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December 11, 1997

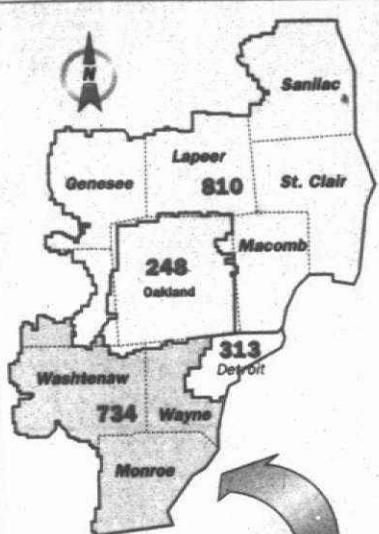
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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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IN THE PAPER TODAY



734 Area Code

- Optional Dialing Period begins Dec. 13, 1997
- Required Dialing Period begins July 25, 1998

Information, please: Area code change is coming to western Wayne County this Saturday. There will be a seven-month transitional time before the new area code, 734, must be used in certain exchanges. /A7

Cop Calls: A summary of neighborhood incidents. /A8

COMMUNITY LIFE

Open for business: What started out as a way of entertaining children who visited her home has turned into the home-based Dream Team Tracing Company for budding entrepreneur Marie Smith of Plymouth. /B1

ENTERTAINMENT

New Year's Eve: Plan a night out on the town New Year's Eve. Explore your options, including concerts, plays and special events. /E1

Theater: "Charlotte's Web" and other entertaining productions are sure to please children of all ages. /E1

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Drive-by shooting leaves 1 injured

■ Police are investigating the third gun-related incident in a Canton mobile home park during the last two weeks. A 20-year-old Livonia man is the latest victim.

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER



An Internet connection with two girls from Canton resulted in a shooting at Holiday Estates Mobile Home Park that seriously injured a 20-year-old Livonia man.

The attempted homicide is the third gun-related incident at a Canton trailer park in the past two weeks, although Sunday morning's shooting is not connected with the other two, police believe.

Sunday's victim, Thomas Esch of Livonia, is recovering at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital after being shot in the lower back with a 12-gauge shotgun about 4 a.m.

Esch underwent emergency surgery

Please see SHOOTING, A2

Early gift: Santa hands a plush reindeer to Britney Beaudin, 6, of Canton. Britney was one of the winners in the stuffed animal raffle that is a regular part of Monday's township Christmas tree lighting ceremony.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CANNIBER

Lighten up, it's Christmas!

BY TEDD SCHNEIDER
STAFF WRITER

First, the snow starts sticking. Then, the township's official Christmas Tree goes bright on Monday. (Last week's brief "test runs" don't count, according to knowledgeable sources.)

There's just no way around it any

longer. It's beginning to feel like Christmas in Canton.

Some 250 residents - heavily dominated by those young enough to still believe in Santa Claus - turned out in moderate weather Monday for the tree lighting ceremony at the Canton administration building.

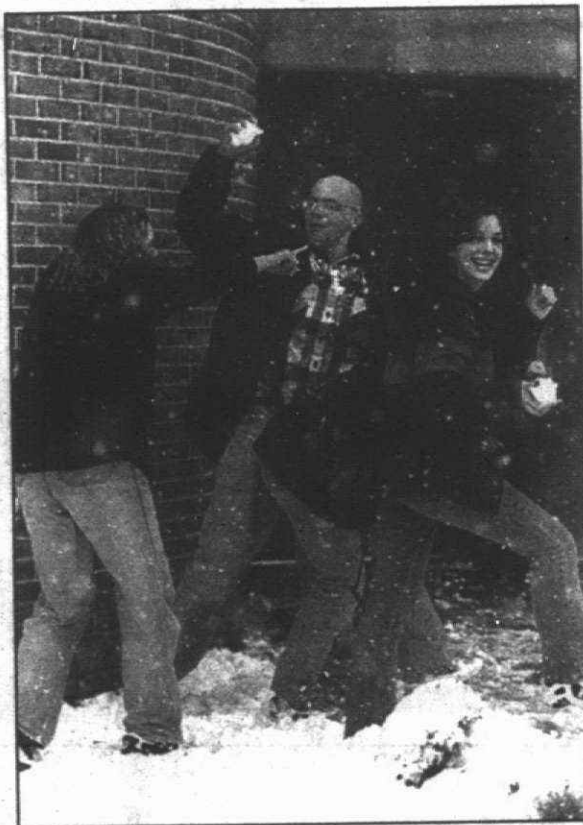
What they got was magically brief remarks from local dignitaries, a

chance to see one of their own light the tree and a slew of family activities including music, ice carving, clowns, face-painting, hay and train rides. And oh, yes, a visit with the jumbo-sized, man in the traditional red suit, who spent the better part of two hours fielding gift requests and

Please see LIGHTEN UP, A4

Storm troopers

Snow fun: During the height of Wednesday's snowstorm, Salem students ducked out the door between classes, tossed a few snowballs at each other and then ran back into the building. Due to the inclement weather, the high school campus sent students home early so buses for the middle and elementary schools wouldn't be delayed.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Friday is donation deadline in Observer's annual effort

It's last call for the Plymouth-Canton Observer Cheer Club.

Our deadline for accepting donations is 3 p.m. Friday. That's when the Salvation Army truck will roll up and take your contributions to the Plymouth Salvation Army facility.

They'll distribute the items to needy people in Plymouth, Canton and Northville.

We'd like to send out a big thank you to folks who've dropped off gifts for the needy, since we kicked off the Cheer Club drive Nov. 28.

Most recent contributors were Andy and Emily Swanson of Canton, Loyal and Florence Alaniva of Dearborn Heights, Peggy and Chris Soave of Plymouth, Terry and Susan Gronau of Plymouth, Shirley of Plymouth Township, Cindy Martin of Canton, C.C. Sovine of Canton, Tommy Neal of Plymouth, the Day family of Plymouth, the Modras family of Plymouth, Ellen Jones of Plymouth and an anonymous donor.

So join the Cheer Club by bringing donations of new toys and canned and boxed food to our office at 794 S. Main



in Plymouth, during normal business hours.

The idea is to make Christmas special for everybody - not just the lucky families where mom and dad have plenty to spend.

So if you're out doing your Christmas shopping and have a few minutes to look for another toy, or maybe a gift of warm clothing - a new hat, scarf or gloves - your thoughtfulness will be appreciated.

When you bring your donation by our office, we'll ask you to leave your name and city/township of residence.

That's because we like to print donors' names in the paper, while the Cheer Club drive is on. But you can be an anonymous donor, if you prefer.

So Happy Holidays! And please keep our Cheer Club in mind.

Better reception goal of board room changes

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER

Look out, prime-time television viewers. Canton Township officials have awarded bids amounting to \$113,472 to renovate the board room for state-of-the-art cablecasting of Board of Trustee and planning commission meetings.

The board meetings are already cablecast on MediaOne's Channel 12, however, the audio system is 20 years old and the video camera equipment is also aging, said Communications Director Ken Voyles.

When the renovation is completed, four robotic cameras will be mounted to the ceiling and operated from a mini control room on the west end of the administration building on Canton Center Road. The board room is on the east end of the building.

The full production console will have a switcher, character generator, monitors and record deck.

"With the four robotic cameras ceiling mounted we'll be able to get more variations of the camera shots than the one angle we now have from the back of the room," said Scott Zuchlewski, cable coordinator.

What viewers currently see is filmed

by one camera operator at the back of the board room. Audience members frequently walk in front of the camera and during presentations to the board viewers at home typically see the petitioner's back and the back of an easel. The audio consists of hollow sounding voices from conference room speakers.

"I think more people will watch when they learn what we're doing with Canton Community TV ... Our objective is to improve the look of the meetings to make it interesting and sustain viewership," said Voyles.

The township board meetings are shown at 8:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the planning commission meetings are shown at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

According to an informal survey conducted in September during program registration at Summit on the Park, only a handful of residents said they watched the board meetings.

Approximately 33 respondents said they watched the township board and planning commission meetings. Another 42 said they watched the Bulletin

Please see CABLECASTS, A2

Whaler mania



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Ice time: The action is non-stop around the Erie Otters' goal during the Plymouth Whalers game last Saturday at year-old Compuware Arena. For a story and photos on the local Ontario Hockey League team and its fans, please turn to page A13 in today's Observer.

Shooting from page A1

to remove the bullet, which lodged in his chest. He is listed in stable condition, according to police. A hospital spokesperson said the family requested that no information be released on his condition.

The two men allegedly responsible for the drive-by shooting were arraigned in 35th District Court Monday and are being held in Wayne County Jail on \$10,000 bond.

Timothy Scott, 26, of Westland was charged with assault with intent to commit murder and Edward Boldon, of Detroit, 19, was charged with assault with intent to murder and felony firearm use.

Each and his friend, Patrick McVeigh, 20, met the two Canton girls through the Internet and were going to their home at Holiday Estates on Geddes, west of Canton Center Road, said Canton Police spokesman Leonard Shemanske.

One of the girls allegedly told McVeigh that a dark-colored Ford Ranger or Thunderbird would be outside her mobile home, police reported.

According to what McVeigh told police, he saw a dark-colored Thunderbird at Hemlock and Orchard and circled around the trailer park. As he neared the car again, McVeigh saw the passenger step out of the car, then he heard the gunshot. Each said he was hit.

McVeigh sped off, calling 911 on his cellular phone.

The two suspects, Scott and Boldon, were friends of the two girls, said Shemanske.

Police officers on a domestic violence call at Sherwood Village

The suspects were arrested on Michigan Avenue, near I-275. A shotgun was found nearby, police said.

spotted the fleeing Thunderbird as it headed eastbound on Michigan Avenue. The men were apprehended at the I-275 entrance ramp.

Officers found a 12-gauge shotgun on eastbound Michigan Avenue, west of Haggerty. The gun was in two pieces after apparently being thrown from the car window, police said.

Henry Moore, president of the Northwest Homeowners Association, said he heard the shot at neighboring Holiday Estates Sunday morning.

"There's a lot of crime in there. We've had problems with B & Es and theft. It's the same thing at Sherwood Village and Westpointe Manor," he said.

Moore would like to see police put a substation for an anti-crime task force in the trailer parks.

At Canton Commons, a subsidized housing complex, a full-time police officer is assigned to the complex through a federal grant.

Correctional officer David Martell, 21, was killed in an ambush at Sherwood Village on Nov. 19 and a barricaded gunman attempted to seek revenge against Martell's alleged killers at Westpointe Mobile Home Park on Nov. 25.

No one has yet been arrested for Martell's murder.

Holiday serenade



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

At Newcomers' party: Members of the East Middle School Choir sing their opening number in a concert of holiday selections last week during the Canton Newcomers annual Christmas dinner last week at Hawthorne Valley Country Club.

Cablecasts from page A1

Board and 50 said they watched special community events. The survey is based on 242 respondents of 1,000 surveys that were handed out. Of the 242 surveyed, 88 percent subscribed to cable television.

"The meetings will not be live,

they'll be what we call live to tape and that means we're not going to (edit)," said Zuchlewski.

Farmington and Novi have similar audio and video equipment set up in their board rooms and cablecast live. Canton doesn't have the capability to broadcast live since its cable studio is at the Summit. Fiber optic lines would have to be tied in with

township hall, said Zuchlewski. The renovation of the board room is set to begin in mid-January.

The largest expense, \$53,973, is for the installation of four robotic cameras. The bid was awarded to Roscor Corporation. Thalner Electronic Laboratories was awarded a bid of \$12,243 to update the existing

audio system, install new microphones, electrical panels and additional speakers.

A third bid was awarded to Dugan Building Company for \$47,256 to install new cabinets, electrical work and miscellaneous renovations to prep the room for cablecasting.

PCEP students in math competition

Thirteen students from Plymouth-Canton's Educational Park have qualified for the second part of the 41st Annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition sponsored by the Michigan Association of Mathematics.

Students qualifying from Canton High School are: Michael

Roberson, Prabhat Bhamra, Vishal Sharma, Peter Wierzbinski, David Chamulak and Samir Mallick. Salem High School qualifiers are: Matthew Bright, Brian Overmars, Jeremy Martin, Wayne Fung, Katie McClain,

Adil Azeem and Erin Lang. Students qualified for Part II by placing among the top 6 percent of about 16,000 participants in an examination given at over 360 schools across state last October.

men's semi-annual clothing and shoe clearance

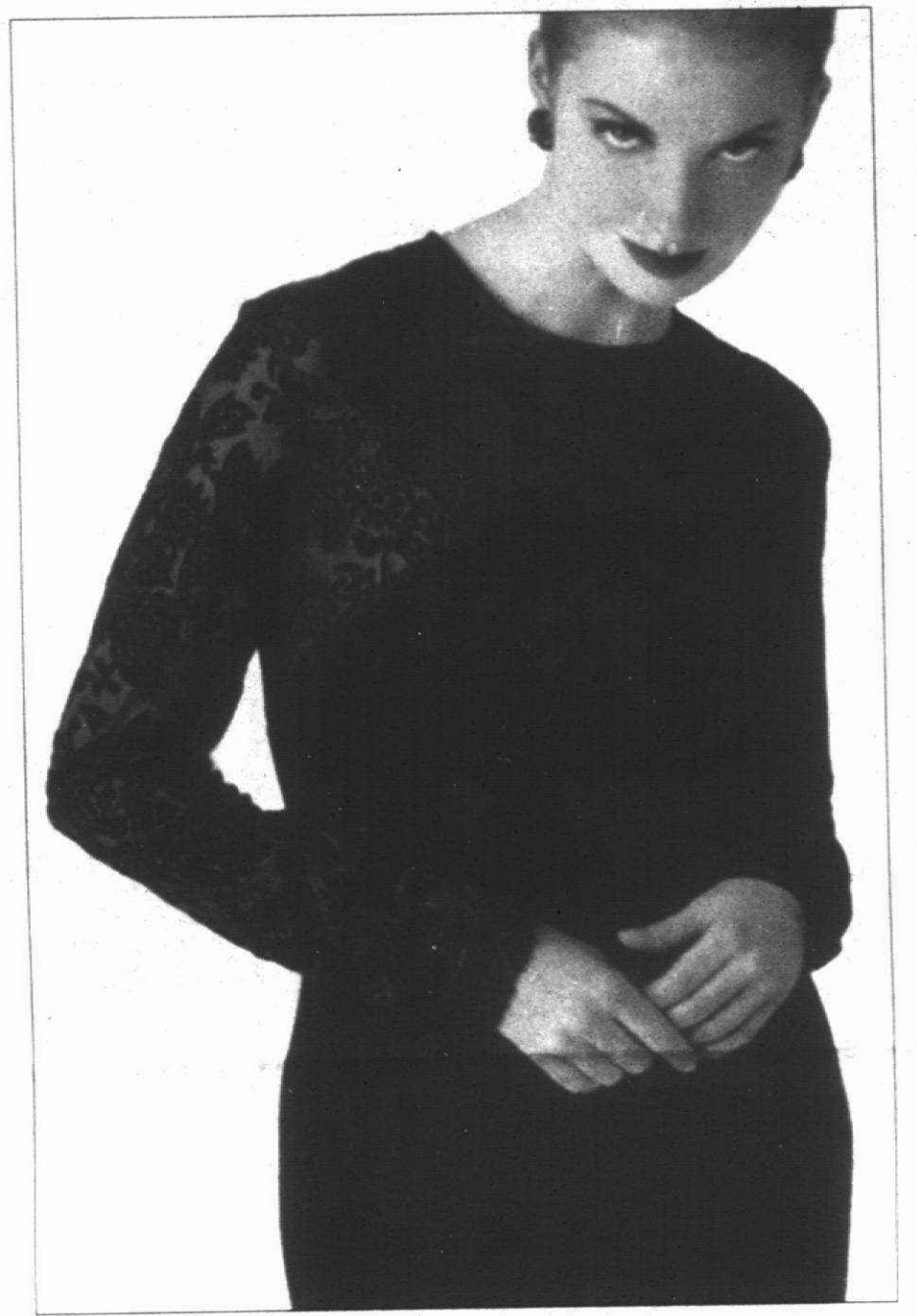
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Horse Liniment Eases Arthritis Pain

OCALA, FL - An ingredient derived from hot peppers that decreases inflammation in a horse's legs, is now recognized as a safe and effective for human use. The ingredient has been formulated into a product called ARTH-Rx and comes in a strength designed for humans. Researchers are excited and say the formula can relieve arthritis pain for millions.

Developed by the Phillips Gulf Corporation, ARTH-Rx is a breakthrough in the treatment of painful disorders ranging from minor aches and pains to more serious conditions such as arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism, tendonitis, backache and more.

Although the mechanism by which ARTH-Rx works to relieve pain is not totally clear, scientists suggest that pain is relieved because ARTH-Rx intercepts the messenger substance that sends pain signals to the brain.

ARTH-Rx is available in a convenient roll-on applicator without a prescription. According to a spokesperson for the company, due to the overwhelming demand for ARTH-Rx, supplies are sometimes limited. ARTH-Rx can also be ordered by calling 1-800-729-8446, ext. 1000.

ARTH-Rx is available locally at:
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District sets 'opt-out' rules

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton school district has adopted a set of guidelines for those wishing to change schools within the district.

Called the "Opt-Out Guidelines for School Reassignment," they spell out the procedure to follow in making application.

"We've had a policy in place but no coordinating guidelines," explained Superintendent Chuck Little.

Although requests can only be accommodated if space is available, "the district does accommodate the majority of requests," he said.

The process was allegedly

PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS

dubbed "opt-out" after a parent said he wanted the option to put his child in a different school and used the term "opt-in" to describe what he wanted.

The requests become "a high-volume item two weeks before school opens," Little said. Opt-out is usually done when a school is out of classroom space.

Patrick O'Donnell, assistant superintendent for instruction, said his office sees about 250 "opt-outs" per year. He said the word "transfer" has a different connotation and so is not used.

Among the highlights of the guidelines, which are available

from the school district's office, are that requests received before July 13 will get first consideration; decisions will be based on either enrollment figures per building by grade level or total building enrollment, or both; and that transportation is not provided to students who opt-out.

EEF grants for innovation

The Educational Excellence Foundation (EEF) awarded six Innovation Grants promoting academic quality for Plymouth-Canton students during November.

The grants include:
■ weather and magnet materials from Beverly Valentine to Eriksson Elementary

■ Michigan Opera Theater performance from Barbara Young to Fiegel Elementary

■ computer literacy videos from Elaine Bain to East Middle School

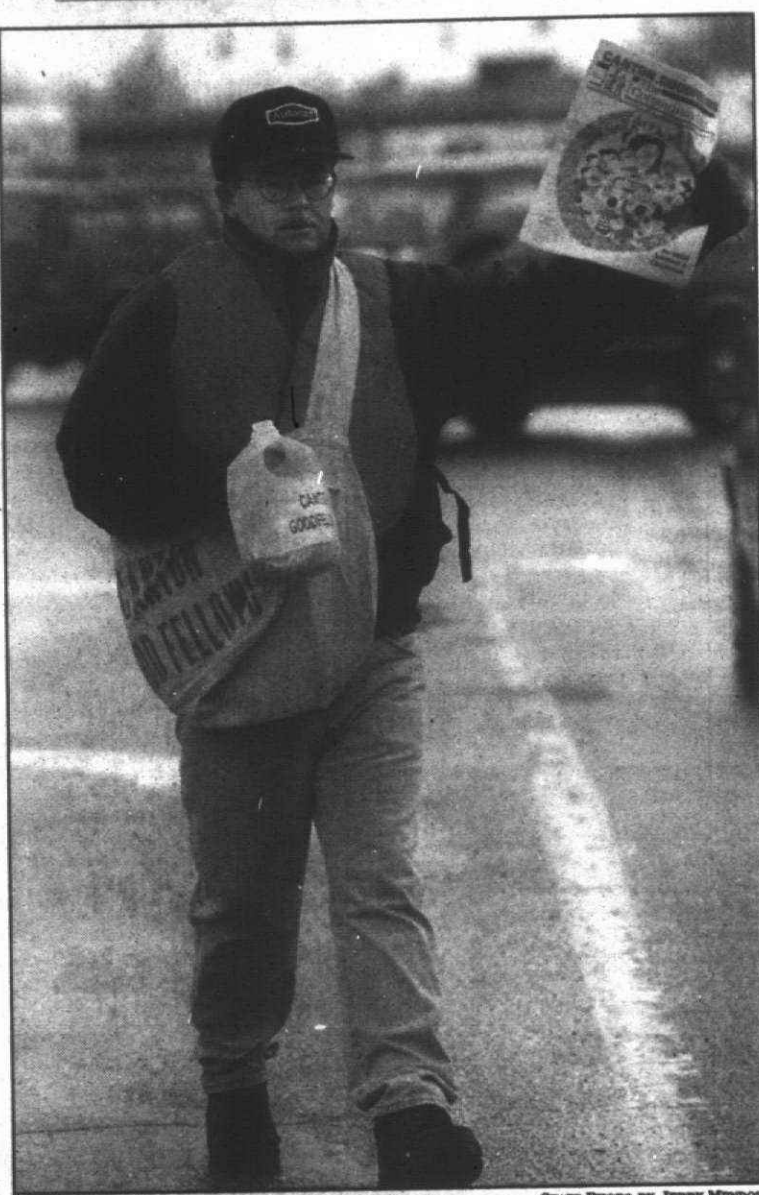
■ exercise bicycle from David Gerlach to Plymouth Salem High School

■ "Girls Excel in Math and Science" conference from Mary Lou Homer and Curt Perry

The Educational Excellence Foundation, founded in 1985, is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing teaching and learning in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Goodfellows out in force

Gearing up: Michael Gibbons took to the streets Saturday for the Canton Goodfellows annual newspaper sale. The Goodfellows need additional volunteers for various projects this month as part of the organization's effort to put together holiday packages for 91 disadvantaged area families. For information, call Nancy Spencer, 397-8975.



STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY MENONDA

Number, please

Area code changes to 734 for most of western Wayne County

See phone numbers, page A9

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

It's time to reach out and touch... another area code. Starting Saturday, part of the 313 area code will change to 734, which will affect thousands of telephone customers in western Wayne County, and Washtenaw and Monroe counties.

Wayne County communities affected include Canton Township, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Westland.

Greater Detroit will retain the 313 area code, including Redford and portions of Westland. This area includes Hamtramck, Highland Park, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, the city of Detroit, Melvindale, Allen Park, Lincoln Park, Ecorse, River Rouge, Harper Woods, the Grosse Pointes and portions of Inkster, Taylor and Romulus.

With hopes of minimizing confusion, Ameritech will initiate a seven-month optional dialing period in which the new and old area codes will work. Starting July 25, 1998, the 734 area code must be used to complete calls.

Seven-digit numbers will not change as a result of the new 734 area code. Ameritech officials said Ameritech's rates will not be affected by the area code change.

More numbers needed

The area code was changed because southeastern Michigan has experienced what Ameritech calls an "explosive" demand for telephone numbers for several telecommunication services, including fax machines, cellular phones, pagers, voice mail, computer modems and additional phone lines.

The region would literally run out of phone numbers, if the change were not made, Ameritech officials said.

"We understand that changes in area codes are no fun, but that's why we've been talking about this for two years," said Sara Snyder, spokeswoman for Ameritech.

313 to leave Livonia

Most of Livonia switches from

the 313 to 734 area code, but the 248 area code remains in an area of the city roughly north of Curtis. The northeast corner of Livonia will switch from 313 to 248 next March.

Everything south of Curtis will be within the 734 area code.

In Westland, the 313 area code will remain in the southeast corner of the city in an area bounded by Annapolis, Harrison, Inkster and Van Born. The remainder changes to 734.

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, who opposed the area code changes for Livonia and fought the changes, remains unhappy with the change.

"The public had little or no choice," Kirksey said. "Now they have to change stationery, business cards and computers."

Add up the 5,000 businesses and the \$500-\$1,000 costs for businesses, that is a large expense, Kirksey said.

But officials from the local Chambers of Commerce in western Wayne County have not received that many complaints about the change.

A business expense

Linda Shapona, executive director of the Westland Chamber of Commerce, said she had not received any complaints. "It's just the inconvenience of having to change," Shapona said. "We haven't received anything concrete (in complaints), but I wish it was easier to remember."

Shapona hopes Ameritech would work to ease the transition for business owners and residents.

Fran Toney, executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, said the change should not be a surprise for people since it was announced more than a year ago.

"I don't know anyone who is delighted with it, but certainly with the demand for cell phones

and fax machines, we have created a need for additional numbers," Toney said.

The Canton Chamber of Commerce has not received any complaints from its members on the number change, said Carleigh Flaharty, the chamber's executive director.

"Ameritech has been good in getting releases out and letting people know about the changes they need to make in business cards and advertising."

Flaharty said the businesses can use their old stationery because the old number will work for another seven months.

"It's obviously a headache, but it's good for the printing business," Flaharty said.

If printers expect more business, it may take a while.

George King, a printer and owner of Graphic Communications in Plymouth, has not yet noticed any increase in business orders for stationery or business cards because of the change.

"People just aren't rushing in because they know (the old area code) is good until next year," King said.

Other changes

Snyder said Ameritech cellular users will have the option to decide whether they change their area code. Users of cellular phones from other companies should contact those companies about the changes.

Business owners also should contact their telecommunication vendor about changes needed in software or default functions in their computers to communicate with the 734 area code, Snyder said.

For information, call Ameritech's information hotline at 1-800-831-8989.

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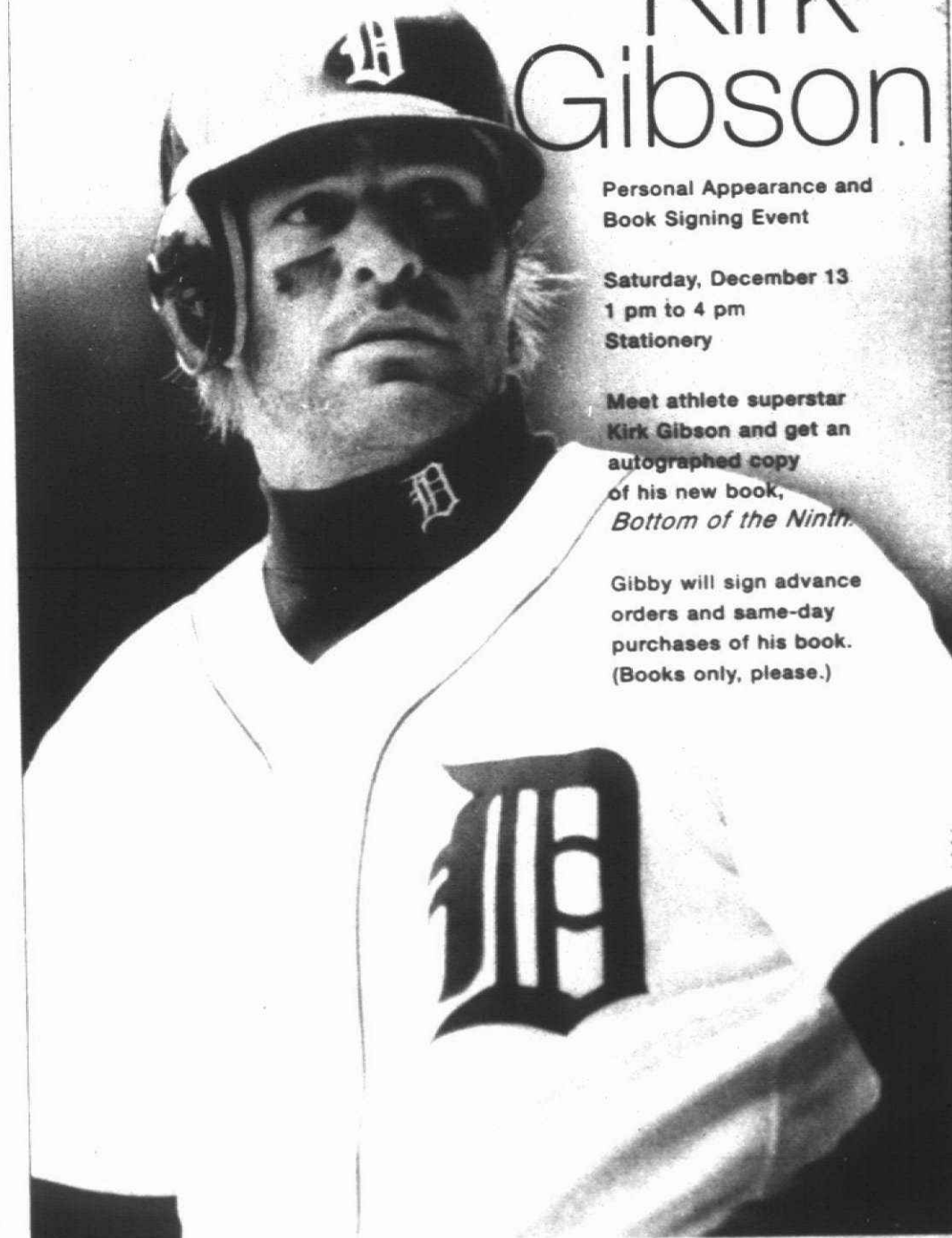
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Karate center food drive set

The Shito Kan Karate Do Center, founded by Dr. Jerry Aiello will host a rank promotion test and canned food drive on Sunday.

The event will be held at the Canton Shito Kan Karate Do Center, 6724 Canton Center Road, between Ford and Warren Roads in the Westgate Plaza. The children's test will be from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. The adult test will begin at 2 p.m.

Donations of two or more canned goods for an area charity will be accepted.

For more information, call Canton Shito Kan Karate Do Center at (313) 414-9342.

Gift for CATCH

A 12-pack of golf balls and a desktop pen/pencil organizer would make could be the golf fan's ideal stocking stuffer - and benefit local children as well.

The Pro Golf/Caddy Shack shops in Canton and eight other metro Detroit locations are selling the gift packs as a fund-raiser for CATCH (Caring Athletes Team for Children and Henry Ford Hospitals).

"We wanted to do something special to celebrate and recognize the 10-year anniversary of CATCH," said Bob Kunkel, owner of Pro Golf's Livonia store. The charity organized by former Detroit Tigers manager Sparky Anderson raises money throughout the year to pay for items and services for sick, injured and needy pediatric patients at the two hospitals.

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Decorations targeted by vandal

A vandal/grinch ran rampant in the Glangary Village subdivision over the weekend, cutting strands of Christmas lights, uprooting path lights and snapping flag poles in half.

A homeowner at Lothrop and Glangary reported \$235 worth of damage to numerous strands of exterior Christmas lights and path lights. Police said it appeared the vandal used a knife or wire cutters to disable the display. The incident occurred sometime between 11:30 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Sunday.

COP CALLS

Seven strands of holiday lights also were cut at a home at Glangary and Pinehurst sometime between 1-8 a.m. Sunday.

A homeowner at the 4500 block of Thornhill also told police three strings of lights were destroyed between 1-8 a.m.

A vandal snapped the flag poles at the model home, 47433 Glangary, sometime between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. Sunday. A security guard noticed a vehicle near

the entrance to the Glangary models about 5 a.m., but didn't notice the poles damaged until later.

Stolen car

A stolen 1991 Ford Aerostar was found, still running, and on top of a mailbox post on the 7400 block of Admiralty at 6:46 a.m. Sunday.

The van was stolen from a home on the 46000 block of Bartlett in the Canton Center and Warren area sometime after 12:30 a.m. Also stolen from inside the van was a purse with \$300 in cash and a cellular phone.

Break-in

The optometrist office inside Meijer, 45001 Ford, was broken into sometime between 8 p.m. Friday and 8:45 a.m. Saturday. The culprit apparently had a key to the electrical gate because the curtain had been closed. A locked cash drawer was pulled open by the culprit. Security is reviewing the video tape.

Assault

A 14-year-old student at Plymouth Salem High School told police he was assaulted by a classmate armed with a pair of scissors between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. last Thursday.

Police were called to the teen's home Thursday evening by the boy's father, who was upset that the school had not called him. Police also had not been notified of the incident.

The student said the classmate

threatened him with the scissors while in the third floor hallway during first and second period. A short time later a physical altercation occurred and the student armed with the scissors attempted to stab him. The scissors were knocked to the floor during the skirmish.

A teacher broke up the fight and both students were turned over to security officers were written reports were filed by both students.

Harassment

A harassment complaint was filed by the pastor at St. Michael Lutheran Church Friday in regards to his name being added to several mailing lists and adult magazine subscriptions, such as "Swing" and "Playboy."

Approximately 36 magazines and other items have been mailed to his home and church over the past 10 months, police said.

Counterfeit money

An employee at Auto Masters, 345 S. Canton Center, called police after receiving 22 \$20 counterfeit bills for car repairs about 2 p.m. Friday.

The counterfeit bills were used by a man who paid all cash for \$1,592 worth of work to his Ford Taurus. The manager noticed the bills were of poor quality and all the serial numbers were the same on the 22 bills. The car owner returned to the mechanics to clear up the matter and was arrested by Canton police, who turned the case over to the Secret Service.

Canton man among plaintiffs in lawsuit

TELEPHONE FRAUD

BY MATT JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Attorneys battling a \$1.2-million civil judgment won a partial victory in Livonia's 16th District Court Tuesday when they cut damages assigned to their clients by more than \$200,000.

Jeffrey Stewart and Gregory Stempien successfully argued that Diane Saks, a former Livonia chiropractor, and physician George Talbot were not involved in interstate racketeering in their dealings with two other defendants and the Starfire Foundation, which was ostensibly to train people as New Age-style telephone counselors.

District Judge Robert Brzezinski's ruling cut the part of the judgment for which Saks and Talbot are responsible from roughly \$562,000 to \$324,000, Stewart estimated Tuesday.

Brzezinski, however, refused to throw out the rest of the jury's finding against Talbot and did not grant Stempien and Stewart's request for a new trial. The two attorneys said they will appeal that decision in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Meanwhile, Fakhri "Frank" Yono, attorney for seven people who successfully sued Saks, Talbot, Harry Samuels of Florida and Robert O'Connor of Arizona, said he will likely appeal Brzezinski's ruling that dropped the racketeering portion of the judgment against Saks and Talbot.

Canton resident Walid Abubaker is one of the plaintiffs.

Tuesday's hearing, which lasted nearly two hours, was attended by the plaintiffs, former Starfire students who, along with about 50 other local people, each paid \$1,500 to be trained as what Starfire's promotional literature called source integration therapists and spiritual psychologists.

Starfire and its Next Step-26 Boney and Starfire Communications Network branches were presented as business ventures in which those who had gone

through the program would answer phone calls on 1-800 and 1-900 lines and earn as much as \$30 an hour, according to court records and the plaintiffs.

But the plaintiffs, with an assist from the Michigan attorney general's office, charged — and a district court jury in February agreed — that the ventures were a con scheme.

After a four-day trial, the jury awarded the seven \$328,100, with specific amounts assigned to each of the four defendants. But because the jury also found the four violated statutes against interstate racketeering, the damages were tripled, putting them close to \$1 million.

With attorneys fees, the judgment totaled \$1.2 million.

In arguing for a new trial, Stempien and Stewart depicted Talbot and Saks, who are married and now live in Hawaii, as bigger victims of the scheme than any of Starfire's students.

"Nobody trusted Robert O'Connor more than Diane Saks," Stewart told Brzezinski.

Stewart said the defendants' original attorney could not effectively represent all four without implicating O'Connor.

"Your judgment that's right 99 percent of the time was wrong," he said.

Brzezinski replied that the defense had ample time to discover that conflict before trial and that Talbot and Saks shouldn't be given a new trial because the defense strategy of solidarity backfired. The attorney did not have evidence of the alleged conflict at the time of his request, the judge said.

"We have attorneys out there who are not very good at trial but who are good at getting adjournments," he said.

The other plaintiffs are Karen Sattler of Livonia, Nancy Sallow and Jan Mansfield of Plymouth, Celeste Hamilton of West Bloomfield Township and Marcello and Debbie Galluppi of Eastpointe.

Here's a list of phone numbers affected by the area code change

Effective Saturday, many telephone number prefixes will change from 313 to a 734 area code.

