. at St. Kenneth's Church, Haggerty Road and 5 Mile Road. On Friday, Feb. 4, the church will host a dinner at Northville Downs. Call (734) 421-3011 for information. Saturday, Feb. 5 marks the Singles Dance, 8:30 p.m. St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in Redford. The \$8

charge includes refreshments. Proper attire required. Every Sunday, the church offers breakfast at 10 a.m. at Redford Inn on the northwest corner of 5 Mile and Beech Daly roads in Redford, followed by mass at 11:15 a.m. at St. Aidan's Catholic Church on Farmington Road in Livonia. Call (734) 729-1974.

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

This is a Bible Study for women who want to live holy lives and are always on the lookout for help to spiritual maturity. "Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People" will be offered from 7-8 p.m. for 10 weeks beginning Wed. Feb. 2 at the Plymouth Church of Nazarene located at 45801 Ann Arbor Road. Each week we will explore down-to-earth answers for problems related to making things right with others, forgiving those who have hurt you, conquering impure thoughts, winning the battle with pride and selfish ambition, learning to be totally honest and transparent. Call the church office at 453-1525.

SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES

Talk It Over meets from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on the second Friday of the month in Knox Hall in Ward

Church. Ministries Showcases 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, Sanctuary at church. Hear Phillips, Craig and Dean, a free concert. Offerings accepted. Single Parenting Ministry meets 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the parlor, room C317 and C319, at the church. A free meal is served before the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Speakers for open discussion in a friendly, supportive and encouraging atmosphere. Free childcare provided. Lighthouse Cafe, a coffee house, is open from 7-10 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in Knox Hall. The cost is \$5. All events are provided by Ward Presbyterian Church, 10000 Six Mile Road, Northville. Call 248-374-5920.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross will be operating a blood drive 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6 at St. Edith's Parish, 15089 Newburgh Road in Livonia. Walk-ins welcome.

GATHERING OF THE EAGLES

The Detroit Chapter of the Ministry of the Watchmen International hosts this fourth annual

event dedicated to renewing the strength of the people of God, 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Jan. 28-30 at VanDyke Park Hotel and Conference Center in Warren. Speakers include Barbara Williams, president of the Ministry, and Allen Wilson of Eagles-Nest Church in Calif. Reservations are \$100 per person, \$15 for lunch. Call (800) 565-9249 to make reservations or obtain a complete schedule.

VEGAS NIGHTS

St. Edith Church will sponsor Las Vegas Nights, 7:30 p.m. to midnight, Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5 at the church, 15089 Newburgh road, Livonia. Admission is \$1 and maximum payout will be \$500, under license number F23263. Proceeds go to general fund. Call (734) 464-1222.

St. Theodore Parish will host its Las Vegas Nights 6 p.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5 at the church, 8200 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Admission is \$2. Parking is free. Beer, food and refreshments available. The program is presented by St. Theodore Men's Club & Contraternity of Christian Women

under the license number F23267. Play Back Jack, Easy Craps, Roulette, and the Money Wheel. Minimum wager is \$500 per person. Call (734) 725-0607.

WINTER CARD PARTY

St. Richard Women's Guild has organized its winter card party, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28 at the St. Richard Social Hall, 37851 Cherry Hill, Westland. Admission is \$6 at the door. Door and table prizes will be given. Call (734) 725-1500 for information.

LET'S TALK

Interfaith Council will sponsor the first of a series of interfaith dialogues with the participation of representatives from the following faiths: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Unitarianism. Thursday, Jan. 27, and Friday, Jan. 28, 7-9 p.m. at the St. Theodore Parish, 8200 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Admission is \$2. Parking is free. Beer, food and refreshments available. The program is presented by St. Theodore Men's Club & Contraternity of Christian Women

TAI CHI CLASSES

The Tai Chi Club of St. Edith's Church will offer Tai Chi classes for

Please see RELIGIOUS, B5

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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.



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10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
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734-459-9550
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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
Lutheran Protestant Church
40000 Six Mile Road
"Just west of I-275"
Northville, MI
248-374-7400

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Worship Services,
Sunday School
8:30, 10:00, 11:30 A.M.
Contemporary Service
8:50-9:45 A.M.
Evening Service
6:00 P.M. in the Chapel
Nursery Provided
Now On The Radio 6:30 a.m.
Sunday - WYUR 1310 AM

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Pastor John W. Meyer • 474-0675

Risen Christ Lutheran
46250 Ann Arbor Road
(1 Mile West of Sheldon)
Plymouth • 453-5252

Worship Service 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Pastor David Martin
Hugh McMarin, Lay Minister

ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH, USA
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Livonia • 734-484-8844

Sunday School for All Ages 9:30 a.m.
Family Worship 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Janet Noble-Richardson, Pastor
<http://www.unicol.com/~sttimothy>

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10:30 a.m.

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Rev. Ruth Hollingsworth, Associate Pastor
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10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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Christian School Kindergarten-8th Grade
313-937-2233

St. Michael Lutheran Church & School
7950 Hannon Rd. Wayne (corner of Hannon & Hannon)
(734) 724-1950

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Contemporary Service 9:30 am
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Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed 7:00 P.M.

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First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1180 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Reading Room - 445 S. Harvey, Plymouth
Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. • Thursday 7-9 p.m.

453-1676

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Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

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Kurt E. Lambert, Assistant Pastor
Jeff Burke, Principal/D.C.E.

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474-3444
Rev. Jean Love

Worship Services 10:15 A.M. 6:00 PM
Nursery Provided
Sunday School 9 AM
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14 Mile Road and Dexter, Farmington Hills
(248) 661-9191

Sunday Worship
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11:00 a.m. Traditional
Sunday School for all ages.
Wednesday Supper (6:00 p.m.)
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East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Schoolcraft Rds.

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Tues. 7:00 p.m. • Sat. 5 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
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Sunday Worship Services
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Pastor James Hall
Pastor Bob Steinhilber

NATIVITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9435 Henry Ruff at West Chicago
Livonia 48150 • 421-5408

Rev. Donald Linselman, Pastor
9:15 a.m. Adult Classes
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
and Youth Classes
Nursery Care Available
-WELCOME-

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30900 So. Mile Rd. (Bet. Merriman & Middlebelt)
Chick Soukup, Pastor

10:00 A.M. Worship & Church School
11:15 A.M. Adult Study Classes
Nursery Provided • 422-9038

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421-8451

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Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Dinner & Classes
Saturday 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
Sunday 7:45 & 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist
10:00 A.M. Christian Education for all ages
Sunday Morning - Nursery Care Available
The Rev. Robert Stepp, Rector

Lola Park Ev. Lutheran Church & School
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313-532-8655

Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
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Midweek Advent Services Dec. 1, 8 & 15
10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
School Grades K thru 8
Phone for Enrollment Info
WLQV 1500 SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.

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Livonia • 427-2290

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10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Avail.)
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January 30
Scripture/Mark 1:21-28
Capernaum - Men with an Evil Spirit
Rev. Diane Goudis, preaching



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Sunday Worship Service 10:30 A.M.
Sunday School 11:30 A.M.
Bible Class - Wednesdays 7:30 P.M.
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488-7810

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Popular Tubbs family to sing locally

For The Tubbs, music is a family affair.

It's been 16 years since Jim and Shirley Tubbs formed a full-time concert ministry, taking their inspirational music across the country. On Sunday, Feb. 6, The Jim Tubbs Family will bring their music to the Gathering at Clarenceville United Methodist Church in Livonia.

Accompanied by the couple's

three daughters, Evie, Marcie and Jamie. The Tubbs have recorded three albums. Jim Tubbs has written much of the music, which is also performed by solo and group artists throughout the United States and Canada.

But it wasn't always this way. Jim and Shirley Tubbs both graduated from Olivet University in 1978. From there Jim began a career with Gen-

eral Foods Corp. and Shirley started her career in engineering physics at a Chicago nuclear facility. These days, the family work together, recording music that speaks to people of all ages.

Clarenceville United Methodist Church at 20300 Middlebelt Road in Livonia, south of 8 Mile. For more information on this event, call (248) 474-3444.

CRAFTS CALENDAR

If you would like to announce an upcoming craft show, bazaar, or arts boutique — items can be sent to: Crafts Calendar, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI, 48150 or e-mail kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

LIVONIA MALL CRAFT SHOW
Livonia Mall is having a craft show Feb. 4-6. Crafters are needed. Friday hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 4; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 5 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 6. Call (248) 476-1160 for

information. Livonia Mall is located at Seven Mile and Middlebelt in Livonia.

PROJECT GRADUATION
Crafters are wanted for a craft fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt Road Garden City. Tables are \$25 each. Admission will be \$2. Proceeds will benefit Project Graduation 2000. To register or for more information, call Bobbie Price at (734) 522-3848 or

Michelle Porcaro at (734) 525-1444.

CHURCHILL PTSA CRAFT SHOW
Churchill High School PTSA is currently accepting applications for their 12th Annual Spring Craft Show which will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 11. We are located at 8900 Newburg Road, just north of Joy Road. \$1 admission. If you would like an application or information, please contact us at (734) 523-0022

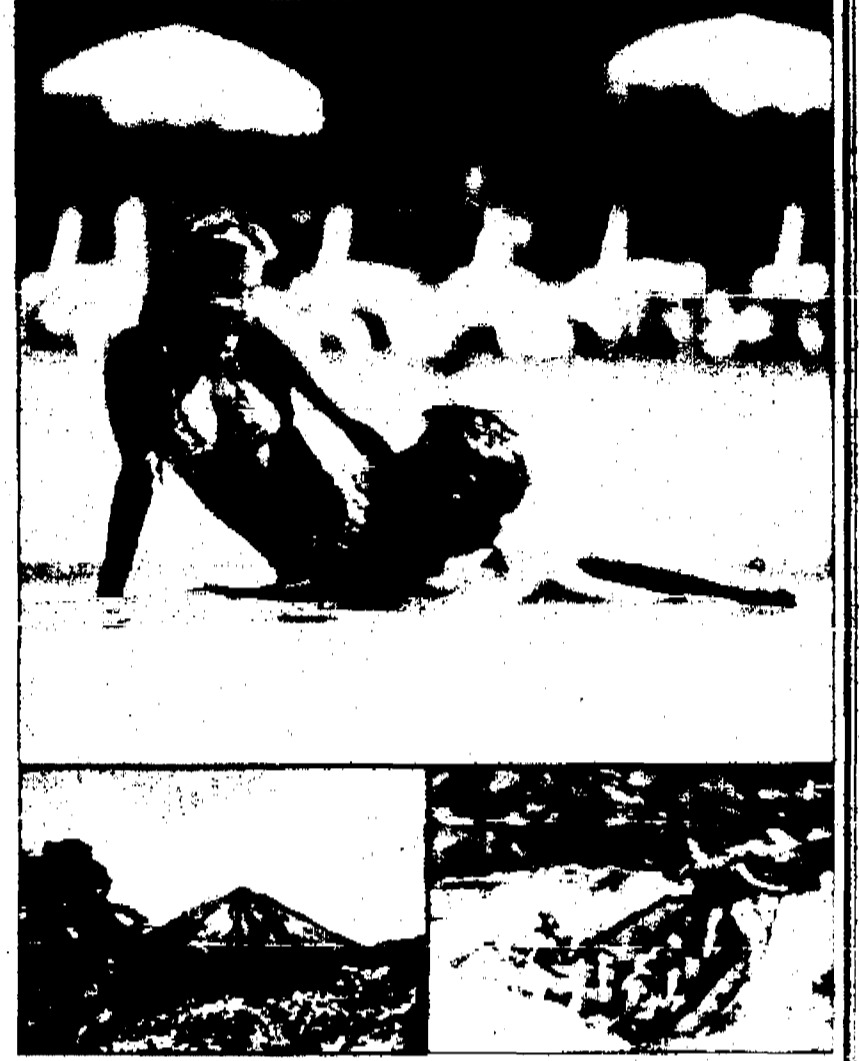
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NEW VOICES

■ John Schwarzel and Kelli Sinta of Mesa, Ariz. announce the birth of their daughter Jacylyn Marley Schwarzel Dec. 16, 1999 at Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Richard Sinta of Garden City, Dave and Renee Diroff of Plymouth, John and Elaine Schwarzel of Penn., and great grandmothers Mary Sinta of Livonia and Delphine

Zebrowski of Bad Axe, Mich. ■ Kathleen and Mark DeMers of Livonia announce the birth of Emily Catherine Oct. 18, 1999 at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. Grandparents are Emily and Thomas Salvato of Livonia and Pamela and Emery DeMers of Milford. ■ Michelle and Robert Eeles of Washington Terrace, Utah

announce the birth of their son Joshua Raye Sept. 20, 1999 at Davis Medical Center in Layton, Utah. Joshua joins sister Mikaela, 2. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jose Gomez of Salt Lake City, Utah; Carolyn Eeles of Westland; John Eeles of Wayne and great grandmother Rosa LaTorre of Puerto Rico.

Please see VOICES, B8

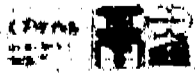
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Religious news from page B5

ing new, beginner tai chi classes, at 38121 Ann Arbor Road, Livonia, St. Paul United Methodist Church in Bloomfield and Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. Observers welcome. For more information, call the Taoist Tai Chi Society at (248) 332-1281. Tai chi is a complete and integrated exercise that works all of the body's systems deeply and gently, making it an exercise suitable for persons of all ages and conditions of health.

NEW SERIES
Canton Friendship Church is now offering "What's the Difference," a series on World Religions in the light of Christianity, 10:30 a.m. Sundays in January. Topics are "Unity and New Age in the Light of Christianity" Jan. 23 and "Secular Humanism in the Light of Christianity" Jan. 30. Call (734) 451-2100.

WOMEN'S RETREAT
Calvary Baptist Church will

have a women's retreat, "Choosing to Be God's Woman," Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5, at the church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Sessions include "Choosing to Be God's Woman," "Choosing to Trust," "Choosing to Be What God Wants Me to Be" and "Sharing Christ in Familiar Places." The retreat will be held 7-9:15 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The \$20 ticket price includes all of the seminar sessions, snack, continental breakfast and a boxed lunch. To register, call (734) 455-0022.

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 Feb. 11-Feb. 13 and March 10-12 at the St. John's Family Life Center, 44011 Five Mile, Plymouth Township. The registration fee is \$50. Call Bill and Carol at (248)

528-2512 or Dan and Debbie at (810) 286-5524 or visit this Web site: www.rc.net/detroit/wwwme. Listen for "The Marriage Journey" 8:30-9 a.m. Sundays on WCAR 1090 AM.

HEALING SERVICE
The Church of the Risen Lord presents a healing service at 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month at the church, 821 N. Newburgh Road, south of Ford Road, Westland. The service, led by the Rev. Gary Seymour, is part of the series of healing services, "Rise and Come Forward." For more information, call the church office at (734) 397-7132.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
Garden City Presbyterian Church is offering a contemporary worship service at 9:15 a.m. the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the church, 1841 Middlebelt Road, between Ford and Cherry Hill roads, Garden City. The contemporary service offers upbeat music and an informal atmosphere.

CHURCH FUND-RAISER
Clarenceville United Methodist Church is selling Entertainment passbooks to raise money for the church. The coupon books cost \$40 and are available by calling Jim Robinson at (248) 347-1535 or the church office at (248) 474-3444.

REMARKED GROUP
The Remarked Ministries of Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville offers an informal, drop-in support group for those struggling with the issues of a blended family. The group is hosted by the Rev. Paul Clough and meets 7-8:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month in Room C309 of the church, 40000 Six Mile Road at Haggerty Road. There is no cost and registration isn't necessary. For more information, call Stacy Cole at (248) 374-5912.

CONFIDENTIAL HELP

Have a problem? Need to talk? Life Care Ministries of Livonia offers a free, confidential and anonymous Christian telephone listening service 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call (734) 427-LIFE.

THRIFT SHOP
The Thrift Shop, sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, has opened a 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 fpcc@juno.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.

EARLY CHILDHOOD
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church offers an early childhood program, a day care program for toddlers age 18 months to 3 years. The program is available full or half days Monday through Friday. Children have organized and spontaneous activities - all hands-on and interactive. The program is state-certified and offered at the church, Farmington Road, north of I-275. For more information, call (734) 513-8413.

HISPANIC CHURCH
The Hispanic Pentecostal Church holds worship 2 p.m. Sundays. Call (248) 471-5282.

REUNIONS CALENDAR

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.

ALL SAINTS
Class of 1950
Is planning a "Millennium Reunion" for November 2000. (248) 437-9735

BERKLEY
Class of 1950
Is looking for alumni. (248) 932-1722, (248) 548-5359 or (248) 393-1233

BIRMINGHAM GROVES
Class of 1965
Aug. 12 at The Community House in Birmingham. (248) 433-2362 or by e-mail at

JCRich47@aol.com

BIRMINGHAM MARIAN BROTHER RICE
Class of 1970
A reunion is planned for July 29. (248) 540-2917 or (248) 358-4490

BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM
Class of 1970
A reunion is planned for July 1. (510) 523-0906 or by e-mail at HubSpauld@aol.com

BLOOMFIELD HILLS LANSEER
Class of 1979
March 4 at the Somerset Inn in Troy. (248) 366-9493, press #2 or by e-mail at reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

BRIGHTON
Class of 1980
Aug. 26 at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi. (248) 360-7004, press #5 or by e-mail at reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

CLARKSTON

Class of 1960
A reunion is tentatively planned for August. (248) 627-4549, (248) 933-1670 or dmliller@flash.net

CLINTONDALE
Class of 1960
A reunion is planned for July. (810) 465-2388

CRESTWOOD
Class of 1970
Is planning a reunion. (313) 277-1316 or (248) 426-6888

DENBY
Class of 1950
Seeking alumni for June 25 reunion at Penna's of Sterling. Call (810) 773-3286 or (248) 585-2633

DETROIT CENTRAL
Class of 1960
A reunion is planned for April.