Some prefixes will have more than one area code. Those having 313 and 734 area codes include: 221, 311, 750 and 950. Those with 248 and 734 are 998 numbers, while those in all three area codes are numbers with the 472, 490 and 959 prefixes.

The old area code can be dialed until July 25, 1998.

The former 313 numbers changing to 734 include:

■ The 200 prefix numbers of 205, 207, 213, 214, 221, 241, 242, 243, 244, 246, 247, 254, 258, 261, 264, 265, 266, 269, 279, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288 and 289.

■ The 300 prefix numbers of 311, 324, 326, 327, 329, 332, 334, 362, 374, 379, 384, 394, 397 and 398.

■ The 400 prefix numbers of 414, 416, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 432, 433, 434, 439, 448, 449, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 461, 462, 464, 466, 467, 468, 469, 472, 475, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 487, 490, 495, 497 and 498.

■ The 500 prefix numbers of 502, 509, 513, 516, 518, 522, 523, 524, 525, 528, 529, 542, 544, 572, 585, 586, 587, 591 and 595.

■ The 600 prefix numbers of 604, 612, 629, 632, 641, 647, 654, 655, 661, 662, 663, 665, 668, 669, 671, 672, 675, 676, 677, 692, 697 and 699.

■ The 700 prefix numbers of 712, 721, 722, 723, 728, 729, 738,

741, 747, 750, 753, 758, 761, 762, 763, 764, 769, 782, 783, 784 and 789.

■ The 800 prefix numbers of 844, 847, 848, 850, 853, 854, 856, 857, 858, 878, 879, 887 and 888.

■ The 900 prefix numbers of 913, 930, 936, 939, 941, 942, 944, 946, 947, 950, 953, 955, 957, 959, 971, 973, 975, 981, 985, 994, 995, 996, 997 and 998.

Elections from page A5

all ballots.

Steil added that the change "would free schools to focus on educating our children."

■ Limit school elections to three dates each year: one in April, one in August and the November general election.

■ Require the school district seeking approval of a bond issue to include on a ballot proposal the estimated annual tax cost.

■ Require the ballot language to include the per-pupil and per-classroom costs for the facilities

for which the bonds are issued.

■ Hike the cost of special elections by requiring the school district to pay the city and/or township 105 percent of the actual cost of conducting a special election.

Conducting special elections is a virtual science among school districts. For example, March is considered a good time to run a money proposal. Tactics include phone banks that target "school people" such as parents and school employees.

The House has worked on a different set of ideas but produced no bills for floor action.

House members have talked of reducing the number of total elections to three or four a year and requiring schools to use one of those elections for money questions.

Historically, Michigan has run school elections mostly in May and June, so that newly elected members could vote on the budget before the fiscal year starts on July 1.

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OBITUARIES

MICHELLE (MICKY) M. MARTINEZ
A funeral Mass was held for

Michelle (Micky) M. Martinez,
55, of Plymouth on Dec. 6 at Our

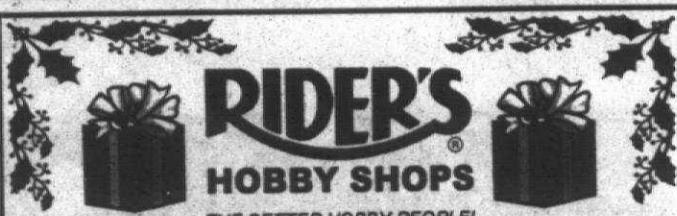
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Arbor. She was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, John B. of Canton; her son Jonathan; her parents, Paul and Jeanne Williams; and one brother, Keith Williams.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

MARY PRAY ADAMS
Mary Pray Adams, 85, of DeBarry, Fla., formerly of Plymouth, died Nov. 14 at the Volusia Medical Center in Orange City, Fla. Her burial was in the Woodard Lake Cemetery in Ionia County, Mich.

She was born in Jackson, Mich., and worked as an elementary school teacher for 20 years. After moving to Florida, she was recognized as "The Most Valuable Teacher of the Year." She enjoyed painting watercolors, playing bridge, and collecting antiques. Her great-grandfather built a home on Plymouth and Ann Arbor roads, which happened to be a wayside tavern for the Detroit-to-Chicago horse route. The two-story, brick home, has a monument and plaque.

She is survived by her husband of 26 years, Frank Adamski of DeBarry, Fla.; two sons, Peter Foster of Lincoln Park and John Foster of Orlando, Fla.; a stepson, Norman Adamski of Casselberry, Fla.; two sisters, Janet Waite of Jackson, Mich., and Jeanne Ploger of Ann Arbor; one stepdaughter, Ann Brashares of Jackson, Mich.; and 10 grandchildren.

SUSAN HELEN FINNEGAN
Services for Susan Helen Finnegan, 45, of Canton were Dec. 8 at the UH Funeral Home with the Rev. Fred Cooley officiating. The burial was in the Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton.

She was born April 11, 1952, and she died Dec. 3 in Ann

Arbor. She was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, John B. of Canton; her son Jonathan; her parents, Paul and Jeanne Williams; and one brother, Keith Williams.

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She is survived by her husband of 26 years, Frank Adamski of DeBarry, Fla.; two sons, Peter Foster of Lincoln Park and John Foster of Orlando, Fla.; a stepson, Norman Adamski of Casselberry, Fla.; two sisters, Janet Waite of Jackson, Mich., and Jeanne Ploger of Ann Arbor; one stepdaughter, Ann Brashares of Jackson, Mich.; and 10 grandchildren.

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A funeral Mass for Alejandra Olivarez Sethi, 53, of Plymouth was held Dec. 6 at St. Aidan Catholic Church with the Rev. Gerald K. Flannery officiating. The burial was at the White Chapel Crematory in Troy. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home.

She was born Feb. 28, 1944, in the Philippines. She died Dec. 3, in Detroit. She worked as a nurse and as an anesthetist. She is survived by her husband, Subhash C. of Plymouth; her mother, Felisa Olivarez of the Philippines; a daughter, Andrea of Plymouth; a son, Ravi A. of Plymouth; two sisters, Guillerma Angeles of Ga., and Rufina Lozada of the Philippines; and three brothers, Juan Olivarez of Livonia, Leovigildo Olivarez of Westland, and Valentin Olivarez of the Philippines.

Memorials may be made to the Karmanos Cancer Institute, Plymouth Region, 744 Wing St., Plymouth, Mich. 48170.

CAROLE A. WOBBERMIN
A funeral service was held for Carole A. Wobbermin, 55, of Plymouth on Dec. 6 in the Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home in Northville, with Deacon James Baughman officiating.

She was born March 16, 1942, in Lynn, Mass. She died Dec. 4 at her home. She was a graduate of the University of Michigan and worked as an interior designer for McAllister's Studio and at Designer's Choice.

She is survived by two daughters, Wendy Conaway of Plymouth and Kimberly McInnis of Redford Township; her mother, Dorothy L. Chiaradonna of Lynn, Mass.; and four sisters, Gail R. Tukey, Janice L. Lord, Vicki Godbout, and Lynn M. Mass. and Dorothy Ayott of Townsend, Mass.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or Arbor Hospice.

DAVID JAMES EMBURY
A memorial service was held today for David James Embury, 49, of Canton at Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi with the Rev. Neil Hunt officiating. Arrangements were handled by the McCabe Funeral Home in Canton.

He was born June 24, 1948, in Highland Park. He died Dec. 7 in Canton. He worked for Chrysler Corp. in the Forms Control Division. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; a son, David of Canton; two daughters, Alicia Allen and Anne Embury both from Canton; and two sisters, Marlene Visger and Janet Peach.

Memorials may be made to the Salvation Army or to The Light House Preservation Society.

DONALD MILTON KIMMEL
A funeral Mass was held today for Donald Milton Kimmel, 74, of Ann Arbor at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in Plymouth with the Rev. Peter M. Berg officiating. The burial was in St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in Ann Arbor. Arrangements were handled by the Vermeulen Funeral Home.

He was born Jan. 1, 1923, in Northville. He died Dec. 8 in Ann Arbor. He was a serviceman for Detroit Edison. He graduated from Northville High School in 1941 and served with the Army in World War II. He was a decorated veteran of the European Theatre as well as an associate member of the Society of the Third Infantry Division.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Theilma A. of Ann Arbor; a daughter, Donna Halman of Ann Arbor; a daughter-in-law, Jenny Kimmel; and two grandsons, Shawn and Matthew Halman of Ann Arbor.

He was preceded in death by his son, Gary.

Memorials may be made to St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1343 Pennington Ave., Plymouth 48170, or the American Heart Association, West Metro Region, P.O. Box 721129, Berkeley 48072.

CLAUDE R. YOE
A funeral Mass was held today for Claude R. Yoe, 96, of Plymouth at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth with the Rev. John Sullivan officiating. The burial was in Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth.

He was born Sept. 13, 1901, in Detroit. He died Dec. 8 in Westland. He was a resident of Plymouth since 1935. At the age of 62, he retired from Montgomery Ward, where he worked as a salesman. He is survived by two sons, Timothy and Harry, both of Plymouth; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the St. Francis Home for Boys in Detroit or the Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation.

Senate actions stall efforts of assisted suicide supporters

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Merian's Friends, the Northville-based group seeking a statewide vote on regulating assisted suicide, will have an uphill battle in the wake of two state Senate votes.

It will have to conduct a 260,000-signature petition drive to place its proposal before voters in November of 1998 — "which is a monumental job unless you have a lot of money," said Sen. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township.

"It's not like you had casino money supporting the drive. The track record (for volunteer-run petition drives) is never very good," he said.

Peters and Bob Moreillon, spokesman for Merian's Friends, said polls show 57 to 60 percent of voters would favor a law regulating physician-assisted suicide. The group is named for Merian

Fredricks, a client of Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

During the Dec. 4 Senate debate, Peters proposed a shortcut to a petition drive: putting on the ballot both Senate Bill 200, to outlaw assisted suicide, and SB 653, Peters' regulatory bill that is similar to the Merian's Friend proposal. An amendment, which required a two-thirds vote, fell 7-24. Local senators voting yes were Peters and Alma Wheeler Smith, D-Salem, and five other Democrats. There was no record roll call.

How they voted

Instead, the Senate approved SB 200 by a vote of 28 to 7. Here is how area senators voted:

Yes — Loren Bennett, R-Canton, Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham, John Cherry, D-Clio, Mat Dunaskiss, R-

Lake Orion, Robert Geake, R-Northville, George Z. Hart, D-Deerborn, Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek.

No — Peters and Alma Smith. Absent — Bill Bullard Jr., R-Milford. SB 200 declares:

■ Assisting in a suicide is punishable by up to four years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,000.

■ "A person who knowingly or intentionally by force or coercion causes an individual to commit suicide is guilty of murder."

■ Exempts "withholding or withdrawing medical treatment."

■ Exempts administration of pain-

killers, "even if the medication may hasten or increase the risk of death," if certain medical requirements are met.

Bouchard praised this provision.

Euthanasia feared

Sponsor is Sen. William VanRegenmorter, R-Jenison, who held extensive public hearings during fall.

Speaking of Kevorkian, who has assisted in an estimated 71 suicides in Michigan, VanRegenmorter said, "Most were not immediately dying. Many were not even terminally ill. Four young women weren't ill at all."

SB 200 is the Legislature's second attempt to outlaw assisted suicide. An earlier law was "sunsetting" after four years and no convictions.

Backers pointed to the Netherlands, saying 1,000 people a year are euthanized (subjected to mercy killing). They fear assisted suicide will evolve into euthanasia.

Elderly people's fear is so great, said VanRegenmorter, that groups are giving senior citizens cards saying, "If I'm

hospitalized, don't kill me." VanRegenmorter scoffed at the polls cited by Peters and Merian's Friends. "It (favorable view of assisted suicide) depends on how you ask the question. But the numbers drop dramatically when you talk about hospice care and pain relief."

"At our public hearings, people were 2-1 in support of SB 200." Opposing Peters' amendment to put SB 200 on the ballot, VanRegenmorter said, "We're not elected to put our fingers in the wind and look at polls."

"If someone wants to take his own life, they can find ways to do it," said Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, the Senate's only physician. "The question is getting someone to help. It's tantamount to murder."

"The physician should be allowed to

Please see SUICIDE, A17

State economy still relies on auto industry

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

"Diversity" is the word they use not only in university admissions but in the economy. For two generations, politicians and economists have said Michigan is too dependent on the auto industry and needs economic diversity.

After 20 years of downsizing, however, the auto industry still is the mainstay of Michigan's economy, according to a first-of-its-kind report from the state Senate Fiscal Agency.

One of every 15 employees in 1996 worked directly in the motor vehicle and equipment industry — 6.5 percent versus a high of 12.2 percent in 1973. That was 280,000 auto-related

jobs out of 4.3 million in the state.

In wages, the auto industry is doubly important, paying \$1 of every \$8 earned by all workers. Auto, light truck and automotive equipment workers were paid \$140 million or 13 percent of all wages. Top year was 1977 when the industry generated 18.4 percent of all wages.

The SFA report was compiled by Rebecca Ross, economist and fiscal analyst, with charts prepared by Karen Hendrick. SFA serves the Senate Appropriations Committee with help on budget bills, analyses of all Senate bills and rules, and economic forecasting.

The market is nearing saturation. Please see ECONOMY, A12

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Sculpting minds: A sculpture of "Ring Around the Rosey" will highlight the Children's Garden Project at Schoolcraft College. It will symbolize a mixture of nature, education and art in front of the Children's Center. People who wish to contribute toward the project can purchase a personalized brick.

Sculpture, garden symbolize education, art and nature

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Ring Around the Rosey is a whimsical and playful child's game.

That game — in the form of a sculpture — is expected to symbolize a serious mix of nature, education and art at the Children's Garden Project at Schoolcraft College.

Organizers hope that garden grows through a fund-raising program in which the general public can purchase a personalized brick.

The sculpture is expected to be installed in front of the Children's Center next fall, according to Dorothy Whitten, director of child care and development at Schoolcraft College.

"We're pretty excited about the sculpture," Whitten said. The life-sized bronze sculpture will be created by Bernadette Zachara of Farmington Hills. The idea of using the theme of playing children was Whitten's.

"We wanted to show the joy of active play, kids getting together, enjoying themselves and life in general," Whitten said.

Children will learn about nature by working in the raised beds of the garden, Whitten said. Raised-bed gardens, walking paths and nature trails will extend from the Center's entrance to the natural areas west and south of the building.

The children learn about art at the center through the use of water, clay and sand, and the sculpture will help promote that theme.

"The arts are very important to children and they're fascinated by that," said Whitten.

The surrounding brickscape and paths will include laser-inscribed bricks with the names of donors or loved ones who donors have chosen to honor, such as a child or grandchild.

Persons making a \$100 or more contribution may have a personalized brick installed in

the brickscape and adjacent paths, with their name or the name of a loved one or organization inscribed on the brick.

A \$100 contribution entitles the donor to a 4-by-8 inch brick with two lines of 14 characters each. A \$200 contribution earns an 8-by-8 inch brick with five lines of 14 characters each. Buying a brick also counts as a contribution to the Schoolcraft College Foundation Annual Campaign.

The fund-raising drive has raised \$5,000 towards its \$20,000 goal.

The Child Care Center houses 110 children. Students, faculty, staff and community parents use the facility, which operates five days a week from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The center is open on the same days as the college.

The project is supported by a combination of grants, donations and volunteer labor.

For information call the Child Care Center at (313) 462-4442.

Economy from page A11

tion. In 15 years, the number of vehicles per capita in use has inched up from 0.82 per person to 0.97 with little increase in the 1990s.

Other highlights, as of 1996: Imports as a percentage of total U.S. auto sales rose from 15 percent in 1970 to a high of 31 percent in 1987. By the early 1990s, however, imports shrank

below the 15 percent mark.

Reason: "Transplants" — foreign-owned car companies operating in the U.S. — grew from zero in 1970 to 1984 to more than 26 percent of the current market.

Auto sales by domestic manufacturers (both transplants and the Big Three Michigan-based firms) have topped 85 percent of

the market with imports sliding below 15 percent.

Michigan's share of total U.S. auto production peaked at 35.8 percent in 1988. In 1996, Michigan accounted for 30.5 percent of total U.S. output.

Analysts no longer think of "autos" and "trucks" separately. They think of autos and "light trucks" as one type of consumer

vehicle. "Light trucks" includes pickups, minivans and sport-utility vehicles.

Light trucks have leaped to 45 percent of the market — 6.5 million of a total domestic "light motor vehicle" sales of 15 million — from less than 20 percent in the early 1970s.

Leasing is growing popular. In 1984, just 1.4 percent of sales

were leases; currently, 21.2 percent.

Luxury cars are most frequently leased — 64 percent. Budget car owners used leases for less than 14 percent of their acquisitions.

Average price of a domestic new car was a shade below \$17,000; of an import, more than \$27,400; of total cars, \$18,565.

Cars are getting older on average. In 1970, average age was 5.6 years; since 1991 the age has risen from 8.1 to 8.5 years currently. Average age of trucks was more stable — 7.3 years in 1970, 8 to 8.4 years throughout the 1990s.

Businesses can obtain health insurance

Blue Care, Inc., a nonprofit corporation affiliated with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, and St. John Health System have teamed up to provide Wayne County small business owners affordable health coverage for their employees.

Through HealthChoice, Wayne County's program aimed at helping businesses retain workers, the two health care providers are offering the HealthChoice Partners program.

"Affordable health care motivates employees to stay in the area and on the job," said David B. Siegel, M.D., senior vice president of managed care for Blue Cross Blue Shield.

"We see the HealthChoice program as an important linchpin in the strengthening of access to health care services within Wayne County and we are very excited to be part of that effort," Blue Care Inc.'s HealthChoice Partners program offers:

- A wide choice of doctors affiliated with St. John Health System through eight hospitals and more than 50 medical and specialty centers

- No or low copays on most benefits

- No paperwork or claims to file

- Prescription services at 2,000 Blue Cross Blue Shield participating pharmacies throughout Michigan

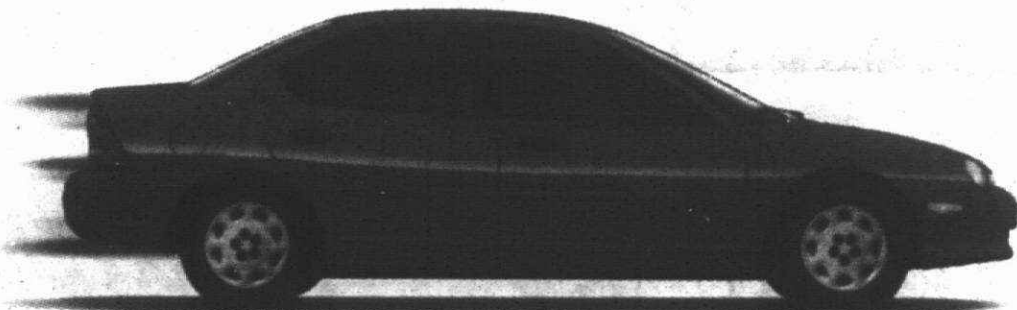
Since 1994, Wayne County's HealthChoice has collaborated with health care providers to offer health care services to Wayne County businesses that don't have health coverage.

Eligible business owners include those with five or more employees, with at least 50 percent of their workforce being paid \$10 an hour or less.

The county pays one-third of the cost, while the employer and employee split the remaining two-thirds.

Employers also have the option to offer their employees expanded coverage by purchasing riders for vision, dental, outpatient physical therapy, durable medical equipment, unlimited inpatient hospital days, and in-patient drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.


Blue Care, Inc., is a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan affiliated company. St. John Health System is a growing network of community-based health care services, offering comprehensive prevention, primary care and treatment programs.



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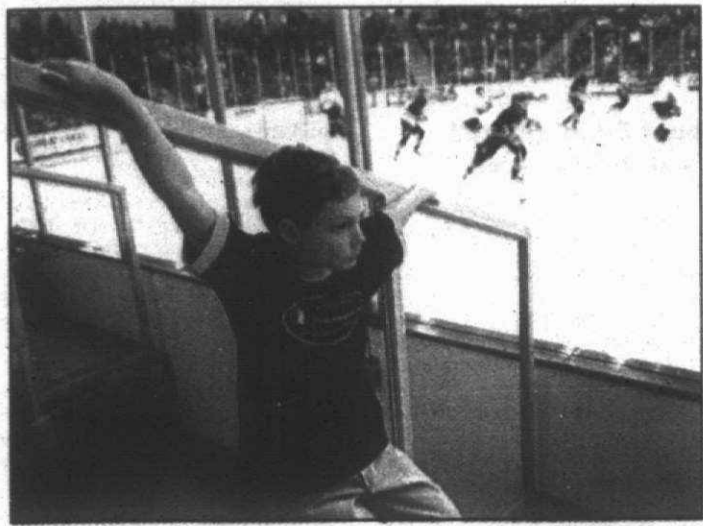
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Scoping: Kevin Brown of Livonia hangs out while the Whalers play at Compuware Sports Arena Saturday in a game in which they broke their winning streak.



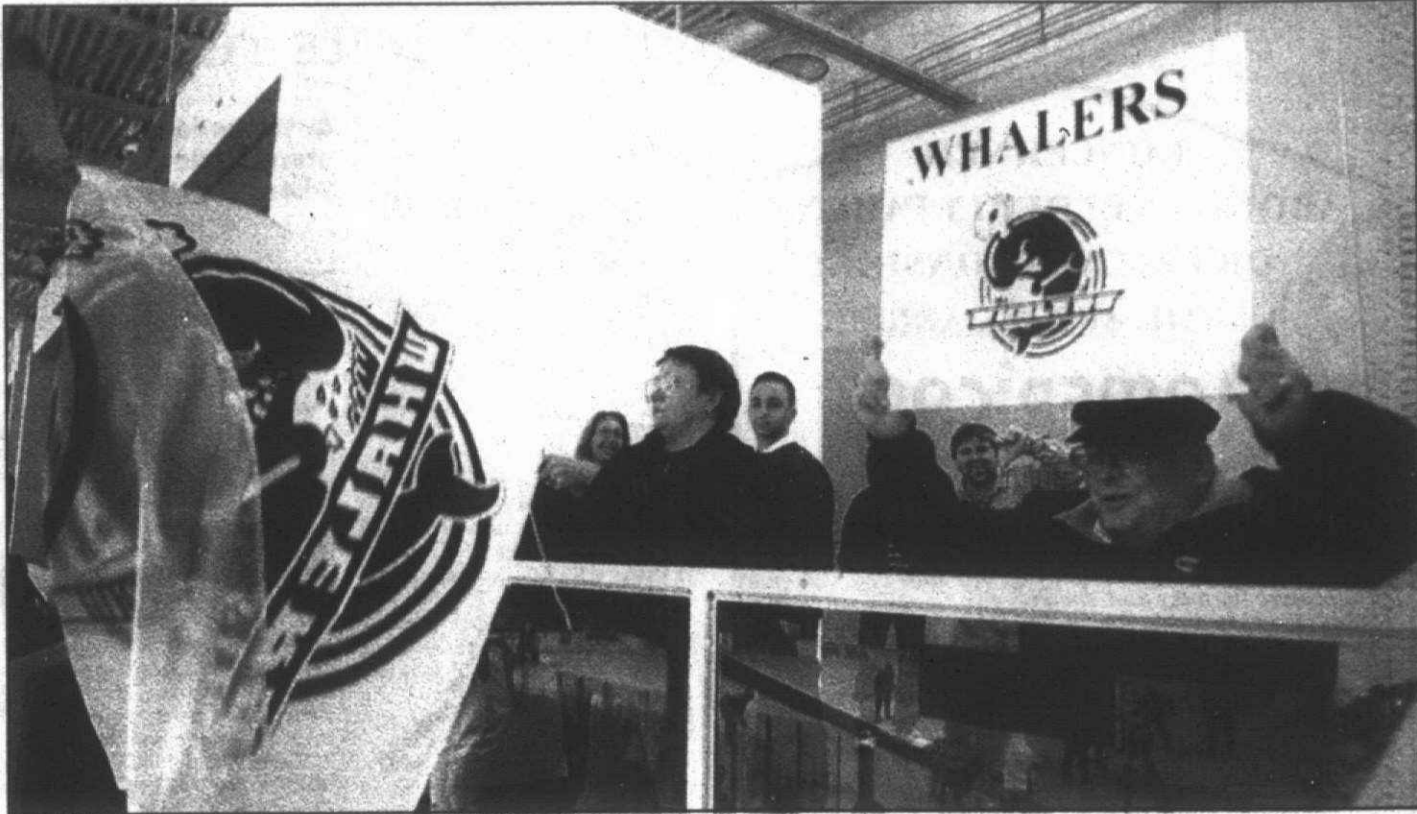
On the job: Thomas Valead, a Westland machinist, sells programs during the game. He joined the Whale Watchers when the team moved to Plymouth and that's how he got a job selling programs.



Aftermath: After the game, Farmington Hill's Fire Mite AA hockey team got to go into the locker room and get player autographs. Whaler Andrew Taylor signs Jonathan Castine's poster.

Staff photos by Bill Bresler

What could be better? Ben, Ann and Mary Lindamood, of Plymouth watch the Whalers game. Fans say they enjoy the arena because it's clean, not overcrowded and you can get into the restrooms.



Go Whalers! Rebecca and Jerry Trumpka are big-time fans of the hometown Ontario Hockey League team. And when their team scores, they go with the moment, not to mention a little celebration.

Whalers rule

Hockey night in Plymouth

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

It's loads of fun to watch a Plymouth Whalers game, even a rare home loss.

Just ask around 3,000 who showed for Saturday's game with the Erie Otters.

The Whalers made a third period comeback but still lost, 8-5. That broke an 11-game home win streak.

But a night with the Whalers and their fans reveals a bigger picture:

Having an Ontario Hockey League hockey team playing in your back yard is a joy — for hockey fans and the soon-to-be converted.

For the few who've been hiding out the past 16 months and haven't heard, let's recap:

The Whalers, once known as the Junior Red Wings, started play as the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) Plymouth Whalers in September 1996 in the grand Compuware Sports Arena on Beck Road.

Premier league

The OHL is known in hockey circles to be the premier amateur league supplying players to the National Hockey League. OHL players are ages 16-20. NHL stars Eric Lindros and Mike Modano are among dozens who played for the team now known as the Whalers.

"It's really a game of anticipation and reaction. Smarter players always seem to be going in the right direction," said NHL Phoenix Coyote scout Vaughn Karpan, on hand to scout Whalers forward David Legwand and defenseman Kevin Holdridge. "We're looking at everyone that's first-time eligible for the (NHL) draft," Karpan said.

Karpan, who lives in Vancouver and said he's been on the road scouting "34 of the last 38 days" pronounces the Whalers facility as "pretty nice in terms of the OHL. It's clean and bright, it's well-lit," he said.

Regular fans

About 20 minutes before game time, Robert Schatz and wife Joanne of West Bloomfield had

taken their seats in the top row overlooking the Erie goal.

"We're here practically every game. The owner (Peter Karmanos) is my son-in-law," Schatz explained.

"It's not really crowded. You can get in the restrooms whenever you want to," he added. "They're exciting games."

"We come out a couple times a year," said Rick Elder of Brighton. Son Mike is wearing a red and white Slava Kozlov Red Wings jersey with No. 13 on the back; son Steve also has a Whalers' jersey.

It's easier to get tickets for Whalers games, Elder said. "It's a good hockey game, they play hard," he said.

The game was just opening as Kim Guenther and son Blakely made their way to their seats. "This is the second time we've been here. It's very inexpensive. From all seats you can see the game. I only live up the road," Guenther said.

Promoting

Manning the counter at The Fish Market, which offers Whaler jerseys, sweat shirts and other items placed on neat shelves, was Ryan Stupakis of Dearborn.

"We sell a lot of these (miniature) hockey sticks to kids," he said. The sticks are \$5 and \$7.

"Most of the stuff we sell is the novelties," he explained. But Whalers replica jerseys, in dark blue and trimmed in green and white, are also popular, at \$119 each.

Selling programs and lineups from a stand facing those entering the arena was Thomas Valead of Westland, a machinist. He joined the Whale Watchers fan club when the team moved to Plymouth. That led to the job selling programs. "I love it," he said.

For a typical game, he sells more than 130 programs and about the same number of lineups.

Valead interrupts the conversation to shout "Yea!" as rookie Legwand scores the first goal of the game, at 4:28.

Legwand is the Whalers top scorer, with 30 goals. In fact, he leads the OHL in goals by a

rookie.

Good for kids

Dave Hayes, a Plymouth Township police detective, is at the game with his kids, Anthony, 8, and Nick, 4. With him are some fellow coaches from the mite hockey Stingrays.

"I think it's good hockey for the kids. It's aggressive hockey," he said.

Another Stingray coach, Jim McCusker of Novi, said, "I like the ice arena and the fan enthusiasm."

McCusker said that while he likes to see the Red Wings, "it's hard to get tickets. We try to see the Whalers about once a month."

Like Hayes, he has his kids, Shane, 6, and Jimmy, 8, at the game. Watching Whalers games is more than just entertainment — it's a chance to show the kids positioning and how to properly pass the puck, he said.

The Otters, in their white uniforms trimmed with red and orange, are strong on defense. When the Whalers bring the puck up ice, the Erie forwards and defenseman are able to get back in front of their goalie, to intercept passes or block shots.

Erie goalie Patrick Dovigi uses his goal stick to deflect a shot up over the rink glass, about 14 rows back. Painted on the boards are ads for national and local businesses, including Colonial Collision and Trader Jacks.

The arena sound system blasts out a rousing combination of jock rock favorites. When referee Mark Hicks calls an Erie penalty, "I'm A Loser, Baby" fills the arena as the power-play time is illuminated in bright red numbers on the scoreboard over center ice.

Entertaining fans

To keep fans entertained even between periods, Whalers staff present mini-mite games or the "King of the Hill" promotion. Two lucky fans are chosen to



Intent: Stevie and Chris Hensel of Canton watch their first Whalers' game.

watch the game from recliners, where they're served complimentary ribs and beverages.

The Whalers average 3,400 attendance per game, with 1,900 season ticket holders. Assistant General Manager Kerry Kerch said attendance tends to increase as the season progresses.

The regular season ends in mid-March. If the team is successful in the playoffs, play can continue into mid-May.

Near some large pop canisters, concessions manager Scott Spiker talks with one of his staffers. Most are moms with the Plymouth Figure Skating Club who work at games in exchange for ice time for their kids.

Jerry Trumpka, Plymouth Midas Muffler shop owner, watching the play shift to the Erie end, said, "I'm out here all the time." He follows OHL stats on the World Wide Web, and has even worked as an unofficial team mascot.

"In two or three years they'll be playing in the NHL. It's kind of like 'I knew them when,'" Trumpka said.

Following the 8-5 loss, coach Peter DeBoer is still upbeat.

"We got outplayed. We were undefeated in 11 at home, we might have got a little bit overconfident," he said.

The Whalers' next home game is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, against the North Bay Centennials. Ticket prices are \$6, \$9 and \$12.



Wait! Whalers' player Yuri Babenko, No. 12, looks upset as he makes his way to the locker room as kids urge him to stop. The Whalers lost Saturday to the Erie Otters 8-5. The loss broke the team's home game winning streak.

Judge wants report in 14 months on Rouge

By Ken Abramczyk
STAFF WRITER

U.S. District Judge John Feikens will allow three counties and 43 communities 14 months to report back to him on progress made on the Rouge River before he decides whether a management authority should take over the cleanup project.

Feikens decided on Nov. 13 to allow the time extension after a conference was held in his courtroom. Several community representatives, Oakland and Washtenaw county drain commissioners and representatives from the state Department of Environmental Quality attended the conference.

Feikens appointed a committee, chaired by court monitor Jonathan Bulkley, to discuss over the next 14 months the communities' requirements and how they should be addressed in general stormwater permits. The committee also includes George Kuhn, Oakland County drain commissioner; Janis Bobrin, Washtenaw County drain commissioner; and Jim Murray, director of Wayne County's Department of Environment and

'We believe there are about 5,000 (illegal storm drain connections), but we don't know where they're at.'

Jim Murray

—director of Wayne County Department of Environment

state officials.

Murray expects the discussions will focus on what communities will need to do with septic tanks, illicit downspout connections and public education and how these issues will be outlined on general permits issued by the DEQ to Rouge River basin communities.

Murray also believes dialogue will continue with the state DEQ on the 2002 deadline to build retention basins to control combined sewer overflows. CSOs are combined sanitary and storm sewers that overflow into the Rouge after heavy rainfalls and empties sewage into the Rouge.

Murray and local community leaders are concerned that any mandate to build retention basins could cost communities millions in bonds and higher sewer rates.

Murray would prefer that those communities have an

opportunity to "spread these costs out" over several years. "I think some of the communities, namely Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Inkster and Redford, need more time to build them."

Septic tanks and illicit connections are two issues that need to be addressed before evaluating the effectiveness of the program, Murray said. Surveys have shown some Rouge basin communities have high septic failure rates.

"The city of Southfield did a survey, and found a 40 to 60 percent failure rate," Murray said. "Other communities that have newer systems have 5 to 10 percent failure rate."

Wayne County and communities do not have a septic tank program in place, but Murray expects that issue will be discussed with communities.

"This is an issue that has to be addressed," Murray said. "These

septic tanks should be pumped out every three to five years. Nobody is doing that right now."

Murray also estimates that about 5,000 illegal storm drain connections into combined sewer overflows also add runoff to the river. "There are 900 that we know of," Murray said. "Based on that we believe there are about 5,000, but we don't know where they're at."

On the retention basins, Murray believes communities need more time to allow communities to fund the facilities and give them the ability to construct these facilities.

The committee will also discuss the use of a geographic information system and who will manage it.

The committee is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 at Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile Road. The meetings are open to the public and community leaders are encouraged to attend.

Anyone who wishes to get on the mailing list to be notified about these informational meetings can call the Rouge Program office at 961-0700.

County LightFest continues to shine for holidays

With 4 1/2 miles of giant animated displays and nearly a million lights along Hines Drive, it's the Midwest's largest holiday light show.

The holiday extravaganza includes a visit from Santa Claus. Santa will be available for

pictures for a \$5 donation. In addition, visitors can complete their holiday shopping at the gift shop where Christmas ornaments, wreaths and stocking stuffer items can be purchased.

To warm up before going

home, visitors can purchase hot chocolate, hot dogs, nachos and other food and beverages at the concession stand.

Motorists can drive through 7 to 10 p.m. through Jan. 1, except Christmas Day. They can enter at Hines Drive and Merriman. A

minimum donation of \$5 per car keeps LightFest operating. For information, call (313) 261-1990.

Suicide

from page A11

administer an opiate and morphine. As the doses become closer, one depresses the respiratory effort," he said, with the result being death.

Peters' bill nixed

Opposed was Sen. Jim Berryman, D-Adrian. "People will find a way to end life. No one should have to go into the basement with a gun. No one should have to find his father hanging in the garage."

Two days earlier, VanRegenmorter's Senate Judiciary Committee rejected Peters' SB 653, which is similar to the Merian's Friends initiative. It would:

- Limit the option of assisted suicide to Michigan residents who are terminally ill and have six months or less to live.

- Require patients to get two doctors' opinions state the illness is terminal.

- Require patients to undergo psychological counseling.

- Limit methods to doctor-prescribed medication.

- Require voter approval of the bill.

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Madonna University adds full-time faculty members

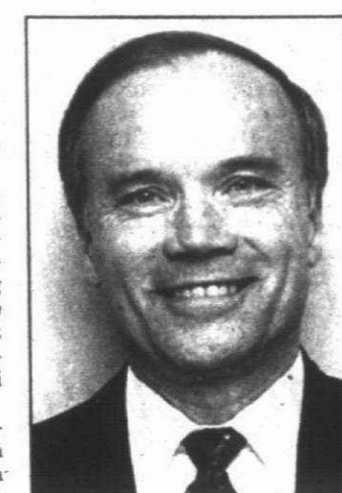
Madonna University officials have added several new full-time instructors to the faculty.