(734) 464-1692

DETROIT COOLEY
Class of 1960
A reunion is planned for April. (734) 464-1692

DETROIT DENBY
Class of 1950
A reunion is planned for June. (810) 773-4253, (248) 585-2083 or (810) 773-3286

DETROIT FINNEY
Classes of 1970-72
A reunion is planned for April 1. (313) 837-5880

DETROIT IVES ELEMENTARY
Classes of 1953-55
A reunion is tentatively planned for May. (810) 644-4166, (810) 751-6356, (906) 847-3535 or (810) 728-4875 after 6 p.m.

DETROIT MACKENZIE

Class of 1949-51
July 29 at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland. (734) 453-7561

DETROIT PERSHING
Class of 1960
A reunion is planned for Sept. 9. (313) 835-9642, (810) 773-3952, (248) 547-0664 or (734) 595-7508 or at the Web site, www.jmctech.com/~justice/index.htm

DETROIT REDFORD
Class of 1965
A reunion is planned for July 8. (313) 937-3077 OR (734) 427-6047

DETROIT WESTERN
Class of 1966
Is planning a reunion. (248) 260-9053 or (313) 540-8674

FARMINGTON
Class of 1950
Sept. 15-17, with a dinner at

Vladimir's on Sept. 16. (248) 474-7822

FERDALE
Classes of 1929-1958
Oct. 14 at Ferndale High School, 726 Pinecrest, Ferndale. (248) 589-2609 or (248) 541-2476

GARDEN CITY EAST
Classes of 1974 and 1975 are hosting a 25th reunion Saturday, Nov. 25, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Metro Airport. Contact Barry Harnos (class of 1974) (734) 416-5583 or Vicky (DeSanto) Clark at (734) 421-5365 (class of 1975).

HENRY FORD TRADE
Class of 1950
Is planning a reunion. (248) 618-9865

Voices from page B7

Julie and Phil Laurette of Canton announce the birth of their daughter **Samantha Katlynn** Oct. 8 at the University of Michigan Birthing Center in Ann Arbor. Samantha joins siblings Kevin, 11; Erica, 10; and Derek, 5. Grandparents are Larry and Judy Hui of Plymouth and Frank and Nancy Laurette of Plymouth.

Mike and Marcy Hamilton of Redford announce the birth of their daughter **Maddison Marie**, Jan. 4 at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. Maddison joins brother Trevor, 4. Grandparents are Jim and Judy Kneiding of Livonia and Mike and

Lynn Hamilton of River Rouge. Jim and Stacey McCarthy of Canton announce the birth of their daughter **Corinne Olivia**, January 14 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center - Wayne. Grandparents are Larry and Dorothy Myers of Clinton, Indiana and James and Florence McCarthy of Plymouth.

Sarah Richards of Westland announces the birth of her son **Zachary Noah Richards**, Dec. 20, 1999 at Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Aggie Richards of Westland, Gary Richards of Howell and Aunt Molly Wright of Westland.

Open House

Join us Sunday
January 30, 2000

1 p.m.
Upper School Program

1-3 p.m.
Lower and Middle School will be open

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- 4 Sets Audio Video Input Jacks
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- 2D Y/C Digital Comb System

Panasonic 32" **Panasonic 32" Stereo TV**

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DEARBORN: 21747 Michigan Ave, 1 mile W. of Southfield, (313) 663-1000

LIVONIA: 34224 Plymouth, 1/2 mile W. of Farmington Rd, (734) 427-7810

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Observer Sports

The Observer

INSIDE:

Girls volleyball, C7

Boys swim times, C8

L/W Page 1, Section C

Brad Emmons, Editor, 734-953-2123, bemon@oe.homedomain.net

on the web: http://www.observer.com

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Wayne upsets Belleville



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Rebound battle: Belleville's Kevin Harrison (right) goes up on the rim against Wayne Memorial's Shannon Jeffries during Tuesday night's Mega Conference Red Division battle. For more on Wayne's OT win over the Tigers, see cage roundup on C3.

Observerland favorite appears to be CC again

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domeara@oe.homedomain.net

If the rankings hold true to form, there will be a lot of repeat winners Saturday in the Ninth Annual Observerland Wrestling Tournament.

It all starts at the top with defending team champion Redford Catholic Central, which has been ranked No. 1 in the area all season.

The Shamrocks are favored to win consecutive titles for the first time and their fourth overall championship.

"I'm sure we're going to be in contention," CC coach Mike Rodriguez said, "but I don't see us walking away with it."

"A lot of people out there are going to help us. Where we might be weak, they'll knock out some of the other boys."

"Everybody has somebody who's good. I just hope we have a few more."

If CC doesn't win it, history indicates either Livonia Stevenson or Plymouth Salem will. No other team has won the tournament since Farmington captured the inaugural event in 1992, and rarely has any other school finished among the top three.

"If some of our younger guys come through and our seniors do what they're supposed to do, we'll do OK," Salem coach Greg Woodhuk said, adding he's sure the Rocks are not the favorite.

"CC is always a tough tournament team, and they're even-powered throughout their lineup. We always look forward to being somewhere in the top three or four."

The Rocks gave the Shamrocks a scare in a team dual tournament Saturday, but host Catholic Central came from behind to win the meet, 48-36.

"They were way ahead of us until about 152," Rodriguez said. "Then we

PREP WRESTLING

What: Ninth Annual Observerland Wrestling Tournament.

When: Saturday, Jan. 29. Competition starts at 9 a.m. The finals are expected to begin at approximately 6 p.m.

Where: Livonia Churchill High School.

Admission: \$5 and is good for the whole day.

PAST TROPHY WINNERS

1999: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 2. Livonia Stevenson, 3. Garden City.

1998: 1. Plymouth Salem, 2. Redford Catholic Central, 3. Livonia Stevenson.

1997: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 2. Plymouth Salem, 3. Wayne Memorial.

1996: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 2. Livonia Stevenson, 3. Plymouth Salem.

1995: Livonia Stevenson, 2. Redford Catholic Central, 3. Plymouth Salem.

1994: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 2. Redford Catholic Central, 3. Plymouth Salem.

1993: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 2. Westland John Glenn, 3. Livonia Stevenson.

1992: 1. Farmington, 2. Plymouth Canton, 3. Westland John Glenn.

starting making the turn there and caught up with them. Our heavyweight locked it up. Aaron Parr pinned his opponent to win the match."

Plymouth Canton, ranked No. 3 behind CC and Salem, seems the most likely candidate to break the stranglehold those teams and Stevenson have on the title.

The Chiefs, who beat Salem in a dual, have placed in four of five tournaments to date and continue to get better, according to coach John Demsick.

"I think we have a real chance at winning it all," he said. "A number of competitive teams and star kids will be performing. We certainly have to wrestle well to do it, but we'd like to be first

and take home the (championship) trophy.

"It's within our grasp; whether we can pull it off, we'll have to wait and see. We've wrestled enough competition that our guys are ready to go toe-to-toe with anyone."

Six reigning individual champions will be back to either defend their titles or try to win again in a different weight class.

Stevenson has two of them, including senior Josh Gunterman, who was the co-most valuable wrestler in the lower weights after winning at 112. The state champion is 22-0 and ranked No. 1 at that weight again this year.

"He's grown up quite a bit and is wrestling much more aggressively this year," Stevenson coach Joel Smith said. "This is his last year as a Stevenson Spartan; he has a goal in mind, and he's working every day toward it. With every match, he gets better."

The 152 division includes two of the area's best, Stevenson's Imad Kharbush and Livonia Churchill's Mike Carter.

Carter (25-1) is ranked first and Kharbush (26-2), who is questionable due to a bruised ankle, second. Carter won the 145 title last year, and Kharbush was the 135 champion.

"It took (Carter) a while to adjust to the heavier weight, but he's coming along now and doing pretty well," Churchill coach Marty Altounian said, adding Westland John Glenn's Chris Wolfgang will be a factor, too.

The other defending champs are Wayne Memorial's Jon Gregg, Redford Thurston's Jeff Usher and CC's Mitch Hancock, who won at 119, 140 and 152, respectively, and have moved up one weight this year.

Hancock is 27-0 and has wrestled

Please see OBSERVERLAND, C5

Ferris State icers rely on Livonia connection

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemon@oe.homedomain.net

Livonia has produced its fair share of college hockey stalwarts.

Among those who played on NCAA championship teams include Ron Griffin of Wisconsin (1977), Mike Donnelly of Michigan State (1986), Chris Tancill of Wisconsin (1990) and Mark Beaufait of Northern Michigan (1991).

It may be premature to predict that another NCAA title is on the horizon, but three Livonians have been instrumental this season in putting Ferris State among college hockey's elite.

Junior center Kevin Swider (Churchill High), sophomore goaltender Phil Osaer (Catholic Central) and head coach Bob Daniels (a Churchill grad) form the Livonia connection which has put the bite back into Bulldogs' hockey program.

Ferris is 15-10-1 overall and 8-9-1 in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association, but in the last 17 games FSU is 12-4-1, including a pair of upset wins over top 10 teams Boston University (4-3) and Northeastern (4-0) at the Silverado Shootout (played Dec. 27-28 in Duluth, Minn.).

Swider, in his third season, ranks second in scoring for FSU with 10 goals and 11 assists. Osaer, who splits time with Vince Owen in the nets, is 10-4-1 in 16 games and is among the NCAA leaders in save percentage (.925) and goals-against-average (1.97).

"In street clothes those two guys are easy going and mild mannered, but fierce competitors on the ice," said Daniels, who has over 100 wins in eight seasons as FSU's head coach. "They're great athletes, but they also very humble guys. Both are good students, too."

Both Swider and Osaer were named to the Silverado Shootout All-Tournament team. Both are Computer Information Systems majors. Both traveled similar



Bob Daniels
8th-year coach



Kevin Swider
2nd leading scorer



Phil Osaer
Solid goaltender

paths to Big Rapids. Both played for Compuware, a Tier II team in the North American Hockey League.

Swider also played for Omaha (Neb.) Lancers of the U.S. Hockey League, while Osaer, a seventh-round pick of St. Louis Blues, donned the jersey of the Waterloo (Ia.) Black Hawks of the USHL.

"We were in need of offensive players and we were fortunate to get in on Kevin early," Daniels said. "We knew he had the ability and we haven't been disappointed."

"He had a great freshman year (12 goals and 20 assists) and he dipped down a little last year (12 goals and 10 assists), but in his defense we did not have a great offensive team last year."

At 5-10, 170 pounds, Swider uses speed to his advantage.

"He'll beat just about anybody to the puck," Daniels said. "He's not going to muscle you."

Osaer suited up nine times as a freshman (with five starts) going 2-2-1 with a 1.51 GAA.

"Phil is solid all the way around," Daniels said. "What sets him apart is his ability to play the puck. A lot of young goaltenders tend to overplay the puck. That aspect of the game is hard to teach, but Phil does a good job of reading the ice and getting the puck out of our end. He has great fundamentals."

Osaer, the nephew of University of Maryland head football coach Ron Vanderlinden (also a

Livonia native), said he plans to finish out his eligibility with the Bulldogs.

"NHL goalies are usually taken when they're older," Daniels said. "And right now the St. Louis people have told me they're very happy with his progress. I don't see him leaving our program before he graduates."

Last year, the Bulldogs were 14-16-6 overall and placed sixth in the CCHA. This season they have already surpassed their win total of a year ago with another month left to go in the regular season.

"The talent level is better this year and we've increased our depth," Swider said. "We have three or four solid lines that we didn't have in the past. We're a lot better than last year. Last season we had kind of an offensive drought. It's back to the way it should be."

And having a razor-sharp Osaer between the pipes has been a major boost.

"He's been a great addition," Swider said. "Both goalies have to compete and they push each other that much harder. I feel confident with either guy in the net."

Ferris State is coming off a tie and a loss over the weekend to Miami of Ohio. The Bulldogs return home this weekend for the first time since Dec. 4 to play CCHA newcomer Nebraska

Please see LIVONIA TRIO, C2



By Barry Gibson
Director of Ticket Sales
Detroit Tigers

"Is this heaven?" Shoeless Joe Jackson asked the Kevin Costner character in the movie *Field of Dreams*. "No," I would say, "It's Detroit."

Here's why I say that.

The best ballplayers in the world will be playing at our new home, Comerica Park, next season. With the addition of Juan Gonzalez, our lineup will look great with Dean Palmer and Tony Clark.

Mark McGwire, Ken Griffey Jr., Alex Rodriguez and Jeff Bagwell will be just a few of the homerun-hitting extraordinaires that will be here next year.

Next season you'll see the best players that baseball has to offer.

But the Detroit Tigers are more than that. It's cheering the home team. It's the food. It's our new home, Comerica Park. It's a free gift. It's affordable. It's fun with family and friends. It's baseball.

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Think of it as a palace with grass. This place will have everything your heart desires: a ferris wheel and carousel, restaurants for every taste and great seats. This will be a terrific place to have fun watching baseball. You'll have the same great seat for every game (*Opening Day may differ*). In fact, we guarantee that your seat location will be better than the game-to-game buyer.

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Whalers creep up on 1st-place Soo

Thought that seven-game winning streak the Plymouth Whalers put together a couple weeks back was an illusion? Think again.

Two losses and a tie followed that streak, adding fuel to the suspicion that this team which was supposed to be in a rebuilding year just got hot for a few weeks.

Now: Flash forward to the last weekend, when the Whalers had to travel all the way to Sault Ste. Marie for a game against the division-leading Greyhounds Friday night, then had to bus six hours back to Plymouth for a Saturday night game against the Owen Sound Platers.

The outlook for success wasn't good. The results, however, were.

A goal by Tomas Kurka with 22 seconds left in the third period lifted Plymouth to a come-from-behind 3-2 triumph Friday over the Greyhounds.

That seemed to energize the Whalers; on Saturday, they made short work of the Platers, rolling to a 7-0 victory.

The two wins boosted Plymouth into second place in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division with a 25-16-4 record, five points behind Sault Ste. Marie (26-18-4). The 'Hounds, however, have played three more games.

Owen Sound slipped to 13-28-4 (34 points), last in the Midwest Division.

At Sault Ste. Marie Friday, the Greyhounds scored twice in the first period to put the Whalers in a hole. John Osborne got a goal at the 8:09 mark and Ryan Jardine made it 2-0 on a power-play marker with 23 seconds left in the period.

However, the Whalers retaliated quickly in the second period. Justin Williams got his 20th of the season with a power-play goal scored 4:02 into the second;

OHL REPORT

Kris Vernarsky and Jared Newman assisted.

Damian Surma then netted his 19th goal of the season 1:55 later to tie it at 2-2, with Shaun Fisher and Newman assisting.

The game-winner earned Newman his third assist of the game, with Kurka getting his 21st goal of the year. Libor Ustrunal also assisted.

The Whalers certainly dominated play offensively, unleashing 36 shots at Sault Ste. Marie goalie Jason Flick.

Rob Zepp got the win in goal for Plymouth; he stopped 15 shots.

If the long trip depleted the Whalers in any way, it didn't show Saturday against Owen Sound. They led 3-0 after two periods, and then in the third — when fatigue should have been a factor working against them —

they put four goals on the board.

Steve Morris put together a hat trick and had an assist, too. Fisher scored two goals as well, with Randy Fitzgerald and Jon Billy scoring single goals. Stephen Weiss totaled three assists, and Kurka had a pair.

Zepp was in goal again, stopping 23 shots to earn the shutout win.

Curtis Sanford faced 42 shots in goal for the Platers.

Top Ambassadors shine

Alex Sawruk of the Compuware Ambassadors scored one of the two goals registered by the Eastern Division all-stars in an overtime shootout last Saturday, leading the Eastern stars to a 5-4 win over their Western Division counterparts at the North American Hockey League's All-Star game played at Fox Valley Ice Arena in Geneva, Ill.

The East trailed 4-0 in the second period before rallying. The

Ambassadors' Steve Swistak scored to make it 4-2 late in the second period, and Sawruk got a goal at 5:27 of the third period to narrow the gap to one goal.

Craig Kowalski started in goal for the Eastern Division, stopping 25 of 28 shots before giving way to Cam Ellsworth of the Soo Kewadin Casino Indians.

In last Friday's NAHL All-Star Skills Competition — won by the Eastern stars, 29-25 — Sawruk won the fastest skater title and Kowalski was first in the rapid fire event.

In their last action prior to the NAHL all-star break, Compuware posted a 5-2 win over Cleveland thanks to a four-goal final period in a game played at Compuware. Sawruk accounted for two of the Ambassador goals.

The win boosted Compuware's Eastern Division-leading record to 24-11-2 (50 points), three more than the Soo Kewadin Indians.

PREP HOCKEY

Shamrocks sweep foes, improve to 13-1 overall

The long and the short of it is that Redford Catholic Central added two more wins to its hockey total during the weekend.

CC made a long drive up to East Kentwood on Friday night and won a rematch of last year's state championship game, 7-1.

Then the Shamrocks came back on short rest Saturday morning and defeated the Midget Major Ice Dogs, 6-4, at the Arctic Pond, by netting two goals in the third period.

The two victories left the top-rated Redford CC team with a 13-1 record heading into Saturday's game against Grosse Pointe North (8 p.m., Redford Ice Arena).

The game against the Ice Dogs was difficult because CC played at 11:30 a.m. after arriving back from East Kentwood 10 hours earlier.

Brett John scored on the game's first shift, assisted by Joe Moreau and Sean Gerlich.

The Ice Dogs tied the score but Jim Spiewak, assisted by Dave Moss and Jarred Ross, put the Shamrocks briefly back in front. The Ice Dogs scored on a power play to make it 2-2.

The Ice Dogs scored their second straight power play goal to start the second period scoring and take a 3-2 lead but the Shamrocks rallied on a strong rush by Brian Williams which resulted in the tying goal being scored by Mike Ratigan. Moreau also assisted on the score.

Redford CC took a 4-3 lead for 22 seconds when Joe Hillebrand scored from the point. The Ice Dogs tied it up before anybody had a chance to get tired.

Moss took a picture pass from Ross to break the deadlock early in the third period. Spiewak also assisting. Spiewak then gave the Shamrocks an insurance goal three minutes later, assisted by Ross and John Bowers.