Sister Victoria Marie Indyk has joined the faculty of Madonna as a full-time instructor in the nursing department.

Prior to joining the faculty, Indyk worked at Saint Joseph/Angela Hall from 1993-97 in the Felician Sisters Infirmary as the director for nursing services. She is a member of the Healthcare and Retirement Committee and serves as a volunteer at St. Francis Cabrini Clinic for Poor in Detroit.

She received both her bachelor's in 1975 and her master's in 1993 in nursing from Madonna University. Indyk took her vows to become a Felician sister in 1969 and is a Livonia resident.

Sister Mary Francis Lewandowski has joined the Madonna faculty as a part-time adjunct lecturer in the art department. A Livonia resident, she also taught at St. Florian and Ladywood high schools. An alumna of Madonna University, she received her bachelor's degree in art in 1991. In 1997, she graduated from Wayne State



Roger Crownover
University with a master's degree in printmaking.

Roger Crownover has joined the faculty of Madonna University as a full-time assistant professor in the history department, where he has worked part time since 1991. Crownover has taught at Oakland Community College and Schoolcraft College.

He is a graduate of Union Institute's doctoral program in



Sister Victoria Marie Indyk

Cincinnati, where he studied military history. In 1990 he received his master's degree in history from Eastern Michigan University and is a 1989 alumna of Madonna University where he received his bachelor's degree in history.

Marvin Weingarden also joined the Madonna faculty as a full-time assistant professor in the mathematics department.



Sister Mary Francis Lewandowski

Weingarden worked for the Detroit Public Schools where he began his career in mathematics in 1961. He also taught at Wayne State University, the University of Detroit-Mercy and Oakland Community College. A past president of the Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics, currently Weingarden serves on the board of



Marvin Weingarden

directors. He received the honor of Mathematics Educator of the Year for the 1997-98 academic year from the Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

He has published several books, his most recent titled "Algebra I and II - Explorations and Applications."

Bernard Travnkar has joined

the faculty as a full-time associate professor in the education department.

Travnkar, a 1992 graduate of Wayne State's education leadership/administration doctoral program, has taught at Oakland University, Northern Michigan University and Western Michigan University. His official include chair for the Special Education Advisory Committee and president of the Michigan Chapter of the Council for Children with Behavior Disorders.

Travnkar received his bachelor's degree in English in 1970 and his master's degree in special education in 1976 from Oakland University.

Laurie Kaufman also has joined the faculty as a full-time assistant professor in the education department. Previously, she taught at Oakland University as a visiting professor.

In 1968, she graduated with her bachelor's degree and teaching certification in Spanish from Wayne State University. She received both her master's degree in 1982 and her doctorate in 1997 from Oakland University.

Business leaders want tougher standards

The Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence is urging the state House and Senate to strengthen the High School Proficiency Test (HSPT) and to maintain the state-endorsed diploma.

"The Michigan Legislature must continue to raise academic standards for all Michigan children and the time for action is now," said MBELE Chairman Dave Whitam, chairman and CEO of Whirlpool Corp.

Specifically, MBELE wants to strengthen the HSPT by retaining a high standard in cut scores, with clear definitions as to what each level means.

Quick action on the Senate floor is needed to ensure that a complete HSPT process is in place for testing this year and that past problems with administering the test are avoided.

The business group said the HSPT is a major step to restoring the value and integrity of the high school diploma, to fairly measure a student's ability to apply the knowledge they have gained and raise the standard of education in Michigan's schools.

"While we are pleased that the Senate Committee moved a majority of the House bills quickly, we remain concerned that policy makers may be backing away from high standards and the power the HSPT has in improving curriculum," said Whitam.

Not to be overlooked is the importance of maintaining the endorsed diploma, noted MBELE Director Jim Sandy. "For years, we assumed that any child completing 13 years of schooling would be equipped with the necessary skills to enter the workforce or go on to college."

"Unfortunately, we were wrong, but the endorsed diploma will send the message that these skills are necessary and important."

MBELE has been engaged in a campaign to raise the awareness of Michigan employers about how the endorsed diploma can be a useful tool in their hiring practices.

Jim Barrett, president and CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, said, "It is up to the employers to include the endorsed diploma as part of the employment process. This will send a strong message to schools and students that a quality education is a prerequisite to procuring a quality job."

MBELE is an education reform initiative formed in 1991. It represents a collaborative effort between the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan Business Roundtable, corporate sponsors and key policy makers.

Please see DIPLOMAS, A16

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Proposal allows sheriffs secondary employment

Wayne County Commissioner George Cushingberry Jr. introduced an ordinance recently that would grant greater freedoms to Wayne County Sheriff officers.

The proposed ordinance would allow Sheriff Department officers to obtain secondary employment and to wear Sheriff uniforms while on that secondary job. The jobs would be limited to avoid conflicts, said Cushingberry.

Cushingberry, who represents the 6th District in Detroit, currently serves as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and is a member of the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary.

Should the ordinance be adopted, the decision of whether an officer can hold a secondary job — not to exceed 20 hours per week — would be left up to the Wayne County Sheriff for approval.

"It will make the community safer because they'll have trained people in place to offer services such as security," Cushingberry said. Security jobs are not the only options, he added.

Cushingberry got the idea while attending a National Association of County Officials (NACO) and heard that others, such as Atlanta, already similar programs.

Cushingberry worked with the Wayne County Sheriff Department, particularly Sheriff Robert Ficano and Commander Eric Smith, in drafting the legislation.

"This is something we've been looking at for a long time," Ficano said. "We're trying to enhance the opportunities for our officers. We'll work with them if they want to explore outside employment."

If the outside employment is "the right fit" and doesn't present any liability for the Sheriff's Department, Ficano said he didn't object to his deputies having other jobs. At this point, he isn't sure how many deputies would take advantage of the secondary employment avenue.

Diplomas from page A15

The membership of MBLER includes executives from Chrysler Corporation; Comerica Incorporated; Consumers Energy; Dow Chemical Company; Ford Motor Company; General Motors Corporation; Kmart Corpora-

tion; Mead Paper Company; Pharmacia & Upjohn; Whirlpool Corporation; University of Michigan; and Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

HEAT offers advice on holiday safety

The holiday season is the busiest shopping season of the year. It is also a prime season for criminals to prey on the hordes of holiday shoppers burdened by packages and often too preoccupied to pay attention to the all-important parking lot safety precautions.

Topping the holiday shopping list should be safety, says the director of Help Eliminate Auto Theft, a statewide auto theft prevention program which operates a confidential toll free tip reward line at 1-800-242-HEAT.

"People have lot on their minds during the holidays and often do things for the sake of expediency they might not otherwise do, like leaving their car running or open to make a quick stop for some item or leaving packages in plain view," said Bill Liddane, director of HEAT.

"Unfortunately, this carelessness is precisely what criminals are counting on during the holiday season."

To help holiday shoppers stay safe, HEAT has compiled the following list of hints for safe holiday shopping:

In Park in well-lit areas near sidewalks or walkways. Avoid parking near Dumpsters or large vans or trucks. These obstacles decrease ability to see the space around your vehicle, where carjacks could be hiding.

If you are shopping late at night and your car is parked in the lot, ask the store clerk if it is possible for store security to escort you to your car.

If you leave purchases or wrapped gifts in the car, place them into the trunk and out of view.

Even if burdened down with packages, try to keep one hand free with ignition key in hand. Look around and inside car before getting in.

If threatened by a carjacker with a gun or other weapon, give up the car. Don't argue. A life is more important than any car. If you are carjacked or witness a carjacking, try to remember what the carjacker looked like — sex, height, build, race, age, hair and eye color. Once you are in a safe location, report the crime by dialing 911 or the police. Also report your information to HEAT's toll-free tip reward line at 1-800-242-HEAT. Your confidential information could be worth up to \$10,000.

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

Since its inception in 1985, HEAT has recovered 2,375 vehicles at \$26.8 million. HEAT has received 5,246 calls leading to the arrest of 1,960 suspects. HEAT has awarded more than \$1.7 million.

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| Ski SAVINGS \$484 | Ski SAVINGS \$458 | Ski SAVINGS \$368 |
| ROSSIGNOL NORDICA Rossignol Car Super 10.4 Skis... \$439.00 Nordica 56 AFX 56 M/L... \$225.00 Salomon 600 Quad Bindings... \$180.00 Scott Signature Poles... \$44.00 Total Retail \$888.00 | ELAN SALOMON Elan PSX PC/PC Lady... \$450.00 Salomon 4.0 Symbio M/L... \$250.00 Salomon 600 Quad Bindings... \$180.00 Scott Signature Poles... \$44.00 Total Retail \$924.00 | NORDICA K2 Reflex Lady Skis... \$340.00 Nordica Trend 03 Lady... \$280.00 Marker M-28 V-Tech... \$180.00 Scott Signature Poles... \$44.00 Total Retail \$844.00 |
| Ski SAVINGS \$554 | Ski SAVINGS \$524 | Ski SAVINGS \$574 |
| ATOMIC NORDICA Atomic Mega Carve 3 Lady Skis... \$375.00 Nordica Trend 03 Lady... \$280.00 Marker M-28 V-Tech... \$180.00 Scott Signature Poles... \$44.00 Total Retail \$879.00 | OLIN SALOMON Olin TC SLT/SLT Super Skis... \$500.00 Salomon 4.0 Evolution M/L... \$275.00 Salomon 5.700 Quad Sphonic... \$190.00 Scott Signature Poles... \$44.00 Total Retail \$1,009.00 | DYNASTAR SALOMON Dynastar Big Max 2/Max Lady... \$475.00 Salomon 4.0 Symbio M/L... \$250.00 Marker M-28 V-Tech Bindings... \$180.00 Scott Signature Poles... \$44.00 Total Retail \$949.00 |
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| ROSSIGNOL SALOMON Rossignol 991 9 C VAS Skis... \$699.00 Salomon 5800 Alpin... \$225.00 Marker M-51 Graphite... \$225.00 Total Retail \$1,149.00 | OLIN SALOMON Olin Kinetic 7 Skis... \$515.00 Salomon 5800 Alpin... \$225.00 Marker M-51 Graphite... \$225.00 Total Retail \$965.00 | MARKER K2 Merlin IV Skis... \$695.00 Marker M-51 Graphite... \$275.00 Salomon 5800 Alpin... \$225.00 Total Retail \$1,195.00 |
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Hoedown tradition endures

BY DIANE HANSON
STAFF WRITER

While some people were perhaps more stuffed than the turkey they had consumed a few days earlier on Thanksgiving, some 100 light-footed folks gathered for a Turkey Hoedown at the Masonic Hall on Penniman Nov. 29.

They danced off more than a few Thanksgiving calories at a good old-fashioned hoedown contra dance.

"Henry Ford revitalized it back in the 1920's and it's still danced at the Lovette Hall Ballroom in Greenfield Village," said Karen Missavage, one of the callers for the dance and a fiddler and mandolin player with the award-winning Silver Strings Dulcimer Society.

The society provided the live music Saturday night. Contra dancing dates back to the 1700's. The word "contra" comes from the French language meaning contrary or opposing. Dancers face one another in opposing lines. Traditional contra dances are the Virginia Reel, square

and circle dances. And there's no need to bring a partner according to Missavage. "It's great fun," she said.

"It's a lot of singles. It's a lot of divorced folks and a lot of couples, as well. This is the type of dancing where you don't have to know your right foot from your left or fancy maneuvers or positions," Missavage said.

This was Elbert Jamison's second contra dance. The Canton resident attended the Halloween dance at the hall. "Some friends had come before and said it was a lot of fun," Jamison said.

Meanwhile, Missavage, who started contra dancing in 1981 and calling in 1990, said there are traditional contra dances held in Ann Arbor, Lansing, Kalamazoo and Metro Detroit. But there were no longer any dances held in the Plymouth area. She was encouraged by dancers to start one in the area and approached Bob Johns, manager of the Masonic Hall in Plymouth, who she said "is wonderful to work with."

"We have this wonderful hall here in Plymouth; it's huge, it

CANTON CONNECTION

Brickbat to developer

Shakespeare and one Canton Township resident might not be seeing eye-to-eye these days.

Or maybe they are.

"What's in a name?" the Bard once said. "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Not so, a middle-aged Canton woman told the planning commission Dec. 1 - banging her head against a wall for emphasis.

Her complaint was against builders who create visions in the names of their developments that they fail to fulfill in the construction.

She pointed out Cobblestone Ridge, a name which she said evokes a beautiful image. "A cobblestone is defined as a naturally rounded stone," the woman told the developer, but "You're putting up brick."

Then, asking the developer to step aside, she walked to the wall and banged her head against it twice, saying, "I don't get it."

She said she had called the developer, who told her cobblestones cost too much. "But you're not giving credence to the names that are used," she said.

Everyone chuckled, but none thought the lady protested too much.

Lucky club

A Canton woman is one member of a Livonia lottery club that cleaned up recently in the Michigan Lottery's Big Game, winning the game's \$150,000 prize in the Oct. 31 drawing.

Barbara A. Varady and 17 others of the "Up Front Players" lottery club matched the first five Big Game numbers drawn, and word quickly spread.

"I checked the winning numbers in the newspaper the morning after the drawing, and as soon as I saw we won, I called the other club members," said club representative Anne Charest.

The 18 club members range in age from 38 to 64, and all are employed in the distribution center at Ford Motor Co.

Club members plan for their winnings include planning for the holidays, donating to church and paying bills.

Other club members are: Daniel Callery of Redford, Robert M. Cee of Lincoln Park, Anne B. Charest of Livonia, Henry Coleman of Farmington Hills, Von R. Dragan of Livonia, James E. Edwards of Detroit, Willie Hare of Novi, John M. Kennedy of Dearborn Heights, Myrtle Marshall of Detroit, Gordon Micallef of Detroit, Alfred Patterson of Detroit, Pearl M. Ridley of Detroit, Eddie L. Seymore of Inkster, Wanda K. Snyder of Brighton, Thomas W. Sullivan of Hazel Park, Julius White of Southfield and Gary Zyka of Livonia.

Prison suit part of larger dispute

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Women prisoners at Scott Regional Correctional Facility on

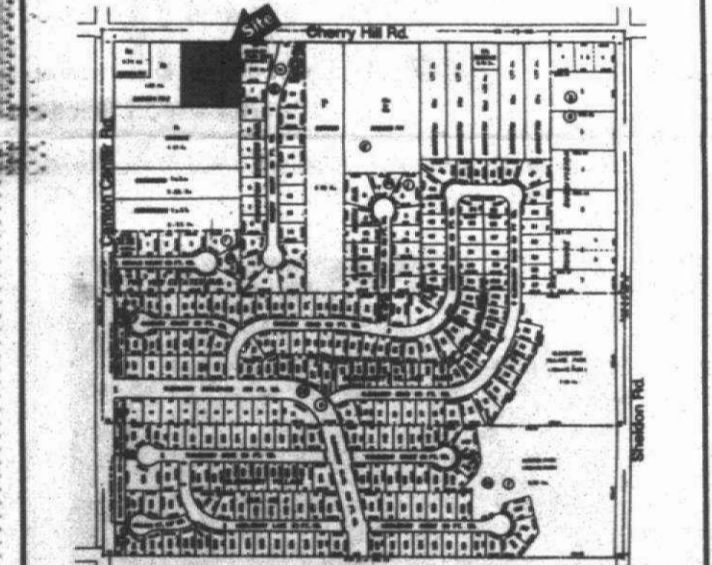
Plymouth Township's boundary are penalized by restrictions on their freedom that needlessly boost costs to taxpayers, a law-

**CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1945 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 5, 1998 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

VARADY/POSTER REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 085 90 0005 000 AND 085 90 0006 000 FROM R-3, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, TO C-2, COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL. Property is located on the south side of Cherry Hill Road east of Canton Center Road.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission will be received at the above address up to the time of the hearing.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

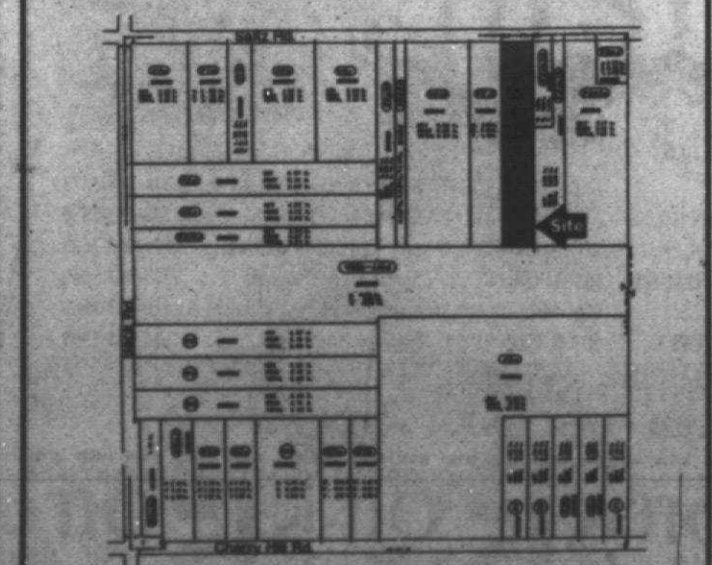
Published December 11 and 24, 1997

**CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

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ALIBONICZAK REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 085 90 0015 000 FROM RR, RURAL RESIDENTIAL, TO R-3, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL. Property is located on the south side of Balts Road between Canton Center and Beck Roads.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission will be received at the above address up to the time of the hearing.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Published December 11 and 24, 1997

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The Charter Township of Canton will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk, first floor, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188, until 10:00 a.m., December 29, 1997 for the following:

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF STAIR TREADS FOR CANTON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Bid specifications are available in the Finance and Budget Dept. Canton Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

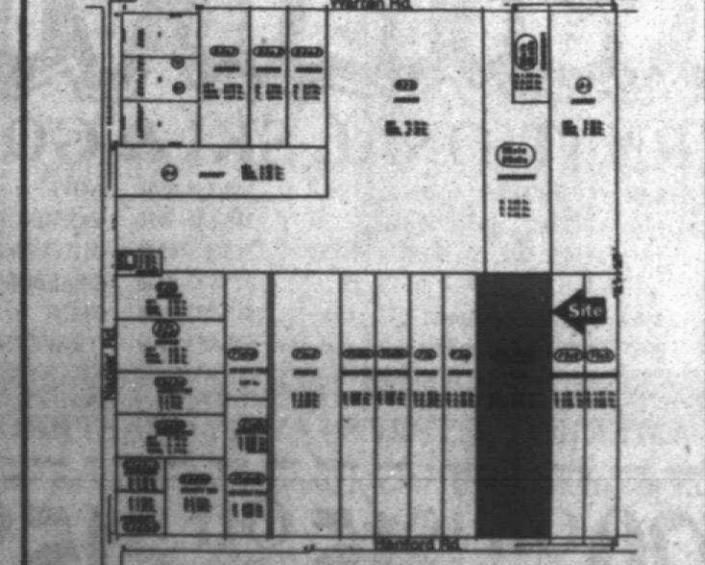
Published December 11, 1997

**CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

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PETERSON REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 026 90 0020 000 FROM RR, RURAL RESIDENTIAL, TO RE, RURAL ESTATE. Property is located on the north side of Hanford Road between Ridge and Napier Roads.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission will be received at the above address up to the time of the hearing.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Published December 11 and 24, 1997

library:

- "Major League Reading"
- "Chop Suey"
- "How Do You Spell Adventure?"
- "Jump Start First Grade Reading"
- "I Can Do Magic"

Q & A

Q: What is the oldest university in the United States?

A: The oldest university in the U.S. is Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., founded in 1636.

The source for this information is "Fun Facts."

Web Watch

Check out these new Web sites:

- http://www.productreviewnet.com
- http://www.christmasseals.org
- http://www.highperformanceedrving.com
- http://www.scandyusa.org
- http://www.news.bbc.co.uk

Fiction finds

Here is some holiday-related reading available from the library:

- "A Literary Christmas: Great Contemporary Christmas Stories"
- "Miracle on the 17th Green" by James Patterson
- "Village Christmas," by Miss Read
- "A Different Kind of Christmas" by Alex Haley
- "Irish Stories for Christmas" by John Keane

Hot topic of the week

- The holidays. Looking for traditional holiday recipes, craft ideas decorating tips or customs from other lands? Need the words or sheet music for your favorite carol or hymn? Wondering if a particular book might make a good gift for someone on your list? Whether you celebrate Hanukkah or Christmas, the Canton Public Library can provide your seasonal information needs. Besides the wealth of information available in books, magazines and CD formats, the library has holiday web sites and the "What's Hot" section of "Internet Resources by Subject" on its homepage.

@ the Canton Library is compiled by Laura Dorigi of the library staff. The library is at 1200 S. Canton Center Road. For more information, call 397-0999.

**CANTON TOWNSHIP
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

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

David Medley
ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton
1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(313) 397-5435

Published December 11 and 24, 1997

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
BOARD PROCEEDINGS**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held on Tuesday, December 2, 1997 at 1150 South Canton Center Road. Supervisor Jack called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Belmont, Burdick, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Sheffield, Yak

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Santomero, Varajon, Voyles, Crawford

Also Present: Dale Yagella, Growthworks; Ken Jacobs, Canton High School; Tom George, High School Security

ITEM 1 COMMUNITY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

John Santomero, Director of Public Safety, introduced Jennifer Varajon, Recreation Specialist; Dale Yagella, Growthworks; Ken Jacobs, Canton High School; and Tom George, High School Security. Using Presentations, Director Santomero gave a power point overview of Community Youth Partnership between Canton Public Safety, Plymouth Canton Community School, Plymouth Township, and Growthworks. He said that originally there was limited working partnership between the communities and the schools. Canton Public Safety, Growthworks and the School developed a concept on a working partnership. Summarizing, Director Santomero said that youth are placed into three categories taking into consideration how "at risk" they may be. The three categories are focused, general, and troubled. Director Santomero stated that the community's youth programs have been expedient in dealing with troubled youth. However, there was a deficiency in programs aimed at those youth that are "potentially at risk." Mr. Santomero noted that the current community youth partnership was ahead of its time and could only become better with more programs aimed at potential at risk youth.

Director Santomero said that through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program Award Contract, which includes \$20,578 of Federal funds and a \$2,286 local match, money was available for a one-year test program that could be multipurpose. The proposed program focuses on adventure-based education. At this time, Director Santomero introduced Jennifer Varajon who explained the concept of adventure-based education and showed the Board a video on Pine Hills Bootcamp, an outdoor obstacle skill building course. Some of the outdoor activities include canoeing, rock climbing, ropes course, kayaking and mountaineering. She noted that students were encouraged to become empowered in making key decisions and problem solving. The program focuses on goal setting, challenge versus stress, peak performance all combined with humor and fun.

General discussion transpired regarding costs, needs, commitments and potentials for multiple use of an adventure based educational program. It was noted that this type of program could become another tool or asset in the direction of serving community youth. Supervisor Jack adjourned the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

The above is a synopsis of actions taken at the Regular Board meeting held on December 2, 1997. The full text of the approved minutes will be available following the next regular meeting of the Board on January 13, 1998.

THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor
TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Published December 11, 1997

Some lawmakers still unhappy with Durant payoff to districts

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

As the Durant case battle spluttered to a close, some lawmakers still were unhappy about the way state government paid off 84 school districts that won a 17-year lawsuit to recover special education funds.

Gov. John Engler signed the pair of bills, calling it a "win-win" proposal for public school K-12 students. "The bills will add an additional \$1 billion to help children learn," he said.

That amount includes \$211 million for the plaintiff districts, which will get lump sums next April; \$640 million over a decade for 400-plus other districts which could have filed claims; and the rest in line items for at-risk pupils.

The Senate passed the bills 34-0 with three absent, including the hospitalized Sen. Mat Dunaskis, R-Lake Orion.

A band of House members filed formal

protests as the bills sailed through 99-7. Among them:

■ **Unequal treatment** - Rep. Mike Goeckha, R-Brant: "It does not treat all special education children the same." Plaintiff districts get their money immediately, but "the rest of the school districts will receive only half of the money that is due them immediately, and the balance will 'supposedly' be paid in equal increments over the next 10 years. There is no guarantee that this will actually happen, as no legislature is bound by the agreements of a previous legislature."

■ **Money source** - The payoff came from the budget stabilization fund, the so-called "rainy day" fund, instead of the year-end surplus in the general fund, Goeckha said.

■ **Inequity** - Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt: "When Proposal A was voted by the people... the Legislature promised to work toward equitable funding of the

public schools... The poorest school districts are penalized under this scheme, and the wealthiest school districts are the beneficiaries."

■ **Shortage of funds** - Rep. Kirk Profit, D-Psiltanti: "It is unconscionable to me that this state can continue to ignore the will of the people as expressed by... the Headlee amendment (requiring the state to pay for all services it mandates from local government). Now, to add insult to injury, this government seeks to deny the guarantees... by at least an inflationary increase in state financial support for their public education."

■ **No refund** - Rep. David Jaye, R-Utica: "This Legislature and the governor rejected Jaye amendments which would have 1) returned \$983 million to the property taxpayers, just like a utility overcharge; 2) require a vote in each school district in November 1998 on whether the money should be returned

to the property taxpayers or spent on school teachers and bureaucratic perks; 3) any school spending programs should be approved by the voters."

State 'a model'

Meanwhile, the battle over special education costs - the biggest chunk of money in the Durant lawsuit - continued in the State Board of Education.

The board, during a special meeting Nov. 13, said it will make "significant revisions" to the special education delivery system, but indicated it will support Michigan's higher and costlier standards.

"Our laws served as a model for the first federal laws passed back in 1975," said Dorothy Beardmore, R-Rochester Hills, vice president of the board. "We continue to be the only state educating students with disabilities from birth to 26 years old."

"It is our intent to enable, rather than constrain, local efforts to service children with disabilities," said Jacquelyn Thompson, acting director of the state's office of special education services.

But many suburban K-12 school officials are worried about two things: 1) the rising cost per-pupil of special ed and 2) the growing numbers of kids whose parents demand special ed.

Suburban officials, such as those in MAISL (Michigan Association for Improved School Legislation), fear special ed will eat up general ed funds. No longer do they have the power to go to voters and ask for more property taxes.

A year ago, an Engler administration official floated a trial balloon: Follow federal rules and provide funds for ages 3-21 instead of birth to 26. Lawmakers fled from the idea, but so far haven't come up with a method of controlling special ed costs.

Bill directs attention to students' reading disorders

More state Capitol capsules:

Reading bill OK'd

Rep. Bob Brown, D-Deerborn Heights, won unanimous House approval of his bill to give more attention to students' reading disorders.

The House Nov. 13 voted 104-0 for his HB 5215 and sent it to the Senate for action, probably some time in 1998. If the Senate approves the bill, it would become law immediately.

Brown's bill requires that new elementary and secondary school

teachers be trained to recognize the signs of reading disorders and to make informed decisions about the help kids need in reading.

"We left politics at the school house door," said Brown after receiving bipartisan support.

New bills

■ Bills to end tax foreclosures on property are being sponsored by a bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers. Currently, owners unable to pay taxes after three

STATE NEWS

years see their property picked up by professional lien buyers in a tax sale.

Under the new bills, delinquent property would be forfeited directly to the state Department of Natural Resources. Owners would have a greater chance to redeem their properties. Sponsors are Sen. Bill Bullard, R-Milford, Rep. Kirk Profit, D-Psiltanti, and Rep. Bill Bobier, R-Hesperia.

■ Rep. Judith Scranton, R-Brighton, wants to tack a \$10 assessment on top of tickets issued to motorists for both parking and moving violations. Her House Bill 5324 would give \$1 to the courts, \$5.40 for county roads and \$3.60 for municipal roads. Her bill is in the House Transportation Committee.

Child support unit

Ten Michiganders have been appointed by the governor and chief justice to a Child Support Coordinating Council, created

last month to improve the child support system. Among the members are: ■ Kirsten Frank Kelly, who will be presiding judge of the new Family Division of Wayne County Circuit Court - appointed by Chief Justice Conrad Mallett Jr.

In an unusual step, the group was formed jointly by a gubernatorial executive order and a Supreme Court administrative order.

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Big league Hotel interest is a good sign

The news that Canton locations are being scouted by major hotel chains is another signal that the community's makeover into a true, metropolitan suburb is reaching critical mass.

Township officials are or will shortly be looking at proposals for a Marriott Courtyard and Holiday Inn Express, both planned for Michigan Avenue. Up to three other hotel developers could seek approval to build in Canton, according to officials. It's important to note that these are scaled-down, smaller projects popular with business travelers and vacationing families on a budget. While none of these projects could be considered a convention hotel, amenities including a restaurant and banquet center are part of the plans for at least two of them.

Frankly, a lack of first-class accommodation and meeting room space is one thing that still sets Canton apart from other thriving suburbs along the I-275 corridor. Livonia, Farmington

Hills and Novi all boast such facilities. Canton has gotten by until now with more budget-oriented motels — both franchise and independently operated — and the Summit. The community center offers banquet and corporate meeting facilities for up to 300 people but because it is government-run its mission is more broadly defined than that of a privately owned hotel or banquet center.

Carleigh Flaherty, executive director of the Canton Chamber of Commerce, believes there is enough growth in the business community to support new hotels. Development in the Michigan Avenue corridor is already heating up with corporate parks expected to draw research and technological firms to Canton. More choices for accommodations and meetings will, in turn, act as a drawing card for additional business growth.

Additional hotel space in Canton is a definite plus for the community's future.

Students being short-changed

The Class-Size Action Partnership (CAP), the four-year-old citizen committee that has helped Plymouth-Canton Community Schools focus on its most pressing problem, has released its annual report. The report's message: Although gains have occurred in reducing the elementary student-teacher ratio (from 30 students to almost 24 since CAP was started in 1993), the district is still running short on classroom space.

Any further reduction will be difficult — and depending on annual enrollment increases during the next few years the ratio could actually rise again — without new construction. A new elementary school for Canton, the district's biggest growth area, has already

been approved by Plymouth-Canton voters. We speak, of course, of the March 22 bond election still being disputed by former state Rep. Jerry Vorva. The district, though, cannot sell any bonds until the dispute is resolved.

The Observer has repeatedly suggested Vorva drop his lawsuit, which already has been dismissed at the circuit court level. Vorva refuses, vowing an appeal unless he can bring some sort of concession from school leaders.

So while Vorva and the district continue to slug it out in court, Plymouth-Canton students and their parents wonder which elementary school they will attend next year and how many classmates they will have.

The Red Cross needs your help

It's certainly a busy time of year, what with the demands of work, family and holiday preparation. It's all too easy to forget those who need our help, such as patients scheduled for surgery and others who need blood.

The American Red Cross experiences a decline in blood donations this time of year, but it's not due to lack of opportunity to give blood. By rolling up your sleeve and giving just a few minutes of your time, you could be saving a life. Those who benefit from your gift will thank you in their hearts, even though you will likely never meet.

In addition to permanent Red Cross facilities, a number of blood drives are scheduled throughout the area. Red Cross officials encourage you to get out and give blood, to help fight the traditional holiday blood shortage.

- Area sites include:
- 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Newburg United Methodist Church-Fellowship Hall, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, (313) 422-0149.
 - 1-7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, at Century 21-Chalet's conference room, 37290 Five Mile, Livonia, (313) 432-7600.
 - Oakland County sites include:
 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Cranbrook High School-auditorium, 550 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 775-7086.
 - 2-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at St. John

Lutheran Church-Fellowship Hall, 23225 Gill, Farmington, (248) 615-9191.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at the Safety Council for Southeastern Michigan-Tower 14, 21700 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, (248) 557-7010.

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at Henry Ford Medical Center-conference room, 6777 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 661-4100.

2-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, at the Jewish War Memorial, 16990 W. 12 Mile, Southfield, (248) 968-7239.

7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at Providence Hospital-Doctor's Dining Room, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield, (248) 424-3180.

7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, at Providence Hospital-Doctor's Dining Room, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield, (248) 424-3180.

Blood donors must be at least 17, weigh 110 pounds or more "and be in general good health," said Ann-Marie Morris, public relations specialist for the American Red Cross.

For those who can't make it to one of the holiday season blood drives, there's a permanent donor center in the Bell Creek Office Plaza, 29691 Six Mile, Livonia, as well as other sites throughout the metropolitan area. Appointments to give blood can be made by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Dreaming of a green Christmas



Retail madness: An employee at the Canton Target store, places a Talking Arthur back on the shelf. The race is on to see what this year's "must-have" holiday toy will be. So far, it doesn't look like a Tickle-Me Elmo kind of season for our friend, Arthur.

FILE PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

LETTERS

Remarks inappropriate

I read with disgust and dismay the petty, ungracious remarks made regarding the legacy of former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young. Although I thoroughly support everyone's right to speak their opinion, I expected that the municipal leaders would not use Mayor Young's death as an opportunity to further divide the city and the suburbs.

I find (Tom) Yack's comments particularly disturbing because he just provides the fuel for those who believe that suburban leaders are simply Detroit bashers based on their own racism. I found it interesting that in 20 years only cross-district busing and Coleman Young were the only two things that have impacted this region. How could this municipal leader ignore the expanded Cobo Hall, the merger of Republic and Northwest Airlines, the Chrysler bailout and other things which have had a much stronger impact on the region than cross-district busing?

Then Sen. (Bob) Geake's comments were certainly interesting. Perhaps Mayor Young felt the same way about working with him. But I guess since Sen. Geake is searching for brotherhood and cooperation he isn't very comfortable working with State Rep. Deb Whyman either. As for the comments of Plymouth Township trustee Arnold I think the term "raped" is reactionary, rude, crude and very very disrespectful as well being blatantly false. If he "raped" the city then so did every business that left their environmentally unsound facilities empty as they moved to "greenfield" sites.

I think the residents of Plymouth and Canton expect the municipal leaders to uphold high standards of decorum and to be gracious. Believe it or not, when you leave Michigan and go to other parts of the nation, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Romulus, Taylor, Troy, Rochester, etc., are really just a part of Detroit. We need to overcome the racism or whatever that divides our region.

It would certainly help if our municipal leaders would lead.

Fred Gaddy
Canton

Repeat the election

Because I was curious about the cause of all the hoopla, I attended the Oct. 7 meeting held in Plymouth City Hall to discuss the disputed bond tax election last March.

I had never seen or heard Jerry Vorva

before, so, based upon the portrait painted by some political officials and press members, I half expected to encounter a wild-eyed fanatic. Instead, I found him to be enthusiastic but very reasonable. Although the meeting was open to all, school officials and other legal opponents of Mr. Vorva declined to show up.

I am currently writing because I don't think the vast majority of local taxpayers know what is going on with this issue. Basically, my previous suspicion and now my conclusion is that the election was held under suspicious circumstances, it was executed in a blundering manner, and a cover-up ensued.

It seems right to me that the election should simply be repeated.

Back on Election Day, I remember thinking that something was fishy about the fact that the election was held on a Saturday and that I had heard so little about it in advance. The only reason I even made it to vote was that somebody told me they had voted that day, so I managed to cast the very last vote in my precinct. I wondered whether the circumstances were calculated to keep the number of voters low and to select for certain types of voters.

Little did I know that, unlike most elections, most of the absentee ballots were not mailed out, markedly decreasing the impact of elderly voters. The most astounding thing to me is that I don't even know whether my vote was counted at all, since a whopping 7 percent of all of the votes cast that day simply did not register.

At the meeting, Mr. Vorva also discussed issues such as previously known faults of the voting machines that were chosen, their improper approval for use in the election, and a secretive meeting in June that school officials went to Lansing to participate in, but all the details cannot be crammed into this space.

I was not too surprised by the loud appearance of a couple of pro-tax zealots, but the vast majority of the attendees supported the investigation and legal actions taken, notwithstanding the spin control exerted by school officials and their allies.

In such a questionable and very close election, it doesn't seem right to me that the result should stand, and I think a more fair election should be held. It is just too bad that it was not done earlier before the school district poured all of that taxpayer money into their legal maneuvers to justify it. It looks like Mr. Vorva has a legitimate case.

Ray Wira
Plymouth Township

Canton Observer

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— Philip Power

Mercados speak out

On the night of July 15, 1984, Ella Maria Mercado-Fisher, a young nurse, returned from her job at the Chelsea Community Hospital to her home in Canton, where she was treacherously attacked. She was not raped, nothing was stolen or removed from inside the house, only her life was taken, smothered by metallic tape wound around her head, feet and hands. There was no struggle.

Her husband, Dr. Charles Ray Fisher, claimed that both suffered the iniquity of a cowardly attack by unknown assailants who tied and taped them and knocked them unconscious, striking him brutally in the head. After that life went blank to him, he survived without a scratch; Ella Maria died five days later.

Her horrible death changed forever the peace and tranquility of her par-

ents' lives, far away, and her 11-year-old son.

In 1986, a Wayne County Circuit Court jury of 12 citizens found Charles Fisher guilty of murder in the first degree. On the scheduled sentencing day, judge Claudia House Morcom set aside the jury's decision under the subterfuge that "the prosecution made improper remarks during the closing statement."

Three more trials followed. Charles Fisher was convicted of first-degree murder a second time, which was reversed on appeal. The third and fourth trials ended with hung juries, although Charles Fisher was subsequently charged and convicted of obstructing justice after paying fellow jail inmates to confess to the murder. For this, Charles Fisher served four years in prison.

In total, 59 jurors found Charles Fisher guilty of murder in the first or

second degree and only one not guilty. After the most recent trial ended in a hung jury last October, Charles Fisher agreed to a plea bargain with the Wayne County prosecutor. He has pleaded no contest to the murder charge in exchange for a 12-year prison sentence (and credit for more than six years already served in prison or jail.)

We consider that a dastardly decision, a betrayal of the rights of the victim and her survivors and contrary to fair justice and the interest of the people, since People versus Fisher now becomes a Precedent case.

By accepting the no contest plea, Charles Fisher does not admit or deny the charges or the findings of 59 jurors, who legally found him guilty of the murder of his wife.

The State of Michigan, by accepting the pleas agreement, eliminates the possibility of a civil action. This is

contrary to our interests. The state can not give away what it does not possess.

There are major reasons why the no contest plea is not acceptable to the victim's survivors.

Charles Fisher should not enrich himself at the expense of the murder of his wife. Any proceeds coming directly or indirectly from the death of Ella Maria shall be returned to the victim's son or parents, such as the possibility of Charles Fisher writing a book on the murder of his wife and coming out as the innocent party abused by the Michigan legal sys' m.

If the no contest plea is to be accepted, we insist that the minimum additional time to be served by Charles Fisher shall be not less than 10 years from the date of his return to prison, regardless of the minimum time allowed in the statutes, since this murder was deliberate and premeditated.

We demand that Charles Fisher will pay at least 50 percent of all assets that Charles Fisher and his wife, Ella Maria Mercado-Fisher, held as husband and wife at the time of her death, or at least a minimum of \$100,000, to be paid to her son; as well as restitution to the state of \$1 million to cover the cost of his trials.

Charles Fisher must also relinquish two cemetery lots located in Lexington, Ky., where Ella Maria is buried and remove the stone with his name.

In lieu of the no contest plea, we the parents and signers of this letter, survivors of our daughter Ella Maria Mercado-Fisher, ask that another trial be held for the murder of our daughter, or insist that Charles Ray Fisher plead guilty to second-degree murder.

Manuel O. Mercado
Clair E. Mercado,
Cape Coral, Fla.

Time to rethink idea of 'competition' as cure-all for utilities

It's time to say it: The emperor has no clothes. The emperor, in this case, is Gov. Engler's administration and the ideologues, both in politics and the electric industry, who chant about "competition, competition, competition."

Their flawed premise: If competition is good in the auto, media and clothing industries, it also must be good in the electric industry.

Indeed, the Michigan Public Service Commission, born in 1919 to regulate utilities, is working on such a plan. Well, it's looking at plans submitted by the regulated industries.

Attorney General Frank Kelley thinks the process is tainted. He issued a blistering press release last week saying that the two big electric companies, Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy, met behind closed doors with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the Jobs Commission to cook up a deal that may hurt consumers. Kelley says they are plotting to pass onto homeowners and small

businesses the costs of "securitization."

It's complex but not incomprehensible. If competition comes to the electric industry, consumers will switch and leave certain investments "stranded" without any means of paying them off. One method of paying them off is "securitization," the floating of bonds to cover them.

Kelley smells a rat. He says the deal is to stick consumers and businesses, which pay 8-10 cents per kilowatt hour, with those costs and let the bulk buyers, such as industries, which pay 4-5 cents per KWH, off the securitization hook.

So much for the benefits of competition.

There is a reason why we have regulated monopolies instead of competition. It's told in Detroit Edison's own prize-winning history, "The Force of Energy: A Business History of the Detroit Edison Co." by Raymond C. Miller. He writes of Alex Dow, president of Edison from 1903-40:



TIM RICHARD

"In the conventional economic society, price was determined by the competitive process. Dow had watched the struggle between the arc companies in Detroit, and drew the moral therefrom.

"Competition will not work in the electrical industry.

"Duplication of lines and facilities is a dangerous waste of capital, to no good purpose. Price, since it cannot be set in this industry by direct competition, must be an administered price, which means substantially a monopoly price.

"Dow did not shrink from the next logical conclusion: an administered price then must be set with full public knowledge, and must rest on public approval and confidence. Public participation in the price-making process, either directly or through a responsible public agency, was an essential corollary to the industry's inevitable monopoly position." (pages 27-28.)

In his sequel, "Kilowatts at Work," professor Miller noted that it takes \$4 of invested capital to produce \$1 of revenue (page 241). Look at Edison's or Consumers' annual report, and you'll see extremely high capital costs (depreciation and interest) per \$1 of revenue compared to (say) Kmart's.

If competition was dangerous and wasteful then, what has changed? Nothing.

We are reaping the dubious benefits of competition in the telephone industry. AT&T, broken up by federal court order in 1984, is trying to rebuild its empire with acquisitions. Consumers are bewildered by solicita-

tions and "slams."

So unfrightened is Ameritech of competition that this year it jacked up its coin phone rate 40 percent. After charging bail bond companies for yellow pages ads, Ameritech stopped placing directories at phone booths, where people who need bail bonds customarily call from.

Enough of this ideological ether about "competition" in electricity! Alex Dow had it right. Sound business sense dictates in some places we have monopolies regulated by government. We've had a "mixed economy" since George Washington's day. The principle is sound.

And while we're at it, we should reverse the Blanchard administration's error and place the Public Service Commission under the Open Meetings Act.

Tim Richard reports on the local implications of state and regional events. His voice mail box is (313) 953-2047, Ext. 1881.

Coleman Young's legacy was one of substance and style

Frankly, I was astonished at the enormous amount of attention the news media paid to former Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young's death.

Part of it, of course, was nothing more than media hype.

Confronted for once with an honest-to-goodness big, breaking story, members of the Detroit media community nearly foamed at the mouth in anxiety to outdo each other.

Live reports from the line at the Museum of African-American History, where Young's body lay in state! Helicopters over Greater Grace Temple, where the funeral service was held! Breaking news when it happens! Film at 11!

Upon reflection, though, there was more content to the mayor's passing than elevated media blood pressure.

Coleman Young was a remarkable man who lived a remarkable life. His career will certainly become an important part of Michigan's history, rising far beyond the domain of current events.

Thomas Carlyle, the great 19th century historian, argued that, "The history of the world is but the biography of great men." And certainly the great man theory of history seems at first glance to have found persuasive evidence in Coleman Young's life.

From his refusal to endure segregation and mistreatment in the Army Air Corps to his leadership in the Michigan Senate and, finally, to his unprecedented five terms as mayor of the largest city in the state, Coleman Young seems as though destined specifically to play a path-breaking role.

He was smart, cunning, rough, willing to play the race card when necessary but realistic enough to realize that separatism cannot work in 20th century America.

Certainly his greatest accomplishment was to raise the hopes and shape the ambitions of the black majority in the city of Detroit.

Remember, you didn't hear much about black folks and their contributions when Al Cobo was mayor, or even Jerry Cavanagh. Coleman Young personified the established demographic fact that black Americans represented a majority of Detroit's population.

Detroit's current mayor, Dennis Archer, caught this point perfectly in his eulogy, suggesting that Mayor Young's "most important legacy was not the bricks and mortar of Detroit, but the spirit and soul of Detroit that he embodied."

So was Coleman Young himself the cause of all the changes that we associate with his



PHILIP POWER

career?

Thucydides, the ancient Greek historian, introduced in his "History of the Peloponnesian War" the distinction between what might be called the proximate cause and the real cause. Proximate causes include things like the outcome of battles, the death of kings, the winning of elections.

Real causes, on the other hand, have to do with underlying trends — causes, if you will — at work throughout this century that finally expressed themselves in Coleman Young's election as mayor.

The good jobs at good pay that accompanied the rise of the automobile manufacturing plants around Detroit provoked the largest mass migration — from the rural South to the urban North — in American history. Later, after World War II, the automobile made possible the growth of the suburbs and the means by which families — originally white, but later of all races — moved out of the center city.

These factors drove the dynamics of demography and, gradually, made Detroit an increasingly black city. And it was only a matter of time until a special kind of black politician turned up that the black majority would express itself in an election.

That special kind of politician turned out to be Coleman Young. And the future of our state never will be the same.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (313) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@oonline.com.

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COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

What do you like most about the holidays?



We asked this question Monday before the Canton Christmas tree lighting ceremony.



"Spending time with my family." Karligh Zebair, Canton



"Decorating the Christmas Tree. We still have to find one, though." Ryan Schlimm, 6 Canton



"You get presents." Andrew Bozzini, 10 Canton

Plymouth company relocates to expand

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

For Robert Bloch Jr., the move is about two blocks away.

But for his company, PMC Machinery Sales of Plymouth, it means more room — about 47,000 more square feet — in which he can expand his machine tool sales and distribution business at a 7.75 acre site in Northville Township.

The Northville site is located in the research and development area of county-owned property along Five Mile Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads. It is located just east of Optical Imaging Systems Inc.

Robert Bloch, Jr. purchased the property for \$1,012,770 from Wayne County's Economic Development Corporation, which will transfer the money to the county's general fund. County commissioners unanimously approved the land sale Nov. 20.

Bloch will lease the property to his company, PMC Machinery Sales of Plymouth Township. Bloch will lease his old building, which is zoned light industrial. PMC has been located in Plymouth since 1989.

"I moved to expand," Bloch said "I would have stayed (in Plymouth), but I was landlocked." Bloch plans to build a headquarters building, a customer showroom and demonstration center.

Archie Clark, who represented the Wayne County Jobs and Economic Development Department, told commissioners at a study session on Nov. 18 he expected the project will result in a \$3.5 million in investment, retain 50 jobs and create 50 new ones.

Bloch told commissioners he planned on starting with 28,000 square feet, which would take care of the company's space needs for two years. Bloch expects to enlarge the building then to 75,000 square feet.

Commissioner Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, wondered if the \$130,680-an-acre price was comparable for western Wayne County. Bill Eisenberg, vice chairman of the Farman Group, told Patterson it compared well to property along M-14.

About 32 acres remain for research and development at the Northville site.

Bloch will need site plan approval from Northville Township officials before he breaks ground on the new facility.

Bloch started PMC in 1983. It has been located in Farmington Hills, Livonia and Plymouth.

Residents can help, 'adopt' families

W4 Country (106.7 FM) is helping families with the W4 Country Adopt a Family Program, in conjunction with Volunteers of America.

W4 listeners and members of the public can call 1-888-6W4-1067, a toll-free number, to adopt a family this holiday season.

Volunteers of America hopes to adopt 500 families this year. Adopting families will receive a profile and wish list from the family they adopt. Sponsors are asked to provide one new toy, one new article of clothing per child and a food basket for the family's Christmas dinner. A gift certificate can replace the food basket. Volunteers of America accepts donations to be used to adopt families and assist with program costs.

In 1996 Volunteers of America helped 368 families and 42 senior citizens. Over 1,160 senior citizens were given a special Christmas thanks to the warm hearts of W4 Country's listeners.

Bill to repeal helmet law denounced by medical groups

House passage of a bill repealing the motorcycle helmet law is being denounced by medical interests.

"Absolutely unbelievable," said Dennis Rzakowski, chair of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan, headquartered in Brighton.

It's "ridiculous" that the bill exempted persons over 21 but kept the rule for those under 21, he said. "When the brain is

'As physicians we treat the victims of serious injuries from motorcycle accidents, and this bill could only create more injuries.'

Peter Duhamel
—surgeon

injured, it is permanent, regardless of a person's age."

The Michigan State Medical Society vowed to fight the bill in the Senate. Dr. Peter A.

Duhamel, Rochester Hills surgeon and MSMS president, said, "As physicians we treat the victims of serious injuries from motorcycle accidents, and

this bill could only create more injuries."

House Bill 4284 passed the House on a 58-44 vote and was sent to the Senate.

No rate hike

State officials say Michigan owners of sport-utility vehicles shouldn't be hit by insurance rate hikes occurring elsewhere in the U.S.

Reason: Michigan has a no-fault law. "In most instances, the driver responsible for the accident cannot be sued for medical expenses," said Gov. Engler. "The injured person's own auto insurance policy will pay all necessary medical and rehabilitation expenses as well as three years' replacement services and wage loss benefits."

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SOUTHGATE
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COMMON SENSORS



JACQUE MARTIN DOWNS

'Grands' are grand gift for children

She's a walking billboard for vibrancy, quick-wittedness, resourcefulness, industriousness, exuberance, independence, tenaciousness and she's busier than anyone with a 40-hour-a-week job is.

Is she unusual for 75-plus years old? Doubt it, because today's grandparents are a breed of their own.

Maybe you have memories of grandparents who beetled about in their cozy little house, rocked back and forth in their favorite rocking chair and could barely see over the steering wheel of their outrageously large automobile? Betcha these aren't from your recent past.

With today's grandparents "on the go," just where do grandchildren fit into the picture? Are they a burden or a privilege? Are grandparents functioning like extended parents as they have in the past?

Many parents say that the grandparents appear to be too busy or too distant from their grandchildren to be there for them. But you would be surprised to learn that most of them would like to be close to their grandchildren.

Is there great value in their being

Please see SENSORS, B2

Kits give kids chance to be creative

What started out as a way of entertaining children who visited her home has turned into the Dream Team Tracing Company for Marie Smith of Plymouth.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

To entertain children who visited her Plymouth home, Marie Smith would trace pictures of hockey players, ice skaters and dancers for her young guests to color.

Smith, however, got a little tired of holding the paper up to the windows and making multiple copies, so she started her own company, Dream Team Tracing Company, which offers Figure Skater, Hockey and Dancer Tracing Kits.

"The kids really liked it, and the more I checked into this I found that there weren't any art products like this for children," Smith said.

All the kits come with reusable tracing cards, 25 sheets of tracing paper, nine non-toxic colored pencils and a tracing pencil.

The skater kit tracing cards have four different poses and two design cards. The dancer kit offers two jazz dance positions and two ballet poses. The hockey kits come with two players and a goalie, and a design page with a helmet, jersey and numbers.

"They can draw any hockey player, jersey or helmet, and add names number logos and colors," she said.

With the kits, children can start out with tracing just the figure. Those of advanced skill can add to the costume accessories like rhinestones, beads, helmets and numbers which are found on another card.

Smith's company also sells packages of "Color Me Note Cards," which include eight note cards and envelopes with the same characters.

"The note cards are blank inside so they can use them for birthday cards,



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREHLER

Take your pick: Marie Smith shows off the sketches of a figure skater and hockey player, two of the three she currently offers as part of the tracing kits she designed for children. The kits include reusable tracing cards, sheets of tracing paper, non-toxic coloring pencils and a tracing pencil, everything needed to design and color the figure.

party invitations, or thank you notes," Smith said.

The note cards retail for \$4, and the tracing kits for \$10. Smith recommends

her products for children ages 5-12.

The products are available at a variety of local stores, including Little Professor in the Park, Trader Jacks, and

Compuware Ice Arena, all in Plymouth; Practice Makes Perfect at Ply-

Please see TRACINGS, B2

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| 9' Colorado Pine (Green/Blue) | \$249.95 |
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| 12' Colorado Pine (Green/Blue) | \$385.00 |
| 15' Colorado Pine (Green/Blue) | \$595.00 |

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Tracings from page B1

mouth Ice Arena; Dancewear Gallery in Canton; and Dance World, Bunney Sanford School of Dance and Miss Jean's Dance Studio, all in Livonia.

So far, more than 850 kits and 650 of the notecards have been sold.

The Figure Skater, Hockey and Dancer Tracing Kits took 1 1/2 years to create "with a lot of doors slammed in my face," Smith said, who "had a lot of obstacles to overcome," such as finding artists to draw the figures.

"I had to go with a portrait artist because she could draw pretty faces," she said.

Smith, whose background also includes costume design, went through costume books to find appropriate outfits.

The next step was to find a lawyer for help with trademark and copyright information.

"It took a lot of time and a lot of research for this," she said. "I went back to school and took entrepreneurial classes at Schoolcraft College and Dale Carnegie management classes."

She runs her company out of

Sensors from page B1

in your children's lives? You bet there is. More than ever, kids are in need of everything grandparents offer — they serve as surrogate nurturers, positive role models, mentors, teachers, fairy godmothers, giant children (yes, I've seen them in the sandbox) and historians of the family's history.

Grandparents help strengthen the child's sense of roots and self-identity when they tell the family stories and link the photographs from the past to the present. Because grandparents' lives have moved from "doing" (their old role as parent) to "being," the pressures are fewer. And because children live primarily in the world of being rather than doing, the bond between the two generations is unique.

Today in the United States, more than three million grandchildren live with their grandparents. Today's children need unconditional love, acceptance and understanding. So often, the frantic pace that families must keep precludes them from staying connected.

More than ever, grandparents are stepping in when there is a family illness, death, financial difficulties or divorce. Grandpar-

ents will go to great lengths to keep their grandchildren from living in tumultuous circumstances.

Some grandparents, burdened with guilt about what they did wrong as a parent, know that this is their opportunity to be different and give their grandchildren something their own kids missed. What a nice gift to give grandchildren.

So here's the deal. By the year 2002, it is estimated that there will be 38 million grandparents in America. If you are not taking advantage of yours, maybe they could be shared with others. I suggest that a network or clearinghouse be established where grandparents can be matched with families who are in need of one. Everyone wins because all three generations get their needs met. What do ya think?

But back to the billboard grandparent — the one that kids can count on a warm hug from, the one who is thrilled that they have arrived, the one who is anxious to hear about their adventures and their thoughts on life, the one who gives them encouragement and positive strokes when they mess up, the one who puts hope in their hearts when they feel discour-

aged and defeated, the one who advocates for them when their mother or father says, "Absolutely not."

This grandparent is the one who created an amazing treasure hunt for her granddaughter and her friends on her ninth birthday, complete with astounding limericks and puzzles; the one who designed an incredible string labyrinth for her grandson on his ninth birthday; the one who let both of them sleep in her gigantic bed when they came to visit; the one who dropped every project she was in the middle of, to sit and play games with them when they came over.

Oh by the way, did I mention that this billboard grandparent is my kids' grandma? Yup! "Nanny." Cool lady — you should see how she tears up that lawn on her riding mower.

If you have a question or comment for Jacquie Martin Downs, a prevention specialist and the director of Hegira Prevention Programs, write her at The Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



Deck the halls: Bruce Weber adjusts the candles set in greenery that decorate the sideboard beneath a portrait of Clara Ford. One of several local florists to help decorate Henry Ford Estate for Christmas, this is the third year he has been responsible for the holiday decor in the estate's dining room.

Florist decks the halls of estate

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO STAFF WRITER

Upon entering the dining room at Fair Lane, the Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn, visitors are welcomed with the sweet smell of lilies of the valley and paper white narcissus.

Teddy bears designed from greenery present each other with gifts for the holiday season.

Bruce Weber, the owner of Weber's Floral and Gifts in Livonia for 20 years, has decorated the dining room for the past three years. This year's display, he said, represents a "sophisticated European-style" Christmas.

estate. In front of the bears, the dining room table is adorned with the delicate white flowers, greenery, candles and twinkling lights. A portrait of Clara Ford also is surrounded with greenery and candles.

"Henry Ford used to grow flowers in his greenhouse," Weber said. "All this is something that he could have forced and brought here for the holidays. I wanted to keep it period with a modern twist."

Weber's decorations are a part of the holiday celebration at the national historic landmark. Tours are held at 10 and 11 a.m. and 1, 2 and 3 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays, and 1-4:30 p.m. Sundays through Wednesday, Dec. 31. The estate is closed Christmas Day.

Tickets are \$7. Groups of 20 or

more who make reservations are charged \$5 per person.

"If your family is going out, you can tour the estate together as opposed to going with a public tour," said Anne Marie McElroy, special events coordinator at Fair Lane.

Fair Lane is hosting a variety of other events during the holiday season. Visitors are invited to a traditional English Cream Tea break along with a tour of the house and a 10 percent discount on items in the estate shop at 1:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 11-12, and Monday, Dec. 22. Reservations are required. The cost is \$10.

Holiday luncheon concerts are being held 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 11-12. Tickets are \$19.50 and reservations are required.

Henry and Clara Ford's tradition continues as children follow the lighted path to Santa's workshop where they visit Santa, receive a special gift and a cup of hot oyster soup 5-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 and 19. Tickets are \$5.

Dinner by candlelight and the sounds of the season are a part of the "Candles and Carols Dinner" at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. Tickets are \$38 and reservations are required.

Candlelight tours are held from 6-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 26-27. Tickets are \$8.

The pool restaurant hosts holiday lunches 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays with a limited lunch menu Wednesday, Dec. 24, through Friday, Jan. 2. It is closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

The estate is located on the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Call (313) 593-5590 for more information.

McElroy said every year she invites florists from all over the area to participate but "a lot of the florists have been with us for a number of seasons." Signs are displayed telling visitors which florist decorated each room and business cards from each florist are available.

Besides local florists, the gardeners at the estate also decorate. This year, they've adorned the sun porch, the farm house and some of the outer areas, including the visitor's center, with flowers.

This is Weber's sixth year decorating the estate. He previously worked in the sun room and upstairs hallway. Thanks to the exposure he gets at Christmas time, Weber's store does a lot of weddings at the estate.

"We do a lot of work here which is why we continue to support it."

Western Townships Utilities Authority
Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Synopsis
4:00 p.m., Monday, November 24, 1997

Regular meeting called to order at 4:12 p.m.
Present: Thomas Yack, Karen Woodside, Kathleen Keen-McCarthy.
Agenda — adopted as presented.
Minutes — regular meeting of October 27, 1997 — approved.
Operation, and Maintenance Monthly Report — received and filed.
Operations Manager's Report — received and filed.
Request Certificate 213, Requisition Certificate 214, Requisition Certificate 215 and operating expenses totaling \$892,685.84 — approved.
Request For Bids, Middle Rouge Office Expansion — approved.
Deassement of Bonds Update — received and filed.
Wet Well Odor Control System (Lower Rouge) — Process Piping; Certificate of Substantial Completion — approved.
Disposal of Surplus Office Equipment, Update — received and filed.
Year-End Budget Amendment (Fiscal Year 96/97) — approved.
Closed Session — Discussion regarding attorney/client letter and arbitration.
Goulds Pumps — Attorney's recommendation approved.
The regular meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Chairman,
THOMAS J. YACK

This is a synopsis. A complete copy of the minutes may be reviewed at the WTUA offices located at 40905 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187.
Publish: December 11, 1997

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One Star...Lighting Our Way
- Dec. 21 - (Sunday)**
9:00 and 11:00 am Worship Services
The Promise of Christmas
5:00 pm Christmas Party (7th thru 12th graders)
Sunday Nite Live
8:00 pm Organ and piano concert featuring Dr. Larry Vissar and guest soloist Julia Olson.
Journey to Bethlehem
- Dec. 24 - (Wednesday)**
4:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Worship Service
O Holy Night
8:00 pm Candlelight Service (Nursery Provided 4:30 & 8:00 pm)
Gift Wrapped In Swaddling Clothes
10:00 pm Candlelight Service
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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Hissong-van Reesema

Minta Elizabeth van Reesema and David Cloyd Hissong were married May 31 by the Rev. Dr. Lynn Spitz-Nagel and Rev. Joseph Rinaldo at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Detroit.

The bride is the daughter of Dr. Frederik and Carole van Reesema of Chelsea. The groom is the son of Jimmie and Anne Hissong of Livonia.

The bride is a 1988 graduate of Chelsea High School, a 1992 graduate of the University of Michigan and a 1995 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is employed as a training consultant at MSX International in Southfield.

The groom is a 1981 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School, a 1991 graduate of the University of Michigan and a 1997 graduate of the Ohio State University College of Law. He is employed as an attorney in the law firm of Cox, Hodgeman and Giannarini in Troy.

The bride asked Jennifer Hirsch to serve as maid of honor and Martine Blogin as matron of honor. Clara Garchovich, Angela Welch, Christina Hinman and Janet Hissong served as bridesmaids. Lauren van Reesema was the flower girl.

A reception was held at the Michigan League Ballroom at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Following a honeymoon in Europe, the couple is living in Farmington Hills.



The groom is a 1981 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School, a 1991 graduate of the University of Michigan and a 1997 graduate of the Ohio State University College of Law. He is employed as an attorney in the law firm of Cox, Hodgeman and Giannarini in Troy.

The bride asked Jennifer Hirsch to serve as maid of honor and Martine Blogin as matron of honor. Clara Garchovich, Angela Welch, Christina Hinman and Janet Hissong served as bridesmaids. Lauren van Reesema was the flower girl.

A reception was held at the Michigan League Ballroom at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Following a honeymoon in Europe, the couple is living in Farmington Hills.

Medalia-Baumbick

Floyd and Virginia Medalia of Sterling Heights announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Marie, to James Michael Baumbick, the son of James and JoAnn Baumbick of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor of arts degree and Notre Dame University with a master's degree in business administration and finance. She is employed as a financial analyst in product development at the Ford Motor Co.

Her fiancé is a graduate of the University of Michigan is graduating from Michigan State University this month with a master of business administration degree. He is a planning supervisor at Ford Credit.

A February wedding is planned at St. Rene Goupil Church Sterling Heights.



A February wedding is planned at St. Rene Goupil Church Sterling Heights.

Jenkins-Buck

George and Lois Janisse of South Rockwood and Robert and Kelly Jenkins of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter Lynn Ann Jenkins to Kevin Andrew Buck, the son of Gordon and Rosemary Buck of Novi.

The bride-to-be is a 1992 graduate of Livonia Franklin High School and is a student at Oakland University in Rochester. She is employed by Garden City Hospital.

Her fiancé is a 1988 graduate of Novi High School and a 1992 graduate of the University of Michigan. He is employed by ICI Polyurethanes.

A January wedding is planned at Holy Family Church in Novi.



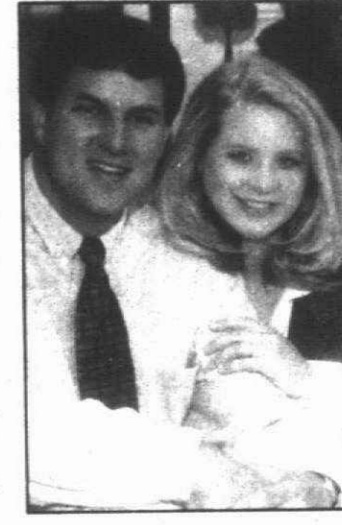
Jenvey-Ellis

Alan and Donna Jenvey of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen Anne, to Dr. Donald Ray Ellis III, the son of Donald and Aiana Ellis of Novi.

The bride-to-be is a 1996 graduate of Madonna University with a bachelor of science degree in psychology. She is employed by Barnes and Noble Book-sellers in Northville.

Her fiancé is a 1997 graduate of the Michigan State University School of Medicine. He is in his residency in family practice at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids.

An August wedding is planned at Holy Family Church in Novi.



Safranski-Plaisted

John and Susan Safranski of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jeanne Marie, to Jeffrey Carl Plaisted, the son of Phil Plaisted of Grosse Ile and Dee Unger of Brooklyn, Mich.

The bride-to-be is a 1989 graduate of Ladywood High School and a 1993 graduate of Michigan State University. She is employed as a marketing manager for Einstein Bagels-Great Lakes Region.

Her fiancé is a 1986 graduate of Grosse Ile High School and a 1991 graduate of Michigan State University. He is employed as a senior account representative for Ameritech Inc.

An October wedding is planned at the Marygrove College Chapel in Detroit.

The bride is a 1986 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and a 1990 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in political science and economics. She is employed by Ford Motor Co.'s marketing and sales division as an operations manager for the Philadelphia Regional Sales Office.

The bride asked Shawn Lounsbury, Jean Nielsen, Kate

Schewe-Earle

Joseph and Marilyn Schewe of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Hoyt, to Michael James Earle, the son of James and Anne Earle of Orchard Lake.

The bride-to-be is a 1992 graduate of Ladywood High School and a 1996 graduate of the University of Michigan. She is employed by Tascor in Dallas, Texas.

Her fiancé is a 1992 graduate of Birmingham Brother Rice and a 1996 graduate of the University of Michigan. He is employed by I.B.M. in Dallas, Texas.

A May 1998 wedding is planned in St. Edith's Catholic Church in Livonia.



Grulikowski-Nielsen

Gregory Grulikowski and Krista Lee Nielsen were married Sept. 20 at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit by the Rev. Bernard Backie.

The bride is the daughter of Gary and Linda Nielsen of Northville. The groom is the son of Ted and Barbara Grulikowski of Brighton.

The bride is a 1986 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and a 1990 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in political science and economics. She is employed by Ford Motor Co.'s marketing and sales division as an operations manager for the Philadelphia Regional Sales Office.

The bride asked Shawn Lounsbury, Jean Nielsen, Kate



Nielsen and Amy Vorhees to serve as her attendants.

Dr. John Richard served as the groom's best man with Kirk Avila, Troy Frazer, Ted Grulikowski, Mark Linkmeyer, Kenneth Nielsen, Michael Nielsen and David Nielsen serving as groomsmen.

The couple greeted guests at The Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Following a honeymoon trip to Maui, Hawaii, they are making their home in New Jersey.

Open orientation will focus on Polish adoptions

Families interested in adopting children from Poland can find out more at an open orientation 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, at the International Business Center, 43000 Nine Mile Road, between Meadowbrook and Novi roads, Novi.

The orientation is sponsored by Forever Families Inc., a nonprofit licensed adoption agency providing one of the largest worldwide networks for adoption opportunities.

For more information, call (248) 344-9606.

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38 metro Detroit locations including Fairlane, Laurel Park, Livonia, Pointe Plaza, Southland, Westland and Wonderland Malls.

Focus:HOPE needs helpers

Three hundred seniors and 1,000 families could miss out on the simple pleasures of the season — a special meal, modest gifts and most importantly, company without the help of Focus:HOPE.

Focus:HOPE, through its Share with a Senior and Family to Family programs, connects individuals, families and groups who want to share the joys of the holiday season with others.

Those who Share with a Senior provide a food basket and

a modest gift for an elderly man or woman living on a fixed income. Seniors often need and appreciate toiletries and items such as slippers, sweaters and robes.

Participants with Family to Family provide a food basket for a family and a modest gift for each child. The families helped by the program consist of three or more children and are headed by an underemployed or unemployed individual. Helpful gifts for children include coats, mit-

tens, gloves, caps, socks, boots, underwear, combs, brushes, tooth brushes, books and educational games and toys.

Share with a Senior runs through Feb. 1, 1998, while Family to Family ends Friday, Dec. 19. To participate, call the Focus:HOPE Volunteer Department at (313) 494-5500.

There also are other ways to become involved, such as contributing non-perishable food or gift items which can be used in food baskets or perishable food items through Wednesday, Dec. 17, donating money to help purchase packaged and fresh food or gift items, becoming a delivery driver on Senior Delivery Day Saturday, Dec. 13, or volunteering two hours to help raise money by wrapping gifts at Northland Mall in Southfield.

People also can attend the 28th annual Holiday Music Festival at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the North Rosedale Park Community House. Proceeds benefit the Share with a Senior and Family to Family programs. Tickets are \$25 each or \$200 for a table of eight. For tickets, call (313) 494-5500.

Focus:HOPE is a non-profit civil and human rights organization, founded in 1968 by the late Rev. William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis.

Over the years, Focus:HOPE has initiated practical solutions to the problems of hunger, economic disparity, inadequate education and racial divisiveness. Today, it employs more than 700 people and has more than 49,000 supporters.

For more information, call Focus:HOPE at (313) 494-5500.



Notecards benefit Wilson Barn

The photograph on the cover is a familiar one, especially for people who travel West Chicago or Middlebelt roads in Livonia.

Friends of the Barn are selling notecards, bearing a picture of the historic site, available for sending holiday greetings or dropping a line to a family member or friend.

The cards come in boxes of 10 and cost \$9 per box. They are available by sending a check, payable to Friends of the Barn, 29350 W. Chicago, Livonia 48152.

A state and national historical site, the barn was built in

1888 to house the Ira Wilson Dairy. Measuring 30 feet by 80 feet, the clapboard barn was destroyed by fire in 1918 and rebuilt a year later on the original foundation.

The site also includes a 15-by-45-foot silo, the largest ever built in Livonia, and the original house, built in 1845 and restored to the era of the 1940s in 1944.

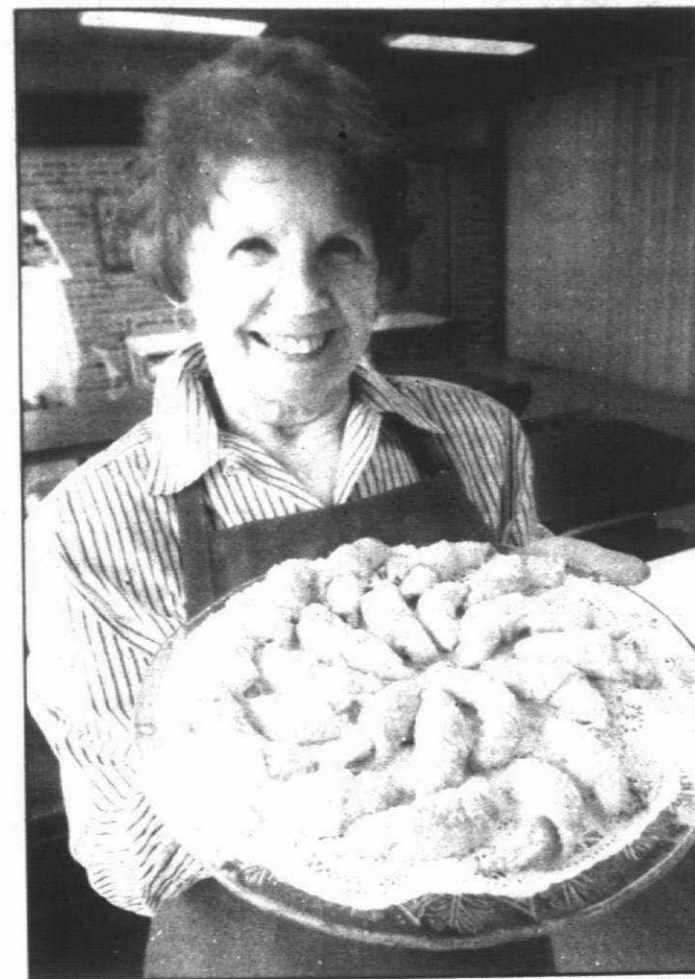
Through donations and special events, the organization has been able to save the barn from destruction and restore it as well as refurbished the house, rebuild the corral, add handicap restrooms and

kitchenette and do extensive electrical service indoors and outdoors.

Future plans include restoration of the silo and construction of handicap ramps and paths and music and picnic pavilions.

Friends of Wilson Barn memberships are \$25 for businesses, patron and families and \$100 for a lifetime membership. The Friends of Wilson Barn newsletter also is available for a yearly \$5 donation.

For more information, call (313) 427-4311.



Ready for business: Anne Hyrila holds a plate full of Russian Kifli cookies that will be sold at the Christmas cookie walk at the Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia on Saturday, Dec. 13. Hyrila made more than 1,500 Kiflis for the walk.