Ben Dunne made several excellent close-in stops late in the game to preserve the victory.

On Friday night, CC was playing the school it defeated, 2-0, to win last year's state hockey title.

But this year's CC team was simply too big and strong for East Kentwood to handle. Andrew McCoy was denied the shutout at 6:33 of the final period.

By that time it was 5-0 as Brandon Kaleniecki ended up with a goal and four assists.

Kaleniecki opened the scoring 45 seconds into the game, assisted by Ratigan and Williams. The Shamrocks scored on a power play at the 10-minute mark to make it 2-0. Moreau scored off assists by Kaleniecki and Ryan Yost.

Williams scored at 8:22 of the second period, assisted by Ratigan and Kaleniecki, and Ratigan extended the lead to 4-0 at 12:24 off assists from Andrew Eggert and Kaleniecki.

Spiewak scored on a power play at 13:24 to make it 5-0, with Moss and Yost assisting. Yost responded with a goal at 7:51 after East Kentwood scored, Kaleniecki and Moss drawing the assists. Joe Hillebrand rounded out the scoring at 13:40, assisted by Moss.

Livonia trio from page C1

Omaha. Interest in the FSU team is beginning to pick up.

"Right now we have confidence going into any game," Swider said. "We feel we have a good chance to win."

Swider also has confidence in his coach, fellow Churchill grad Daniels.

"I met him originally through camps,"

the Ferris center said. "He's a pretty easy going guy. As long as you do your job, there's no problem."

"He lets us play a little more within the system than last year. It's not restrictive. He lets our skills show through."

Osaer said "every game lately has been of playoff atmosphere."

He said the team's turnaround came at

the Silverado Shootout.

"We struggled early in the season and I think we were a little overlooked going into that tournament," Osaer said. "That was one of our preseason goals and is was a big accomplishment because those were two quality teams we defeated."


And Daniels is confident the Bulldogs have a chance to make a run in the CCHA

playoffs and gain a berth in the semifinals at Joe Louis Arena.


"I feel good about the team," said Daniels, who was three-time NAHL Coach of the Year for the Hennessey Engineers (1983-86). "I think we're right in the thick of things."

And when it comes to the NAAs, he has that Livonia legacy on his side.

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MAVE

Churchill goes south vs. North

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemons@oe.homecomm.net

After just four games in the Western Lakes Activities Activities Association boys basketball season only one team remains unbeaten — North Farmington.

On Tuesday, the host Raiders played like contenders and made Livonia Churchill look like WLAAs pretenders in a convincing 55-33 triumph.

Both teams are 6-4 overall. The loss dropped Churchill to 3-1 in the WLAAs, while North is 4-0.

The Raiders jumped out to leads of 15-1 and 22-5 in the opening quarter and Churchill could get no closer than nine points the rest of the way.

North's 2-3 matchup zone defense created havoc for the Chargers, who shot just 12 of 44 from the floor (27 percent).

"We wanted to limit them to one contested shot and out," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "We knew that Churchill had been shooting the ball well from the perimeter and they do a lot of nice things as far as setting screens to get shots off."

"I thought we had a good first half running our zone and playing in the matchup."

North's 6-foot-6 senior center Emir Medunjanin was efficient from the floor, making eight of 10 shots en route to a game-high 16 points. Three of his field goals came off dunks, including a spectacular one-handed put-back jam late in the first quarter to give the Raiders a 19-5 lead.

When Churchill collapsed inside, Medunjanin took his game outside.

"You don't see a lot of players in our league of that caliber," Churchill coach Rick Austin said. "He's a quality player for any conference. You have to respect a player like that because he has so many tools."

Medunjanin and 6-5 Adrian Bridges pretty much controlled the backboards for North, combining for 21 rebounds.

"I'm very impressed with North," Austin said. "They're a very good team, very skilled."

"We were so shaken in the first half by their aggressiveness that they took us out of our game."

North sharpshooters Phil Watha and Brian Shulman, a pair of senior guards, finished with nine and eight points, respectively. Mike Primeau came off the bench to score six.

For the game, the Raiders were a respectable 23 of 47 from the field (48.9 percent).

Meanwhile, senior forward John Bennett hit three triples and finished with 11 to pace the ice-cold Chargers. Brad Bescoe added seven.

"You can't expect to win any game shooting 12 of 44," Austin said. "Our game is outside scoring and we didn't get good looks at the basket because we played hurried."

"In the second half we caused some turnovers and had better opportunities, we just didn't make them. Give our kids credit because they didn't give up."

Although both teams have identical overall records and a common quality non-league opponent in Milford, North's pre-WLAA schedule against the likes of Detroit Renaissance, Detroit DePorres and Belleville may be paying off dividends.

"We played a tough schedule for two reasons," Negoshian said. "To see if we can be a good competitive team, plus those games mean absolutely nothing in December except getting ready for the league season."

"Right now we're just talking about playing one game at a time and trying to stay real competitive."

The Raiders play Friday at home against Farmington (8-2, 3-1) in key WLAAs matchup, while Churchill heads to Walled Lake Western (7-3, 3-1).

Zebras catch Tigers by tail in Wion's basket lifts Clarenceville to 6th straight win

The Tigers got edged Tuesday. Wayne Memorial played big-game basketball with a 71-67 overtime boys basketball victory over state-ranked Belleville.

Justin Goss led the victorious Zebras with 18 points, including five in the overtime when host Wayne outscored Belleville, 15-11.

The loss drops Belleville to 8-2 overall and 4-3 in the Mega Conference's Red Division. Wayne is 4-5 and 2-4.

Senior Jermaine Garner and junior Gary Johnson each added 18 points for the winners.

Wayne scored the first seven points in OT and made six of eight free throws, including four-of-four by senior point-guard Shane Nowak.

Senior Kevin Harrison scored 18 points to lead Belleville. Sophomore center Antoine Jordan contributed 14.

Wayne led 20-12 after one quarter, but Belleville pulled ahead 32-28 at intermission. The Zebras regained the lead after three quarters, 44-43. Belleville forced overtime at 56-51.

The Tigers made 15 of 17 free throws (88 percent), while Wayne was 16 of 28 (57 percent).

"They forced overtime and our kids could have folded, but they just kept battling," Wayne assistant coach Wayne Woodard said. "We had a tough double-overtime loss to Rouge and hopefully the kids learned from it and grow up a bit." On Friday, Wayne hosts Romulus.

CANTON 57, JOHN GLENN 48: Plymouth Carlen (3-7, 2-2) made 22 of 28 free throws Tuesday to earn the Western Lakes Activities Association victory over Westland John Glenn (2-8, 0-4).

Jason Waldmann paced the victorious Chiefs with 18 points, while Kenny Nether and Dan McLean chipped in with 12 and nine, respectively.

Canton trailed 13-10 after one quarter, but took command with a 20-2 run in the second period.

Eric Jones, a senior guard, led Glenn in scoring with 19 points. Four of his five 3-pointers came in the second half. Yaku Moton, a 6-8 senior, added 14 points.

SALEM 68, FRANKLIN 48: Nick Tochtman scored 17 points and Ryan Cook added 11 points and seven assists Tuesday as host Plymouth Salem (5-5, 2-2) cruised to the Western Lakes victory over Livonia Franklin (3-7, 1-3).

Salem led 35-18 at the half.

Nine Salem players scored. Matt McCaffrey grabbed eight rebounds.

Three Franklin players scored in double figures — Joe Ruggiero (13), Tim Borrie (12) and Mike Copeland (11).

HARRISON 81, STEVENSON 38: On Tuesday, Joe Hundley scored 16 points to propel Farmington Hills Harrison (7-3, 2-2) to the WLAAs triumph over host Livonia Stevenson (2-8, 0-4).

Keshay McChristian paced Stevenson with 15, while Chris Severson added seven.

Terrill Mayberry added nine for the Hawks, who led 28-18 at intermission and 46-28 after three quarters.

CLARENCEVILLE 82, CRANBROOK 80: Junior center Scott Wion scored 14 points, including the game-winning basket with just under 20 sec-

onds remaining Tuesday to give host Lincoln Clarenceville (7-4, 3-0) the Metro Conference win over Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (4-8, 0-3).

Clarenceville has now won six straight.

Scott Carr and Rick Burack each added 11 points for the victorious Trojans. Wion and Burack each grabbed eight rebounds.

With two minutes remaining, Clarenceville seemingly had the game in hand with a 50-44 advantage, but Cranbrook scored six straight to knot the count at 50.

Tom Wattles scored a game-high 20 points for the Cranes, while Greg Milewicz added 10 (all in the first half).

LUTH. WESTLAND 81, LUTHERAN EAST 48: Senior guard Charlie Hoel scored a game-high 25 points Tuesday, leading Lutheran (W) Westland (8-3, 2-0) to the Metro Conference win at Harper Woods Lutheran East (4-6, 1-2).

Sophomore forward Brent Hahitz contributed 10 points for the Warriors, who pulled away in the second half with a 37-17 run.

Senior guard Alex Myler led East with 14 points.

Lutheran Westland made only 14 of 29 free throws, while East was seven of 10.

"We got off to a sluggish start, but in the second half we played better defensively," Lutheran Westland coach Dan Rankin said. "The second quarter we went to a man-to-man and it picked up the tempo."

"It was a good team effort."

REDFORD CC 73, NOTRE DAME 68: Redford Catholic Central (6-5, 4-1) broke open a close game with a 29-14 fourth-quarter surge Tuesday to beat host Harper Woods Notre Dame (1-9, 1-4) in a Catholic League Central Division encounter.

Senior Rob Sparks led the victorious Sham-

rockians 32-18 in the final quarter.

Redford coach Mike Smith said, "The kids played really well. They were aggressive and we were able to control the game."

CC made 18 of 29 free throws (62 percent), while Notre Dame was 12 of 24 (50 percent).

"We played a little better defense and some shots," CC coach Mike Smith said. "We changed up our defense and got after them on court. Matt Lortie also came off with some rebounds for us in the last quarter."

Westerly Valley 48, Harrison 38: A solid fourth-quarter effort kept Westerly Valley (4-6, 2-2) from behind to the victory.

Westland guard Matt Lortie led scoring early in many games this season but Tuesday night failed to reach 20 points, 18.

"The kids felt good about this loss," coach Tod Bartholomew said. "One of the things we talked about was that we had to shoot a little more."

They did just that.

Trailing 51-46 after three quarters, Westerly Valley (2-7) erupted for 16 points in the fourth quarter while holding without a second-half shot (0-9) to just four.

"We executed in the fourth quarter," Bartholomew said. "We were patient and they played a whole game. It was nice and the kids felt good."

Alan Klairke paced the Hawks with 26 points. Tony Mroz added 13 and Jeremy Huxley got in 10. Furon Valley is now 1-2 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Joe Nothdurf led Macomb, 64 in MAC play, with 19 points.

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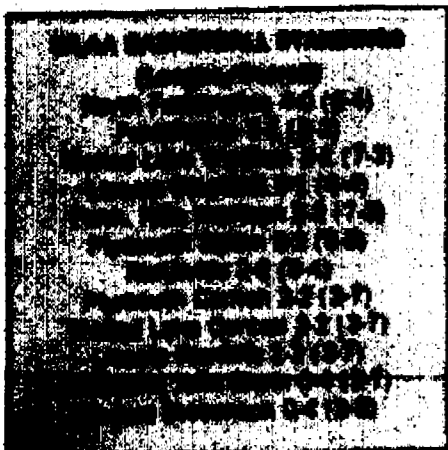
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SPORTS ROUNDUP

ROCKERS HONOR SCICLUNA
On Friday night, the Detroit Rockers will recognize the outstanding accomplishments of two of the biggest names in Michigan soccer.

Kate Sobrero (Bloomfield Hills), a standout defender on the World Cup champion U.S. National Team, will sign autographs at the Palace of Auburn Hills from 5:30-6:30 p.m. prior to the National Professional Soccer League game between Detroit and the Milwaukee Wave. (Game time is 7:05 p.m.)

Sobrero is a graduate of Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day and played four years at Notre Dame where she led the Fighting Irish to four Final Four appearances, including the 1995 NCAA championship. She is now attending graduate school classes at the University of Texas while continuing her soccer training.

Sobrero will also honor the memory of Paul Scicluna, the former Eastern Michigan University women's soccer coach who died in a car accident last year.

Scicluna coached Sobrero and the Michigan Hawks '76 squad to numerous state cup championships. Scicluna, a key figure in the genesis of the Olympic Development Program, will be remembered at halftime. The Rockers will donate part of the proceeds of Friday's game to EMU's Paul Scicluna Memorial Fund.

Scicluna coached at Livonia Bentley and Redford Catholic Central high schools and was part of the original management group of the Rockers in 1990. The soccer pioneer also was vice president and partner in Total Soccer, a chain of indoor facilities.

Nephew Tino Scicluna is currently a member of the Rock-

ers. For ticket information, call (248) 366-6254.

CRUSADERS ADD 2 SPIKERS
Kate LeBlanc, a 5-foot-11 middle hitter from Livonia Stevenson, and Natalie Sayre, a 5-8 setter from Grand Rapids Junior College, will play next season for the Madonna University women's volleyball team.

Sayre, a native of Phoenix, Ariz. who prepped at Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central High School, led Grand Rapids JC to the NJCAA Region 12 finals. She also earned all Region 12 honors.

Sayre and LeBlanc are the second and third recruits to sign letters-of-intent. The other is coach Jerry Abraham's niece, Amanda Suder, a first-team All-Observer selection from Plymouth Salem.

FRANKLIN NEEDS SWIM COACH
Livonia Franklin is seeking a varsity boys swim coach for the 2000-2001 season after the dismissal last week of second-year coach Jen Accra.

Girls varsity coach Angela Peecher will serve in the interim and be assisted by Jack Rossi.

Those interested should contact Franklin athletic director Dan Freeman at (734) 523-9317.

ICE CUBES WIN GOLD
The Livonia Ice Cubes, a synchronized skating team from Edgar Arena, recently captured a pair of gold medals.

The Ice Cubes, coached by Colleen Hall and Dawn Forgas, finished first last weekend at the Westland Ice Arena and on Dec. 4 at the Wayne Ice Arena.

Members of the Ice Cubes (ages 7-11), all from the Livonia area, include Michelle Allmayer, Alexa Anglin, Alison Barna, Erin Donahue, Paige

Harter, Chelsea Hoyer, Kayleigh Kavanaugh, Julie Lavier, Sara Lavier, Claire LeBlanc, Elizabeth McGowan, Ashley Mitchell, Chelsea Pinkerton, Rachel Prokop, Meghan Reid and Rebecca Sadler.

MADONNA SOFTBALL TOURNEY
Spots remain available for high school teams interested in competing in the second annual 16-team Madonna Classic High School Softball Tournament, Saturday-Sunday, May 20-21, at the Canton Softball Center.

Each team is guaranteed at least three games. Interested coaches should call MU women's softball coach Al White at (734) 432-5783.

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUES
The Michigan Youth Basketball of America is seeking organized teams for its boys 12- and 14-and-under leagues. The eight-to-10 game season will start Sunday, Feb. 27.

The cost is \$60 (league fee), \$10 per player and \$30 coach. Entry deadline is today (Jan. 27).

For more information, call the Michigan YBOA office at (517) 484-0333 (between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday).

ST. EDITH FOOTBALL SIGN-UP
Football registration and open house for the St. Edith Eagles football program will be 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13 at the school's gym.

All boys entering grades 3-8 this fall are invited to attend with their parents to meet the coaches and sign up for the 2000 season.

A freshman team, which will play a separate game schedule for boys in grades 3-4, has been added. St. Edith also offers varsity and junior varsity teams.

For more information, call Brad Dickey at (734) 542-0621

or Paul Hess at (248) 442-0238.

SUPER BOWL 5K RACE
The Super Bowl 5-kilometer run will be at 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at the Running Fit Store, located in the Novi Town Center (Novi Road just south of I-96).

The entry fee (before Jan. 25) is \$16. Race day registration is \$20 per person. Entry forms are available on the web site: runmichigan.com.

Runners will receive a T-shirt, refreshments and age-group awards. Proceeds will go to the Michigan Running Foundation's scholarship fund.

For more information, call (248) 478-3596.

WINTERFEST RUN ON FEB. 13
The Riverview Winterfest, a 4-mile run sponsored by the Downriver Runners, will be at 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 13 at Seitz Junior High in Riverview.

The \$14 entry fee (before Feb. 6) includes pancake breakfast, long-sleeve shirt, raffle, awards and mailed race results.

Late registration (Feb. 7-12) is \$15 at Total Runner in Southgate. Race day registration is \$18 at Seitz, located on the corner of Williamsburg and Kennebec (between Pennsylvania and Sibley, and Allen Road and Fort Street).

Money will be awarded to the top male and female finishers. For more information, call (734) 282-1101 or (248) 354-1177.

YOUTH BASEBALL TRYOUTS
The Michigan Lake Area Rams amateur baseball organization will be conducting interviews and tryouts Feb. 1-18 for its 2000 13- and 14-year-old travel federation team.

For more information, call (248) 737-9138 or (248) 330-7899.

Ocelots' DAY AFTER

Not all those numbers in the Delta and Delta CC scores are impressive. In fact, the team putting those figures on the scoreboard is an offensive juggernaut.

Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team is that. It's also a pretty good defensive team, something the Ocelots put on display against Delta CC.

SC limited the Pioneers to 15 first-half points in building a 28-point lead by the intermission; the second half didn't get any better for Delta, which lost 83-46 Saturday at SC.

The win improved the Ocelots' record to 14-4 overall and kept them perfect in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference at 7-0 and a two-game lead over Flint West CC.

Delta slipped to 10-7 overall, 4-3 in the conference. Disciplinary action kept SC's Robert Brown and Lamar Bigby from starting, but it didn't keep them from contributing — big time.

Brown still scored 13 first-half points (he finished with 20); Bigby had seven in the opening half and 17 for the game.

Mike Williams added 13 points and Gilbert Mitchell and Dwight Windom each scored eight.