Hospice holds nut sale

The holidays mean lots of parties with plenty of snacks. And Community Hospice and Home Care Services Inc. of Westland and Plymouth has just the snack for serving — nuts.

Sixteen-ounce packages of nuts are available for \$10 each with a portion of the sales funding the bereavement programs offered by CHCS.

For nut lovers, there are cashews or a variety pack containing pistachios, German almonds, cashews and assorted nuts, party mixers. The nuts are available at the CHCS offices at 32932 Warren Road, Westland, and 127 S. Main St., Plymouth, through year's end.

The nuts also are for sale at Decker's Florist, 8214 Merriman Road, Westland; Peoples Home Medical, 1646 Eureka Road, Southgate, and 1147 Wayne Road, Westland; The Flower Shop, 7787 Middlebelt Road, Westland; Remerica Realtors, 42875 Five Mile Road, Plymouth; Mind, Body and Spirit Institute, 38405 Joy Road, Westland; Catholic Social Services, 17332 Farmington Road, Livonia; Heidi's Flowers and Gifts, 995 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth; Atkins Chiropractic Center, 33595 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia; Livonia Italian Bakery and Cafe, 33615 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, and Century 21 Today Realtors, 19500 Victor Parkway, Suite 190, Livonia.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

When Anne Hyrila of Plymouth has company, store-bought snacks aren't good enough. She'll bake any one of a number of her favorite Russian treats.

Get-togethers for her church, Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia, are no exception.

Hyrila, who is of Ukrainian descent, has made 1,500 Russian Kifli cookies for the church's annual cookie walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. The church is at 36075 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. For more information, call (248) 476-3432.

Hyrila's project took two days. One day to make the dough, another to bake the cookies. She made eight recipes of Kifli which yield 192 cookies each. Half of the batch is filled with nuts, the other half has apricot filling.

"I made a half recipe yesterday, and it took me almost three hours to bake them," Hyrila said with a smile.

To make the sweet, flaky pastry, which is similar to Kolachy or Kolache, the dough is rolled out and cut into squares; a spoonful of filling is placed in the center of a square of pastry dough. Then the two opposite corners of the square are folded over the center and pressed down to cover some of the filling.

Hyrila's treats won't be the only ones available. Stuffed cabbage, sweet bread and nut, apricot and poppy seed rolls also will be available.

"There will be more than 40 varieties," said Anne Jury of Plymouth. "We have nut rolls, pretzel sticks that we drizzle chocolate on, zucchini bread, diabetic or low-sugar dessert bread. One of our girls is diabetic and she made 50 loaves."

Elaine Petuhoff of Livonia made 7,500 pierogies from January through November for the event.

Last year, cookie-lovers began lining up at 7:30 a.m. By noon, the church was sold out of cookies.

"The workers didn't even get

Bakers' dozens

Church members ready for cookie walk

any," said Anne Jury, who along with Arlene Sudia and Evelyn Olszewskichaired the fourth annual event. "We have a mailing list of people who attended last year."

"We've already had people call-

ing to see if we're having a cookie walk again this year."

For this cookie walk, the women of the congregation have coaxed men into helping out with the baking.

All the treat-making partici-

pants donate their time and the ingredients for the cookie walk. Hyrila said that the camaraderie between the women makes it all worthwhile.

"It's nice working with the girls and just being together."

Children's '97 Directory

Children have many special needs... and because parents don't always have a lot of time, the Observer & Eccentric has created this unique directory to make life just a little easier.

Activities

Skatin' Station II
Canton
OPEN SKATING 1 pm-4 pm
December 22-January 2
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6:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata "Gloria"
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Office Hrs. 9-5

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30000 Six Mile Rd. (S.E. between I-96 & Middlebelt)
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11:15 A.M. Adult Study Classes
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UNITED METHODIST

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
Livonia • 422-0140
Worship Services & Sunday School
9:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
December 14th
"Joy That Lights Our Way"
Rev. Thomas G. Rudolph, preaching
Rev. Thomas G. Rudolph, Rev. Marlene Lee Carey
Rev. Robert C. Coley

UNITED METHODIST

United Methodist Church
10000 Beech Day, Redford
Beverly Plymouth and St. Charles
Bob & Donna Genselle, Co-pastors
313-937-3170

3 Styles of Creative Worship
8:00 a.m. Contemporary, Family
9:30 a.m. Contemporary, Family
11:00 a.m. Contemporary, Family
Emphasis: Advent Joy
Scripture Focus: Isaiah 35: 1-10
Rev. Diana, preaching
11:00 a.m. Children-Youth-Adults

Churches celebrate Christ's birth with drama, music

For some, the sights and sounds of Christmas are gaily decorated trees and twinkling lights and the opening and closing of cash registers.

But for those who believe, the Christmas season is a time to prepare for the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus Christ. Through music and drama, churches across the area are busy putting Christ into Christmas.

A talented group of four- and five-year-olds will present will present the Christmas musical, "The Best Present of All," at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

A production of The Donut Repair Club, the free performance will feature the Donut Man and Duncan the donut. Mike Vincent of Novi, an elder at Memorial, will play the Donut Man.

Prior to the Praisesmakers' performance, the nursery department at Memorial will present a brief holiday program.

The adult choir of Memorial Church of Christ will present a Christmas cantata, "The Wonders of His Love," at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. Christmas is a celebration steeped in paradox. It celebrates a sovereign who chooses to be a subject, a prince who dons the trappings of a peasant, a spotless lamb who possesses the lineage of a lion, a birth that will extinguish death and ultimately a death that will offer eternal life. A spectacular story, it is about the wonders of His love.

For more information, call the church at (313) 464-0722.

■ Get into the Christmas spirit by attending the "Festival of Christmas" concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

The festival will feature unique and uplifting new and traditional Christmas music. The choir of Christ Our Savior, Men's Ensemble, Handbells, Brass and Woodwind Ensemble, Chorus and Choralists will perform music reflecting the true spirit of Christmas. A highlight of the concert will be the performance of Michael W. Smith's original Christmas song, "All Is Well."

The concert is free of charge, however, a free will donation will be received. For more information, call Lois Drake at (313) 522-6830.

■ Temple Baptist Church is presenting its annual musical



In the cast: Joining the Donut Man, Mike Vincent (seated) and Duncan the donut for "The Best Gift of All" at Memorial Church of Christ are Damien Britton (front row, from left), Amber Prong, Calla Ziulkowski, Ian Horylew, Michaela Wheeler, Ashley Pavacik, Jonathon and Devin Duran, both, Laura Furman (second row, from left), Alexandra Moore, Michael Beasley, Cole Duran, Travis Vincent, Jenna Britton, Elena Voyles, Jeremy Paul (back row, from left), Kelsey Stamm, Diana Friend, Erin Pavacik, Katelynn Gaskill, Kevin McCain and Jennifer McPike.

production, "The Glory of Christmas: A Holiday of Hope," at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Dec. 12-13, and 19-20, and at 6 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 14, and 21, at the church, 49555 N. Territorial, Plymouth.

Tickets are priced \$6 to \$10 and can be purchased at the church's ticket office, or Visa/MasterCard by calling the ticket hotline at (313) 414-3980. No children younger than age 4 will be admitted to the performances.

■ The Chancel Choir of St. James Presbyterian Church will present a Christmas cantata, "Rejoice in His Coming," at the 10 a.m. worship service Sunday, Dec. 21. The church is at 25350 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. For more information, call (313) 534-7730.

■ Canton Community Church is presenting the dessert theater production of "Four Tickets to Christmas," a dramatic musical set at the turn of the century, at

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, and 2:30 and 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13-14, at the church, 41600 Ann Arbor Trail, between Haggerty Road and Mill Street.

Tickets are \$6 and are available at the Agape Bookseller in Canton or by calling (313) 453-9400, or through the Canton Community Church Creative Arts Department at (313) 414-9741.

■ St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will present a choir Christmas cantata at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the church, 27475 Five Mile Road, east of Inkster Road, Livonia.

For more information, call the church at (313) 422-1470.

■ Plymouth Baptist Church will present the Christmas concert, "Everlasting Light," at 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Dec. 12-14, at the church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, west of Haggerty Road, Plymouth. The fully staged production will feature a variety of dynamic vocal and

instrumental music. There is no admission charge, however, a Salvation Army kettle will be available for donations following the concert.

Children under age 5 will not be permitted in the auditorium, however, full nursery and preschool care will be provided. For more information, call the church at (313) 453-5534.

■ The Schoolcraft College Community Choir, under the direction of Donald Stromberg, will perform "Alleluia, Rejoice" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile Road, Livonia.

The program will feature "Christmas Cantata" by Daniel Pinkham, accompanied by Solid Brass. Donations will be accepted during the intermission. For more information, call the church at (313) 422-6028.

■ Organist Danny Holley will perform a special Christmas concert "Christmas Hallelujah" at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call the church at (313) 421-1762.

■ For the 17th year, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene is presenting "The Living Christmas Tree: Music of the True Meaning of Christmas," directed by Dan Whitney, 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Dec. 13-21, at the church, 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road, west of I-275, Plymouth. The choir will step into the branches of a 30-foot high tree to sing the songs that articulate the reason for the birth of Christ.

No tickets are necessary and seating will be on a first come-first served basis. Nursery will be provided for children under age 3. For more information, call (313) 453-1525.

The choir also will present the Living Christmas Tree program at 7:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Domino Farms, Earhart

Kibbie, associate professor of organ at the University of Michigan, performing "Rhapsody on Noels" by Eugene Gigout. "Greensleeves (What Child Is This?)" by Richard Purvis and "I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In" by Geoffrey Bush, to name a few. The choir and orchestra will perform "Christmas Oratorio" by Saint-Saens, with Kerstin Albin, principal harpist with the Flint Symphony Orchestra.

Advance tickets are \$5 and \$10 at the door. To order, send a check or money order, payable to the Cathedral Cultural Series, and a stamped self-addressed envelope to Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward Ave., Detroit 48202 by no later than Dec. 17. For further information, call (313) 421-0472.

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Religion *from page B8*

a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the church, 41600 Ann Arbor Trail Canton. For more information, call the church at (313) 455-6022.

a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the church, 41600 Ann Arbor Trail Canton. For more information, call the church at (313) 455-6022.

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ANNIVERSARIES

**Major**

Donald and Bernice Major of Zephyr Hills, Fla., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a dinner party, given by their children at Portofino Restaurant in Wyandotte.

The couple lived in Garden City for 33 years and in Ontario, Canada, before moving to Florida. They were married on May 3, 1947, in Tilbury, Ont. She is the former Bernice Lauzon.

They have six children - Gary and wife Kathe and Larry and

wife Sandy, all of Canton, Valerie O'Connor and husband John of Southgate, Douglas of Clearwater, Fla., Brian and wife Michelle of Romulus, and Janet Rice and the late Kevin Rice.

They also have 10 grandchildren - Joshua, Andrea, Michael Matthew, Allison and Erin Major, Jeremy and Eric O'Connor and Adam and Nolan Rice - and one great-granddaughter, Rachel Dieter.

He is retired from General Motors-Cadillac.

**Stedman**

Elmer (Gene) and Virginia Stedman of Plymouth celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by gathering with family and friends at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland and at her sister and brother-in-law's home for anniversary cake, refreshments and opening of gifts.

The couple met at Romulus High School in 1944 and have been together ever since. They were married at a high Mass at

St. Stephen's Church in New Boston on Sept. 13, 1946. She is the former Virginia Zbikowski.

The couple has four children - daughters Susan Erbes of Iowa, Rebecca Schulte and husband Earl of Wayne, Laurie Smith and husband Carsten of Utah, and son David and his wife Konni of Wisconsin.

They also have seven grandchildren - Melissa, Michael, Shannon, Eric, Elizabeth, Kevin and Alexander - and a great-granddaughter, Taryn.

He retired in 1992 from Associated Spring Corp. in Saline and is a one-year survivor of lung cancer.

**Brown**

F. Jerry and Nita Brown of Venice, Fla., formerly of Plymouth, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a family reunion held during the summer in Venice, and at a dinner with family and friends in November.

Fourteen-year residents of Plymouth, the Browns were married Nov. 1, 1947, in Detroit. She is the former Nita Lorraine Everson.

They have four children - Patrick of Wilton, Conn., Timothy of McLean, Va., Kevin of Melbourne, Australia, and Cynthia of Memphis, Tenn. - and four grandchildren.

He has been retired from advertising sales for 12 years.

They are active members of the University of Michigan Alumni Association of Sarasota, Venice Presbyterian Church and Jacaranda West Country Club.

Auction features Di bear

The owner of The Susan B. Ashlee Co. of Livonia is facing a bit of a dilemma.

Known for its gourmet gift baskets that contain Beanie Babies, the company has received hundreds of calls for the highly prized Princess Di Beanie Baby, but will only receive a dozen from the Ty Co.

"I sell so many Beanie Babies a day that I could not imagine trying to control the shoppers searching for Princess Di," said Susan.

Her solution is a silent auction for the Princess Di bear or a crystal "Princess" ring - one her best sellers this Christmas season. Proceeds will benefit Children's Hospital of Southeast Michigan and Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Individuals or business interested in placing a bid for either item can send their bid (indicate which item the bid is for) with your name, address and telephone number to the Susan B. Ashlee Co., P.O. Box 51743, Livonia 48151 or call (313) 422-8700.

Children and adults who would like to help out on a smaller scale can send a \$5 check, payable to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, with their name, address and telephone number for a Beanie Baby giveaway. Five lucky people will receive a retired Beanie Baby. Winners will be notified on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

Susan selected the two charities for very special reasons. Her five-year-old son was born with a congenital heart problem and is alive today, thanks to extensive surgery at Children's Hospital, while she was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at age 12 and has lived with the disease for 25 years.

Individual donations for the two charities also are welcome and will be forwarded to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and Children's Hospital.

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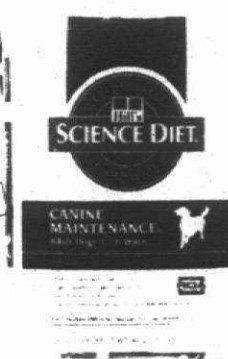


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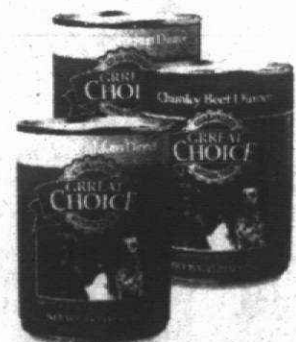
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Northville: N. Main Rd. and Haggerty Rd. next to Computer City (248) 347-4337

Rochester Hills: Southwest corner of Avon Rd. and Rochester Rd. next to Borders Books (248) 652-6537

Roseville: 13 Mile Rd. and Little Mack Ave. next to Home Depot (810) 294-8292

Southfield: West side of Telegraph Rd., South of Twinner Mile Rd. across from Tel-Twelve Mall (248) 356-2065

Sterling Heights: 14 Mile Rd. and Van Dyke Rd. next to the Super I Mart (810) 795-4414

Taylor: Livonia Rd. and Ford Rd. next to Media Play (313) 374-8106

Utica: Northeast corner of Hall Rd. (M 50) and Christopher Columbus Rd. (M 53) near Target (810) 323-7030

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SAFE KIDS' guide minimizes torture of toy buying

Of the 2.6 billion toys and games sold in the United States each year, two-thirds are sold during the holiday season. And while toys are intended to bring joy and enhance development, some toys are linked to injuries and in some cases, death.

Appropriate selection and proper use of toys can greatly reduce the incidence and severity of such injuries. It is also critical for parents to play with their children to ensure safety.

The leading cause of toy-related injury and death are falls from riding toys and choking on

small toys and toy parts. Other hazards include toys with small parts, sharp points and edges, lead-in-paint, flammable materials and long strings that can be a strangulation risk.

While it's common for parents to buy toys based on a child's wish list, the Metro Detroit SAFE KIDS wants parents to consider safety before making their final decision, so it's put together its own shopping list.

Choose toys according to a child's age, interests and skill level. Look for well-made toys and follow age and safety infor-

mation on the warning labels. Kids under age 3 can choke on small toys and toy parts.

Always supervise your children at play. A toy intended for an older child may be dangerous in the hands of a younger child.

Join in your child's play. Your participation adds to your child's fun and development.

Teach children to put toys away after playing. Safe storage prevents falls and other injuries.

Check old and new toys regularly for damage, such as sharp edges or small parts. Make repairs immediately or throw

away damaged toys.

As for safe toy buying, here's a few guidelines:

Birth to 1-year-olds - Infants need to explore with their hands, mouths and eyes and enjoy toys they can touch or squeeze. Good choices would be crib gyms, floor activity centers, soft dolls, stuffed animals, squeaky toys or activity quilts.

1-3-year-olds - Toddlers love to climb, jump, throw and play rough and tumble games. Good choices would be soft blocks, large balls, push and pull

toys, pounding and shaping toys and books.

3-5-year-olds - This age group likes to experiment with imaginary situations and have toys that are close companions. Good choices would be teddy bears, dolls, non-toxic art supplies, pretend toys (play money, telephone, etc.) or outdoor toys like a tricycle with a helmet.

5-9-year-olds - School-aged kids like to be challenged with complex games that teach specific skills and concepts. Good choices would be arts and crafts kits, puppets, jump ropes, minia-

ture dolls and action figures.

9-14-year-olds - Preteens are beginning to develop lifelong skills, hobbies and enjoy team sports. Good choices would be hand-held electronic games, board games, sports equipment, model kits and musical instruments.

The Metro SAFE KIDS Coalition is part of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, the first and only national organization dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury, the No. 1 killer of children ages 14 and younger.

RELIGION 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.

BELLEVILLE

Class of 1988
A reunion is planned for Sept. 19.
(800) 677-7800

BLOOMFIELD HILLS LAHSER

Class of 1987
March 21 at Doubletree Guest Suites, Southfield.
(248) 360-7004, press 2
Class of 1978
Aug. 1 at Somerset Inn, Troy.
(248) 366-9493, press 3

CHERRY HILL

Class of 1983
Reunion and alumni family picnic is planned for August 1998.
(313) 729-6783

DETROIT CASS TECH

Class of 1968
Looking for classmates for a reunion in 1998.
Pam Yee Gianola, 1243 Smith Road, Beulah, Mich., 49617-9493 or e-mail at mie-nai@aliens.com
Classes of 1980-82
Are planning a reunion.
Stephanie Bradford Wright '80, 1753 Cornell, Southfield 48075, (313) 945-8473; or Dylan Warmack '81, 2131 Bryanston Ct., Detroit 48207, (313) 963-7665
Class of 1988
Is looking for names and addresses of classmates.
(313) 896-0736, (313) 859-0261 or (313) 882-1632
Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 442-9320, by fax at (248) 442-8830 or Sharon Law-Williamson, 28479 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia 48152

DETROIT KETTERING

Classes of 1971-72
Is planning a reunion.
Send names, addresses and telephone numbers to Ron or Pat (Tish Mack) Matthews, P.O. Box 7647, Bloomfield Hills 48302, or call (810) 745-8422, (248) 696-6342 or (248) 857-6043.
Class of 1978

Is planning a reunion.

Send name, address and telephone number to Chrystal Esaw, 27930 Berkshire Dr., Southfield 48076, or call (248) 358-5236, (313) 526-8667, (313) 839-9858 or (313) 372-3159

DETROIT PERSHING

Classes of 1949-53
Are planning a reunion.
(248) 471-5609 or P.O. Box 530-244, Livonia 48153-0244
January-June classes of 1952
A fall 1998 reunion is being planned
(248) 623-2454, (810) 771-9810 or (810) 979-4594

DETROIT WESTERN

Class of 1949
Is planning at 50th reunion.
(313) 274-3214

FARMINGTON HARRISON

Class of 1988
A reunion is planned for July at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, Westland.
(248) 442-2862

FRASER

Class of 1972
A reunion is being planned for Fraser Steffens Park.
(810) 293-2160

GARDEN CITY

Class of 1987
A reunion is planned for October.
(810) 765-1380 or (313) 513-6071

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Class of 1978
A reunion is planned for Aug. 8.
(800) 677-7800

HAZEL PARK

Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion.
(800) 677-7800

HIGHLAND PARK

Class of 1969
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 864-5943, (313) 583-5418 or (313) 867-3201
Class of 1978
Planning a 20-year reunion for July 1998. Seeking classmates.
Fax info to C. Jones (313) 836-5302 or write to HPCHS reunion committee, c/o P.O. Box 760484 Lathrup Village, MI 48076.

LIVONIA WHITMAN JH

Class of 1976
7 p.m. Dec. 12 at Bennie's Pizzeria, Merriman and Joy roads.

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Class of 1948
Is planning a reunion.

(248) 548-5470 or (810) 264-9191

MARIAN

Class of 1982
11:30 a.m. Dec. 27 at the Fox & Hounds Restaurant, Bloomfield Hills.
(248) 644-1750

OAK PARK

Classes of 1957-59
Is planning a reunion for November 1998.
(248) 559-1746 or (248) 354-0092

PLYMOUTH CANTON/SALEM

Classes of 1988
A joint reunion will be held June 20.
CEP Class of '88, P.O. Box 5356, Plymouth 48170

ST. ALPHONSUS

Class of 1958
A reunion is being planned for 1998.
(513) 878-7483 or (313) 455-1277

ST. HEDWIG HIGH

Class of 1958

Is planning a reunion.

(313) 953-1011

ST. JOSAPHAT

Class of 1943-46
Are planning a reunion.
(313) 886-0770 or (810) 783-6889

STERLING HEIGHTS

Class of 1978
July 25 at Gino's Surf Restaurant, Harrison Township.
(248) 360-7004, press 6

WARREN WOODS TOWER

Class of 1988

Is planning a reunion.
(810) 790-4214 or (810) 771-7328

WATERFORD KETTERING

Class of 1968
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 628-3926, (248) 681-1768 or (248) 623-6057

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Class of 1983
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OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Career high

The season may have started on a down note for Hope College's men's basketball team, with a four-point loss to Bethel College in the opening round of the Cornerstone Classic Nov. 21, but it's certainly picked up since.

The Flying Dutchmen have been unbeatable since, rolling to six-straight wins. Last Wednesday (Dec. 3), they routed North Park College 93-77 at North Park, and Mark Bray, a sophomore guard and a Plymouth Canton graduate, turned in a career-high in scoring.

Bray finished with 10 points as the Flying Dutch finished with a 62 percent conversion rate on field goal tries, making 10 three-pointers in the game.

Bray is averaging three points a game, hitting 54.6 percent of his floor shots — and 3-of-5 (60 percent) of his three-pointers.

Wildcat tryouts

The Western Wayne Wildcats AAU girls basketball teams will have a series of open tryouts next month for all those interested female players.

■ **16, 17 and 18 and under players:** Tryouts for all three will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 at Pioneer Middle School in Plymouth.

■ **15-and-under:** Tryouts will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 at Pioneer MS in Plymouth.

■ **14-and-under Blue:** Tryouts will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 at West Middle School in Plymouth.

■ **14-and-under Red:** Tryouts will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5 at Pioneer MS in Plymouth.

■ **13-and-under:** Tryouts will be from 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12 at Pioneer MS in Plymouth.

Tryouts for 10-and-under, 11-and-under and 12-and-under teams will be announced later. For information, call Fred Thomann at (313) 459-7315 or Bob Blohm at (313) 459-1763.

Soccer refs

New soccer referee training will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Jan. 31, Feb. 7, Feb. 14 and Feb. 21 at the Canton Township Hall. Those interested in becoming a soccer referee must attend all four sessions.

You must be at least 12 years old to take this class. To register, send your name, social security number and a check for \$43 made payable to the Michigan Referee Committee to: P.O. Box 700260, Plymouth, MI, 48170-0945.

For further information, call (313) 454-7335. Class size is limited.

Hockey contest

Red Wing fans, take notice.

MediaOne and ESPN have joined forces to bring the Hockeyman contest to Michigan. The contest runs through March 27 and will include five raffles for hockey and Red Wings-related prizes.

There is no purchase necessary, but the contest is open to Michigan residents 18 and older. Complete contest details and entry forms are available at all Michigan MediaOne locations.

Prizes include a trip for two to Chicago for the Wings/Blackhawks game Dec. 11; a trip to Vancouver to see the 1998 NHL All-Star game; a bundle of prizes on Jan. 19, including three ESPN2 NHL jackets, 24 "Fire on Ice" T-shirts, and 24 ESPN2 hats; a trip for two to the ESPN world headquarters in Bristol, Conn. Feb. 19; and a trip for two to a 1998 Stanley Cup championship game April 1.

Floor hockey sign-up

The Detroit College of Business Athletic Booster Club is seeking teams to compete in its indoor floor hockey league on Sunday afternoons, starting Jan. 18.

All games will be played at the Sheridan Recreation Center, on Pardee in Taylor.

Cost is \$550, which includes all expenses for a 10-game regular season plus playoffs, including referees fees, gym rental and trophies.

For further information, call Kevin Brazell at (313) 581-4400, ext. 389, or at (313) 562-5033.

Anyone interested in submitting items to Sports Scene or Sports Roundup may send them to sports editor C.J. Risak, 36252 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150, or may fax them to (313) 591-7279.

Canton, Salem lose openers

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Start down and there's only one direction to go, right?

That's about the best way to look at Tuesday's basketball season-openers for both Plymouth Salem and Plymouth Canton. They started on the road, and it wasn't good: Canton lost at Wayne Memorial, and highly-regarded Salem fell at Monroe.

The Chiefs will have their home-opener at 7:30 p.m. Friday, when they host Monroe. Salem stays on the road, traveling to Ann Arbor Huron Friday.

Wayne 60, Canton 49: It was all over quickly for Canton Tuesday at Wayne. The Zebras exploded for a 21-11 lead after one quarter and coasted to the win from there.

"They had one run," said Chiefs' coach Dan Young. "From then on, it was a pretty even game."

"We hung in there pretty good. We handled their pressure fairly well — except in that early run — and we rebounded fairly well."

Wayne's lead at the half was 33-24; after three quarters, it was 50-37.

Part of Canton's problem: scoring balance. Three players accounted for 41 of the Chiefs' 49 points. Joe Cortellini, a junior guard and the only returning starter from last season's squad, led the way with 21 points. Eric Larsen and Dan McLean added 10 apiece.

Wayne got 22 points from Brian Williams and 13 more from Reddick Borkins.

"I was pleased with the effort, I was pleased with the fact that we hung in there," Young added. "We need to get a little more scoring balance."

The Chiefs had a wide edge in free throws, with 37 attempts to Wayne's nine. Unfortunately, Canton made just 21 (56.8 percent); the Zebras converted seven (77.8 percent).

Monroe 66, Salem 59: So much for state rankings.

Plymouth Salem may have been highly-touted in the pre-season, but performances like Tuesday's won't keep them there for long.

"We played terrible," was Rocks' coach Bob Brodie's direct appraisal. "I can't think of one player who played well."

"We couldn't beat anybody the way we played tonight."

Salem had the early lead, up 16-14 after one quarter and 30-28 at the half. But the Trojans, behind the shooting of Jeremy Griffin (17 second-half points, including eight in the third quarter), outscored the Rocks 20-9 in the third period to take a 48-39 advantage into the fourth.

A final-quarter rally enabled Salem to get to within one, but that was as close as it got.

Griffin finished with a game-high 22 points, including four three-pointers. Dan Case added 14 for Monroe.

Salem got 12 points from Jeff McKian and 10 from Matt Mair.

The Rocks committed 20 turnovers in the game and were outrebounded, 28-14. Bhavin Patel's five boards was high for the team.

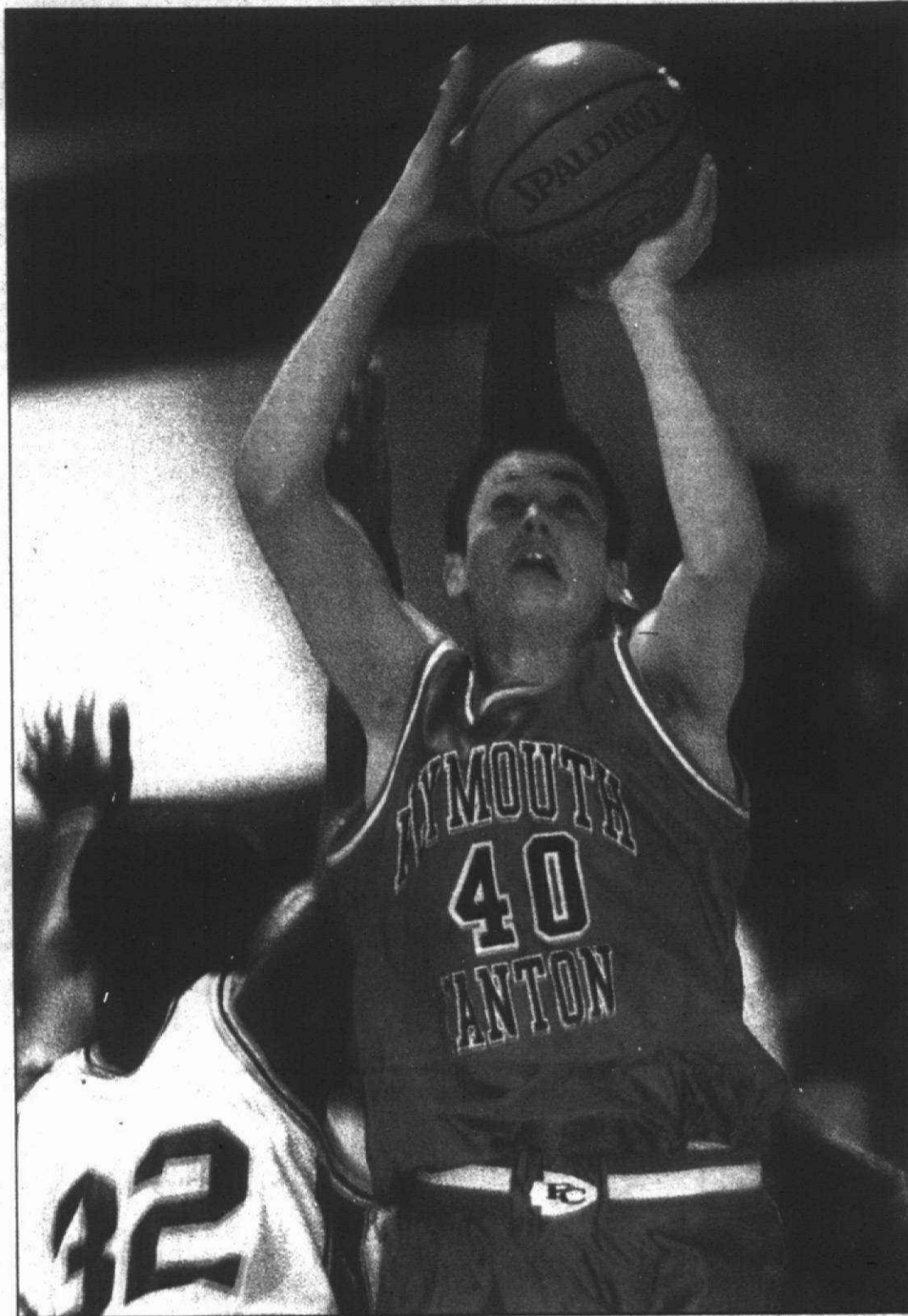
"We didn't play well whatsoever," said Brodie. "They beat us in all aspects of the game. Monroe was fired up, but we had a couple of opportunities in the first half. We just didn't take advantage of them."

"Everyone stood around waiting for someone else to take things over."

The Trojans' free throw shooting didn't help Salem much. They converted 19-of-25 (76 percent); the Rocks were a very solid 11-of-14 (78.6 percent).

Agape 55, Warren Zoe 43: In the opening round of Plymouth Christian Academy's Kickoff Classic, Canton Agape Christian used a strong first half to mow down Warren Zoe Christian Tuesday.

Three players reached double-figures in scoring for Agape, led by Steve Mecklenburg with 14 points. Paul Anleitner added 12 points and eight assists, and Jeremy Austin had 11 points and 11



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Working inside: Not everything went well for Plymouth Canton in its opener at Wayne Memorial Tuesday, but Dan McLean (40) did his share, scoring 10 points for the Chiefs.

rebounds. Matt Walsh paced Zoe with 13 points. Tim McCormick netted 11.

The Wolverines built a 17-10 lead after one quarter, and increased it to 34-23 by halftime. Zoe narrowed the gap to 43-35 after three periods, but Agape pulled away in the fourth.

CC 87, Gallagher 50: Senior center Chris Young had career highs in points (32) and rebounds (19) on Tuesday night, leading the Redford Catholic Central to an impressive season-opening win over host Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher.

The Shamrocks also received solid contributions

from three players off the CC football team, which recently finished a Class AA state championship season.

Junior guard Nick Moore had 14 points and nine assists and senior guard Joe Jonna, an All-Observer football player, had 12 points on four three-point baskets.

Maybe he's too sore still to take the ball to the basket.

"I thought we ran well," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "Three of our top six players only practiced one week (because of the extended football season). In light of that, I thought we played fairly well."

Please see BASKETBALL, C3

Salem 2nd at Holt

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Salem's trip to the Holt Wrestling Invitational last Saturday provided a few surprises.

For one, most everybody figured the Rocks were going to be pretty tough this season. But how many figured they could beat the two-time defending Class A team champions — Holt — on their own turf?

Well, they did. And they didn't. Depends which score you look at.

Which leads to yet another surprise: Take a look at how Salem's wrestlers performed, and try to figure how they finished second in a six-team tournament they dominated.

"We were trying to figure that out," said Salem coach

Please see SALEM MAT, C5

Whalers move into 2nd place



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Scrambling: The Whalers' Troy Smith (dark jersey, center) leads a mob of teammates into the scrum in front of Erie goalie Pat Dovigi (left). Plymouth lost Saturday but bounced back for a win over Erie on Sunday.

A slight bump in the road that's all Saturday's game was.

Or so the Plymouth Whalers would like to view it. The Erie Otters ended their 11-game home winning streak Saturday with an 8-5 victory, but the Whalers got back on track Sunday with a 6-1 home victory over Erie.

Jesse Boulerice scored a pair of goals to lead Plymouth past the Otters on Sunday. The victory allowed the Whalers to move into a second place tie with Sarnia in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division; both teams have 32 points, but Sarnia has played 31 games (13-12-6) to the Whalers' 27 (16-8-3).

The London Knights lead the division with 37 points (18-8-1) in 27 games.

Plymouth opened Sunday's scoring when Harold Druken netted an unassisted goal at 11:27. It was the left winger's

Please see WHALERS, C5

BOYS BASKETBALL

Churchill crumbles against Dearborn

BY BRAD EMONS

STAFF WRITER

The boys basketball season officially started Tuesday night with Livonia Churchill suffering from a bad case of the flu.

The host Chargers needed something to sooth their opening night jitters, coughing up the ball 39 times in a 78-54 loss to Dearborn.

Robitussin or Vick's Vapo Rub,

however, couldn't cure the turnover bug which started in the first quarter.

Dearborn, a Class A regional finalist with four of seven starters returning from last

year's 14-11 squad, roared out to a 27-9 advantage after eight minutes and coasted the rest of the way.

"Right now we're in the middle of growing pains," Churchill second-year coach Rick Austin said. "We were playing with two starters, a freshman (Michael Copeland) and a junior (Justin Jakes), who were playing their first varsity game."

"I attribute part of it to inexperience and the other part to the fact that we haven't had enough time yet in the season to let them mesh."

"When our best players are together on the floor, we'll be competitive."

Austin held out two players for portions of the game because of an internal team matter, but it was unlikely the Chargers were going to stay with Dearborn anyway.

The Pioneers, who upset Detroit Cass Tech in the regional semifinal last March before losing in the next round to state runner-up Detroit Redford, ran roughshod over Churchill with a suffocating defense and fast-break.

"We've always been a pressing and running team," said Dearborn coach Dave Mifsud, who lost in his debut as head coach to Churchill in 1995. "We play hard man-to-man defense and we've

got some good athletes."

"After we lost in the regional last year, we felt that in order to get to the next level, we had to improve our half-court defense. And tonight I thought we played great from that standpoint."

Churchill turned it over 12 times in the first quarter while the Pioneers quickly converted the mistakes into baskets.

The Chargers led 7-5 early as Jakes scored all seven points, including a three, but it was all Dearborn from that point on as the Pioneers went on a 20-0 run.

The surge was highlighted by a running slam dunk by 6-5 senior Jason Herrick, who finished with 10 points, and a three-pointer by 6-1 junior guard Colin Wilkinson, who led all scorers with 19.

All told, 10 different Dearborn players scored with Colin O'Donnell adding 12.

But to Churchill's credit, the Chargers didn't quit.

They were only outscored by just six, 51-46, over the final three quarters. But the damage had been done during the opening period.

"Dearborn traditionally plays an up-tempo offensive style and an in-your-face defensive style," said Austin, former Dearborn assistant. "We didn't use our pressure because we felt they'd thrive off that kind of tempo. But

we didn't recover back defensively and that's what really hurt us."

Senior Corey Cook scored 11 to pace Churchill, while Jakes contributed 10 and senior George Kithas added nine.

The Chargers shot 22 of 56 from the floor (39 percent), while Dearborn was 27 of 62 (43 percent).

"It's back to the drawing board tomorrow," Austin said. "We'll work hard on fundamentals and coming together better as a team. You'll definitely see a better game Friday versus (White Lake) Lakeland."

Dearborn, meanwhile, has a date Friday at Livonia Franklin.

"We have some high goals this year," said Mifsud, who also doubles as the school's head football coach. "We want to work hard to where we got last year and go a step further."

"Our halfcourt offense is the other major area where we hope to improve. We've made some progress, but we're not anywhere near where we want to be. We forced a lot of turnovers and we were running a lot, but we really didn't get into a set offense that many times."

Apparently turnovers were contagious because the Pioneers committed 26 themselves for a grand total of 65 between the two teams on the night.

Cornered

Negoshian signs with Cornerstone

BY BILL PARKER

STAFF WRITER

Todd Negoshian dreams of playing in a national college basketball tournament. Cornerstone College has an up-and-coming men's program that has its sights set on a berth in the national NAIA tournament.

With that in mind, Negoshian, a senior point guard at Walled Lake Central, made a verbal commitment earlier this week to continue his basketball career next year at Cornerstone College near Grand Rapids.

Negoshian decided to join the Golden Eagles after narrowing his choices to Cornerstone, Rochester Christian College, Lake Superior State and Northwood University.

"I chose Cornerstone for a few reasons," Negoshian said. "First, I want to have a chance to play in a national tournament, and

Cornerstone is ranked 20th in the NAIA and they've beaten the top-ranked team twice."

"Second, I have a good relationship with the coach. I've got along with him since the first time we met. And I wanted to play somewhere my brother (Ryan) could come and watch me play. He'll only be 45 minutes away at Western (Michigan University) so that was nice."

Negoshian got his first taste of life at Cornerstone when he worked at a youth basketball camp there last summer.

"We played some pick-up games, and I got high respect from all the guys," Negoshian said.

Cornerstone coach Kim Elders was elated to get a commitment from Negoshian, who averaged 22 points, six assists and four steals per game as a junior. Central begins the 1997-98 campaign Friday when it plays host

to Chippewa Valley.

"To get a kid of his caliber this early is just phenomenal for us," said Elders. "He was definitely our top recruit. We were looking for a point guard, and he was our first choice."

Elders said Negoshian will have a good chance to earn some quality playing time as a freshman.

"He's a good kid; he's a competitor," he said. "He understands the game very well and he comes from a great program."

"He's a smart basketball player with good skills. He can shoot the ball well. He has all the tools. His competitiveness and the fact he understands the game so well was very appealing to us."

"I never promise anyone a starting position, but I see him working into the rotation right away and getting a lot of minutes."

Whalers from page C1

12th goal of the season.

Erie's lone goal came less a minute later. Geoff Peters scored on an assist from Colin Pepperall.

The Whalers broke the game open in the second period with a pair of goals. David Legwand, who leads OHL rookies in scoring, got his 31st of the season and Boulerville scored his first of the night.

Plymouth tallied three more times in the third. Sergei Fedotov, Yuri Babenko and Boulerville all scored.

Robert Esche was in goal for Plymouth; he stopped 25 of 26 shots.

In Saturday's game, also played at Compuware Arena, Erie opened up a 3-1 lead after one period and the Whalers never recovered. The Otters led 5-2 after two periods.

Legwand scored a pair of goals while Kevin Holdridge, Eric

Goody and Andrew Taylor each added a goal. Legwand also had two assists; so did Babenko, with Taylor getting one.

Shane Nash and Pepperall each scored two goals for Erie, and Jason Polera had a goal and two assists.

Esche started in goal for Plymouth; he was replaced after two periods by Robert Holsinger. Pat Dovigi was in goal for Erie; he made 41 saves.

Plymouth 8, Windsor 2: Playing Thursday at Windsor, Nikos Tselios scored a hat trick to lead the Whalers to an easy victory.

Ahead 5-2 in the third period, Tselios scored three straight goals in less than 10 minutes. The defenseman now has five goals on the season.

His performance temporarily upstaged the torrid Legwand, who scored a pair of goals and assisted on two others in the

game. Taylor also netted two goals and an assist, and Julian Smith scored once and got two assists for the Whalers.

Windsor is in last place in the OHL's West Division.

Legwand honored: On Monday, the OHL named Legwand as the player of the week, for the span ending last Sunday.

The team's No. 1 draft choice in the 1997 OHL Priority Selection, Legwand collected five goals and six assists in three games for the Whalers last week.

For the season, Legwand leads all OHL rookies in scoring with 31 goals and 21 assists for 52 points in 27 games. He currently ranks third overall in the league in scoring, is second in goals scored, is tied for second in power play goals with 10, and is tied for first with five game-winning goals.

Salem mat from page C1

Ron Krueger. "How could we do so well and finish second?"

The format was dual-meet; in other words, each team wrestled every other one as if in a dual meet. Keeping score in that fashion, Salem did indeed finish first since the Rocks beat every other team — including Holt, by a 36-33 margin.

But the final tally was tournament scoring, and in that format Holt edged Salem, finishing first with 303 points to the Rocks' 292.

Out of the 14 weight divisions, Salem had five undefeated champions: Charlie Hamblin at 275 pounds, John Mervyn at 103, Dan Morgan at 119, Anwar Crutchfield at 160 and Teono

Wilson at 189 all were 5-0 in their matches.

Four other Rocks finished second in their weight divisions: Josh Henderson at 130, Dan Hamblin at 140 and James Green at 152 were all 4-1, and Justin Bruner at 125 was 3-2 to earn second-place finishes.

In the remaining five divisions, Salem had two thirds and a fourth (Rob Ash at 112 and Sam Boyd at 145 took thirds, and Greg Petrovich at 135 was fourth). Which means the Rocks scored in all but two weight classes.

Problem was, Holt scored in every division.

Even though the Rocks weren't quite good enough to upset the

defending state champs, Krueger was happy. "Yeah, I was kind of pleased," the veteran coach said. "But we've got to keep working on getting better."

They'll get a shot at vengeance, when they host their Salem 8 Invitational. The other seven teams competing are Holt, Saline, Adrian, Ann Arbor Huron, Brighton, Redford Catholic Central and Wyandotte Roosevelt.

Wrestling starts at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

"We're looking for people to come out and support us," said Krueger. Who knows? Perhaps this could be a team of destiny.

Rockets grab weight class championships

John Fedulchak and Jake Tharp took individual titles Saturday to highlight Westland John Glenn's performance in the Ypsilanti Tournament.

Fedulchak was tops in the 152-pound division while Tharp won all of his matches at 215. Coach Dave Hill said both had out-

WRESTLING

standing tournaments.

He thinks Fedulchak will go a long way this winter.

"He'll be difficult to beat," Hill said. "I don't believe he'll have difficulty qualifying for the state

finals this year."

As a team, the Rockets didn't meet with as much success. Westland finished sixth out of eight schools.

Northville "ran away" with the Ypsilanti Tournament, said Hill. Belleville was second and Saline finished third.

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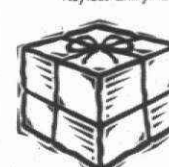
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ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SWIMMING

It's a star-studded team

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Two teams dominated the Overland area in girls swimming. And there were a handful of swimmers on other teams that also made their mark during the season.

The teams are well known to anyone familiar with swimming — Livonia Stevenson, which finished fourth at the Class A state meet, and Farmington Hill, which placed sixth.

But these two teams did not monopolize the area's talent. In fact, there was such depth that the Observer had to expand its 1997 swim team to accommodate all those who earned it.

Choosing a Coach of the Year was no easy task, either. Two stood out from the crowd: Mersey's Jim Downs and Stevenson's Greg Phill.

Both guided their teams to strong showings at the state finals after winning their respective conference meets. Both are deserving.

The honor this year goes to Stevenson's Phill. The reason is simple enough: His team was best, and for the seventh-straight year the Spartans were best in the Western Lakes Activities Association, too.

Without further ado, here is the 1997 Overland girls swim team, in order of event.

FIRST TEAM

Livonia Stevenson, 200-yard medley relay: Adrienne Turri, Jordyn Godfroid, Jessica Makowski and Marti McKenzie teamed in this event throughout the season and "this combination worked out really well," according to Phill.

Their best time of 1:48.59 was a school record. They placed second at the state final and were WLAA champions.

"Their great season came about because of the commitment these four girls made to this relay," said Phill.

Julie Kern, Livonia Stevenson, 200-yard freestyle: A junior, Kern's whole season seemed to be built on freestyle. "Julie spent the whole season swimming best times," said Phill.

Kern won both the 200 and 500 freestyles at the WLAA meet (setting a meet record of 5:05.41 in the latter), was first in the 500 free at the MISCA meet and placed sixth in the 200 free at state (1:57.14).



North Farmington's 200-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Cheri Farber, Tara Grider, Kristen Burke, Hannah Pawlewicz.



Stevenson's 400-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Jessica Makowski, Meghan Mocer, Meghan Lesnau, Julie Kern.



North Farmington's 200-yard medley relay: (from left) Tara Grider, Neva Alver, Hannah Pawlewicz, Cheri Farber.



North Farmington's 200-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Tara Grider, Neva Alver, Hannah Pawlewicz, Cheri Farber.

Her accomplishments earned her Stevenson's most valuable swimmer award.

Elizabeth Posvar, Farmington Mercy, 200-yard individual medley: As the event she specializes in, Posvar did a bit of everything for Mercy this season. And the sophomore did it well.

At the Oakland County meet, she was third in the 200 IM and fourth in the 100 backstroke. At the Catholic League finals, she placed first in both the 50 free (25.01) and 100 breaststroke (1:09.03).

And at the state championships, Posvar finished fourth in the 200 IM (2:09.76) and sixth in the 100 free (53.56). Both her relays scored at state, too.

Posvar qualified for state in every individual event. She was the high-point scorer for Mercy this season.

Jordyn Godfroid, Livonia Stevenson, 50-yard freestyle: Godfroid contributed to the Spartans' success both in and out of the water.

In the water, Godfroid turned in strong performances in the 50 at the WLAA meet (third in 24.96) and at the state final (ninth in 24.89); she was also third at the WLAA meet in the 100 breast (1:10.59). And her relays both scored at state.

Out of the water, the senior served as a team captain, taking the responsibility seriously. "Jordyn really stepped up when needed this year," said Phill. "She showed not only great leadership but a tremendous passion to win."

Katy Ballantine, Livonia Stevenson, 400-yard freestyle: Like Mercy's Posvar, Ballantine improved throughout the year, upgrading her degree of difficulty from meet to meet.

Stevenson's most valuable diver, she followed up a fourth at the WLAA meet with a 12th at the state championships (3:35.20 points for 12 dives).

"Katy showed great poise at all the big meets this year," said Phill. "She's especially at the state meet."

As her coach described it, it was the best year of her short career, but bigger — and better — things await.

Hannah Pawlewicz, North Farmington, 100-yard butterfly: Like Mercy's Posvar, Pawlewicz was a do-everything, qualifying for state in seven of the eight individual events.

Her best was the 100 fly, an event in which she finished second at state in 58.07.

At her coach described it, it was the best year of her short career, but bigger — and better — things await.

Livonia Stevenson, 200-yard medley relay: Adrienne Turri, Jordyn Godfroid, Jessica Makowski and Marti McKenzie teamed in this event throughout the season and "this combination worked out really well," according to Phill.

Their best time of 1:48.59 was a school record. They placed second at the state final and were WLAA champions.

"Their great season came about because of the commitment these four girls made to this relay," said Phill.

Julie Kern, Livonia Stevenson, 200-yard freestyle: A junior, Kern's whole season seemed to be built on freestyle. "Julie spent the whole season swimming best times," said Phill.

Kern won both the 200 and 500 freestyles at the WLAA meet (setting a meet record of 5:05.41 in the latter), was first in the 500 free at the MISCA meet and placed sixth in the 200 free at state (1:57.14).

SECOND TEAM

Farmington Mercy, 200-yard medley relay: Katie Clark, Elizabeth Posvar, Erin Downs and Kelly Carlin teamed to place seventh at the state meet (1:51.89). Carlin is a senior; the other three are sophomores.

Mercy was the Catholic League champ, too (1:55.40), with Callan, Posvar, Jenny MacDonald and Danielle Clayton.

Elizabeth MacDonald, Farmington Mercy, 200-yard freestyle: A freshman, MacDonald placed eighth at the state meet in the 200 free (1:56.77). She was second in the Catholic League in the 100 free (56.34).

Mercy coach Jim Downs called MacDonald "a workaholic with a great future. She's already established herself at state level competition."

Katie Clark, Livonia Stevenson, 200-yard individual medley: A sophomore, Clark was out of action with a shoulder injury until Oct. 16. She still finished second at the WLAA meet in both the 200 IM (2:13.56) and 100 butterfly (1:00.96).

Clark was "probably only at 50 percent at state meet," said Phill. "But with all her problems, she still gave the team the best she had to offer."

Teri Hanson, Plymouth Canton, 50-yard freestyle: Hanson qualified for state in four events, including the 50 free, in which she was clocked at 25.27. An ear infection kept her out of the WLAA meet and hampered her late-season performance.

"Teri is a very hard worker and dedicated swimmer," said Canton coach Sarah Suberka. "She excels both in the pool and academically. We look forward to having her back for her senior year."

Laurel Dolin, Livonia Stevenson, diving: Dolin, a junior, qualified for the state finals for the second consecutive year. At the WLAA meet, Dolin placed second (440.5 points). "Laurel overcame a nagging back injury to give Stevenson another excellent season," said Phill.

Erin Downs, Farmington Mercy, 100-yard butterfly: Her coach could not ask much more from this sophomore, who happens to be his daughter. She improved from 15th in the 100 fly at state a year ago to fifth this season (58.97). She won the same event at the Catholic League meet (1:01.08).

"She trains hard, she competes hard, and she's team-oriented," said her father/coach. **Christina Mocer, Livonia Stevenson, 100-yard freestyle (tie):** Mocer made her first year competing at Livonia — she's just a freshman — a memorable one, making the state out in six individual events, setting team records in seven events and going undefeated in all her individual dual-meet races. Her best time in the 100 free was 55.35.

"Christina is a great morale team-booster, in and out of the water," said Livonia coach Randy Ferguson. "The things she accomplished as a freshman most swimmers dream about for a lifetime."

Dona Schwalm, Farmington Harrison, 100-yard freestyle (tie): Schwalm's best time in the 100 free — 55.35 — matched Mocer's. Schwalm, a senior, turned hers in at a good time, finishing first in the event at the WLAA finals.

Schwalm was also fourth at the league meet in the 50 free (25.43), qualifying for state in both.

Meghan Mocer, Livonia Stevenson, 500-yard freestyle: Mocer, a sophomore, followed up her second-place finishes in the 200 free and 500 free at the WLAA meet with an 11th at the state final in the 500 free (5:10.66).

"Meghan is a very hard worker and a big meet performer," said Phill. "When we need someone to step up, Meghan was always there."

North Farmington, 200-yard freestyle relay: The Raiders' foursome of Tara Grider, Cheri Farber, Kristen Burke and Hannah Pawlewicz started off the season by setting a meet record in winning the 200 free relay at the WLAA Finals.

Eventually, they set a team record and finished third at the WLAA finals (1:41.51). At state, they placed just out of the scoring.

Lindsay Dolin, Livonia Stevenson, 100-yard backstroke: Dolin began her career at Stevenson (she's a freshman) by swimming lifetime bests in all her events. In the 100 back, she placed third at the WLAA meet (1:01.31) and was 11th at state (1:00.6).

"Lindsay was one of only nine freshmen to score at state," said Phill. "She did a wonderful job for us this year, and we're looking forward to the next three."

Neva Alver, North Farmington, 100-yard backstroke: Just like you're supposed to — Alver saved her best swim for last, clocking 1:08.02 in the 100 back at state final to finish sixth. The junior was second at the WLAA meet (1:10.21).

"Neva Alver . . . is a tough and confident competitor," said North coach Pat Duthe. "Neva has a very strong, positive mental attitude and determination which allowed her to overcome injury and less than optimal training to have a great state meet."

Livonia Stevenson, 400-yard freestyle relay: The lineup in this relay changed often during the season, with Julie Kern, Jessica Makowski, Meghan Mocer and Adrienne Turri combining to win the event at the WLAA meet (3:42.78). Kern, Makowski, Meghan Lesnau and Mocer teamed to place eighth at state (3:39.78).

"We played with this relay a lot over the year," said Phill. "But these four girls came together huge at the state meet when we needed them."

Jessica Makowski, Livonia Stevenson, at-large: Makowski, a sophomore, earns an individual spot on the all-Observer team by virtue of her scoring performance at state. She finished 12th in the 100-yard backstroke (1:02.01).



Kelly Carlin
Farmington Mercy



Katy Ballantine
Livonia Stevenson



Lindsay Fettes
Farmington Harrison



Jordyn Godfroid
Livonia Stevenson



Julie Kern
Livonia Stevenson



Amy McCullough
Farmington Mercy



Hannah Pawlewicz
North Farmington



Elizabeth Posvar
Farmington Mercy



Adrienne Turri
Livonia Stevenson



Neva Alver
North Farmington



Christina Mocer
Livonia Stevenson



Katie Clark
Livonia Stevenson



Erin Downs
Farmington Mercy



Teri Hanson
Plymouth Canton



Laurel Dolin
Livonia Stevenson



Lindsay Dolin
Livonia Stevenson



Elizabeth MacDonald
Farmington Mercy



Meghan Mocer
Livonia Stevenson



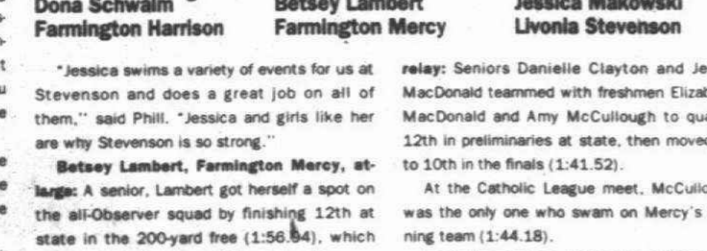
Dona Schwalm
Farmington Harrison



Betsey Lambert
Farmington Mercy



Jessica Makowski
Livonia Stevenson



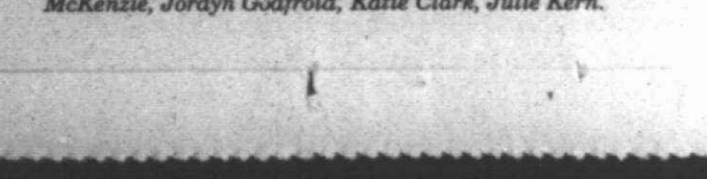
Stevenson's 200-yard medley relay: (from left) Adrienne Turri, Jordyn Godfroid, Jessica Makowski, Marti McKenzie.



Stevenson's 200-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Marti McKenzie, Jordyn Godfroid, Katie Clark, Julie Kern.



Stevenson's 200-yard medley relay: (from left) Marti McKenzie, Jordyn Godfroid, Katie Clark, Julie Kern.



Stevenson's 200-yard freestyle relay: (from left) Marti McKenzie, Jordyn Godfroid, Katie Clark, Julie Kern.

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CALENDAR

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND CANTON

WEEKEND

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
The Plymouth Baptist Church will present "Everlasting Light" 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Dec. 12-14. Admission is free. But a Salvation Army kettle will be available. Children under age 5 will not be admitted, but full nursery and preschool care will be provided. The church is at 42021 Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. 453-5534.

BELL RINGING
The Kiwanis Club of Plymouth will be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army through the Plymouth community Dec. 12-13.

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR
The Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group of the University of Michigan hosts its annual tour of homes decorated for the holidays. Four spectacular Ann Arbor homes will be showcased. The tours are until 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, and tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at some Ann Arbor businesses; call 662-2746. Proceeds go to U-M scholarships.

HOLIDAY MARKET
A unique market for the discriminating shopper will be hosted by the Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group of the University of Michigan until 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11. It takes place at the Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Road in Ann Arbor, and admission is \$2. More than 30 artisans will be featured with many surprising gift ideas. 662-2746. Proceeds go to U-M scholarships.

SINGLES' DANCE
West Side Singles Friday night dances are held every Friday at Burton Manor, Schoolcraft Road, west of Inkster Road, Livonia. Admission is \$5. Early bird special \$3 before 8:30 p.m. Ages 21 and older welcome. Music by professional DJ. Top 40 current hits. Dressy attire (no jeans). 981-0909.

SUBURBAN SINGLES
presents a "Singles Mingle Dance" every Wednesday and Sunday at the Bonnie Brook Country Club, Telegraph Road, south of Eight Mile in Redford. Admission is \$4. Early bird special \$3 before 8:30 p.m. Ages 21 and older. Fashionable attire (no jeans). For more information, call (313) 849-5275.

West Side Singles
presents a Christmas Dance on Friday, Dec. 26, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Cost is \$3 before 8:30 p.m. Ages 21 and over. Dressy attire (no jeans). 981-0909.

A New Year's Eve Dance
will also be hosted by the West Side Singles on Friday, Dec. 31, at Burton Manor in Livonia. The event is from 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., with a cash bar. A DJ will play Top 40 music, and there will be party favors, a balloon drop and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Dressy attire (no jeans). 981-0909.

AROUND TOWN
TOYS FOR KIDS
Mel's Golden Razor will be collecting new and used toys in good condition through Dec. 19. They will also be taking donations for families they provide for at Christmas. 595 Forest. Call 455-9057.

WORLD BOOK COLLECTION
Join the Plymouth District Library and help build the collection. Choose to donate to the adult or youth collection with \$25. The staff will help select a title and a bookplate will identify your

donation to honor a friend or family member. Call 453-0750, Ext. 213.

BET CHAVERIM
Congregation Bet Chaverim will be having their monthly service 7:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at the United Methodist Church in Canton. Many Shabbat and Hanukkah celebrations will be taking place throughout December, as well as a CBC Playgroup from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. Call 480-8880 for the CBC hotline.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
Fox Hills Golf Club will be hosting this event 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31. Tickets are \$79 per person. Call 453-7272.

LIBRARY EVENTS
The Plymouth District Library is hosting many exciting events this month: a holiday card display, Storytimes for children in Kindergarten or first grade, Internet youth classes and book discussions. Call 453-0750. The library will also be having its monthly board meeting at 7:30 Wednesday, Dec. 17; all may attend.

ART WORKSHOPS
D & M Studio's Once Upon an Esasel, in Canton is offering a variety of holiday art workshops for adults and youths. Call Sharon, 453-3710.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH
Fox Hills Golf Club will host their third annual Christmas brunch on Sunday, Dec. 21. Delicious foods from around the globe will be featured. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$19.95 for adults and \$8.95 for children, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 453-7272.

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS
The Plymouth Community Arts Council will sponsor two holiday art and music workshops for children kindergarten through fifth grade Saturday, Dec. 20. "Songs of the Season" will be 9:30-11:30 a.m. and includes a look at different holiday celebrations including Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. "Christmas Around the World," noon to 2 p.m., will focus on holiday songs and customs from other countries. Classes are \$15 per child. Free child care during lunch will be provided if both sessions are attended. Call the arts council at 416-4278 to sign up. The classes are at the arts council, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS
Livonia Little People's Co-op Preschool has openings for the 1997-98 school year in the 3- and 4-year-old classes. The preschool is located at 8820 Wayne Road, just north of Joy. For more information, call (313) 454-4964.

CANTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Canton Community Church will present "Four Tickets to Christmas," a dramatic musical. Tickets at \$6 include dessert, coffee and tea, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. The church is located at 41600 Ann Arbor Trail.

PLYMOUTH YMCA
Through Dec. 19, Practices for the Basketball Travel League are on Monday or Wednesday with Friday or Saturday games. This is a league for both girls and boys. Divisions: Passers: third-fourth grade; Shooters: fifth-sixth grade; Blockers: seventh-eighth grade and Jammers: ninth-twelfth grade. Call the Plymouth Community Family YMCA at 453-2904 with Visa or MasterCard or for further information.

Miss Junior Canton Teen



In pageant: Jill Knurek of Canton will compete for the title of Miss Junior Michigan on March 1. Knurek, 14, earned a spot in the pageant by recently winning the Miss Junior Canton Teen title. She attends Pioneer Middle School and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Knurek of Canton. The winner of the state title will travel to New York in July to compete for the national title of Miss Junior America.

call 455-2110.

'NUTCRACKER' BALLET
The Plymouth-Canton Ballet performs Tchaikovsky's magical ballet in this depiction of Clara's enchanting story of Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and Sunday, Dec. 14. A Sugar Plum Fairy Tea will be held immediately following the matinee Saturday and Sunday. For tickets, call the symphony, 451-2112. There is a separate fee for the tea.

ADVENT RETREAT
Madonna University will hold an Advent Retreat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the campus Residence Hall and Chapel. Cost is \$12 and includes lunch and refreshments. For more information, call (313) 432-5419.

SUPPORT GROUPS
DEPRESSION
Madonna University in Livonia will hold an open forum on holiday depression led by Dr. Robert Cohen noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, in Room 2213. This discussion is free and will address why the holidays are dressing for some people and how to cope with those feelings. Call 432-5736.

CELIAC SPRUE
For persons who have Celiac Sprue and Dermatitis Herpetiformis, their families and friends. Monthly meetings, next one is 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at Southfield Presbyterian Church, 21575 W. 10 Mile in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6996.

WRAP
Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project (WRAP), a gay and lesbian advocacy organization, will be holding an educational program 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, at the New Center, 1100 N. Main Street in Ann Arbor. This program will discuss travel options geared towards the gay

STOCKING STUFFERS
Stocking stuffers are available for Plymouth-Canton Educational Park seniors. The parents' committee, helping to plan the 1998 Senior Party part of graduation festivities, will be offering the early sale of 1998 Senior Party tickets. Information, Sue McCusker at 981-2361 or Theresa Little at 459-6399.

DATATEL SCHOLARSHIP
Schoolcraft College students are encouraged to apply for scholarships offered by Datatel Scholars Foundation. Awards range from \$700 to \$2,000 and applications are due in the Office Marketing and Development no later than Friday, Feb. 6. Information, (313) 462-4463.

HOST FAMILIES
The Canton Observer welcomes Calendar items. Items should be from non-profit community groups or individuals announcing a community program or event. Please type or print the information below and mail your item to The Calendar, Canton Observer, 794 South Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, or by fax to 313-455-4224. Deadline for Calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. Call 459-2700 if you have any questions.

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

Use additional sheet if necessary

community. Admission is free. For further information on WRAP, (610) 742-7500.

GYPSY MOTH
Two meetin' s have been scheduled for those who have dealt with a gypsy moth problem this year. Monday, Dec. 15, at the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center, 7200 S. Huron Drive, or Thursday, Dec. 18, at the Dexter Township Hall, 6890 Dexter-Pinkney Road. Both meetings are from 7-9 p.m. Call 971-0079, Ext. 2608.

HIV/AIDS TESTING
The HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) offers free walk-in testing at a variety of locations throughout Washtenaw, Livingston and other counties. Call (313) 572-9355.

NEW BEGINNING
The New Beginnings Grief Support Group meets 7 p.m. every Monday at the Plymouth Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon, just south of Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Anyone who is grieving a loss of a loved one is invited to attend. There is no charge. For information, call (313) 453-7630.

ARBOR HOSPICE
A seven-week support and educational group for parents who have lost an adult child will be offered by Arbor Hospice. Groups will meet 4-5:30 p.m. Thursdays at Arbor Hospice, 3810 Packard, Ann Arbor. The group is open to any parent who has experienced the death of an adult child, regardless of whether the loss occurred recently or many years ago. A minimal donation will be requested. For more information and to register, call Arbor Hospice at (313) 677-0500 or 1-800-783-5764.

LIFE MINISTRIES
Have a problem? Want to talk? Call Life Care Ministries (313) 427-LIFE 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Confidential. No charge.

LEARNING DISABLED
Joel's Group is a group for the learning disabled and the educable mentally impaired that is looking for members. The group meets for social and educational activities Saturday nights. Call Joel Marwell at 476-8741.

MDDA
MDDA (Manic Depressive-Depressive Association) holds its meeting the second and fourth Sundays 2-4 p.m. at Oakwood-Canton Health Center Community meeting room. For more information, call Nancy at (313) 453-8598.

SUBURBAN WEST
Suburban Nights presents a consumer-run drop-in center open to persons with psychiatric disabilities (18 years and older) who want to meet new people. The program is open from 4:30-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 12:30-9 p.m. Saturdays. Information, call before 4:30 p.m. at (313) 425-3777. The club is located at 27595 Schoolcraft, Building 3, Livonia.

CAREER WOMEN
The National Association of Career Women's monthly networking luncheon will be at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at Ernesto's, 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth. Speaker is Elizabeth Lush, senior consulting psychologist with Plante & Moran. For more information, call Judie, 454-7272, Ext. 223.

CLUBS
MOTHER OF MULTIPLES
The Plymouth-Canton Mothers of Multiples club meets 7 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month. Call Barb at (313) 207-5224. Playgroup meets every other Tuesday; call Sue at (313) 459-9324.

WRITER'S CLUB
The Plymouth District Library offers a Writer's Club which meets 7-9 p.m. tonight, Dec. 11. Call Brian, 416-0418, for information.

U.S. SINGLETONS
The Dearborn-Livonia Chapter of the U.S. Singletons will host their next dinner social on Sunday, Dec. 14, at Ernesto's in the Beacon Room, 41661 Plymouth Road, west of Hagerty in Plymouth. Social hour starts at 2 p.m. with dinner at 3 p.m. For single adults 45 and older.

GOODFELLOWS
The Plymouth Goodfellows meet the first Wednesday of every month, 7:30 at the City Hall on Main Street. Call 455-8611 or 451-3554.

BNI
Business Network International, Plymouth Chapter, is holding its regular meeting 7-8:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at the Water Club Seafood Grill, Ann Arbor Road and I-275. Call (313) 844-3432.

M.O.M.
Meet Other Mothers (M.O.M.) offers guest speakers and discussion. It meets at 9:30 a.m. the second and fourth Friday of the month at the First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth. Babysitting is provided. For more information, call Kate at (313) 453-3675.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets at the Livonia Senior Citizens' Activity Center, 15128 Farmington Road, southeast corner of Five Mile and Farmington roads, behind the Golden Lantern Restaurant, Livonia. Meetings are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. All meetings are open to the public at no charge. For more information, call (313) 425-8832 or (313) 455-1122.

TOASTMASTERS
Join the Oral Majority Toastmasters Club at 6:45 p.m. Sundays at the old Friendly's building, at Ann Arbor Road and Lilley. For more information, call Marc Sullivan at (313) 455-1655.

Volunteer Work
The Alzheimer's Association is seeking volunteers to provide companionship to people experiencing memory loss. Those who volunteer receive an excellent orientation that provides them with the information and skills to brighten the life of someone with Alzheimer's. To learn more or to volunteer, call Adam Sterling, (248) 557-8277.

Volunteer Drivers
Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the

Marian upended by GR Christian in state final

BY MARTY BUDNER
STAFF WRITER

Coach Mary Lillie-Cicerone was placed in an unfamiliar situation Saturday after the Class A championship game in girls basketball.

Her Birmingham Marian team has qualified for the state finals four times during her 15-year career, but this year marked the first time she was on the losing end of the score.

The Mustangs captured state championships in 1988, 1992 and 1996. Their dream of back-to-back state titles was shattered by Grand Rapids Christian.

Christian completed a perfect season (28-0) by defeating Marian in a highly-competitive and entertaining game, 58-56, before a record crowd of 5,693 at Central Michigan University's Rose Arena.

Instead of high-fives and celebratory hugs of years past, Lillie-Cicerone found herself in the role of consoler this time.

After the game, she walked down the bench and consoled each player as best she could. It was a new experience for Lillie-Cicerone.

Although the pain of defeat might linger for a while, she said her players eventually will have fond memories of another terrific season that fell one game short of a state crown.

"You've got to give them a couple of days, maybe a week," she said, "and they're going to say 'Darn, we had a great season,' or 'We made it to the state finals.'"

"You know, they're going to talk about this for years. We had a great team; we made it to the finals and lost by a couple of points, and we had chances to win it."

"They're going to realize what they've accomplished down the line. And how many kids don't go through this? Boys and girls go through their high school careers without ever getting out of the regional."

"This is a big-time accomplishment. It's hard to swallow right

and committed an unusually high nine turnovers. Christian hiked its advantage to 51-38, matching its biggest lead of the game halfway through the third quarter.

That set the stage for a tremendous Marian rally. The Mustangs scored the final six points of the quarter and trailed 51-44 entering the finale.

Marian stepped up its game even more, scoring the first 10 points of the fourth quarter for a 54-51 lead.

Markeisha Thompson hit a driving layup at the 4:18 mark to give Marian its first lead, 52-51. Kellie Byers hit another layup a short time later for a three-point advantage.

Christian's Amanda Vries hit a pair of free throws to bring the Eagles back within a point at 54-53. Marian missed a couple of shots that would have extended its lead. Christian tallied five straight points to ice its first

state girls basketball crown. "We played a heckuva second half to battle back from 12 down," Lillie-Cicerone said. "When we took the lead, we felt comfortable. We worked our butts off to get back."

"They had everything clicking in that first half. Everything we tried to do they countered offensively. We struggled but we never gave up. At halftime, we said 'If they can get up by 12 points, we can catch up.' Once

we got our offense going, that kicked in our defense, and that got us right back in the game."

Marian made it one of the most exciting finals ever. Unfortunately for the Mustangs, they were on the losing end.

Breana Walas, who is headed to Cornell next year, finished with 18 points. Byers had 11. Thompson and Nicole Anaejonu 10 points each. Anaejonu had a team-high eight rebounds and three assists.

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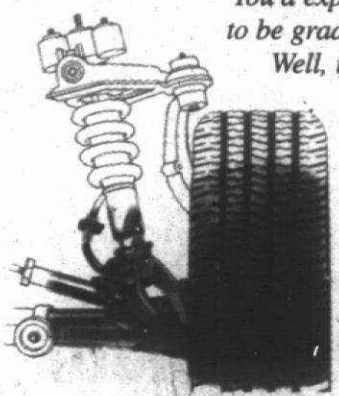
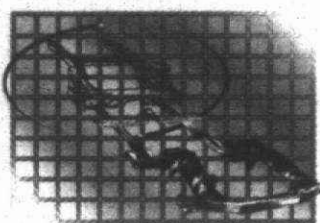
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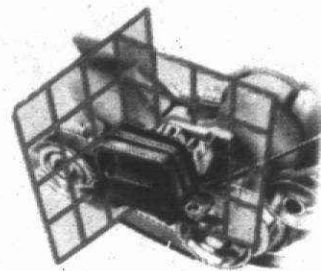
Car chassis have traditionally been built on a "floor pan" design. Can a platform that incorporates a continuous rigid, ladder-type frame improve ride and handling characteristics? Can this help us reach a high level of performance?