Delta was limited to using eight players, which didn't help its chances against the fast-paced Ocelot attack.

Only four Pioneers scored, led by Sebastian Murray's 19 points and Nate Nard's 16.

Against Delta CC, the Ocelots' offense was led by Mike Williams, who scored 17 points and 14 rebounds, and Chad Schaba, who had 13 points.

Tim Wasilk and Kyle Veslin scored eight points apiece, with Wasilk adding seven assists and three steals and Veslin dishing out six assists.

The Crusaders were led by Mike Massey's 18 points (including four three-pointers); he also had three assists.

Chad Putnam (from Redford Thurston) added 15 points and six rebounds, Jason Skonias had 14 points, 11 boards, four assists and two steals, and Dan Kurtianaitis contributed 13 points, eight boards and three assists.

Madonna trailed by 10 at the half and was outscored by nine in the second half. Courtney Norman added 17 points and 14 rebounds, and Chad Schaba had 13 points. Tim Wasilk and Kyle Veslin scored eight points apiece, with Wasilk adding seven assists and three steals and Veslin dishing out six assists.

The Crusaders were led by Mike Massey's 18 points (including four three-pointers); he also had three assists. Chad Putnam (from Redford Thurston) added 15 points and six rebounds, Jason Skonias had 14 points, 11 boards, four assists and two steals, and Dan Kurtianaitis contributed 13 points, eight boards and three assists.

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OBERVERLAND MAT RANKINGS

OBSERVERLAND RANKINGS

TEAM: 1. Redford Catholic Central; 2. Plymouth Salem; 3. Plymouth Canton; 4. Livonia Stevenson; 5. Garden City.

INDIVIDUAL WEIGHT CLASSES

103 pounds: 1. Kyle Pitt (Canton); 2. Kyle Malo (Churchill); 3. Mike Goethe (Salem); 4. Harry Leipsitz (North Farmington); 5. Sean Bennett (Livonia Franklin).

112: 1. Josh Gunterman (Stevenson); 2. Chris O'Hara (Redford CC); 3. Dan Tondreau (Livonia Clarenceville); 4. Chris Smith (Westland John Glenn); 5. Steve Lenhardt (Churchill).

119: 1. Ron Thompson (Salem); 2. Pat Sayn (GC); 3. Jon Simmons (Farmington); 4. David Teets (John Glenn); 5. Paul Goyt (Wayne Memorial).

125: 1. John Mervyn (Franklin); 2. Rob Ash (Salem); 3. Jon Gregg (Wayne Memorial); 4. Vinnie Zoccoli (Garden City); 5. Chris Hoseny (Canton).

130: 1. Jeff Albrecht (John Glenn); 2. Jesse Stevens (Redford Union); 3. Brian Marsh (Wayne); 4. Brian Reed (GC); 5. Greg Musser (Canton).

135: 1. Jeff Wheeler (Redford CC); 2. Steve Dendrinos (Salem); 3. Brandon Templeton (GC); 4. Allen Waddell (John Glenn); 5. Jamie Bair (RU).

140: 1. Josh Henderson (Salem); 2. Jon Pocock (Canton); 3. Josh Fee (Garden City); 4. Jay Abshire (Redford CC); 5. Trevor Clark (N. Farmington).

145: 1. Jeff Usher (Redford

Thurston); 2. Steve Abar (Churchill); 3. Joe Faraoni (Canton); 4. Matt Barker (John Glenn); 5. Chris Coopridger (Stevenson).

152: 1. Mike Carter (Churchill); 2. Imad Kharbush (Stevenson); 3. Chris Wolfgang (John Glenn); 4. Mark Ostach (Farmington); 5. Scott McKee (Canton).

160: 1. Mitch Hancock (Redford CC); 2. Mike Falzon (Stevenson); 3. Eric Toska (Franklin); 4. Eric Kelley (RU); 5. Brian Jones (Churchill).

171: 1. Ryan Rogowski (Redford CC); 2. John MacFarland (Stevenson); 3. Ben Lukas (Farmington); 4. Craig Medos (GC); 5. Jose Aguilar (Clarenceville).

189: 1. Kalen McPherson (Clarenceville); 2. Dave Popeney (Salem); 3. Phil Rothwell (Canton); 4. Eric Puninske (Stevenson); 5. Jon Burkee (Lutheran Westland).

215: 1. Ollie Muscarella (RU); 2. Nick Smith (Wayne); 3. Kyle Domagalski (Farmington); 4. Ozzi Wagner (Canton); 5. Steve Rotenheber (Clarenceville).

Heavyweight: 1. Josh Rose (Clarenceville); 2. Aaron Parr (Redford CC); 3. Brian Brinsden (Farmington); 4. Derek McWatt (Canton); 5. Brad Tinney (GC).

Note: The weekly Observerland wrestling rankings are compiled by a panel of four coaches including Bob Moreau (Stevenson); Marty Altounian (Churchill); Jim Carlin (RU) and Dave Chiola (GC).

Observerland from page C1

much of the season at 171, but he has switched weights with sophomore Ryan Rogowski, who was No. 1 at 160.

"(Mitch) is focused; he's really on fire," Rodriguez said, adding Hancock is the "man to beat this year," not just in Observerland but the state. Hancock has beaten the wrestler who defeated him in the state finals last year, Rodriguez added.

"Rogowski has a good sparring partner. He has Mitch to work with, and that doesn't hurt you. He's a hard worker in his own right. He's going to give people fits, more so next year. He's just starting to grow."

Six wrestlers who were runners-up last year will be competing again, too. They are (with 1999 weights in parentheses) Farmington's Brian Brinsden (275), CC's Chris O'Hara (103), Canton's Greg Musser (125), Glenn's Jeff Albrecht (130), Stevenson's Mike Falzon (140) and Clarenceville's Kalen McPherson (215).

CC senior Jeff Wheeler is No. 1 at 135, and sophomore Jay Abshire is a contender at 140. Senior Sean Bell (145) is hurt and won't wrestle Saturday.

"(Wheeler) is just starting to shine and believe in himself," Rodriguez said. "He found himself this year with his technique; he has great shots. He's going to be tested by this boy (Steve Dendrinos) from Salem, though."

Canton has eight individuals in the weekly rankings, including senior Kyle Pitt, who is 26-0 and No. 1 at 103. Musser, a sophomore, has a 22-5 record, and senior Jon Pocock (140) is 24-2.

"The only bad day (Pitt) had is when he major decisioned someone," Demick said. "Other than that, he's just gone through everyone."

"Jon is a very strong wrestler and, although he has some obstacles he'll have to overcome, he could take first."

"Everybody on our team can place. There are some weight classes we're not going to have a real strong showing but, really, all can place."

Garden City, which finished third last year, is fifth in the area rankings and, with eight wrestlers among the top five at their weights, is a contender to earn another team trophy. The Cougars are 11-1 in duals.

"If we wrestle well, we'll go top five, maybe."

Garden City coach Dave Chiola said, adding the Cougars will be without 103-pound Scott Massey, who is away on a school field trip. "I haven't seen (CC), but other people tell me they're pretty solid and they're going to be tough to beat."

"This is one of my favorite tournaments, because all the coaches know each other well and it's good, friendly competition. I look forward to it every year."

Garden City's Pat Sayn (119), Vinnie Zoccoli (125) and Josh Fee (140) have more than 25 wins apiece, as does Massey. Brandon Templeton (135) and Craig Medos (171) have over 20 each, and Brian Reed (130) might surprise some people, according to Chiola.

Stevenson's Falzon has a 23-6 record, John MacFarland (171) 22-4 and Bill Bullock (119) 20-11. The Spartans might be minus heavyweight Dan Hine, who also has a bruised ankle.

"To upset CC, we're going to have everything going in the right direction," Smith said. "That's a perfect day."

"This tournament is won and lost in the consolation finals. That brings up a lot of points when you have guys placing third and fourth."

"I would think we can finish in the top three. We're shooting for February. We try to peak then and that's the way we train. If we're lucky to be in the top three, that's a bonus."

Salem's team has sufficiently recovered from a recent bout with ring worm to be a factor in the tournament, according to Wochuk.

"From the original onset, we still have some kids out," he said. "We can't even have them in the room. We got two back who haven't been in the room for two weeks."

"I don't know if other schools go to this extreme, but we go to great lengths to keep it out of the room. We don't have much depth because of it; we're a little thin in some places."

The Rocks are led by Ron Thompson and Josh Henderson, who are ranked first at 119 and 140, respectively. Thompson is 20-3 and Henderson 18-5. Rob Ash, who is second at 125 behind former Salem wrestler John Mervyn, is 24-1.

"We're tough at the bottom, and we thin out at the top, as far as experience, except for Mike Popeney," Wochuk said.

Vertical list of wrestling events and results, including names of schools and dates.

Host Stevenson matmen runners-up in team dual

Livonia Stevenson finished second in its own team dual wrestling tournament Saturday.

The Spartans defeated Romulus, 38-28, and Rochester, 56-15, but lost to South Lyon, 41-31. South Lyon won all three of its matches.

Imad Kharbush, one of five Stevenson wrestlers to win all three bouts, was named the most valuable wrestler.

The 152-pound Kharbush defeated South Lyon's Mike Chandler, a state placer last year, 8-5. He also won a 6-3 decision against Romulus and pinned (3:53) his Rochester opponent in 3:53.

Stevenson's Josh Gunterman, who wrestled two bouts at 112 and one at 103, Matt Radley (140), Mike Falzon (160) and John MacFarland (171) also were 3-0 on the day.

The Spartans are 11-4-1 overall in dual meets.

Patriots' Toska earns 1st place

Livonia Franklin's Eric Toska won all four of his matches by pin en route to the 171-pound title at the Rochester Adams Invitational.

Toska is now 10-3 on the year. Franklin's Arik Wicketts (130) won

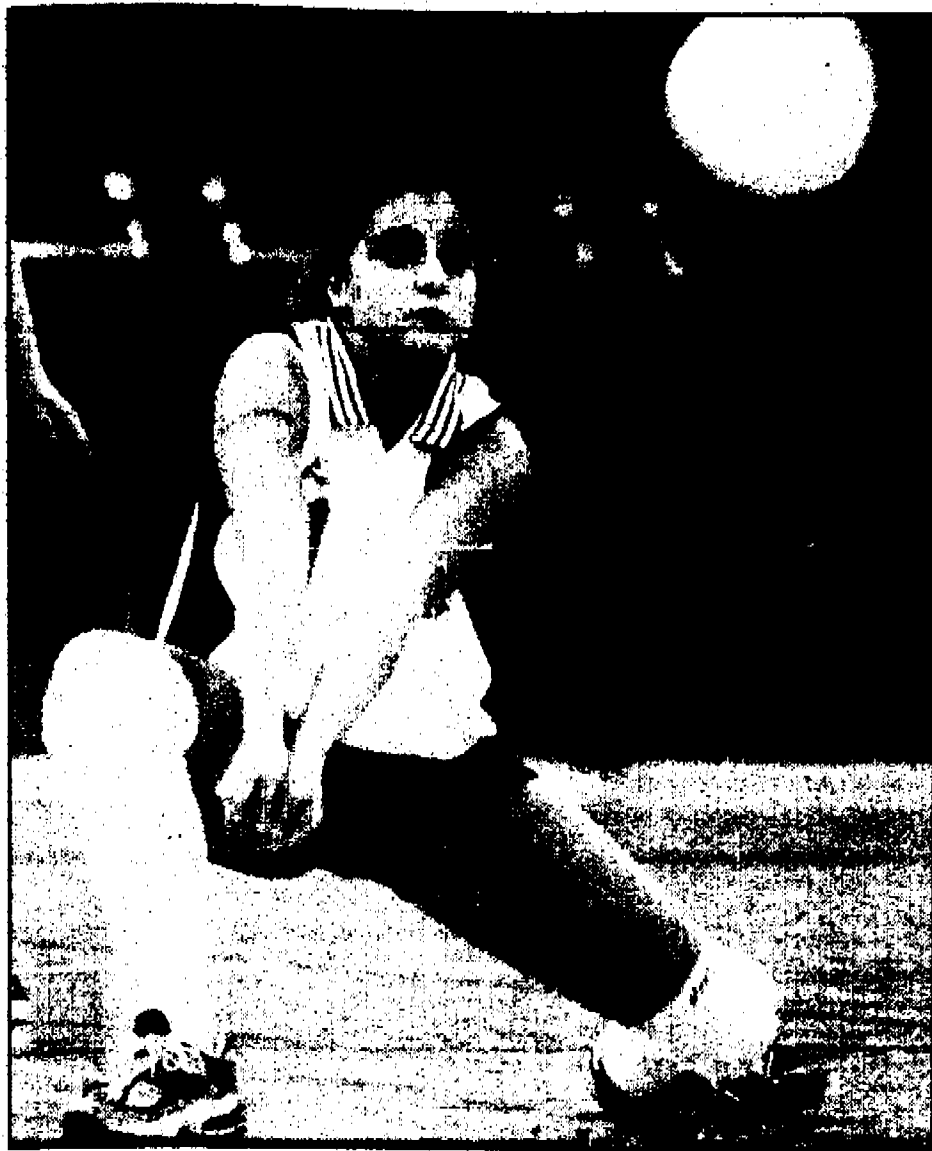
three of four matches to take third place at 130. Teammate James Azzopardi (145) finished 2-2 to earn a fourth.

The host Highlanders captured the team title. Franklin finished seventh in the eight-team field.

On Jan. 20, Franklin edged rival Livonia Churchill in a Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division dual meet, 36-35.

TigerFest 2000 advertisement featuring a large 'TigerFest 2000' logo, event details for Saturday, January 29 at Cobo Arena, and a list of participating Detroit Tigers players.

Ugliest Bathroom Contest advertisement featuring a cartoon illustration of a shocked person, event details for February 3-6, 2000 at Novi Expo Center, and a list of prizes including a \$10,000 dream bathroom.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Getting ready: Livonia Clarenceville's Vera Skrela digs one off the floor against Redford Union.

Panthers rally past C'ville spikers

Once the Panthers got used to the noise, they made some noise of their own.

Redford Union's volleyball team was stunned by the decibel level in the Livonia Clarenceville gym Monday night.

The result? A 15-0 victory in the first game for the host Trojans.

"Their gym was so loud," Coach Vicki Toth said, "they definitely blew us away in the first game with their intensity and fan support."

But then Redford Union settled down in the non-league match.

The Panthers revived for 15-10 and 15-5 victories in the next two games to take the match and improve to 3-2 this season.

"The second and third games proved just how mentally tough we've become as a team," Toth said. "It took a tremendous amount of strength to come back

and fight for the win after being shut out in the first game.

"The first game only took about 10 minutes. Clarenceville played with total intensity and a true desire to win.

"They seemed like they were playing for a conference championship. I was very impressed. We didn't even have time to respond; it was as if we were just allowing them to stomp us. It was a serious wake-up call."

Bernadette Merriman came up with 11 digs and added four kills while Nicol McCausland had 10 digs, six kills and two blocks.

"She made smart decisions at crucial points," Toth said of McCausland. "She is maturing as a player and coming out of her shell at a rapid pace."

Toth cited her front line for dominating the match's final two games.

"The girls have finally realized that you must stay mentally

tough to pull through for the win," she said.

Setter Megan Kelley had 26 assists and 10 digs while Erin Lizura ran off a string of points that almost reached 10 in the third game.

Amy Walker had 10 digs, six kills and five blocks while Debbie Hitt had six kills plus six blocks and Amanda Lippe made eight digs.

Spartans trim Chiefs

Livonia Stevenson defeated Plymouth Canton, 15-12, 15-9, Monday night in a Western Lakes Activities Association volleyball match.

The teams then played a third game and Canton won, 15-1.

The Spartans are now 2-1 in the WLAA, 20-5-2 overall.

Katie Drews led the Stevenson attackers with six kills. Kate

LeBlanc and Cassie Ehlerdt had five apiece and Carly Wadsworth knocked down four.

Kelley Hutchins set the ball for 18 kills and was 11-for-11 serving with two aces. Julie Pfeifer recorded a team-best five digs.

Megan Urbats was 6-for-7 serving with an ace while Abby Schrader had an ace in 5-for-5 serving.

Hawks soar to 4-1

Westland Huron Valley Lutheran improved to 4-1 overall and 3-0 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference with a 15-5, 15-2 victory over Macomb Christian at St. Paul in Livonia.

Stacie Graves served nine points in a row during the second game. Rachel Zahn contributed five kills.

COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S HOOPS

Aquinas marches past MU in Wolverine-Hoosier game

One losing streak ended. Another was extended. And it all boiled down to one bad stretch for Madonna University's women's basketball team, which lost at Aquinas College Saturday 65-61.

The defeat, Madonna's second in a row, put its overall record at 8-10, 2-4 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. The Saints ended a two-game tailspin, improving to 11-7 overall and 3-3 in the WHAC.

The Lady Crusaders were leading Aquinas College 55-47 midway through the second half; it was their largest lead of the game.

Unfortunately, the Saints answered with their best offensive streak of the game, outscoring Madonna 16-2 to reverse the situation and put themselves up 63-57. The Crusaders could never respond.

Michelle Mielke paced Madonna with 19 points, making 5-of-7 three-point tries. Chris Dietrich added 13 points (including three triples), seven rebounds, four assists and three steals; Kristi Fiorenzi collected eight points and five rebounds; and Carissa Gizicki totaled six points, nine boards and four steals.

The Saints were led by Nicole Mielhke with 14 points, 10 rebounds, five assists, four steals and four blocked shots. Renee Boltho finished with 12 points. Julie Murray scored 11 (with nine rebounds, five assists and four steals).

Turnovers proved to be a key factor in the game. Madonna had 25, with their starting five combining for 20 of them; Aquinas had 17.

Delta CC upends Lady Ocelots

Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team kept battling back Saturday against visiting Delta CC, but could never quite catch the Pioneers in falling, 75-67.

The loss left the Lady Ocelots at 5-9 overall, 4-3 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference. Delta is 11-5 overall, 6-1 in the conference.

SC trailed 33-31 at the half, then fell behind by 10 with 7:30 remaining. The Ocelots trimmed that deficit to four with 3:25 to play but could draw no closer.

Antone Watson topped SC with 22 points, six rebounds and five assists; she converted four three-pointers. Janelle Olson added 13 points. Carla Saxton and Angelica Blakely scored 11 apiece and Carly Wright pulled down nine rebounds.

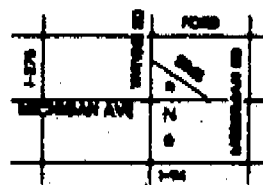
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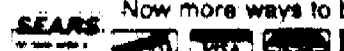
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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING RESULTS

28th annual WESTERN WAYNE INVITATIONAL BOYS SWIM MEET Jan. 21-22 at Wayne Memorial TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Westland John Glenn, 217 points; 2. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 215; 3. Wayne Memorial, 210; 4. Wyandotte Roosevelt, 196; 5. Trenton, 163; 6. Garden City, 152; 7. Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 84; 8. (tie) Dearborn Heights Crestwood and Livonia Franklin, 61 each. FINAL RESULTS 200-yard medley relay: 1. John Glenn (Garrett Stone, Dan Zoumbaris, Dan Fowler, Corey Marschall), 1:52.12; 2. Wayne, 1:55.05; 3. Wyandotte, 1:58.07; 4. Garden City, 1:56.31; 5. Edsel Ford, 1:56.83; 6. Crestwood, 2:02.41. 200 freestyle: 1. Matt Barrette (DHA), 1:53.82; 2. Chauncey Brown (WRI), 1:57.22; 3. Nick Martineau (DEF), 1:57.9; 4. Brian Dworkin (T), 2:00.76; 5. Scott Bernhardt (GC), 2:02.67; 6. Jeremy Johnston (WM), 2:07.22. 200 individual medley: 1. Stone (WJG), 2:13.43; 2. Bob Donaldson (DEF), 2:16.86; 3. Brad Bagozzi (DHC), 2:21.6; 4. Jon Cutting (DEF), 2:24.53; 5. Chris Webber (WM), 2:27.66; 6. Josh Raub (WM), 2:29.9. 50 freestyle: 1. Zoumbaris (WJG), 23.89; 2. Greg Sarkoz (WM), 23.93; 3. Terry

Jamieson (WRI), 24.42; 4. Brandon Gostomski (T), 24.57; 5. George Harris (WR), 24.82; 6. Mike Stafiej (WM), 26.06. Diving (11 attempts): 1. Chris Totten (GC), 474.60 (meet and pool record); 2. Jeff Tallman (WM), 407.05; 3. Chris McFarland (WJG), 366.50; 4. Scott Clark (WJG), 356.95; 5. Brad Carroll (T), 310.60; 6. Ken Douglass (LF), 296.45. 100 butterfly: 1. Ian Fisher (WRI), 1:03.54; 2. Joe Alfien (GC), 1:03.93; 3. Dworkin (T), 1:04.12; 4. Nick Skinner (T), 1:06.65; 5. Joe Randall (LF), 1:10.46; 6. Chris Lalonde (T), 1:11.19. 100 freestyle: 1. Brown (WR), 51.66; 2. Gostomski (T), 53.07; 3. Jamieson (WRI), 54.48; 4. Sarkoz (WM), 54.61; 5. Kyle Scott

(WMI), 55.58; 6. Jeff Anderson (WJG), 56.85. 500 freestyle: 1. Martineau (DEF), 5:23.84; 2. Paul Nuznov (DEF), 5:31.9; 3. Johnston (WM), 5:39.95; 4. Bernhardt (GC), 5:40.01; 5. Mike Robertson (DHA), 5:46.37; 6. Chris Jacobs (DEF), 5:55.76. 200 freestyle relay: 1. Wyandotte, 1:36.49; 2. John Glenn, 1:39.38; 3. Wayne, 1:39.6; 4. Trenton, 1:39.64; 5. Edsel Ford, 1:44.38; 6. Garden City, 1:45.53. 100 backstroke: 1. Barrette (DHA), 57.98; 2. Bagozzi (DHC), 1:01.23; 3. Stone (WJG), 1:01.67; 4. Cutting (DEF), 1:02.54; 5. Alfien (GC), 1:04.53; 6. Webber (WM), 1:05.61. 100 breaststroke: 1. Skinner (T), 1:05.0; 2. Zoumbaris (WJG), 1:08.67; 3. Raub (WM), 1:09.94; 4. Donaldson (DEF), 1:11.25; 5. Ian

Hector (WR), 1:13.98; 6. Dan Wince (GC), 1:15.87. 400 freestyle relay: 1. Wyandotte, 3:40.01; 2. Trenton, 3:42.75; 3. Edsel Ford, 3:46.32; 4. John Glenn, 3:48.78; 5. Wayne, 3:48.85; 6. Garden City, 3:50.24. DUAL MEET RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 109 SOUTH LYON 78 Jan. 25 at John Glenn 200-yard freestyle: Garrett Stone (WJG), 2:05.2; 50 freestyle: Dan Zoumbaris (WJG), 24.3; diving: Chris McFarland (WJG), 214.05 points; 100 butterfly: Dan Fowler (WJG), 1:11.3; 200 freestyle relay: John Glenn (Jeff Anderson, Corey Marschall, Stone, Zoumbaris), 1:40.5; 100 backstroke: Stone (WJG),

1:04.7; 400 freestyle relay: John Glenn (Jeff Ballard, Fowler, Anderson, Marschall), 4:03.3. John Glenn's dual meet record: 2-3 overall. DEARBORN EDSSEL FORD 100 WAYNE MEMORIAL 82 Jan. 26 at Wayne 50-yard freestyle: Greg Sarkoz (WM), 23.78; diving: Jeff Tallman (WM), 233.95 (new school record); 200 freestyle relay: Wayne (Sarkoz, Kyle Scott, Jeremy Johnston, Mike Stafiej), 1:42.40; 100 breaststroke: Josh Raub (WM), 1:09.72. Wayne's dual meet record: 4-2 overall. LIVONIA STEVENSON 109 PLYMOUTH CANTON 77 Jan. 26 at Stevenson 200-yard medley relay: Stevenson (Robert

Cambridge, Jeff Darty, Mike Nemer, Andrew Koritnik), 1:50.04; 200 freestyle: Joe Bublitz (LS), 1:48.36; 200 individual medley: Brad Nelson (PC), 2:08.22; 50 freestyle: Brad Buckler (LS), 23.93; diving: Blake Brunner (PC), 184.10; 100 butterfly: Bublitz (LS), 54.29; 100 freestyle: Nelson (PC), 51.94; 500 freestyle: Cambridge (LS), 5:17.20; 200 freestyle relay: Stevenson (Bublitz, Buckler, Justin Ketterer, Brandon Truscott), 1:35.87; 100 backstroke: Eric Dabkowski (LS), 1:03.31; 100 breaststroke: Kevin van Tien (LS), 1:04.11; 400 freestyle relay: Stevenson (Bublitz, Buckler, Ketterer, Cambridge), 3:33.96. Dual meet records: Stevenson, 3-2 overall; Canton, 2-3 overall.

BEST BOYS TEAMS

The following is a list of the best Observerland boys swimming times and diving scores. Coaches should report updates to Dan O'Meara by fax at (734) 591-7279 or voice mail at (734) 953-2141.

- 200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY Livonia Stevenson 1:43.11 North Farmington 1:43.46 Plymouth Salem 1:44.76 Redford Catholic Central 1:45.19 Farmington Unified 1:50.32 200 FREESTYLE Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 1:48.36 Nick Markou (Redford CC) 1:53.54 Brandon Digia (N. Farmington) 1:53.76 Ben Dzalek (Salem) 1:54.84 Justin Ketterer (Stevenson) 1:55.26 Brian Mertens (Salem) 1:55.28 Devin Hopper (Farm. Unified) 1:56.44 Jim Ross (Salem) 1:56.96 Darryl Price (Farm. Unified) 1:56.96 Jim Gabriel (N. Farmington) 1:56.34 200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 2:00.17 Andrew Carlin (Redford CC) 2:06.89 Eric Lynn (Salem) 2:07.43 Brad Nelson (Canton) 2:08.22 Mike Nemer (Stevenson) 2:09.51 Ben Dzalek (Salem) 2:10.38 Brett Meconis (Redford CC) 2:11.00 Aaron Shelton (Salem) 2:11.38 Mike Kruszewski (Redford CC) 2:12.33 Geoff Lowrie (Stevenson) 2:12.84 50 FREESTYLE Ed Lesnau (Redford CC) 23.13 Brandon Digia (N. Farmington) 23.23 Mike Johnson (Salem) 23.43 Dan Jones (Salem) 23.69 Dan Zoumbaris (John Glenn) 23.69 Brett Meconis (Redford CC) 23.76 Greg Sarkoz (Wayne) 23.78 Jim Gabriel (N. Farmington) 23.81 Brad Buckler (Stevenson) 23.90 Jon Zaid (N. Farmington) 24.06 DIVING Greg Brazunas (Redford CC) 241.05 Jeff Tallman (Wayne) 233.95 Chris McFarland (John Glenn) 214.05 Greg Kubicki (Salem) 210.85 Kory Stevens (Redford CC) 198.00 Blake Brunner (Canton) 184.10 Jon Vincent (N. Farmington) 183.05 Joe Rohde (Redford CC) 174.05 Jason Zykowski (Stevenson) 167.00 Jared Goldman (N. Farmington) 155.45 100 BUTTERFLY Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 54.29 Brett Meconis (Redford CC) 56.02 Adam Farber (N. Farmington) 55.81 Bryant Steaks (Redford CC) 56.18 Ben Dzalek (Salem) 57.45 Andrew Carlin (Redford CC) 57.99 Eric Lynn (Salem) 58.47 Devin Hopper (Farm. Unified) 58.89 Rob Cambridge (Stevenson) 58.99 Brandon Truscott (Stevenson) 59.79 100 FREESTYLE Brandon Digia (N. Farmington) 50.56 Ed Lesnau (Redford CC) 50.78 Devin Hopper (Farm. Unified) 51.42 Mark Wirthoff (Salem) 51.82 Bryant Steaks (Redford CC) 52.97 Brad Nelson (Canton) 53.89 Aaron Shelton (Salem) 54.20 Andrew Carlin (Redford CC) 54.79 Brett Meconis (Redford CC) 55.29 Nick Markou (Redford CC) 55.36 500 FREESTYLE Robert Cambridge (Stevenson) 4:56.41 Brian Mertens (Salem) 5:00.07 Justin Ketterer (Stevenson) 5:00.20 Andrew Carlin (Redford CC) 5:12.28 Devin Hopper (Farm. Unified) 5:23.99 Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 5:24.38 Corey Price (Farm. Unified) 5:25.88 Dan Zoumbaris (WJG) 5:26.88 Dan Fowler (WJG) 5:27.88

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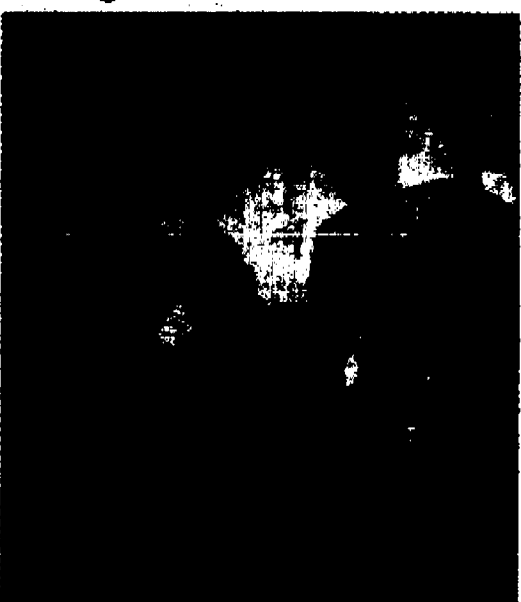
THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



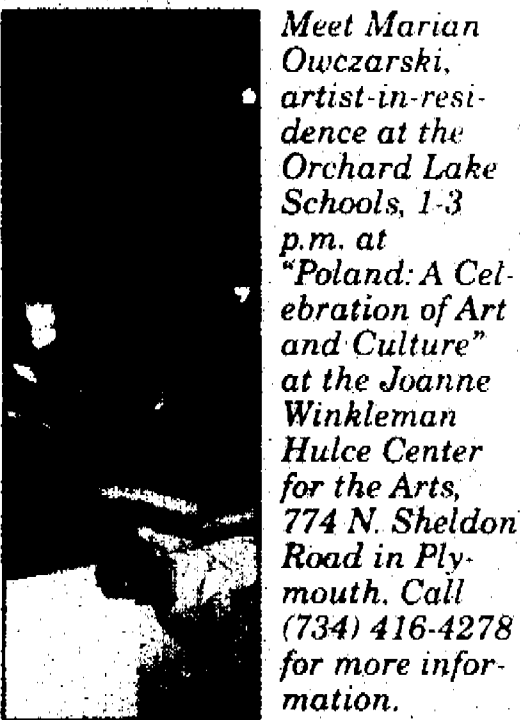
Bette Midler stars as flamboyant celebrity author Jacqueline Susann and Nathan Lane as her devoted husband and manager Irving Mansfield in "Isn't She Great" opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY



The Ann Arbor Folk Festival, 6 p.m. at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, features Arlo Guthrie, Shawn Colvin, Great Big Sea, Beth Nielsen Chapman, Hot Club of Cowtown (pictured), Anne Hills, Fred Eaglesmith, David Barrett, Matt Watroba and Robert Jones. Tickets \$30, \$25, call (734) 763-TKTS or (248) 645-6666.

SUNDAY



Meet Marian Owcarski, artist-in-residence at the Orchard Lake Schools, 1-3 p.m. at "Poland: A Celebration of Art and Culture" at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon Road in Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278 for more information.



Hot Ticket Item: It's an exciting day on Sesame Street when Prairie Dawn gathers her friends and stages "When I Grow Up," a Sesame Street Live pageant about growing up playing with Sesame Street. Jan. 30 at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Tickets \$25, \$16, \$14 and \$10 available at the box office and all Ticketmaster locations. Call (313) 853-8811 for showtimes and other information, or online at www.ticketmaster.com. To charge tickets, call (484) 433-1515, or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Of MICE And MEN

FARMINGTON PLAYERS REVISIT THE 1930S

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.hometown.net

A longtime fan of John Steinbeck, Suzanne Rogers thinks the Nobel Prize-winning author would be pleased that the Farmington Players are opening their run "Of Mice and Men" with a benefit for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen on Friday, Feb. 4. Directed by Rogers and produced by Mary Ann Tweedie, the riveting drama revisits the depressed era of the 1930s.

"We've done a lot of research, trying to be true to Steinbeck and as authentic as we can to what he was trying to say and also true to the times — these migrant workers and what life must have been like for them," said Rogers, who joined the Farmington Players 20 years ago. "Steinbeck's career started in the '20s. He's done some of the work his characters do — migrant worker. Until the late '30s when he became known, he really lived the struggling artist's life."

"The Capuchins started the soup kitchen when the stock market crashed and they wanted to do something about hunger in Detroit. The Capuchins will be providing home baked bread from their kitchen that night. It's a Depression party with a simple meal that might be reminiscent of that time. In keeping with the show and neighborliness, we're going to have hearty, comfort foods prepared by some of the members. It's really different for us, a groundswell effort from our own ranks."

Phil Hadley plays Slim in the pro-

duction. He agrees that tying the benefit to the drama is a natural. So is the exhibit of artworks by Nora Mendoza, which continues through the run of the show. The West Bloomfield artist's "Migrant Worker" series captures the dismal living and working conditions in the camps and fields. Known internationally for her socially conscious paintings, Mendoza will be on hand for the opening.

"Of Mice and Men takes place in the depression and deals with less fortunate people and that's what the Capuchin Soup Kitchen does," said Hadley. "It's timeless. The dream has a hope for the future."

Benefit performance

The Capuchin benefit is the second this season. Proceeds from a fund-raiser for the opening of "The Women" on Nov. 5 went to the breast cancer program at Henry Ford Health System's Josephine Ford Cancer Center. Both events are part of a plan to give back to the community in return for help in building a new theater facility for the Farmington Players.

The dairy barn, which has been the Farmington Players' home for 45 years, comes down after the "Kiss Me Kate" production in May and a gala benefit in June. Groundbreaking for the single level, barrier free facility will be held in July. The new facility is scheduled to open the 2001-02 season. It will seat 240, compared to 170 now. It will be a place for all members of the community to gather. Hadley, a Players board member and manager of the new barn, said it's a very flexible facility with a recital and performance hall and meeting rooms for

"Of Mice and Men"

WHAT: John Steinbeck's riveting story about two drifters with a special friendship and big dreams.

WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5, Feb. 11-12, 18-19, Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 24-26, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, 13 and 20.

WHERE: Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.

TICKETS: \$12; 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4 performance is a benefit for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, tickets are \$50. Call (248) 553-2955 to reserve tickets, or for more information.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL ECKLER

Award winning drama: Kathleen Warner (left), Curley's wife, taunts John Boufford (front), Lennie, just as Thomas Adams, who plays George, walks onto the set "Of Mice and Men."

other areas of the community to use. An art display area will allow the audience to take in exhibits such as Mendoza's.

"We've had benefits for ourselves before but only this season have started to reach out to the community," said Rogers, who came up with the idea for the first fund-raiser. "We want to lay a financial foundation for the new theater. We've been reaching out to the community a lot. We've been asking for money for the new theater and wanted to give back."

Reversing roles

Michael Carraway wanted to be in one of the last productions before the old barn is razed at the end of the season. A member of the Farmington Players for 20 years, this is his first time on stage. In the past, his day job as a director and producer of corporate films prevented him from acting because of the travel involved. Carraway plays The Boss.

"The dog is on more than I am," joked Carraway of West Bloomfield. "I wanted to be able to say I was on stage. I don't want to make more of my character than it deserves. Since we've begun rehearsals, one of the things that I've always been cognizant of is communicating with the director, putting yourself in his place. It's a lot of trust in yourself and in the people helping you."