You'd expect a race car to be graded on a curve. Well, if race cars inspired us to modify a double-wishbone suspension, can you handle it?

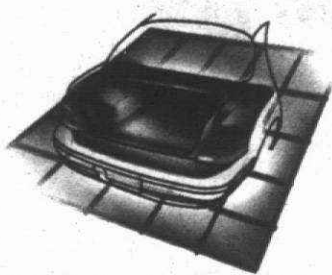


Do you have to choose between the convenience of an automatic transmission and the performance of manual shifting? Or can an available AutoStick® transaxle shift an automatic a little more toward fun?

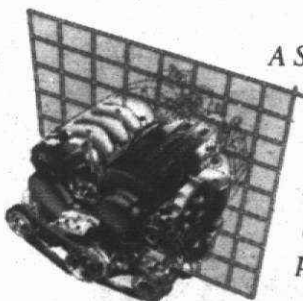


Take something as simple as an engine mount – a combination of steel and rubber that holds the engine to the frame rail. Can we mount a good argument that a device filled with liquid could minimize engine vibration and help make things quieter?

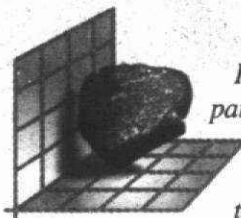
These are the questions.



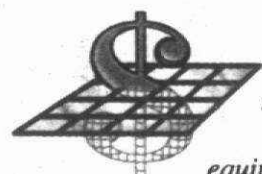
Dodge pioneered the cab-forward design concept – moving the wheels out to the corners and sliding the passenger compartment forward. Can cab-forward roominess create more room even in the trunk?



A Stratus ES has an available 2.5L, 24-valve V-6. Can lightweight aluminum cylinder heads enhance performance?



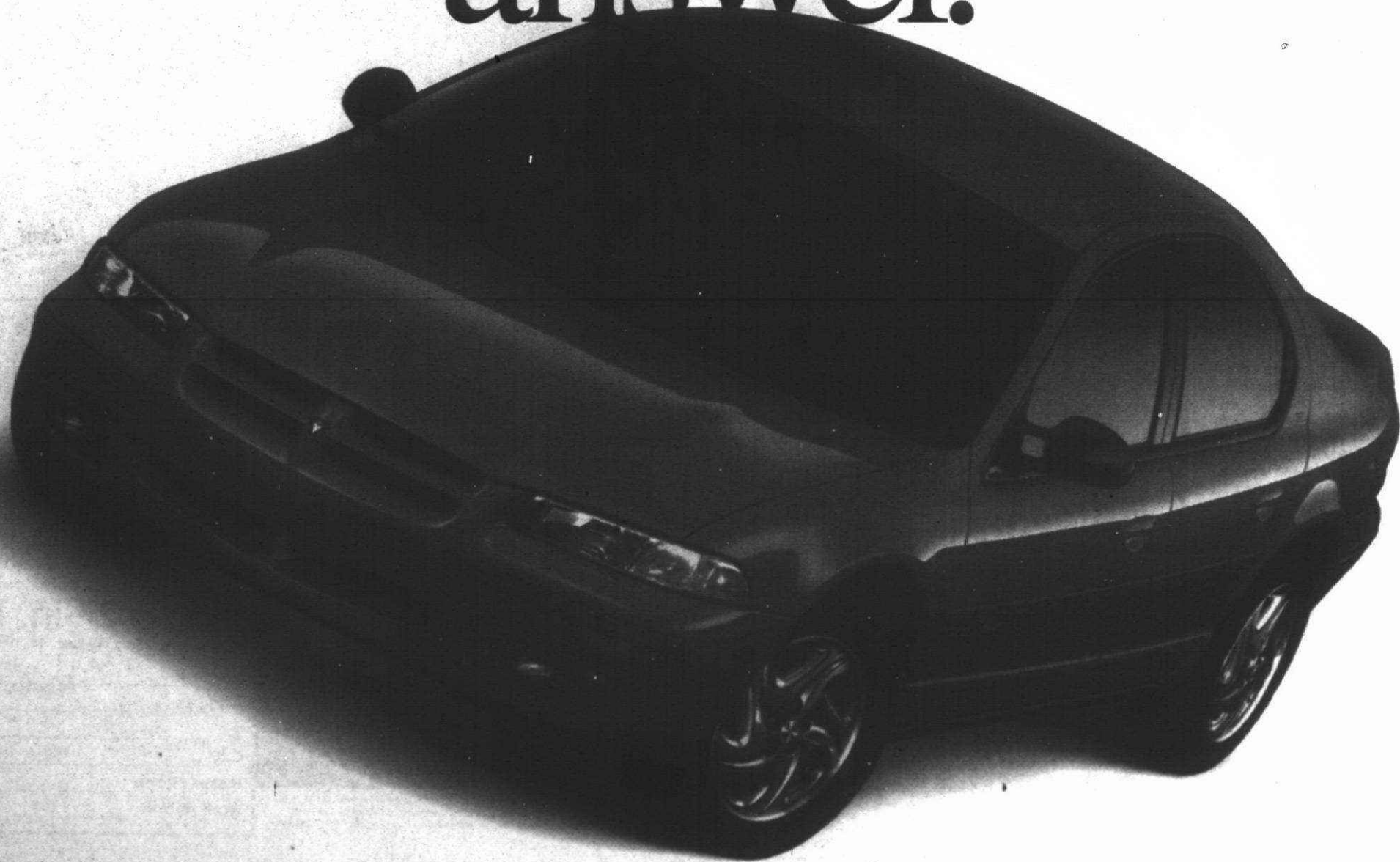
Powder-coat paint technology will give you a paint finish tough enough to help protect a car's shiny overcoat from flying gravel. When it comes to what you'll expect down the road, do we have things pretty well covered?




Dodge Stratus is \$14,375 for starters, \$18,345 impressively equipped.* Now, if we told you that "impressively equipped" includes AutoStick transmission, anti-lock brakes and a 2.5L V-6, would you be surprised?

*MSRPs after \$1,000 cash back exclude tax. Always use seat belts. Remember a backseat is the safest place for children.

This is the answer.



Stratus  The New Dodge

For more answers, call 1-800-4-A-DODGE. Or visit our Web site at www.4adodge.com

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Orange 9mm, featuring drummer **Matt Cross**, formerly of **Detroit**, performs at **The Shelter** below **St. Andrew's Hall**, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets \$5 in advance. (313) 961-MELT.

SATURDAY



Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association Holiday Sales Show - Gifts of Art, offers a variety of handcrafted items. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 1516 S. Cranbrook Road (northwest corner of 14 Mile Road), (248) 644-0866.

SUNDAY



Take "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline," 2 p.m. at the 7th House in downtown Pontiac. Tickets \$22, call (248) 335-8101.



Hot tix: Local dance groups, including **Rose Marie Floyd's Contemporary Civic Ballet Company** featuring **Kathleen Ott** of **Rochester Hills** as **Clara**, will be presenting "The Nutcracker" this weekend. See complete listing inside.

Barenaked Ladies, 'Twistin' Tarantulas' and other New Year's treats

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

This is a call to Detroit Red Wings player **Brendan Shanahan** - **Tyler Stewart** drummer for the Canadian pop band **Barenaked Ladies** is personally inviting you to his band's New Year's Eve show at **The Palace of Auburn Hills**.

"**Brendan Shanahan**, I know that he's a **Ladies** fan. When he played in **St. Louis**, my good buddy is **Curtis Joseph**, the then-goalie in **St. Louis**, and **Shanny** was in charge of the music in the dressing room. In 1993, he played the whole 'Gordon' album to get ready. Maybe if they were listening to **Metallica**, they could have gone further," **Stewart** said with a laugh.

"I also know that **Chris Osgood**, **Chris Draper** and **Darren McCarty** are fans. They came to our show last Christmas time."

(Much to the **Barenaked Ladies** chagrin, **The Detroit Red Wings** will be busy until about 10 or 11 p.m. The **Stanley Cup** champions take on the **St. Louis Blues** at 7:30 p.m. The game is sold out.)

Stewart said choosing the **Detroit** area for its New Year's Eve concert was a no brainer. After all, some of the band's biggest shows have been here at **Pine Knob** and **The Palace**, and songs like "Brian Wilson" and "If I Had \$1,000,000" have inundated the radio.

The main floor and a significant portion of the lower bowl for the New Year's Eve show were sold out within 10 minutes. Tickets, \$25, still remain. Call (248) 377-0100 or (248) 645-6666 for more information. The Irish pop band **The Devlins** open the show at 9 p.m.

"**Detroit Rock City** has been very good to the **Ladies**. What a great night to sort of celebrate the city's support of us. We're really looking to blow out all the stops. You can look for surprises, of course. There's always surprises for **Barenaked Ladies** shows," **Stewart** said slyly.

It's no surprise, however, that going along with past practice **The Palace of Auburn Hills** will not allow any kind of macaroni and cheese - not just **Kraft** - into the venue. Fans routinely throw that and stuffed monkeys during the **Ladies'** trademark song "If I Had \$1,000,000."

If the **Barenaked Ladies** aren't your cup of tea, there's plenty of other options this New Year's Eve.

■ **Royal Oak** funksters **The Howling Diablos** and the local ska band **The Parka Kings** will perform at the **Magic Bag**, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Doors open at 9 p.m. for the 21 and older show. Tickets are \$20

and include hors d'oeuvres and party favors. Fans can count-down to 1998 with **Dick Clark's "New Year's Rockin' Eve"** shown on a 500-square foot TV. (248) 544-3030

■ Local rockabilly bands **The Twistin' Tarantulas** and **Nobody's Business**, along with the **Detroit Music Award**-winning blues band **Mudpuppy** take over the second floor of **Fifth Avenue Billiards**, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak. The \$35 individual ticket includes a complimentary glass of champagne, while the \$60 per couple ticket price includes a complimentary bottle of champagne. A light buffet and party favors come with both options. The lower level of **Fifth Avenue** will operate as usual. Only those 21 and older are permitted into **Fifth Avenue**. (248) 542-9922

■ Former **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' Bands of the Year** **Speedball** and **Big Block** will perform along with **Hoarse** at **St. Andrew's Hall**, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door for the 18 and older show. (313) 961-MELT

■ Classic rock fans will be let down to hear that there will be no "Whiplash Bash" with **Ted Nugent** this year. About 3,000 of those fans can take refuge at the **State Theatre**, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit, where **Detroit** native **Alice Cooper** will bring his show. Tickets are \$45 for the all-ages show. (313) 961-5451. Then there's always **Dokken**, **Devil's Night** and **Illegal** at **The Palladium**, 17580 Frazho, Roseville. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door for the 18 and older show. (810) 778-6404

■ **First Baptist Church of Birmingham**, 300 Willits (at Bates Street), is hosting "Chase the Blues! Night" with **Little Sonny** and the **Detroit Rhythm Band** from 9:30-11:30 p.m. Sponsoring "Chase the Blues" is an effort to continue the alcohol-free New Year's Eve momentum in downtown Birmingham due to the major funding loss and subsequent cancellation of the popular **First Night**. After a short break, at 11:45 there will be a 20-minute closing, non-sectarian worship service. Tickets are \$7 adults, \$5 children. (248) 644-0550 or fbcb@wvnet.com or <http://members.aol.churchwww/first.htm>

■ Acid jazz act **Groove Collective** performs at the **Majestic**, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Doors open at 9 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are \$20. (313) 833-9700

■ Local swingers **Imperial Swing**



Playing **The Palace**: The Canadian pop group **Barenaked Ladies** - from left, drummer **Tyler Stewart**, guitarist/vocalist **Ed Robertson**, stand-up bass player **Jim Creeggan**, singer **Steven Page**, and keyboardist **Kevin Hearn** - perform Wednesday, Dec. 31, at **The Palace of Auburn Hills**. The **Devlins** kick off the show at 9 p.m.

Orchestra spends its New Year's Eve at the **Blind Pig**, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10 for the 19 and older show. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. (313) 996-8555.

■ For the sixth year, the city of **Ypsilanti** is hosting the drug- and alcohol-free family event **New Year Jubilee**. A variety of performers ranging from storytellers to jazz artists to choirs to reggae bands play in a dozen different venues throughout **Ypsilanti's** historic **Depot Town**. For children, the **Wild Swan Theatre** will present "Frog and Toad," **San** from **Gemini** will perform, **LaRon Williams** will tell stories, and **Derby the Clown** will make an appearance. Advance tickets, \$10, \$5 for children ages 6-12, are available at **Ann Arbor**- and **Ypsilanti**-area **Busch's Valu-Land** beginning Friday, Dec. 12. Admission is free to children ages 5 and younger. Tickets are \$15 at the door. (313) 483-4444 or (313) 484-6620.

■ A variety of nightclubs are holding their own parties. **Fourth Street** inside the **Royal Oak Music Theatre**, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak, is having its annual celebration for those 21 and older hosted by radio station **WKQI** (95.5). Tickets are \$45 and include dinner, champagne, party favors, and breakfast. From midnight to 4 a.m., tickets are \$15 and include breakfast. (248) 546-7610. The New Year's Eve party at **The Groove Room**, 1815 N. Main St. (at 12 Mile Road),

Royal Oak, is free from 9-10 p.m. There will be a cover charge afterward. Free champagne and party favors will be offered. (248) 589-3344.

■ Local halls will once again fill for the holiday. Included in that is the **VFW Hall** at **Nine Mile** and **Telegraph** roads in **Southfield** where the **Rochester Hills** rock band **Sensitive Clown** will perform. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, both of which include beverages. (248) 652-6346

■ The **City of Pontiac** is expecting more than 10,000 celebrants this year at "Times Square II New Year's Eve Celebration" held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in downtown **Pontiac**. The free, non-alcoholic outdoor celebration features music and dancing in the street, food and beverage vendors and party favors. At the stroke of midnight, an illuminated ball will hit the top of a 100-foot pole located at the front of the **Phoenix Center**. A fireworks display follows. Numerous nightclubs in the area - **Industry**, **Clutch Cargo's**, **Diamonds** and **Spurs** - will have special events. (248) 857-5603. The swing/jump band **Atomic Fireballs** will perform at the 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 335-8100.

■ The **Detroit Symphony Orchestra** is hosting "A Singing, Dancing Gala for 1998" at 9 p.m. at **Orchestra Hall**, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit, during which the orchestra will perform J.

Please see NEW YEAR'S, E2

YOUTH THEATER

Stages set for entertaining youth productions

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER

Toys, toys, toys is what most kids are thinking about now, but the real acting up is happening not at home, but on stages throughout metro Detroit.

There are many choices this weekend for parents seeking a little diversion from the holiday countdown. A variety of youth productions to be presented by children and adults for children of all ages are sure to please.

Dearborn Youth Theatre

Greg Wiklanski of **Westland** stars as **Joseph** in the **Dearborn Youth Theatre** production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Friday-Sunday, Dec. 12-14 at **Edsel High School** in **Dearborn**.

In October, **Wiklanski** portrayed **Rolf** in the **Nancy Gurwin Presents** staging of "The Sound of Music" at the **Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre** in the **Jewish Community Center**, **West Bloomfield**.

"Being cast as **Joseph** was a real blessing for me," said **Wiklanski**, 20 a sophomore at **Christian-focused William Tyndale College** in **Farmington**,

Hills. "I couldn't say enough how important **God** has been to me. He is the foundation of my life."

A 1995 graduate of **Livonia Franklin High School**, **Wiklanski** was in three plays there, all musicals. He then took a year off from theater. **Wiklanski's** only performing was with the **Christ Ambassadors**, the college's choir, which sang during services at area churches. He returned to theater this past summer, performing in "Carousel" with **Music Theatre of Michigan** in **Livonia** and "The Sound of Music."

"Theater just started in high school as something fun to do. It's become more and more serious. Now, it's more like a passion. I'd like to make a living out of theater someday," **Wiklanski** said.

At **William Tyndale College**, he is majoring in vocal performance as well as working on obtaining his secondary education teaching certificate.

Steve Sell of **Bloomfield Hills** is also cast in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." In the adult chorus is **Jen Rembisz** of **Livonia**. Among the wives are **Cindy Wittrock** of **Plymouth**.

Playing one of the brothers is **Kean Cronin** of **Bloomfield Hills**.

In the children's chorus are **Rachel Westphal-Gaddy**, **Georgene Wojciechowski**, and **Maria Szatkowski** and **Matthew Thayer** of **Livonia**; **Julia Fitzpatrick** and **Erin Fitzpatrick** of **Redford**; **Sarah Grace** of **Bloomfield Hills**; and **Paul Kittenger** of **Farmington Hills**.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is being staged by **Dearborn Youth Theatre** in cooperation with the **Dearborn Recreation Department**.

Youtheatre

New York's Theatreworks/USA brings the story of "Charlotte's Web," **E.B. White's** story of friendship between a small pig named **Wilbur** and a gray spider named **Charlotte**, to **Music Hall**, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 13-14.

You'll meet **Wilbur**, the pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; **Fern** the little girl who understands what animals say to each other; **Tem-**

Please see THEATER, E2

Youth Theater Productions

■ **Dearborn Youth Theatre** "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" - 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12-13, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at **Edsel Ford High School**, 20601 Rotunda Drive, (1 1/2 miles west of the Southfield Freeway) in **Dearborn**. Tickets \$10 general admission and \$9 for senior citizens, call (313) 561-0590 for reservations.

■ **Youtheatre at Music Hall** "Charlotte's Web" presented by **New York Theatreworks/USA** - 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 at **Music Hall**, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. No one under the age of 5 will be admitted to the theater.

Pre-show Playshop will be conducted 9:30 a.m. on Saturday preceding the 11 a.m. show. This hands-on workshop will explore creative dramatics with youngsters ages 5 and above. The workshop costs \$8 per person, and reservations can be made when placing ticket orders with the **Music Hall Ticket Office**, (313) 963-2366.

■ **Henry Ford Museum/Anderson Center Theater** **Wild Swan Theatre Company** is presenting "The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse" - 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13.

Please see PRODUCTIONS, E2



On stage: **Don Donnelley** as **Aladdin** (left to right), **Sultan (Robert "Bobo" Lozelle)**, **Princess Jasmine (Kathleen Coleman-Lozelle)**, **Amber (Sarah Wiercioch)**, bottom, left to right, and **Myra (Sara Greenfield)** are featured in "Aladdin."

8 days a week

A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

THEATER

AVENUE PRODUCTIONS/ATTIC THEATRE

"A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline," featuring Susan Arnold as "Patsy" singing 20 of Cline's most memorable songs with a five-piece band. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 (\$22), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 (\$27), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 (\$27), and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 (\$22), 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Group rates available. Dinner theater packages at 20 percent discount available for most restaurants in Pontiac area. (248) 335-8101.

1515 BROADWAY

"I Love Christmas," a new comedy by Detroit playwright Kim Carney, presented by Trinitro Theatre Company. 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the theater, 1515 Broadway, Detroit. \$12.50 and \$10.00 discount for students/seniors. (313) 965-1515/(248) 645-6666.

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE

"In the Sweet Bye and Bye," a comedy by Donald Driver, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the theater, 13103 Woodward Wilson, Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. \$15, \$40 for season subscription. (313) 868-1347.

FISHER THEATRE

"Les Miserables," through Sunday, Jan. 4, Fisher Theatre in the Fisher Building, Detroit. 8 p.m. Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and special holiday performance 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. No performances Wednesday, Dec. 24, or Thursday, Jan. 1. \$15-\$58. (248) 645-9666/(313) 871-1132.

JEWISH ENSEMBLE THEATRE

"Shiva Queen," by Rebecca Ritchie, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, in the Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre, Jewish Community Center, 6800 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, and Sunday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. \$13-\$23, discounts available for seniors ages 65 and older, and students. New Year's Eve performances 7 p.m. (\$35 includes champagne and hors d'oeuvres) and 10 p.m. (\$50 includes champagne, hors d'oeuvres and breakfast). (248) 788-2900.

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE

"A Christmas Carol," 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursday and 2 p.m. Wednesdays (\$23), 8 p.m. Fridays (\$27.50), 2 p.m. Saturdays (\$23), 8 p.m. Saturdays and 8 p.m. Sundays (\$33.50), 2 p.m. Sundays (\$23), and 6:30 p.m. Sundays (\$27.50) through Sunday, Dec. 28, at the theater, Wilson Hall at Oakland University (Watson Boulevard and Adams Road), Rochester. Student, senior and group discounts available. (248) 377-3300.

THE PURPLE ROSE THEATRE COMPANY

"Escapade in de Moonlight," a comedy about a family's deer hunting trip by Jeff Daniels, through Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Garage Theatre, 137 Park Circle, Chelsea. 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. \$20-\$25. (313) 475-7902.

COLLEGE

WSU BONSTELLE THEATRE

"A Christmas Carol," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the theater, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$8-\$10; \$5 children ages 12 and younger, with group discounts available. (313) 577-3960.

COMMUNITY THEATRE

DEARBORN FAMILY THEATRE

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Edsel Ford High School auditorium, 20001 Rotunda (at Peim Road), Dearborn. \$10, \$9 seniors, with group discounts available. (313) 861-0599.

GROSSE POINTE WAR MEMORIAL

"It's a Wonderful Life," the first stage production of a radio broadcast of Frank Capra's story, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 1; Holiday dinner dance with music by Carole's, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 1997, 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the theater, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. \$8-\$10; \$5 children ages 12 and younger, with group discounts available. (313) 577-3960.

THE NOVI THEATRE

"A Christmas Carol," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. \$8, \$7 seniors and students younger than 12, \$7 and \$6 in advance. (248) 347-0400.

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

An evening of holiday one-acts including "The Long Christmas Dinner" and "The Sheep Thief," through Sunday, Dec. 21, at the playhouse, 38840 W. Six Mile (at I-75), Livonia. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, and 4 p.m. Sundays. \$8, not including bread bowl with soup and older; group rates available. Seating limited to 50. (313) 404-6302.

VILLAGE PLAYERS

"Sweet and Hot," a musical review of music by Harold Arlen, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19-Saturday, Dec. 20, at the theater, 752 Chestnut St. (at Woodward Avenue, south of Maple Road), Birmingham. \$14, \$12 students. (248) 644-2075.

YOUTH

CLARENCEVILLE YOUTH THEATRE

A group of 50 actors and singers, formerly known as the Redford Youth Theatre, present "The Christmas Wish," a mini-musical and two one-acts (including the Hanukkah scene from the "Diary of Anne Frank"), 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Clarenceville High School auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt Road (between Seven and Eight Mile roads), Livonia. \$5. (313) 535-8962.

MARQUIS THEATRE

"Aladdin," 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through Jan. 25, and 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 29, Tuesday, Dec. 30-Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 2, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., Northville. \$6.50. (248) 349-8110.

RIDGEVALE PLAYERS

The Junior Actors of Ridgevale present "Ridgeline Rascals," a holiday musical based on the Little Rascal characters, 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake, Troy. \$6.50 includes the play, a meal, a gift, and visit with Santa), \$5.50 for the 3:30 p.m. Sunday performance (includes juice and cookies). Reservations required. Pictures with Santa available for small fee. Patrons are requested to bring donations of non-perishable food items or a new, unwrapped toy for the Salvation Army. (248) 988-7049.

WILD SWAN THEATRE COMPANY

"The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse," Saturday, Dec. 13-Sunday, Dec. 14, Saturday, Dec. 20-Sunday, Dec. 21, Saturday, Dec. 27-Sunday, Dec. 28, and Friday, Jan. 2-Sunday, Jan. 4, Henry Ford Museum's Anderson Center Theatre, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. (313) 271-1620.

SPECIAL EVENTS

"LIQUID SOUL"

Featuring the music of Fathers of the Id and Zion, and poetry, 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. Gold Dollar, 3129 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$10, 21 and older. (313) 833-6873.

SPORTS CARD, COMIC AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Roseville Town Center, 12 Mile and Grosse Pointe, Roseville. Free. (248) 557-1529.

"STRANGLEMAN LIVE!"

Wrestling featuring a match between rapper Insane Clown Posse (ICP) and The Chicken Boys (Confederate Fred and Al Labama) inside a 15-foot-high steel cage of horrors, a Ladies Thumpback Death Match between Angel and Lady Vengeance, a "Three-Way King of the Hardcore" Death Match with Ian Rotten versus Mad Mondo versus Ox Harley, a "Double Tables Death Match" with Skull Ganz and "Dirty" Don Montoya, and a 20-man "Over the Top" Battle Royal. 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. \$15. All ages. (313) 961-MELT.

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Featuring organist Lyn Larsen and vocalist Laurie Meeker, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit. \$8. (313) 831-4407.

TRADITIONAL POLISH CHRISTMAS TREE

On display 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, Monday, Dec. 1, through Thursday, Jan. 1; Holiday dinner dance with music by Carole's, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 1997, 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, 1515 Broadway, Detroit. \$10, \$9 seniors, with group discounts available. (313) 861-0599.

WASSAIL FEST

A re-creation of the legendary Winter Court of England's Queen Elizabeth I, 6:30-10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, and 1:30-5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at the playhouse, 15138 Beech Drive, Redford. \$12, group rates and senior discounts available. (313) 531-0554.

THE NOVI THEATRE

"A Christmas Carol," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. \$8, \$7 seniors and students younger than 12, \$7 and \$6 in advance. (248) 347-0400.

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"Aladdin," 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through Jan. 25, and 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 29, Tuesday, Dec. 30-Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 2, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., Northville. \$6.50. (248) 349-8110.

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The Junior Actors of Ridgevale present "Ridgeline Rascals," a holiday musical based on the Little Rascal characters, 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake, Troy. \$6.50 includes the play, a meal, a gift, and visit with Santa), \$5.50 for the 3:30 p.m. Sunday performance (includes juice and cookies). Reservations required. Pictures with Santa available for small fee. Patrons are requested to bring donations of non-perishable food items or a new, unwrapped toy for the Salvation Army. (248) 988-7049.

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MOVIES

'Ice Storm' takes a complex, cold look at the 1970s

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

Mom is frigid. Dad is having an affair. Fourteen-year-old Wendy ditches with two neighborhood boys while her older brother thinks that all of life's

answers come from the pages of "Fantastic Four" comic books. The family drama of "The Ice Storm," set over a Thanksgiving weekend in Connecticut WASP country, could be the stuff of any number of Harold Pinter plays.

But the new movie, currently at the Star Southfield and Maple, is a complex and subtle adaptation of novelist Rick Moody's confessional account of growing up in the land of Valium and wife swapping.

Though set in 1973, this is no nostalgic lark. Only a few songs of the era grace the soundtrack. Instead, haunting music by Michael Danna underscores a rather somber study of the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s has left mom and dad as confused as the kids in how to act sexually.

The movie relives the "key party," where upscale couples arrive for a dinner party but, through a lottery with car keys, leave with someone else's spouse. Hood father Ben (Kevin Kline), meanwhile, engages in an old-fashioned affair with a sexy neighbor (Sigourney Weaver) presumably because his wife is such a cold fish in bed.

Daughter Wendy (Christina Ricci) is routinely left home alone to get into her own mischief in between returns of "Time Tunnel." Though usually linked with Mike (Elijah Wood), she is later caught in the bathroom playing doctor with his little brother Sandy (Adam Hann-Bryd).

"The Ice Storm" is directed by Ang Lee, who brought such energy to "Sense and Sensibility" and "The Wedding Banquet." He uses a more classically Asian film aesthetic here. The movie unfolds at an almost painfully slow pace, awash in a palette of blues, whites and blacks to give it an appropriately cold feeling.



Drama: Kevin Kline and Joan Allen as husband and wife in Ang Lee's "The Ice Storm."

This inherent frostiness translates to the characters as well, who interact with each other but without any genuine emotion. When Ben fixates on his golf game after sleeping with his

mistress, she coolly reminds him that she already has a husband to listen to this kind of mindless banter.

Ben's wife Elena (Joan Allen), meanwhile, is on her own journey. After seeing her daughter looking so free on her bicycle, she starts riding one herself and even engages in a little drug store larceny just to prove that she can do it.

The most stable element of the Hood family turns out to be son Paul (Tobey Maguire), the 16-year-old who goes to a prep school and has a crush on a girl there. He knows his attempts to politely court her will be upstaged by his hippie roommate, who has slept with virtually every girl at school.

It takes a natural phenomenon (the ice storm of the title) to make the characters realize that they really have very little control of their destinies.

The cast of "The Ice Storm" is uniformly good, but I still have trouble believing Kevin Kline in a serious role. He's all right in comedies like "A Fish Called Wanda," where he flounders when called upon to do anything dramatic, even a role that essentially requires him to look lost throughout.

Ultimately, the movie is about people ill-equipped to communicate. Perhaps the entire thing is summed up in an oral report given by 14-year-old neighbor kid Mikey, who describes the effect that molecules (like the characters) have as they bounce off of each other in space.

It's the seemingly banal moments like this that add up in "The Ice Storm" and keep you thinking about it long after. Though in limited release, it's a movie you might hear from again, especially around Oscar time.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.

Book, T-shirt, prizes offered

Kids - what would you do if you were princess or prince, and had the power to do anything? Would you try to help others, or buy a lot of toys? The first 100 children to respond will receive an activity book from "Anastasia," Fox's first full-length animated feature film, now playing at metro Detroit movie theaters. We also have 18 child-size T-shirts to give away to the first readers to respond. We'll share our favorite responses with readers in an article on Thursday, Dec. 25. Send your - "If I were a prince or princess" answer, and T-shirt size preference - small, medium or large to: Attn: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newsletters, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax responses to Wygonik at (313) 953-7279. A magical mix of action-adventure, comedy, romance and music, "Anastasia" is a full-length animated motion picture by Twentieth Century Fox about the lost Russian princess.

NEW SHOW!
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MORTAL KOMBAT (PG-13)
MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R)
EVE'S BAYOU (R)
CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Southfield
12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off I-24
248-353-STAR
No one under age 6 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm
NO ALIEN RESURRECTION (R)
NO THE BARKER (PG-13)
NO MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R)
THE JACAL (R)
STARSHIP TROOPERS (R)
BEAN (PG-13)
CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Southfield
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of I-24
313-354-6777
Bargain Movies Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.
ALIENS 4 (R)
ANASTASIA (G)
THE JACAL (R)
MORTAL KOMBAT (PG-13)
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12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off I-24
248-353-STAR
No one under age 6 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 pm
NO ALIEN RESURRECTION (R)
NO THE BARKER (PG-13)
NO MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (R)
THE JACAL (R)
STARSHIP TROOPERS (R)
BEAN (PG-13)
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NO MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD

DINING

Smitty's Grill heats up downtown Rochester

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

Just opened, Jimmy Schmidt's Smitty's Grill in Rochester is not a cookie cutter stamp of his Tuscan Grill formats in Southfield and Ann Arbor. In fact, Schmidt bills it as a "wild departure."

Tuscan implications at Schmidt's other restaurants may lead one to assume an Italian-accented menu. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"I use Tuscan only as a reference to Italy's Tuscany region where wood-roasting meats is a specialty," Schmidt explained. "And of the three restaurants I've called 'Grills,' the Rochester location plays out the wood-roasted theme best."

Schmidt built Smitty's Grill from the ground up. It was formerly a parking lot, but if you didn't see it in construction phases, then you won't recognize that it was built new to look old-world by design architect Howard Ellman of Dynamic Designs in Birmingham. Designed by Plymouth's Dennis Larsson, the modern interior is bright and engaging.

Diners can enter from either Main Street or a rear entrance (designed as the main entrance with a bright green canopy) where there's also valet parking. A colorful, playful interior is arty, yet speaking to quality, natural materials with cherry wood dividers, mahogany tables and stone work, highlighted by sophisticated, creative light fixtures.

"The colors are natural food colors," Schmidt noted. "That's not just blue, it's blueberry. Green is the color of leafy vegetables. And that's pumpkin."

It's all deliberate to showcase the natural food preparations created by super-chef/proprietor Jimmy Schmidt and his partner Michael Schram, serving as executive chef at Smitty's Grill.

Smitty's Grill

Where: 222 Main Street (between Second and Third), Rochester (248) 652-1600.

Hours: 5-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; until 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 3-8 p.m. Sunday.

Menu: Wood-roasted meats are the specialty, but the remainder of the large menu has inspired contemporary dishes Americans like to eat. Fun kid's menu.

Cost: Cold and hot appetizers \$6-10; Salads \$4-7; Seafood \$14-17; Wood-roasted specialties \$11-17; Desserts \$4-6.

Reservations: Not accepted. **Credit cards:** All majors accepted.

Other Jimmy Schmidt restaurants:

■ **Tuscan Grill**, 28565 Northwestern Highway, Southfield (248) 350-0055

■ **Tuscan Grill**, 314 South Main, Ann Arbor (313) 332-0800

■ **Stelline**, Somerset Collection, Troy (484) 649-0102

■ **Jimmy's**, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms (313) 886-8101

■ **Rattlesnake Club**, Stroh River Place, Detroit (313) 567-4400

Schram has been with Schmidt since his tenure at the London Chop House in Detroit.

"I've been with Jimmy for 17 years and have gone from opening oysters to executive chef and one of three active partners in the business," Schram added.

The food concept is a concentration of natural, lively, bright

flavors that explode in your mouth. Plate presentations are dynamic and vibrantly colorful. Menu prices serve to emphasize Schmidt's philosophy that eating good food need not be a special occasion.

Among tempting appetizers are Gulf Shrimp, served in a martini glass with red/yellow salsa, similar to a cocktail only chunky and clean \$8; or Seared Yellowfin Tuna, spiced, seared rare, sliced thin, and arranged over jicama/pepper salad \$9. Spring roll style crab or shrimp \$9, characterize the eclectic mix on the menu that includes achiote spicing and papaya salsa. Poached oysters in champagne with chardonnay sauce and tons of chives \$10 are a Jimmy Schmidt signature.

Fresh-daily seafoods consist of such tasty treats as Yellowfin Tuna Asian Style \$17 and Pickeral in Parchment with cranberry cous cous, champagne sauce, roasted shallots and green vegetable \$17. Wood-roasted features include beef, lamb, veal, pork and chicken. Veal and lamb racks are Friday/Saturday specials. For those preferring meatless, salads, pastas and pizzas abound, in addition to a grilled vegetable plate \$11. Sides, in particular, represent seasonality in menu choices. There's ginger-flavored sweet potato purée, mashed root vegetables plus five different preparations of potatoes.

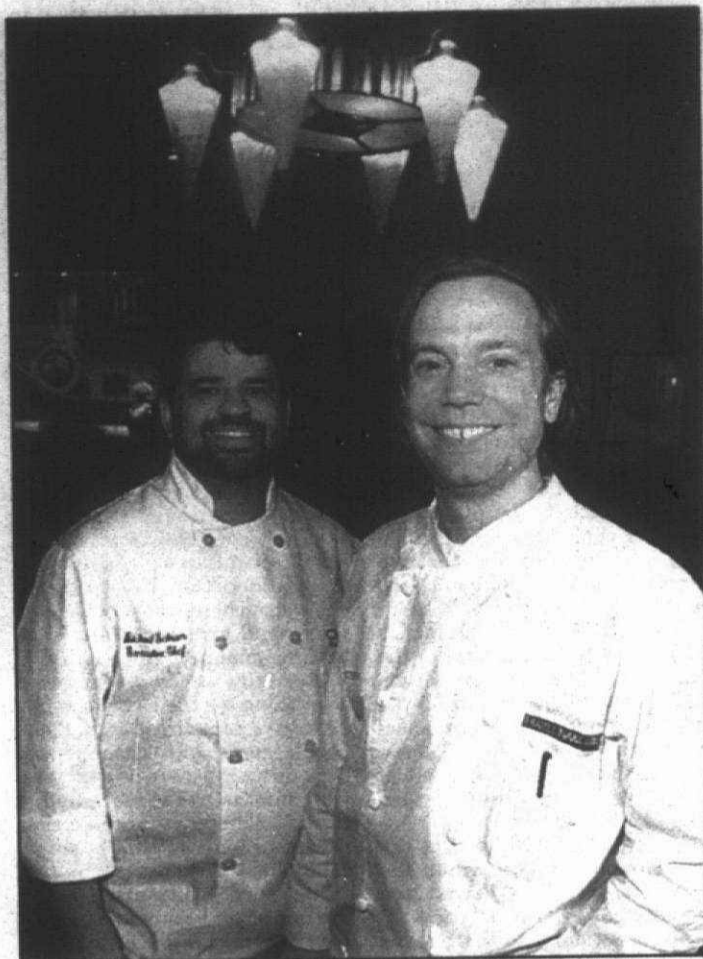
Stephanie Kane, Rochester Hills resident, graduate of Rochester Adams High School, and armed with a 1995 Central Michigan University business degree with emphasis in restaurant/hotel management, is Smitty's Grill's general manager.