This is John Boufford's first show as well. He plays Lennie, the slow drifter who's enamored of George (played by Thomas Adams). Boufford's biggest challenge so far "is to remember all his lines." He said, he's not nervous about the part otherwise.

"I'm a lawyer so nothing scares me," said the 28-year old Boufford. "I'm used to being in front of a room full of jurors. And I like my character. He's the ultimate child at heart. He captures that one part of us that wants to be a child."

This is Thomas Adams "first big drama" although he's been in theater since grade school. Many of his roles were in musicals.

"It was very overwhelming, especially when I first got the part," said Adams of Farmington. "I relate to my character in certain aspects. He has a big heart. He does have some explosive moments and that's how I'm unlike him."

A fight coach, Eric Gratton from The Hilberry is working with cast members to choreograph the two fight scenes in the production. Until the sessions began Frank Ginis worried someone might be injured.

"I'm a big Steinbeck fan," said Ginis. "My role as Curley is physically difficult, but we've had a coach here showing us warm-up exercises and different punches. The idea is to make the fight look real without hurting each other."

GAMING

Ladies and gentlemen, place your bets

Keeping watch: Cathy Koch (right) of Farmington Hills keeps an eye on Sue Johnson as she runs a Caribbean stud poker game at the MGM Grand Casino.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL ECKLER

STORIES BY SAM TRICOMO
STAFF WRITER

Lights flash and smoke from cigars and cigarettes wafts through the air.

A drink order arrives as a group of voices climbs above the already deafening din. Not the place one would expect to witness a birth but from her perch, Cathy Koch of Farmington Hills sees thousands of them every night.

Koch has no formal medical training. For 21 years she taught music at Roosevelt Elementary School in Oak Park. Last year, she traded in the satisfaction she received when helping young fingers manage clarinets and trumpets to preside over a nightshift birthing station where hundreds of winners and losers are born every minute — Detroit's MGM Grand Casino.

Determining whether the newborn belongs to the winner or loser family is not a difficult task for Koch. A partial clue to the player's lineage sits before

Competition is good winning is better

For several months MGM enjoyed a local monopoly on legalized gaming in Detroit but competition, the life blood of a capitalist society, put an end to that.

The former Wonder Bread bakery at Grand River Avenue and the Lodge Freeway represents the city's second temporary casino.

With 188,000 square feet of gaming space spread over four floors, the Motor City Casino boasts more total parking and gambling space than its older sibling.

One-hundred-thirty-six table games and 2,018 electronic games, including slot machines and video poker, fill the spaces where bakery ovens once produced the soft, white bread made famous in Detroit.

While the MGM Grand opened to rounds of criticism for its sometimes difficult parking configurations, Motor City offers patrons 3,000 free car spaces in a four-story garage.

Motor City also offers convenience to patrons, being situated directly off the Lodge Freeway.

In the event of car trouble, Motor City offers patrons free basic assistance like jump starts.

Motor City is operated by the Mandalay Resort Group, formerly Circus Circus Enterprises.

The group operates 11 gaming properties in Nevada including the Excalibur in Las Vegas.

Please see BETS, E2

'Jake's Women' will make you laugh and cry

The Players Guild of Dearborn presents the Neil Simon comedy, *Jake's Women* 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 28-29 at the playhouse on Madison near the southwest corner of Monroe and Oster Drive in Dearborn. Tickets \$11, call (313) 561-TKTS.

BY SUE SOCIETY
CRITICAL WRITER

The Player's Guild of Dearborn's production of Neil Simon's *Jake's Women* is witty and touching. This mature comedy focuses more on the strength of its characters and less on one-liners and physical humor.

Under Nancy Wolter's direction, the cast has taken a well-written script and turned it into

an intriguing, entertaining evening of theater.

Simon's Jake, a playwright, narrates the play. He is at a crisis point in his life — his second marriage is in danger of dissolving, and he can't let go of the memories of his first wife, who died in an auto accident.

Jake has lived his life creating stories through his plays, and now he creates his own play, conjuring his wives, sister, therapist and daughter from both the present and the past, to try to figure out his own life.

Though Jake supposedly is creating the scene in his mind, his characters tease him, challenge him and force him to confront his shortcomings.

Lonnie Valentini of Livonia as Jake heads up the cast as a man full of contradictions. He wears his heart on his sleeve yet holds a part of himself back, hiding behind his cleverly crafted words. Jake is both proud and insecure. Valentini was able to capture these contradictions, and weave them into one believable character.

Kim Donovan of Farmington Hills as Julie, the first wife, has the spirit and energy to deliver a remarkable, touching performance.

Emily Tyrybon as Maggie, Jake's second wife, is an interesting contrast to Donovan's Julie. Though Jake was drawn to women of spirit, Maggie repre-

sented a more pragmatic, mature relationship, one more rooted in everyday reality in contrast to the heady dreams of Jake's first love. Maggie is Jake's true foil and equalizer — she is his reality check, and her mature love pulls him out of the past and gives him the courage to face his future, and to surrender some of his self-absorption. She makes him realize he must forgive those he loves before he can ever forgive himself and get on with his life. Tyrybon kept a good balance between the sad and the humorous aspect of her role, bringing strength and balance to her character's kaleidoscope of emotion.

Caitlin Donovan of Farming-

ton Hills brought energy and enthusiasm to her role as young Molly, Jake's daughter. Meredith Gordon conveyed finesse and a natural stage presence to her role as the older Molly.

Sally Hart Goodman made Karen the ideal big sister, capable of dispensing advice and sympathy without becoming preachy or wearing out her welcome. Patti Jones, as Edith, added a touch of saucy humor to the role of Jake's therapist, without letting him take himself too seriously.

Jones showed more self-confidence in this role than she's shown in the past, and is coming into her own as a strong character actress.

Jeanine Matlow is marvelously funny as Sheila, Jake's girlfriend of convenience when Maggie takes a hiatus from him.

Nancy Wolter and John Calder's set design is clean and classy, with two levels, and multiple entrances and exits are integrated well into its layout. Mary Calder and Diana Reynolds' costumes are elegant and flattering to the characters.

You'll laugh and cry, and you'll leave with the hope that Jake really can get his girl and his life back on track. You'll share his frustrations and recognize your common kinship, while enjoying the quick paced entertainment.

Century Theatre presents musical tribute to Patsy Cline

(PRNewswire) — Get ready to tap your fingers and stomp your feet when "Always ... Patsy Cline" opens at Detroit's Century Theatre on Wednesday, Feb. 23.

This musical tribute to the country music great features over 20 of Cline's best known hits, including "Walkin' After Midnight," "Your Cheatin' Heart," "Crazy," "I Fall To Pieces" and "Back in Baby's Arms."

Written and directed by Texas playwright Ted Swindley,

"Always ... Patsy Cline" is a retrospective of Patsy Cline's music career, told through the eyes of comedic housewife Louise Seger (actress Diana Rogers), a long-time adoring fan. Seger's brief encounter with Patsy Cline in 1961 and subsequent correspondence with the country music sensation provide the basis for the show's dialogue.

Joined onstage by a six-piece honky-tonk band, actress Jessica Welch gives a concert performance of Patsy Cline's most

memorable songs while wearing fashions similar to the unique ensembles adorned by Cline, dubbed the "Glamour Girl of Country Music."

"Always ... Patsy Cline" is based on actual events in the singer's life, and includes the text of a letter she wrote in 1961 to Louise Seger. In 1963, Cline died in a plane crash, ending a flourishing career at age 30.

"Always ... Patsy Cline" is a celebration of Patsy Cline's timeless vocal style and legendary

appeal. The show has been entertaining audiences of all ages and musical tastes, and was one of the top ten shows produced across the country in 1998.

"Always ... Patsy Cline" opens with two weeks of half-price previews beginning Feb. 23. Open-ended run begins Wednesday, March 8.

Tickets for "Always ... Patsy Cline" are available at the Gem and Century box office (313) 963-9800, and all Ticketmaster loca-

tions, (248) 645-6666.

Preview tickets range from \$12.25 to \$17.25; regular run tickets \$24.50 to \$34.50.

Theatre/dinner packages are available at the adjoining Century Club Restaurant. Visit the Gem Theatre online at www.gemtheatre.com

The Gem and Century Theatres are located in the heart of Detroit's burgeoning entertainment district. Built in 1903 by noted architect George D. Mason

and recently restored by Detroit developer Chuck Forbes, the Century Club building now houses a 200-seat theater, fine-dining restaurant and banquet facility. In 1997, the Gem and Century building was moved from its former location and transported to the corner of Madison Avenue and Brush. The 1,850 feet, five-block journey made history, breaking the 1986 Guinness Book world record as the heaviest building ever moved on wheels.

Bets from page E1

them in the form of colored casino chips. Players who walk away with larger piles of the blue, black and red chips than they started with often belong to the winner family but the measure is not entirely accurate.

For the true paternity test, knowing players and dealers take look to manners for the final say.

"I've seen big winners be big losers and big losers be big winners just based on the way they choose to conduct themselves," Koch said.

One of her first lessons in casino etiquette came in 1980 when Koch and a friend took a short getaway vacation to the country's mecca of legalized gam-

bling, Las Vegas.

Just 24 at the time, Koch recalls the excitement she felt as she placed herself in the comfortable players chair and took her first look at the deep green felt of the blackjack table. Several of her first hands were relatively simple transactions — dealer gives cards, player loses money.

Blackjack is a singular sport. It pits player against dealer. The sport uses only two pieces of equipment, cards and cash. Both are to be revered by the players.

The game became complicated for Koch when a player near her began to give voice to his impatience with her inexperience.

Koch left most of her money with the blackjack dealers dur-

Blackjack is a singular sport. It pits player against dealer. The sport uses only two pieces of equipment, cards and cash. Both are to be revered by the players.

ing that trip but she came away with something more valuable — knowledge.

Waiting in the airport for her return flight to Michigan, Koch purchased a book about blackjack and read it cover to cover. On her next trip she knew the basics of the game. On her next five trips, she began to learn the nuances of it.

Stories telling of the embarrassment and frustration felt by players breaking this rule can be found in various Internet chat rooms where people tell of the highs and lows of the gaming

life.

ArticBear posted a tale of his own brush against casino manners when a dealer at an Atlantic City casino rebuffed him for attempting to take an empty seat at a blackjack table before the deck had been completely dealt through.

In a response posting from the Wizard of Odds, ArticBear learned the rebuff was a rarity but may have meant the house was concerned that he was attempting to cheat.

"Many casinos have rules against mid entry," Koch said.

"Imagine I'm sitting at a table for a while playing only the minimum bet. My big bankroll partner stands nearby. When the deck turns positive, I signal him to come over and plunge in with a big bet."

MGM's philosophy asks newly-entering players to sit patiently until a hand has been played before attempting to break into a blackjack game.

Seats are open to all, but new or inexperienced players are advised to beware of the farthest seat from the left, known as third base.

New players in this seat often catch the wrath of others when they make improper card choices.

In terms of odds, the Wizard believes an inexperienced player in any seat at a blackjack table has as much chance of helping the overall odds as hurting them.

A player approaching one of Koch's tables looking to exchange a handful of bills for some casino chips while a hand is being dealt will understand soon that money is not to be exchanged until play has stopped.

In some casinos, blackjack hands are dealt face down and players are asked to touch cards with only one hand. MGM uses an all face up system so players are asked not to touch cards at all.

Communicating with a dealer is a nonverbal matter. A knuckle knocked on the table is the signal for another card. An open hand waving over the table indicates a player wishes no more cards.

In the end, new and experienced players alike would do best to remember the No. 1 rule of the game. Don't bet unless you are willing to lose.

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ART IN THE COMMUNITY

LIVONIA ARTS COMMISSION
"Looking Back/Facing Forward,"
an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Toni Stevens continues through Monday, Jan. 31 at the Livonia Civic Center Library Fine Arts Gallery, 32777 Five Mile Road, east of Farmington

Road.
Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, until 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

"POLAND: A CELEBRATION OF ART AND CULTURE"
The Plymouth Community Arts Council's Cultural Diversity Series continues with Polish art, dance and food 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30 at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction, Plymouth.

Sample Polish food and pastries, prepared by Three Brothers Restaurant and the culinary students at Plymouth Salem and Plymouth Canton high schools at 1 p.m., and enjoy a performance by the Wawel Dancers at 2 p.m. Meet artist Marion Owczarski whose works will be on display until Wednesday, March 1. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, until 9 p.m. Wednesday, until noon, Thursday-Friday. Call (734) 416-

4278 for more information.
ANN ARBOR ART CENTER GALLERY
Through Feb. 19 — "Collective Memories," work of artists Linda Soberman and Jennifer Martin at 117 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call (734) 994-8004.

CALL FOR ARTISTS
The Livonia Arts Commission is looking for exhibitors for its 24th annual Juried Art Festival — Art in the Village, Saturday-Sunday, June 10-11 at Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia. Deadline for entry is Friday, Feb. 11. For an application, call Livonia Community Resources Department at (734) 466-2540.
Canton Township is also seeking artists for its ninth annual Fine Art and Fine Craft Show at Liberty Fest June 24-25 in Heritage Park. Deadline for application is April 15. Call (734) 453-3710. In addition, any art student in middle or high school in the Plymouth Canton Schools can display and sell their wares in a student booth for free.

BOHEMIANS MUSIC COMPETITION
Deadline for the third annual Solo Concerto Competition for orchestral instruments is April 1. Prizes are \$500-\$1500 and Wayne State University will match each prize with a scholarship should winners decide to further their musical education at WSU. High school and college students (between ages 16 and 22) throughout Michigan are eligible. Submit tape to Herbert Couf, President, c/o The Bohemians, 37685 Russell Drive, Farmington Hills, 48331 or e-mail for further info to Couf@hwsa.com.

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Detroit Film Theatre: A winter festival of new and restored films

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homecom.net

Forget the Sundance and the Toronto Film festivals.

In the metro area, there's only one place to see the best of both cinematic worlds year-round — the Detroit Film Theatre. With the onset of the DFT's winter and spring season comes a collection of new films and newly restored classics emanating with heart, simplicity and raw truth.

This season, the theater hosts a complete retrospective of the works of documentary filmmaker Errol Morris, an unconventional filmmaker whose documentaries have influenced change within the genre and among viewers' perceptions of it.

"People tend to think of the documentary as boring, good for you, as someone preaching to you," said Elliot Wilhelm, curator of the Detroit Film Theatre. But Errol Morris crushes those preconceptions.

In the "Gates of Heaven," the filmmaker found inspiration from a newspaper headline he read about a pet cemetery. In researching the issue, Wilhelm explained, Morris discovered a story that goes beyond the limits to explore family dynamics and the quest for the American

Detroit Film Theatre
Where: The Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Theater entrance at John R. and Farnsworth St.
Tickets: \$5.50, full-time students with ID, and DIA members with membership card, \$4.50. Discount coupons available in books of five for \$20. To reserve seats, obtain a complete schedule, or for more information on the Winter and Spring 2000 Detroit Film Theatre Series, call (313) 833-3237.
Event: Oscar Night America, Sunday, March 26 at the Roostertail Club in Detroit to benefit the Cinematic Arts Council, which is dedicated to providing support to the DIA's Department of Film and Video and the Detroit Film Theatre. Call (313) 833-7967 for ticket information.

Dream

With "The Thin Blue Line," Morris made an even bigger impact — on the life of an innocent man sitting on death row. Sticking to what could be a rather morbid theme in his work, Morris uncovers hope. What began as a look at the life of a psychologist and the inmates he examined on death row became a crusade that ultimately freed an innocent man. Wilhelm pointed out that Morris is known for beginning a documentary without regard to where it might end.

By incorporating re-enactments to illustrate eyewitness accounts of the "truth" in this film, Errol Morris "changed the shape of the American documentary," said Wilhelm. "It became accepted that there are different

ways to present the truth... Documentary is something on the edges of real movie-making, and it shouldn't be."

From ground-breaking documentaries to a new voice for silent films, the DFT brings back Cambridge, Massachusetts's own Alloy Orchestra this April — who will premiere original scores for five films.

"The performance will be alive," said Wilhelm, who first discovered the orchestra at the Teliuride Film Festival. More than five years ago, he incorporated the Alloy Orchestra into the DFT schedule for an annual appearance. The Detroit appearance has since become the orchestra's single largest draw.

This year, the orchestra will set music to comedies like Charles Chaplin's "Easy Street" and Roland West's 1930 release "The Bat Whispers," the main influence for Batman. The first film with Alloy accompaniment, "South," will be a partially improvisational score. In some ways, these engagements are a throwback to the early days of film.

"Silent films were never really showed silent," said Wilhelm. "They were always accompanied by some sort of score."

Films like D.W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation" and "Intolerance" were accompanied by scores to be played with the films, but over the years, some scores, or portions of them, have been lost. By including the performance of the Alloy Orchestra, Wilhelm said, the music takes the film "out of the realm of being an antique and brings it to life."

The DFT also gives life to films which may not see the light of day elsewhere with its eclectic Monday Night Series that spotlights the best of feisty independent films and beautifully restored classics.

The 38th Annual Ann Arbor Film Festival Tour — a four-hour showing of the festival's best works — will make a stop on Monday, May 1, to flaunt independent works from across the country in a setting Wilhelm refers to as "The Real Sundance." In the Metro Area, the DFT may be the most diverse, educational, engaging and continuous festival of film as visual artwork.



Documentary: Fred A. Leuchter Jr. in Errol Morris' "Mr. Death."

NUBAR ALEXANDER

A night of theater: Something to see at the DFT

American Movie (1999: 104 minutes) 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5, 4 and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6.

Meet filmmaker Mark Borchardt. This is the true story of a man who will not give up the fight to make his own horror film, "Coven," despite the lack of a budget and against the odds. Director: Chris Smith.

The Acid House (1998: 112 minutes) 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7.

Set to be a cult classic, the DFT sought to bring it to screen one time — in all its mean-spirited glory. This adaptation of three short stories by "Trainspotting" author Irvine Welsh is strictly for viewers 18 and older. Director: Paul McGuigan.

Rear Window (1954: 113 minutes) 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11; 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 12-13.

Shown for the first time in totally-restored form, this Alfred Hitchcock thriller about voyeurism inspired other legendary directors like Francois Truffaut. What would you do if you witnessed a murder?

The War Zone (1999: 99 minutes) 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 17-18; 4 and 7 p.m. Sunday, March 19.

Actor Tim Roth takes to the director's chair for the first time in this painfully honest look at a family's disintegration in the face of incest. Not appropriate for people under 18.

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg (1999: 90 minutes) 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday, March 31; 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 1-2.

Metrop Detroiters will cherish this documentary of the legendary Detroit Tiger who almost broke Babe Ruth's home run record in the 1930s. Director: Aviva Kempner.

The Edge of the World (1937: 81 minutes) 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 3.

DFT Curator Elliot Wilhelm calls it a "simple story told with elegance." Michael Powell directed this story of a group of islanders in the North Sea who are forced to move to the mainland.

The Trial (1963: 119 minutes) 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 10.

The film Orson Welles considered his finest work, "The Trial" is based on Franz Kafka's novel. After 30 years, Welles' missing negative has been found, rescuing this cinematic work.

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A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

THEATER

CENTURY THEATRE: "Forbidden Broadway Strikes Back," through Sunday, Feb. 13, 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Fridays, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 5:30 p.m. Sundays, at the Century Theatre, 333 Madison Avenue, Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800/(248) 645-6666

GEM THEATRE: "Escanaba in da Moonlight," a comedy by Jeff Daniels, through March 26, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays, at the theater, 33 Madison Ave., Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE: "Dangerous Obsession," continues to Sunday, Jan. 30, at the theater on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester. \$24-\$35. (\$19.50-\$24 previews Wednesday-Friday, Jan. 5-7). (248) 377-3300

COLLEGE

WSU BONSTELLE: "Before It Hits Home," explores how people and families change and grow when outside situations hit home. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 28-29, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at 3424 Woodward, Detroit. \$8-\$10. (313) 577-2960

WSU HILBERRY: "Our Town" through Saturday, April 15, family night 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29 (\$15, \$5 children), also 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 27-28; "Some Americans Abroad," through Saturday, Feb. 5, at the theater 4743 Cass, Detroit. \$11-\$18. (313) 577-2972

COMMUNITY THEATER

AVON PLAYERS: "Made in the USA: Encore," a musical review showcasing the past century of American song and dance. Jan. 27-29, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, at the playhouse, 1185 Tienken Road, east of Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. \$15, student/senior/group rates available Thursday and Sunday performances. (248) 608-9077

CLARKSTON VILLAGE PLAYERS: Present comedian Norm Stutz with master of ceremonies Jesse James Lundy, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5, at the theater, Clarkston. \$12. (248) 625-8811

FARMINGTON PLAYERS: Perform John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5, Feb. 11-12, 18-19, Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 24-26, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, 13 and 20, at the Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads. \$12; 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4 performance is a benefit for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, tickets are \$50 and includes a theme dinner after the show. (248) 553-2955

MT. ZION THEATRE: "The Celestial Helix and Other One-Act Plays," 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Jan. 28-29 and Feb. 4-5 and 11-12, interpretation for the deaf Feb. 4, at the Mt. Zion Center for the Performing Arts, 4453 Clintonville Road, Waterford. \$8 advance, \$10 at door, \$7 students/seniors/groups of 20 or more. (248) 673-5432

MORRISCO ART THEATRE: "The Lady's Not for Burning," 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 3-5, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, at the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. \$15, \$12 students/seniors. (734) 996-2549

PLAYERS GUILD OF DEARBORN: "Jake's Women," Jan. 28-29, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 28-29, at 21730 Madison, South of Outer Drive and East of Monroe, Dearborn. \$11. (313) 561-TKTS

PLYMOUTH THEATRE COMPANY: "A Soldier's Play" opens 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20 (\$10) and continues through Sunday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 6 p.m. Sundays, at Detroit's Holistic Development Center, 17425 Bacon Blvd. near West McNichols and Woodward. \$15-\$18. (313) 872-0279

REDEALE PLAYERS: "Deathtrap," Jan. 21-29 and 28-30, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sundays, at 206 W. Long Lake, between Livonia and Crooks, Troy. \$11, \$10 seniors/students. (248) 988-7048

ST. BARNABAS GUILD OF ORCHARD LAKE: "The Foreigner," Jan. 27-28, at the theater on the campus of Cranbrook Education Community, 1221 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 644-0527



Open Sesame: It's an exciting day on Sesame Street when Prairie Dawn gathers her friends and stages "When I Grow Up," a Sesame Street Live pageant about growing up playing until Sunday, Jan. 30 at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Telly Monster dreams of becoming a baseball player, Cookie Monster hopes to own the world's first drive-in cookie restaurant, and Elmo, want's to be everything. In this musical extravaganza about discovering dreams, children learn that they can become anything if only they put their minds to it. Tickets \$25, \$16, \$14 and \$10 available at the box office and all Ticketmaster locations. Call (313) 983-6611 for show times and other information, or online at www.olympiaentertainment.com. To charge tickets, call (248) 433-1515, or online at www.ticketmaster.com

STAGECRAFTERS: "Cinderella," through Feb. 6, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays (except Thursday, Feb. 3), and 2 p.m. Sundays, at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. \$14-\$16. (248) 541-6430

VILLAGE PLAYERS OF BIRMINGHAM: "Oliver," 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Jan. 28-29 and Feb. 4-5 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at the theater, 752 Chestnut, south of Maple, Birmingham. \$14, \$12 students under 18 and under. (248) 644-2075

DINNER THEATER

BAGI THEATRE: "Flanagan's Wake," 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays (\$25 Thursdays and Sundays, and \$30 Fridays-Saturdays), and "Tony n' Tina's Wedding," 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sundays, at 40 W. Pike, Pontiac. (248) 745-8668/(248) 645-6868

FOX LAIR DINNER THEATRE: Presents "Murder at the Howard Johnson's," a hilarious comedy opening Saturday, Jan. 22, Saturday nights only, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner (show follows), at Fox Hills Golf Club, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. \$29.95. (734) 453-7272

RAMADA HOTEL DINNER THEATRE: "Fools," a comic fable by Neil Simon, opens Thursday, evening Feb. 3 and continues on alternate Thursdays, 7 p.m. dinner, show follows, at the theater, Southfield. \$25. (248) 544-0283

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

ANNIE JR.: Runs 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, Scottish Rite Cathedral Theatre, Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, Detroit. \$5. (313) 535-6862

CLARKSTON VILLAGE PLAYERS: "Jack and the Beanstalk," a musical puppet show for children, 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 29-30, at the Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road, Clarkston. \$5. (248) 625-8811

LITTLE PEOPLE PLAYERS: "The Frog Prince," 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, at the Novi Civic Center Stage. \$10, \$8 advance. (248) 347-0440

PUPPETRY: "Close the Window... or Chelm's Law," 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. \$7, \$5 children. (313) 961-7777

SPECIAL EVENTS

CABARETFEST/KERRYTOWN: Features Julie Wilson, New York cabaret artist, jazz/cabaret singer Shanida Nurullah, French chanteuse Jeanette Lorente with accordionist Peter Soave, Andy Kirshner as "Doctor Nathan Feelgood in Person," singers Deanna Relyea and Julia Broxholm, U M Musical Theatre student preview of William Bolcom's "Casino Paradise," Friday-Saturday, Jan. 28-29, Kerrytown Concert House, Workbench Furniture, Kerrytown Bistro and Sweet Lorraine's, Ann Arbor. (734) 769-2999 or www.kerrytown.com/concerthouse

CAMPER, TRAVEL & RV SHOW: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday, Jan. 26-28, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at the Pontiac Silverdome. \$6.50, \$3 children. (616) 530-1919 or www.ShowSpan.com

COOKING CLASS: With Chef Aldo 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 31, at Andiamo Osteria, Rochester. \$39.95, includes dinner. (248) 601-9300

DADDY DAUGHTER DINNER/DANCE: Dance 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5 (\$6) dinner 5:30 p.m. (\$7), at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion. Deadline for



Singer: Craig Taubman, a family entertainer whose albums have won two Parent's Choice Awards, performs 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, and 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30 at Congregation Beth Ahm in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 861-6880 for ticket information.

registration is Wednesday, Feb. 2. (248) 354-9603

DAVID COPPERFIELD: "Journey of a Lifetime" Tickets on sale now for five magical performances, March 24-26, Fox Theatre, Detroit. \$27.50-\$45. Call (248) 645-6666

MOTOR CITY EXTRAVAGANZA: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at the Knights of Columbus, Livonia. \$2 (248) 426-8059

POLISH CELEBRATION: The Plymouth Community Arts Council's Cultural Diversity Series continues with Polish art, dance and food, opening reception 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30; sampling of Polish food and pastries at 1 p.m., performance by the Wawel Dancers at 2 p.m., eat artist Marlon Owczarski whose works will be on display until Wednesday, March 1, at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction, Plymouth. Free. (734) 416-4278

T.G.I.F.: An evening of art (photography exhibit "Robert Frank: The Americans"), music by New Anxiety, 8-11 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at the Detroit Institute of Arts. \$20 non-members advance. \$15 members advance. \$25 non-members at doors. (248) 691-1800, ext. 107

CLASSICAL

VICTORIO ANTONIO AND BRAD DEROCHE: The classical guitarists perform 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at the Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor. \$10, \$7 students. (734) 769-2999 or kch@ic.net

LIVONIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: "Deja Vu-I Love You," 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, in the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington. \$10. (734) 421-1111/(734) 464-2741

PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: "No, No Nonet" is the annual chamber orchestra concert 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m. pre-concert chat with conductor Nan Washburn, in the Plymouth Center Little Theatre, 8415 N. Canton Center Road. \$12, \$10 seniors/college students. (734) 481-2112

SOUTHFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Concert featuring classical compositions by African-American composers, and the Brazeal Donnad Corale, 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, Southfield Centre for the Arts. \$12, \$9 students/seniors. (248) 557-2085

NARBON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Concert singer Erik Chelton, 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6 at the church in Farmington Hills. Light reception precedes concert at 2:15 p.m. (248) 476-8860

POPS/SWING

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Erich Kunzel directs the orchestra in music by Richard Rodgers and his two lyricists Lorenzo Hart and Oscar Hammerstein, with the Detroit Concert Choir, 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 28-29, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. \$18-\$47. (313) 576-5111

JIM PARAVANTES & COMPANY: "Frank Sinatra Tribute," 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Fridays-Saturdays through November, at Andiamo Italia West, 6676 Telegraph Road at Maple, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300

ALTUO SHELTON: The musical impressionist sings "A Motown Tribute," voices include Stevie Wonder, Sammie Davis, Jr., Redd Fox and Nat King Cole, 9 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at the Ponchatrain Hotel, Washington Blvd. and Jefferson, Detroit. No cover. (313) 965-0200/(248) 354-1194

AUDITIONS

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS: Auditions will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1 by appointment, tenors and basses are especially needed by there are some openings for sopranos and altos, at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, west of Sheldon, Plymouth. (734) 455-4080

GROSSE POINTE THEATRE: Auditions for West Side Story 6-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11 and 1-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 12-13, 315 Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe. For performances May 4-20. (248) 594-9673/(313) 884-0196 or www.gpt.org

JAZZ & SPIRIT DANCE THEATRE: Auditions 3 p.m. Saturdays, Feb. 5 and 12, and 11 a.m. Sundays, Feb. 6 and 13, at the Northwest Activities Center, Detroit. (313) 862-0966

SESAME STREET LIVE: Auditions for actors who can dance and dancers who can act for national touring stage productions, 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward, Detroit. (612) 375-9670, ext. 704 or www.sesamestreetlive.com

SOLO CONCERTO COMPETITION: The Bohemians Club (also known as The Musicians Club of Greater Detroit), hosts its competition for orchestral instruments (high school and college students ages 16-22), must submit performance tape by April 1. For application, e-mail ChoufLinks@aol.com

THEATRE GUILD OF LIVONIA

REDFORD: Is searching for directors, choreographers, musical directors, and all others interested in musical comedy theater. Call (313) 531-0554 for information, or deliver resumes and letters of interest to the Theatre Guild, 15138 Beech Daly, across from the Township Hall in Redford.

VOCAL COMPETITION: Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan is looking for entrants for its sixth annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students, finalists will be selected from cassette audiotape auditions of each contestants singing submitted through their respective high schools, deadline for entry is Saturday, Feb. 19. Each of the 10 finalists perform before a live audience at a concert 4 p.m. Sunday, May 7 at the Italian-American Cultural Center in Warren. (734) 455-8895

RICH K. AND BRAZIL: 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at Big Fish, Dearborn. (313) 336-6350

MATT MICHAELS TRIO: With Steve Carryer, guitar and Jerry McKenzie, drums 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2 with trumpeter Bill Lucas 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, at Ron's Fireside Inn, Garden City. \$5 cover. Reservations recommended for the Jazz Room. (734) 762-7756

SHAHIDA NURULLAH: 8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at Edison's, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

ROBERT PENN: 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4 and 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, at Edison's, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

JANET TENAJ TRIO: Featuring Sven Anderson, piano and Kurt Krahnke, bass, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays, at Fishbone's Restaurant, Southfield. (248) 351-2925

PAUL VENTIMIGLIA: 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at Edison's, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

ED WELLS: The pianist performs 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, at the Century Club Restaurant Detroit. (313) 963-9800

WORLD MUSIC

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY TAMBURITZANS: The Eastern European folkloric ensemble performs 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, in Schaublin Auditorium in Lakeview High School, St. Claire Shores. (248) 645-6666/(810) 808-4332/(248) 887-4677

FINVARRAS WREN: 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 28-29, at John Cowley & Sons Irish Tavern, 33338 Grand River, Farmington. (248) 474-5941 (Irish folk music)

FOLK/BLUEGRASS

ANN ARBOR FOLK FESTIVAL: Arie Guthrie, Shawn Colvin, Great Big Sea, Beth Nielsen Chapman, Hot Club of Cowtown, Anne Hillis, Fred Eaglesmith, David Barrett, Matt Watroba and Robert Jones, 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor. \$30, \$25. (734) 763-TKTS or (248) 645-6666

WILL DANFORTH: 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, at Green Wood Coffee House, Ann Arbor. \$8. (734) 665-8558

RARELY HERD: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at Oakland Community College, 739 S. Washington on the north side of Lincoln, Royal Oak. \$15. (248) 544-4903 (bluegrass)

POETRY/ SPOKEN WORD

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN: Workshop for poets looking for more members, 2-4 p.m. third Tuesday of month, in the Jenkins rooms on the third floor of the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. (734) 762-7586

DANCE

ADVANCED CONTRA DANCE: 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at the Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor Saline Road, south of I-94, Ann Arbor. \$8. (734) 665-8863

BALLROOM DANCING: 9 p.m. Saturdays, at the Dance Scene, 25333 Van Dyke, Centerline. \$6. Also swing and Latin classes. (810) 757-6300

BIG BAND DANCING: 8-11 p.m. every Friday, free dance lesson 7-8 p.m., at The Amber House, 7012 E. Nine Mile, west of VanDyke, Warren. \$5. (810) 754-3434

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING: 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, at Chapel Hill Condominium Clubhouse, Ann Arbor \$5. (734) 662-5158 or eba@umich.edu

GROSSE POINTE THEATRE: Hosts West Side Story Dance Workshops, learn actual choreography to be taught from the dance numbers in the theater companies spring production, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 1 and 8, at the theater, 315 Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe. (248) 594-9673/(313) 884-0196 or www.gpt.org

HUNGARIAN FOLK DANCE: Language and zither lessons. (248) 352-0927/(734) 946-6261

MACOMBE BALLET COMPANY: "Coppelia," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Clinton Twp. \$14 advance, \$12 students/seniors advance, \$15 at door, \$13 students/seniors at door. (810) 286-8300

POLISH ALLIANCE DANCERS OF DEARBORN: Dance and language classes for ages 3 to adult have begun Saturday mornings at Prince of Peace Church, on Altar Road.

Please see next page

Forget 'Domestic Problems' when this band's on stage

Some songs evoke feelings, others draw you in and let you glimpse at a person you've never met, a place you've never seen.

Such is the case with me and a man named James Francis. I don't know what he looks like, but I have a good idea. I've never heard his voice, but I know he can sing.

James Francis

He's the subject of a song of the same name by a Grand Rapids band called Domestic Problems. He also happens to be singer Andy Holtgreive's father. When Andy called me on Tuesday, Jan. 18 - just back from an East Coast tour - he related the story behind that song.

About two years ago the family was preparing to celebrate their father's 60th birthday. Andy's oldest sister suggested that each of the five siblings and their mother take a decade of his life and find some special way to represent it. Andy was asked to write a song about the first decade of his father's life. While he maintains that "you can't force the muses to do what you want," he went to work, talking to relatives and digging up stories.

"The night before his birthday party, in the kitchen of my parent's house with my brother Tom... it came together," said Holtgreive. Those lyrics are not easily forgotten: "Sing, Jimmy, sing, and the world will dance around you/Sing, Jimmy, sing, it makes them glad/Sing, Jimmy, sing, and the world will dance

around you/ Sing, Jimmy, sing, that's my dad."

Apparently Jimmy's youngest boy took after his Dad.

But the vocalist, songwriter and guitarist is only one in a group of multi-talented musicians who create the eclectic sound that is Domestic Problems. Job Grotzky plays saxophone, flute, clarinet, and percussion; Earl Tolliver Jr. plays bass; Bill Kenny can be seen delighting audiences with his mastery of trumpet, flugelhorn and mandolin and R.J. Ness joined the on-stage party with drums and percussion. Jamie Black rounds out the sound on keyboards.

Best of Midwest

That "Midwestern sound," as Holtgreive likes to call it, reflects something everyone can relate to - family, relationships, friends - in a true and uplifting manner. For a band who snagged its name from a line in a "Blues Brothers" movie, Domestic Problems is serious about two things - the music and the fans. That's about as Down-to-Earth and Midwestern as it gets.

Those who haven't seen Domestic Problems in all their live performance glory can get a taste of it with the recently released "Domestic Problems-Live" CD.

New CD

"We were going into the studio last summer to lay down some tracks for a studio album," said Holtgreive. "We weren't ready to go to the studio, but at that point we knew we wanted to get something out to our fans."

The band organized a show at the State Theatre in Kalamazoo, chose to forgo an opening band,



No problem: Domestic Problems is Billy Kenny, Jamie Black, Reggie (R.J.) Ness, Andy Holtgreive, Earl Tolliver Jr. and Job Grotzky. Catch them in Ann Arbor this month, or Ferndale in February.

and played an explosive 24 songs. Choosing the best 10 and tossing in a few new-to-CD tunes - namely "El Matador," "Where Have You Gone" and "Free" - for flavor, "Domestic Problems-Live" was completed only two months later.

Where credit's due

"A lot of credit goes to Al McAvoy and Jon Frazier, our producer," said Holtgreive of creating a CD that does justice to the performance. "Al put in a lot of time. I think it's really how it translates on the mixing side of

things, that captures a real live feel."

What started out as just "a fun thing to do" for Holtgreive and Bill Kenny while attending Grand Rapids' Aquinas College has become a burgeoning musical career. With the recent addition of new members Ness and Tolliver and a wide variety of instruments to draw from, the band has never stopped experimenting with new musical styles.

Holtgreive said it's a virtual "cornucopia of music that offers something to everybody."

While any of the band's three CD's are fabulous company in rush hour traffic, it's the energetic live show that makes Domestic Problems a band to behold. So what makes Mr. Holtgreive get out of bed each morning? "It's hearing one fan say 'you guys just make me smile'."

James Francis must be proud

"Domestic Problems-Live" is available at Harmony House locations in the Metro area. See the band crowd the stage 9:30

p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Blind Pig, 206 S. First Street, Ann Arbor \$5. (734) 996-8555, or 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 at The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. (248) 544-3030. For MP3's and more on the band, check out www.domesticproblems.com

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric News papers. She can be reached at 734-953-2130 or e-mail at scasola@ec.homecomm.net. To send a fax, dial 734-591-7279.

CD REVIEWS



Send recently-completed CDs for review to Stephanie Angelyn Casola, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150. Call (734) 953-2130 or e-mail scasola@ec.homecomm.net for more information.

Fez

Milquetoast
It isn't often a band can make a pump organ sound, well, relatively modern.

Fez not only achieves that feat, the Dearborn foursome also uses the not-so-common glockenspiel and the sounds of duct tape to make their album "Milquetoast" an unforgettable hodge-podge of reverberations.

This is one band that truly gives local music a good name. The album has an eerie overtone, mixed with an almost merry-go-round charm. Beginning with "Shot of Poison," Fez draws listeners into their carnival world. Dean Olkowski's vocals show an influence of Brit pop and alternative, while matched with the howling sounds Melinda Clynes on electric organ, Jim Morningstar's solid drumming and Bill Zoyes pumping basslines.

Remember when the B52s sounded fresh? Fez far surpasses the whimsical nature the band had with grittier material and otherworldly style.

The album's title track "Milquetoast" shows off a touch of country while it paints vivid pictures with lines like "My old neighborhood was raised on milquetoast." "Every housecoat has a silver lining," and "TV on the front porch, news at eleven, heaven finds a cure for hell."

"Heads I win" is reminiscent of childhood with references to games like "Red Rover." "Third Street Fat with Punch" is good for a giggle. Fez creates a delightful party for the ears. For a copy of "Milquetoast" e-mail

brewedconcepts@msn.com or write to P.O. Box 7103 Dearborn, Mich. 48121. You won't be disappointed.

See the band 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, The Majestic Theatre, Detroit. (313) 833-9700.

— BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA

Marcy Playground

Shapeshifter
Capitol Records

Though Marcy Playground's first self-titled release spawned a provocative commercial hit and garnered critical success, the Minneapolis band's second release, "Shapeshifter" proves there's far more to life than "Sex and Candy."

Lead singer and songwriter John Wozinak offers a dozen upbeat tunes laced with ominous overtones. And his intelligent lyrics are masked as deceptively simple. But when he throws in his signature fun-filled yodel, everything in the world is as fine as a cup of warm cocoa.

The opening track, "It's Saturday," with its grunge guitar and dance-beat rhythms, is destined to be a hit. Even the slower ballads including "America" and "Never" leave a lasting impression.

On "Our Generation" Wozinak offers a folk-pop anthem for his "Free to Be... You and Me" peers. He also reaches back to his favorite Saturday morning superheroes for inspiration on the deliciously sinister "Secret Squirrel."

"All the Lights Went Out," an apocalyptic love song, seems only too fitting a tune given the twilight of the millennium.

If "Shapeshifter" is any indication, Marcy Playground is only going to get better. And in this day and age of studio produced sound, it's a pleasure to hear innovative and finely layered music being made from three guys who know what it means to play drums, bass and guitar.

— BY ALICE REBIN

STAY TUNED

It seems Austin Powers and Q95.5 FM have something in common. They've both found their Mojo. The pop music station will add Mojo - a Chicago native - to its morning show team by February. Coming to Detroit from a top-rated morning show in Tucson, Ariz., Mojo's ready to hit the Midwest with his dynamic personality. Welcome to the Motor City, Mr. Mojo.

Listen up. 93.9 The River unveiled the latest in broadcast technology this past week at the 2000 North American International Auto Show. The station's parent company, Chum Group Ltd., is the first conglomerate to bring digital radio to the U.S. - which translates into a clearer, CD quality sound.

Michigan Radio, public radio stations at the University of Michigan, may not be digital yet, but they're progressing, too. Michigan radio's stations: 91.7 FM in Ann Arbor and Detroit, 104.1 FM in Grand Rapids and 91.1 FM in Flint, is now offering a 24-

hour streaming on-air signal to its listeners. It's available at www.michiganradio.org. That means fans of NPR's "All Things Considered" and "Morning Edition" can be accessed on the Web, expanding the stations' listener base.

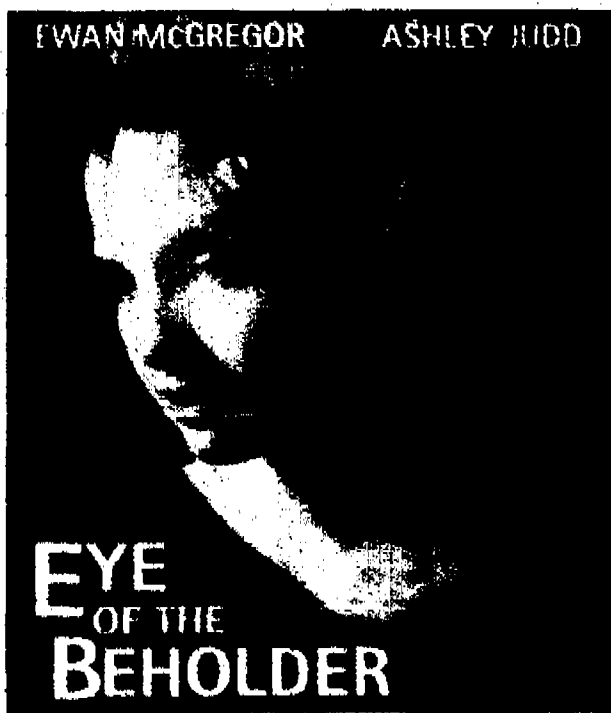
Also at the top of their game, Pine Knob Music Theatre's 1999 season meant record-breaking numbers for attendance, with more than 958,000, and sold-out shows, a total of 29. Fans flocked to the outdoor venue to see performers like the Barenaked Ladies, Alanis Morissette and Tori Amos, and Paul Simon and Bob Dylan last summer.

The Backstreet Boys set a record for the fastest sellout when tickets for three shows at The Palace of Auburn Hills disappeared in just eight minutes. That beat Madonna's "Gimme Show" in 1993, which sold out in 10 minutes. Concert-going in Metro Detroit has never been better.

— BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA

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Wade Major, BOXOFFICEMAGAZINE



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SHOWCASE DEARBORN 1-B STAR JOHN R QUO VADIS UA WEST RIVER

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STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR
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"ANGELA'S ASHES" IS THE PERFECT REALIZATION OF MY BOOK ON FILM. IT IS EVERYTHING I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR AND IMAGINED. I SING ITS PRAISES."

— David Watson, Author, Angela's Ashes

ONE OF THE TOP TEN FILMS OF 1999

THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY

"ANGELA'S ASHES" IS A HEART-EMBRACING MOVIE, AND AN IMMEDIATE ACADEMY AWARD CONTENDER. It's rare for a splendid book to glow intact on screen. So rejoice from Angela's Ashes has risen a triumphant film!

— THE TODAY SHOW, Gene Shuler

"DO YOURSELF A HEARTFELT FAVOR AND GO TO SEE 'ANGELA'S ASHES.' This is beautifully produced and superbly acted. All are outstanding here, but Emily Watson puts in a bid for Oscar with her luminous performance as Angela."

— NEW YORK POST, Liz Smith

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NOW PLAYING

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SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILL
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILL	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR COMMERCE TWP. 14	

[SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT] NO PASSENGER ON DISCOUNT TICKETS ACCEPTED

It's white linen and a lakeside view at Belleville Grille

BY RENÉE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER
rskoglund@oe.homecomm.net

Just around the bend as you head into downtown Belleville lies one of the city's best kept secrets, the Belleville Grille.

"It's probably the nicest restaurant not only in Belleville, but in the whole Wayne County," said Mike Nuculaj, who bought the restaurant last March and has since done extensive remodeling.

He's entitled to his bragging rights.

The Belleville Grille seems to have everything: An expansive lakeside view (its right on Belleville Lake), an open and airy atmosphere with lots of big windows, a couple of talented chefs, and a brand new kitchen. "I like a perfect kitchen. Anybody can come into our kitchen and see what we're doing," said Nuculaj.

Most of all, the Belleville

Belleville Grille
Where: 146 High Street, Belleville. (734) 699-1777, Fax (734) 699-7849
Menu: Steaks, ribs, chops, seafood and pasta, with a selection of Italian specialties.
Prices: Very moderate, with few exceptions. Appetizers and sandwiches, \$5.50-\$8.95; Entrees, \$7.50-\$21.95. All major credit cards accepted.
Atmosphere: Lakeside dining. Truly a restaurant with a view. Lot's of light to chase away the winter blues.
Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; Noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. Reservations recommended on weekends for parties of six or more.
Extras: Boat docks and seasonal outdoor dining.

Grille has good food, really good food.

The menu features pasta, seafood, steaks and chops, and some wonderful house specialties, like the Coconut Shrimp Dinner Platter. The jumbo shrimp are dipped into a light beer batter, dredged in coconut, fried to a golden brown and served on a bed of shredded lettuce with a dish of sweet and sour dipping sauce. I've had

coconut shrimp before, but these were the best - delicate, succulent, with just enough coconut for sweetness.

Chef Mike Lekocaj specializes in Italian cooking. He earned his credentials working at several Italian restaurants in New York City. His Pasta Del Mar - a lovely mixture of linguine tossed with shrimp, scallops, Roma tomatoes, white wine, olive oil and a bit of parmesan - is the Belleville Grille's best-seller. I couldn't resist and sampled more than one bite. Our photographer finished the whole plate.

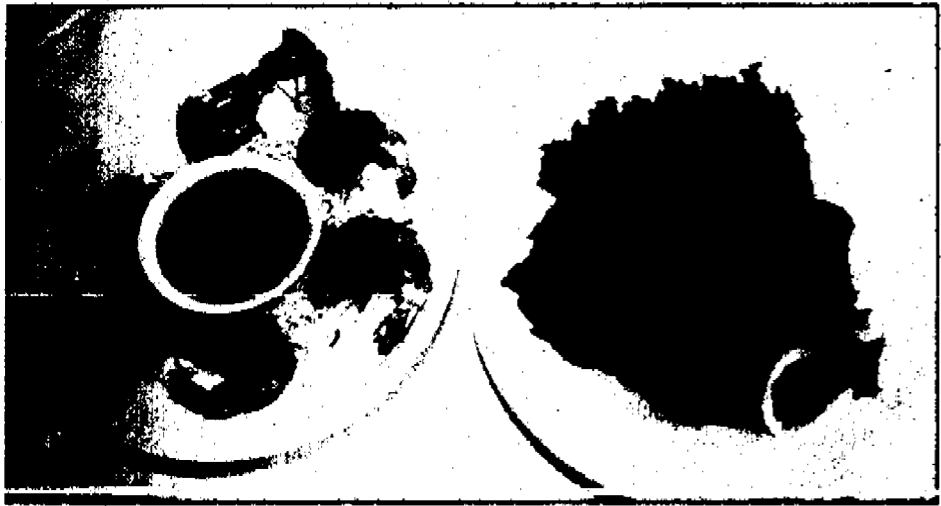
If you're craving a good steak, a really big one, try the 24-ounce porterhouse. Chef Mo Isa seasons and grills it to perfection. "You turn it only once," he said. "You move it around for the grill marks but turn it only one time."

Nuculaj gets a fresh meat and fish order every second day. "We are so picky," he said. "We don't get our meat from the same company as our fish. It keeps the two companies in line. Once in awhile I get a third company just to shake things up."

He wants his customers to feel



Showing off: Chef Mike Lekocaj (left), David Nuculaj, owner Mike Nuculaj and chef Mo Isa present a few of the house specialties: Pasta Del Mar, a grilled 24-ounce porterhouse and Coconut Shrimp.



Picture perfect: Can't decide between the Coconut Shrimp or the porterhouse? Order them both and bring home the leftovers.

comfortable enough to complain. "I want them to be free to let us know how we are doing. I want to correct problems rather than not have them come back. If I tell a customer this fish is fresh and it isn't, I'll close the doors."

Nuculaj also makes sure the coffee is ground fresh every day. Yes, they grind their own beans! I could taste the difference. It's just little things, like the white linen tablecloths at dinner, but it adds up to a most satisfying dining experience.

You get the feeling there's a real synergy between Nuculaj, his chefs, and his younger brother, David, who helps oversee operations. They immigrated from Montenegro several years ago and aren't afraid of hard work. Nuculaj, who started his career as a dishwasher - "a really good dishwasher" - owns two other restaurants: Dimitris, also in Belleville, and Mike's Country Oven in Southgate.

The men consider each other family. Nuculaj even describes their determination to please customers in terms of family. "The husband may say 'I don't want to go to the Belleville Grille.' The wife says, 'Yes, it's good.' It has to be good so there are no fights in the family."

You get the feeling if people ate at the Belleville Grille more often, the world would be a pretty peaceful place.

Celebrate Chinese New Year Feb. 7-9 at New Peking

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

You won't find the Chinese worried about Y2K for their new year.

With the Chinese New Year set to begin on Saturday, Feb. 5, you won't find any worries among the Chinese about power outages, water shortages, mass mayhem or The Apocalypse.

The closest thing to mayhem you might see is a dragon dancing through the aisles at the New Peking Chinese Restaurant

in Garden City Monday, Feb. 7.

Shen Yu, the owner of New Peking, said that restaurant will celebrate the new year Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 7-9. "Usually it is celebrated with family or friends, similar to the American Christmas time," Yu said.

New Peking will have a dancing dragon the first night of celebration. Entertainment also features fan dancing.

The 12-course dinner features seafood, meat and vegetables. The final course is fish.

The fish symbolizes sufficiency

for people, Yu said. "The fish is always enough, it means you will be healthy and wealthy and have enough," Yu said.

New Peking is at 29105 Ford Road, Garden City. Call (734)

425-2230 for reservations and information about the Chinese New Year feast.

If you're a restaurant owner or manager, and are planning something special for Chinese New

Year or Valentine's Day, we'd like to hear from you. Fax menus and information to Keely Wygonik, Observer Newspapers, (734) 591-7279, or e-mail, kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net.

Send information to Wygonik at the Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

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- Appetizers/Vegetables
- Desserts

You could be chosen as a finalist to participate in the Bavarian Inn Lodge Cook Off to be held on Monday, May 1, 2000 and compete for these fabulous prizes:

GRAND PRIZE - First prize winners in each category will compete for a \$300 Frankenmuth Shopping Spree Grand Prize.

FIRST PRIZE - Winners in each category will receive a deluxe whirlpool suite, Weekend For Two at Bavarian Inn Lodge including two nights lodging.

FINALISTS - Category Finalists for the May 1 Cook Off, will receive a Bavarian Inn Lodge Sunday Brunch gift certificate.

REGS: - An official entry blank must accompany each entry. Recipes must be typewritten or printed on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. Be specific and complete. Include preparation & cooking times. Do not abbreviate. Enter as many times in as many categories as you like, but a separate entry form must accompany EACH recipe. Professional cooks, commercial cooks and employees of Bavarian Inn, Inc. and its properties are not eligible to compete. Recipes are judged on the basis of originality, flavor, texture and appearance. The decision of the judges is final. All recipes become the property of Bavarian Inn, Inc. and will not be returned. Entries must be postmarked no later than Saturday, March 11, 2000.

Contest Entry Form

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Category: Appetizers/Vegetables Desserts Spring Newspapers

Name of Recipe _____
Total Preparation Time? (max 3 hrs.) _____ Serves? _____

I understand that all entries are the property of Bavarian Inn, Inc. I hereby grant permission to use my recipe(s) for publicity or other purposes.

(Signature) _____

All entries must be typed or printed & postmarked no later than Saturday, March 11, 2000. An entry form must be attached to EACH recipe. This form may be reproduced. Send to:
FRANKENMUTH BAVARIAN INN LODGE RECIPE CONTEST
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Phone: 800-774-6785. Enter contest on the Internet @: www.bavarianinn.com/recipe-off.html

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