"Coming home to run one of Jimmy Schmidt's restaurants is an exciting challenge," she remarked.

Schmidt's experience with restaurant "no shows" has made a no reservation policy necessary. Seating for 200 and ample bar room should make any wait short and pleasant. Even if the wait gets a little long, the great kid's menu will please young diners once they're seated.

In addition to a full-service bar with beers on tap, Schmidt has revolutionized restaurant by-the-bottle wine sales. A star-studded list of mostly California wines states "what Jimmy pays" tacks on a \$10 corkage and lists "what you pay." If you've groaned about high wine prices in area restaurants, the pricing at Smitty's Grill is just \$10 per bottle over wholesale. In the case of more expensive wines, such as a 1988 Burgess Library Release Cabernet Sauvignon, you pay \$33.10 per bottle. The full retail price in a wine shop is \$34.50. With more expensive wines, the deal gets even better. Drinking a bottle of wine in a restaurant for less than retail was unthinkable. Until now!

Look for Focus on Wine on the first and third Sunday of the month in Taste. To leave a voice mail message for Eleanor and Ray Heald, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1864.



At your service: Michael Schram, (left) and Jimmy Schmidt at Smitty's Grill.

RESTAURANT SPECIALS

Eagle Tavern - Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Call (313) 271-1620 for reservations and information. Open on select evenings during the holidays, serving food and spirits that were prepared from mid-19th century.

Henry Ford Estate - on the campus of The University of Michigan, Dearborn, Call (313) 593-5590 for reservations/information. A variety of special

events will be offered at the Henry Ford Estate during the holidays including, Holiday Luncheon Concerts, 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 11-12, \$19.50; and Candles and Carols Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, \$38. The Pool Restaurant is open for lunch weekdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Limited lunch menu Dec. 24 to Jan. 2, closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

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PRIME RIB in Herb Blanket, Premium Bar (Pkg. 6)
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Call the Livonia or Dearborn location

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We've Got It Here On NEW YEAR'S EVE
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• BREAKFAST
scrambled eggs & pork sausage served at 2 a.m.

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MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE
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- PRIME RIB
- FILET MIGNON
- N.Y. STRIP SIRLOIN
- BROILED ORANGE ROUGHY (with Lemon Pepper)
- SWORDFISH STEAK (with Parsley Butter)
- CHICKEN DEVIN

Reservations...425-5520

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FREE BANQUET ROOM
AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES
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Complementary
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1/2 OFF DINNER
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Chapter 11 **BANKRUPTCY** Court Ordered Case No. 97-54001-RRG

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Briarwood Mall ANN ARBOR (313) 761-3315
Fairlane Town Center DEARBORN (313) 593-1440

Sale Prices Good At All Locations
REMAINING OPEN

Lincoln Park Shopping Center LINCOLN PARK (313) 381-9155
Eastland Center HARPER WOODS (313) 245-9395
Westland Center WESTLAND (313) 425-7676
Oakland Mall TROY (810) 588-3805
Southland Center TAYLOR (313) 287-4250
Tel-Twelve Mall SOUTHFIELD (810) 356-3320

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Items enlarged to show detail.
Discounts Off Original Retail/Wholesale Price.

The Season of Giving

A Holiday Gift Guide



Supplement to
The Observer
Thursday, December 11, 1997

A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication

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Across the Street From Mayflower Lanes
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(313) 937-0992

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(313) 567-0336

DETROIT
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North of Grand River
(313) 491-7740

DETROIT
14143 Gratiot
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(313) 527-3720

DETROIT
6640 Michigan Ave.
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(313) 896-2000

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*Phone requires accessory purchase.

A season for giving

The Observer Newspapers Holiday Gift Guide 2 offers suggestions and ideas for any type of holiday giving. We also offer decorating ideas. Happy shopping and happy holidays from all of us at the Observer Newspapers.

About the cover photo:

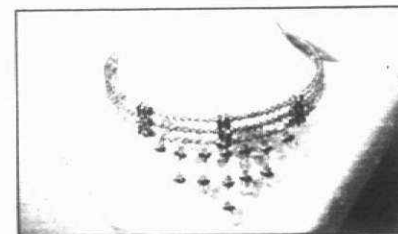
The cover photo was taken by staff photographer Jim Jagdfeld at the Parisian store at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

Inside:

4 How about putting all your presents in one basket this Christmas? Especially when you have help from some of Santa's most food-loving elves. His helpers are ready and waiting to fill unique baskets and other vessels full of food and beverages for that special person in your life. His helpers say they need just the most basic information to get started.



other seasons, that empowers you to deck your halls as you like.



7 Whether it's a well-thought-out gift, or something at the last minute, stocking stuffers can be as much a surprise as the gifts neatly wrapped under the Christmas tree. And, the ideas are endless for gifts that cost a quarter to whatever you'd like to spend on that special person.



12 Those who want to buck tradition and set aside the Elvis and Bing Crosby Christmas albums can find a sleigh full of new holiday records at local record stores.

15 "Every woman would love a beautiful diamond bracelet," said Joyce Pappas, Orin Jewelers registered jeweler. And if you're searching for that perfect gift, jewelry, especially diamonds, makes a brilliant statement.

16 What's one way to personalize a gift without getting too personal? Or a way to surprise that friend who has it all with something unique? Just focus on a theme.



Credits

This holiday gift guide section is a product of the Observer Newspapers.

Peg Knoespel, Wayne County retail advertising manager
Beth Sundrla Jachman, Wayne County special projects editor
Writers: Carol Command, Kim

Mortson, Tony Bruscatto, Christina Fuoco

Cover photo: Jim Jagdfeld
Cover design: Glenn Merillat
Ad layout: Sheryl Labon
Photography: Jim Jagdfeld, Bill Bresler, Tom Hawley, Elizabeth Carnegie, Jerry Mendoza
Graphics: Tammie Graves

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| 2 1/2-qt. | \$125.00 | \$94.99 |
| 3-qt. | \$150.00 | \$109.99 |
| 4-qt. | \$185.00 | \$119.99 |
| 5-qt. | \$200.00 | \$129.99 |
| 7-qt. | \$240.00 | \$169.99 |
| 8-qt. | \$280.00 | \$189.99 |
| 13-qt. | \$330.00 | \$224.99 |

OVAL FRENCH OVENS W/LIDS

| | Reg. | Sale |
|-------|----------|----------|
| 3-qt. | \$150.00 | \$99.99 |
| 7-qt. | \$265.00 | \$139.99 |
| 8-qt. | \$280.00 | \$159.99 |
| 9-qt. | \$300.00 | \$189.99 |

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STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

To a tea: Tea lovers will be steeped with joy when they receive a tea-theme basket including teapot, teabags, doilies, stationery, cookies and a box of chocolates from Basket Kreations of Canton.

Everyone eats up food-related gifts

BY CAROL COMMAND
SPECIAL WRITER



FOOD

How about putting all your presents in one basket this Christmas? Especially when you have help from

some of Santa's most food-loving elves.

His helpers are ready and waiting to fill unique baskets and other vessels full of food and beverages for that special person in your life. His helpers say they need just the most basic information to get started.

"Just tell us who it's for and what they like," said Leslie Hladis, sales person at Basket Kreations in Canton. Then Hladis or store owner, Stella

Delap, will put together a latte and biscotti cup for under \$20 to thank your dependable letter carrier or a blueberry splurge to please Aunt Gladys with her favorite fruit.

For \$49 a Blueberry Morning hand-made basket will be stacked high with blueberry pancake mix, blueberry syrup and wild blueberry preserves. Also inside are a blueberry mug with 12 blueberry teabags and decorated napkins. Or how about topping off a stainless steel or porcelain mixing bowl with Belgian waffle mix and Red Raspberry Ecstasy or Blueberry Lemon topping? Williams-Sonoma at Laurel Park Mall has a store and catalog dedicated to both serious and fun-loving cooks.

Please see FOOD, A5

LIVONIA'S Performance TOOL CENTERS

What's The Latest For Your Tool Gifts?

Is your holiday shopping becoming a struggle trying to think of something new for that tool lover on your shopping list? Fear not, because at Performance Line Tool Centers they feature not only the area's largest tool selection, but their buyers search the country for the "latest and greatest" in the tool universe.

If you haven't looked at tools or been to Performance Line Tool Centers lately, you'll enjoy an amazing and money saving experience when it comes to buying gifts for those tool folks.

The universe of cordless tools has been rapidly changing. Longer run times, faster charge times, lighter weight, more power is just the start. Beginning with the basic cordless screwdrivers and drills, cordless tools have evolved, and now you can get cordless 18 volt tools, also reciprocating saws, sanders, jigsaws, cutout and rotary tools, flashlights, nailers, even caulk guns!

In pneumatics, close to 80 different tools are offered. One of the biggest highlights are prices that now start at less than \$100 for nailers that used to be in the two or three hundred dollar range. They offer a terrific increase in fun and efficiency!

Space age science has come to help with laser technology. Now with a few simple settings, a guaranteed accurate straight line will focus up to 300' in a 360° rotating surface. Laser tools which used to cost near the thousand dollar mark can now be bought at prices starting at under \$100! Along that "line," for those projects that do not require such hi-tech equipment, simple chalk lines have now improved and can reel in 5X faster to shorten reel time.

When accuracy counts for woodworkers, engineers, model builders, etc., new stainless steel rules with internal slots allow "dead-on" marks down to 1/32" without squinting!

For those projects that require you to have "x-ray" vision behind walls, there are scanners that not only will sound or light up when it senses studs, joists, wires, pipes, conduit and rebar but some will show a picture of the center of the object. If you haven't seen what's new in screwdrivers lately, you will be amazed. Today's screwdrivers not only carry "on-board" all common bits, but are also available with extension magnets, internal telescoping flex shafts and even high intensity lights to illuminate your immediate work area.

Great innovations in sockets and pliers have solved the problems of removing worn nuts. Today these tools grab on the "flats" of the nuts (as opposed to the corners) for "bull-dog" gripping power and no "round-offs." In addition, pliers have advanced to spring loaded, one handed, self-adjusting multi-rack teeth for 9 different grip settings. That says it all for ease and comfort!

Even the basic extension cord gets updated. You may remember the recent (now defunct) chain store commercial showing a cord becoming unplugged while up on the roof. Odd's are he wasn't using one of Performance Tool's cords. Most of theirs lock onto the tool and onto each other.

Folks, this is only the beginning...

| | | |
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STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

State pride: A made in Michigan theme basket from Basket Kreations of Canton includes cherries, jam and mustard in a Michigan wood crate.

Food from page A4



FOOD

And who could resist a combination of cherries and chocolate? There's a basket to fit both big tastes and small at Basket Kreations.

Cherry Bombs! for \$22 is a cherry-colored oval basket bursting with six Joseph Schmidt cherry-filled chocolate truffles. Wishing You Cherries! is a heavy willow basket that boasts pasta, marinara sauce, sparkling cherry juice, cherry butter, dried and chocolate-covered cherries, Sanders hot fudge sauce and much more. This 14-pound basket sells for \$95.

If your mouth isn't watering yet, think about fresh pastries hand-made each day at the crack of dawn by European bakers, just waiting for your personal taste test.

When people taste the pastry that de Ros Delicacies in Redford is known for, many say, "It's just like my grandmother used to make," explained owner Del-

phine Kryza-McMaster. The "kolacky" are rolled out dough, pinched at the corners with a dollop of raspberry or pineapple in the center. Kryza-McMaster said Czechs, Hungarians and Poles will all accept ownership for this tasty holiday pastry. The bakers also deliver fresh each morning trays of breads, croissants, cookies and cakes - all preservative-free, she said.

Although baskets lined with special fabric or holiday linen and teeming with pastries have gone to famous recipients such as George Bush and Bob Hope, Kryza-McMaster says "It's the little people we care about."

With that in mind, she makes it possible for one even with limited finances to give something to be proud of. Perhaps an angel for your tree that costs just over \$3, she suggested.

"Just because you don't have money, you still care about that person, and I care about that."

She began her pastry basket busi-

Please see FOOD, A18

Create your own look for holidays

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER



Whether your idea of decorating is a simple wreath of garland adorning your front door or a phenomenal display of colored lights that attracts motorists from far and wide — the holidays evoke a sense of creative freedom, unlike other seasons, that empowers you to deck your halls as you like.

The problem may not be what to decorate but how? Professional decorators are routinely grilled for ideas by Martha Stewart wannabes who don't think they have the where-withal to pull off a holiday celebration with all the trim. Don't fret say the experts — it's as easy as 1,2,3 and according to Debbie Beaver, floral designer for Michaels Arts & Crafts in Westland, any degree of decorating can be done on a budget without having to look that way.

With Christmas just two weeks away, the Westland store has a full stock of pre-made items or all the necessities to make your own swags, wreaths, and topiaries for the inside and outside of your home.

For outdoor trim, accessories such as power strips, clips, extension cords and wreath hangers make decorating practical and safe. Colored and white lights,



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

artificial garland, and ribbons can be used to dress up your home or yard as well as large plated ornaments that are more easily visible from the road or street compared to average bulbs used on trees indoors. The round and uniquely shaped bulbs, some six or

eight inches in diameter, come in a variety of bright holiday colors including gold and silver glitter.

Beaver said popular colors for the 1997 holiday season include plum, purple and gold. "Lots and lots of gold," said Beaver. To generate an overall

Cheery cherubs: Pair of matching cherub mantel pieces are featured at Michael's Arts and Crafts in Westland.

color scheme inside your home and out, color-coordinated sets and accessories come in various shades from a soft green sage to vibrant purple hues and glimmering golds. Ornaments, beading, and ribbons

Please see LOOK, A8

Variety of gifts good to stuff

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER



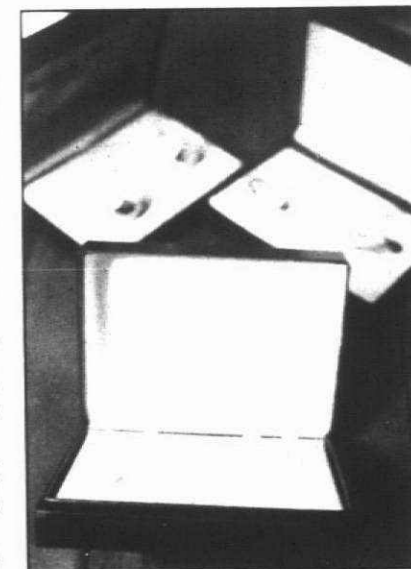
Whether it's a well-thought-out gift, or something at the last minute, stocking stuffers can be as much a surprise as the gifts neatly wrapped under the Christmas tree.

And, the ideas are endless for gifts that cost a quarter to whatever you'd like to spend on that special person.

"I think stocking stuffers are just as fun as the big gifts," said Jane Bassett, Midwest regional special events manager at Parisian in Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

The self-proclaimed "Queen of stocking stuffers" says she "wraps all my stocking stuffers, too, to make them a big surprise."

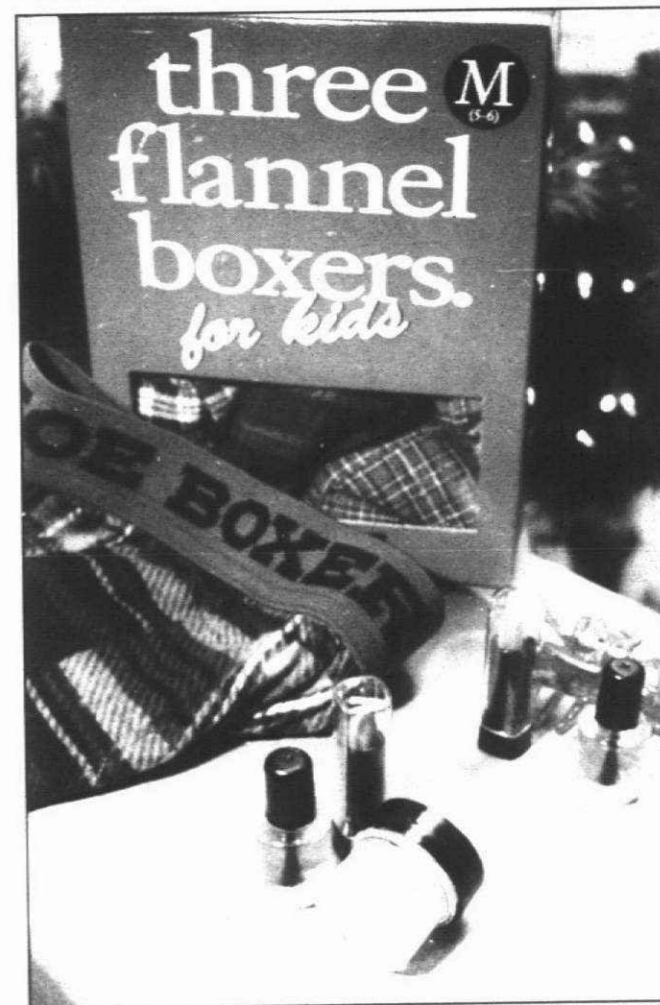
For young girls, Bassett suggests a three-piece glitter make-up kit that includes matching lipstick and nail polish. For the boys, Joe Boxer flannels are always nice. The ever-playful virtual pets are still popular with the



Found links: Kenneth Cole cuff links some in the shape of little hot and cold water faucet handles are available at Parisian.

Please see STUFF, A10

Stuffers for kids: Joe Boxer flannel boxers for kids and Kids Cosmetics by Riviera and a trio of cosmetics in its own carrying case are available at Parisian in Livonia.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JAGDFELD

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Look from page A6



can help complement your Christmas tree, mantle, front door wreath and table-top centerpiece for an overall coordinated appearance.

Other options in addition to color coordinating include period themes such as renaissance, country and Victorian. Michaels has plenty of prearranged sleighs, wreaths, topiaries and swags in various themes for large-scale decorating to small arrangements from \$19.99 into the hundreds. Beaver said the store also custom designs everything from bows to table-top arrangements and wreaths with a couple of days notice.

If you're an apartment dweller, fresh trees and garland can be a problem. Michaels stocks an assortment of artificial greenery that minimizes fire hazards and even carries preserved cedar that can be cut and added to wreaths and swags without having to worry about needles drying out and causing a mess. The cedar is scented "and offers a pleasant holiday scent for up to two years" said Beaver.

Another convenient item is an 18-foot rope of garland for decorating a railing or mantle without the freedom of having a lot of space. The accessory comes prestrung with 75 clear lights eliminating the need to buy the garland and a string of lights.

Making things from scratch, rather



Bow tie: Debbie Beaver works on making a Christmas bow at Michael's Arts and Crafts.

than having someone else do all the work, is made easy with a bounty of artificial poinsettias, holly berry garland, baskets, holiday tins, faux fruit, pine cones, wired ribbon, and replicas of angels, Santa Claus, musical instruments, snowmen and more.



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

With style: A renaissance cherub swag and a matching Christmas topiary are among the items at Michael's Arts and Crafts.

"We have everything here anyone would need to decorate for the holidays," said Beaver. "And if you're having trouble deciding — one of the prearranged sets makes it easy."

Keep in mind decorating should not be intimidating. You have the creative license to decorate as you please and you should have fun with it. Happy decorating!

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STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRENNER

Artistic statement: Exotic glass paperweights, (above right) and hand-blown glass tree ornaments (above) are made by Plymouth artist Don Schneider at the York Street Glass Works, 875 York St. in Plymouth. A large variety of blown and lampworked glass is available. Call (313) 459-6419 for hours. Prices from \$5 to \$40.

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Crystal persuasion: A crystal choker by Crystalare and designed by Susan Stefani is available at Parisian in Livonia.

Stuff from page A7



STOCKINGS
younger set. Guys, listen up. Bassett has some suggestions to make sure you don't miss your big chance.

For a small price, Bassett says scented soap is a nice gesture.

"Velvet has moved from evening wear to everyday wear, so a velvet muffler is a nice gift," noted Bassett. "There are mini evening purses from satin to

beads. And some beautiful Susan Stefani crystal jewelry that begins where Swarovski leaves off."

Bassett suggests a "magnificent" multi-strand choker for the more daring, at \$337.

Ladies, the man in your life might like a Michigan mug stuffed in his stocking. Kenneth Cole cufflinks will show him you care. And, there are a number of Sharper Image items, including a 6-in-1 screwdriver and field



Aroma therapy: Cinnamon-Cider Refresher Oil by Aromatique is among the items available at Parisian in Livonia.

binoculars.

"And, tickets to anything, stuffed in a stocking, are great gifts," said Bassett. "Whether it be to a movie or stage performance, it's usually something everyone likes to receive."

Janice Karamedjian, district manager for Barnes & Noble, has a few suggestions.

"Paper weights, book marks and book ends are inexpensive, nice gifts for your favorite bookworm," noted Karamed-

jian. "For kids, there are plush animals of their favorite book characters."

For the person on the run, Karamedjian suggests books on cassette and Christmas music on CD's or cassette.

At Georgia's Gift Gallery in downtown Plymouth, owner Michelle Suttle proposes a special, dated ornament to mark Christmas 1997.

Or how about a porcelain jewelry box with a gift certificate or ring inside.

Please see **STUFF**, A11



Spice of life: Sumptuous Selections offers the fixins for some spicy dip. Included in the package are: Sting'n Vegetable dip mix, pepper infused Molten Lava Oil and Mediterranean Vinegar and a spreading knife with a Red Hot pepper handle.

Stuff from page A10



STOCKINGS
Suttle says dolls are popular items, whether they be made of porcelain, vinyl or are plush.

Potpourri can be special. And, prepared pretzels dipped in special chocolates are yummy.

Sarah Bauer, the fragrance manager at Victoria's Secret in Westland Mall, says guys could do well to slip scented nail polish with matching flavored lip gloss into their significant other's stocking.

Bauer also suggests gift sets which include nail polish, bubble bath, cologne and lotion.

Lingerie manager, Sherry Estep, recommends slippers, and Victoria's Secret signature pens and tea cups as special gifts.

"There's always the opportunity to put sexy underwear into your favorite person's stocking," suggests Estep.

If you're looking for those low-cost, impulse gifts, Gags and Gifts in Liv-

Please see **STUFF**, A14



Day by day: Page-A-Day calendars come in a variety of themes at Parisian in Livonia.

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Sound a seasonal note with music

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER



Those who want to buck tradition and set aside the Elvis and Bing Crosby Christmas albums can find a sleigh full of new holiday records at local record stores.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Neeme Jarvi have released "Joy! A Celebration of Holiday Music."

"Around the world, we celebrate the holidays with joyous music and music-making, and I am delighted that we can offer the experience of this recording to our audiences. It includes many fine classics and also some more unusual selections. I think a wide audience of listeners will be very pleased to hear it during the holidays and beyond," Jarvi said.

"Joy!" features 12 songs including Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," "Air on a G String" by J.S. Bach, Schubert's "Ave Maria," a Christmas carol medley, "Trumpet Voluntary" from "The Prince of Denmark's March" and Handel's "Entrance of the Queen of Sheba" from "Solomon."

The album, priced at \$11.99, is available at area record stores, Kmart, Meijer, Rite Aid, or by calling (888)



New album:
The Dearborn-based reggae band Universal Xpression has released its debut holiday album "Christmas on the Beach," featuring traditional and original Christmas songs.

316-1901. "Joy" will also be available at Orchestra Hall at the Music Box Boutique during DSO concerts, at the Detroit Opera House during the DSO production of "The Nutcracker," and via the DSO's website at <http://www.detroitssymphony.com>.

The Dearborn-based reggae band Universal Xpression offers its debut holiday album "Christmas on the Beach" (UXP Records). The album highlights a mix of traditional and original songs including a 7½-minute reggae medley of "Silent Night," "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful," "Drummer Boy," and the original song "Breadnut," and a soca medley of "Joy to the World," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Oh Holy Night," and "Hark the Herald."

The album is available by writing or calling UXP Records, Box 7242, Dearborn, Mich., 48121, (313) 272-3798. Universal Xpression can also be reached via its websites at <http://www.kmh.bas.org> or <http://www.soulsoul.com>.

Guitar slingers will get a kick out of "Merry Xmas - A Guitar Christmas" (Epic) on which some of rock's top guitarists offer their interpretations of classic Christmas songs. Upstart Kenny Wayne Shepherd does "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," Brian Setzer Orchestra covers "Jingle Bells," Jeff Beck plays "Amazing Grace," Steve Vai does "Christmas Time is Here," Joe Satriani plays "Silent Night," Joe Perry offers "Blue Christmas," and Richie Sambora covers "Cantique De Noel (O' Holy Night)." Eric Johnson, Steve Morse, Alex Lifeson and Hotel also

Please see MUSIC, A13

Music from page A12



appear on the CD. Country star Dwight Yoakam has released "Come on Christmas" (Warner Bros.), an album of

traditional holiday songs - "Run Run Rudolph," "Silver Bells," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Silent Night," "Santa Claus is Back in Town," "The Christmas Song," "Away in a Manger," and "Here Comes Santa Claus." Yoakam also offers his original songs "Santa Can't Stay" and "Come on Christmas." Beth Anderson, Jim Lauderdale and Ricky Skaggs make guest appearances on the album.

Staying in the pop vein, a host of musicians joined forces to put out "Sounds of the Season" (Columbia), a benefit album for the Children's Hearing Institute. Vince Gill ("Do You Hear What I Hear"), Kenny Loggins ("Celebrate Me Home"), Bruce Springsteen ("Santa Claus is Comin' To Town"), Elton John ("Ho, Ho, Ho... Who'd Be a Turkey for Christmas"), and B.B. King ("Merry Christmas Baby") are among the artists on the album.

RCA records offers a quartet of holiday releases. The R&B act SWV has released its first holiday-themed recording "A Special Christmas." Pianist Randall Acheson's "Christmas by Candlelight" offers Christmas songs delivered by him and an orchestra. John Pizzarelli swings into the holidays with "Let's Share Christmas." The record company has also reissued Elvis Presley's "If Every Day Was Like Christmas," the first album to feature all of Elvis's classic Yuletide hits. Besides music, the limited edition CD features a pop-up Graceland, rare photographs, and an extensive historic essay.

Teen heartthrobs Hanson have followed-up their multi-platinum debut "Middle of Nowhere" with the holiday collection "Snowed In" (Mercury).

Inspired by last year's holiday hit, "A Classic Cartoon Christmas," Nick at Nite Records, Sony Wonder and Sony 550 Music have partnered to release "A Classic Cartoon Christmas, Too" on Oct. 14. The album features cult songs from popular claymation cartoons - "Heat Miser" and "Snow Miser" from "Year Without a Santa Claus," Burgermeister Meisterburger's "The First Toymaker to the King" from "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," and "Silver and Gold" from "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" from "Ren and Stimpy: Crock O'Christmas" is also on "A Classic Cartoon Christmas, Too."

Walt Disney Records entered the holiday market with the soundtrack and score to "Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas" on which its characters sing traditional and new holiday songs. Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts, Angelique and a chorus team up to sing "Deck the Halls." Belle and her alter ego Paige O'Hara take on "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," "Do You Hear What I Hear," and "O Christmas Tree" among others. Peabo Bryson and Roberta Flack sing "As Long As There's Christmas (End Title)."

Jazz fans have at least two titles from which to choose. Saxophone player Dave Koz offers "December Makes Me

Feel This Way: A Holiday Album" (Capitol). Besides the traditional Christmas songs, Koz performs his original song "December Makes Me Feel This Way," and "Eight Candles (A Song for Hanukkah)."

"Warner Bros. Jazz Christmas Party" brings forth the talents of a variety of artists including Joshua Redman ("Santa Claus is Coming to Town"), Al Jarreau ("Celebrate Me Home"), Boney James ("Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"), Bela Fleck and Bob James ("White Christmas"), and Michael Franks ("I Bought You a Plastic Star for Your Aluminum Tree").

Poet, professor, and NPR commentator Andrei Codrescu offers "The Valley of Christmas" (Gert Town), an authentic Transylvanian folk tale which he has adapted with the help of musical collaborator and producer Mark Bingham. The story begins when a yuppie couple in New Orleans gives birth to a baby who promptly exacts three prenatal promises: He wants to know what preschool he's going to, he wants a T-Bird on his 18th birthday, and he never wants to grow old. His father goes along with it and the baby is born on Christmas day. On the child's 18th birthday, he encounters a rooster that morphs into a 1965 Thunderbird and the journey begins. The album is available by calling (888) 368-5763.

Windham Hill records has released four holiday selections this year. "Celtic Christmas III: A Windham Hill Sampler" features traditional holiday carols and original compositions from a cross section of top Irish- and Celtic-inspired artists. Produced by Nightnoise founder Michael O'Donnell, "Celtic Christmas III" includes Nightnoise, Brian Dunning and Jeff Johnson, Lisa Lynne, Patrick Cassidy, W.G. Snuffy Walden, who did the music for the TV show "My So-Called Life," and David Arkenstone.

Pianist Jim Brickman offers "The Gift," a collection of original songs and traditional songs that he has rearranged. "The Gift" features guest appearances by Collin Raye, Susan Ashton, Kenny Loggins, Point of Grace, and Norbett Stachel. The album is available in most record stores, however, it can also be ordered by calling (888) Brickman.

"A Winter's Solstice VI: A Windham Hill Sampler" is a collection of original instrumental compositions from a cross-section of performers. Among those contributing to the album are long-time Windham Hill veterans Michael Hedges, George Winston, Will Ackerman and Liz Story, along with new artists Todd Cochran, Sean Harkness and Lisa Lynne.

Rounding out Windham Hill's selection is "Carols of Christmas II," featuring 15 hymns and carols of the holiday season interpreted by its artists including George Winston, Jim Brickman and Liz Story, as well as special guests Steve Lukather, Joan Armatrading and newly signed Windham Hill artist Janis Ian who collaborates with Deana Carter and Kathy Mattea on "Emmanuel."

Ray Stevens gives a different view of the holidays with "Ray Stevens Christmas: Through a Different Window"



Cult songs: Nick at Nite Records' "A Classic Cartoon Christmas, Too" includes cult songs from the claymation Christmas cartoons "Year Without a Santa Claus" ("Heat Miser," "Snow Miser"), "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" ("The First Toymaker to the King," "No More Toymakers to the King,"), and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" ("Silver and Gold," "There's Always Tomorrow").

(MCA Nashville) featuring songs such as "Guilt for Christmas," "Redneck Christmas," "Xerox Xmas Letter," "The Annual Office Christmas Party," and "Santa Claus is Watching You."

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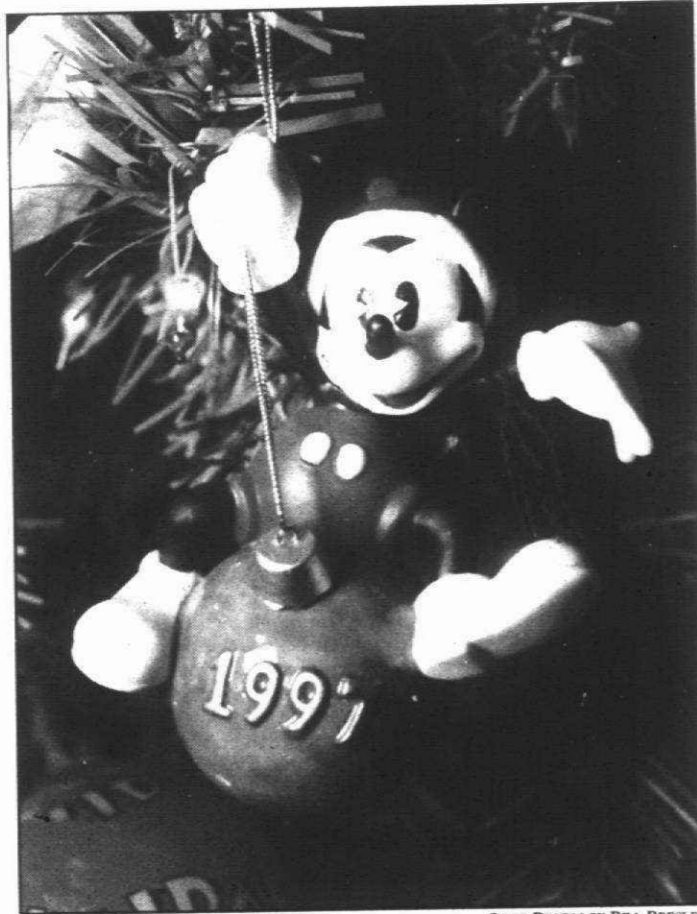
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Bear it: Classic Pooh boxes and other characters available at Georgia's Gift Gallery in Plymouth.



Dolled up: Dated Barbie Christmas plates at Georgia's Gift Gallery in Plymouth.



Decked in Disney: Dated Disney Christmas ornaments are available at Georgia's Gift Gallery in Plymouth.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

Stuff from page A11

nia, Westland or Canton may be the place to shop.

"There are a lot of inexpensive toys and trinkets to put into those stockings," said Sue Adams, manager of the Gags and Gifts in Livonia. "Here, you can get things ranging from 25-cents to a few dollars."

Some of her suggestions include all

kinds of make-believe jewelry, virtual pets, Beanie Babies, and lots of different kinds of fun key chains.

Adams notes that if you're looking for a holiday gag, whoopee cushions, disappearing-ink pens and snakes which jump out of the can are still fun this time of year.

Diamonds still best friends

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER



"Every woman would love a beautiful diamond bracelet," said Joyce Pappas, Orin Jewelers registered jeweler. And if you're searching for that perfect gift, jewelry, especially diamonds, makes a brilliant statement.

"There's such meaning attached to diamonds," said Pappas, "and a lot of thought goes into a purchase like that."

Whether it's a diamond bracelet, colored stone pendant, gold watch or engraved cuff links, the local jeweler, whose family-owned independent store observed its 64th year in business in Garden City this year, says the recipient always remembers the occasion of your generous gift giving.

Popular for the 1997 holiday season is the unique "add-a-link" diamond bracelet. The gold bangle is a gift that doesn't stop giving as diamonds or precious colored stones can be added to commemorate special occasions over any period of time the giver desires, ultimately creating a beautiful bracelet. Pappas said some people have each link engraved with the date they received the next portion of the bracelet to add even more significance to the item.

Chain jewelers and local independents say Christmas and New Year's

lend themselves to private or public engagements. "There's something about the holidays that makes men want to propose at restaurants or in front of families," said Dave Anderson, Livonia gemologist.

The holidays are not only an occasion to buy an engagement ring but to upgrade, said Anderson. "A lot of women want larger diamonds or are interested in having a jeweler, like myself, design a custom setting."

Don't rush into a diamond purchase, say the professionals. A lot of thought should go into a purchase that has such meaning attached to it and it's important to be an educated shopper when you're spending potentially thousands of dollars.

"Pearls are very big and always in style," said Pappas. "Particularly the black pearl."

Orin Jewelers carries the Mikimoto line of pearl jewelry featuring necklaces, earrings, and rings that stand alone or are highlighted with colored stone accents of rubies, emeralds and sapphires.

Another popular item for women is the "Tin Cup" necklace nicknamed from the 1996 Kevin Costner and Renee Russo movie "Tin Cup" where the Hollywood actress dons a simple silver chain choker dotted with pearls. The necklace can be worn as an everyday piece or dressed up for those special

Please see JEWELRY, A19



PHOTO BY JERRY MENDOZA

Timely gift: An Orin Jewelers sales associate models one of several CYMA Swiss watches that are popular Christmas gifts for men this season. Watches are available in gold and silver and adorned with or without diamonds and mother of pearl dials.

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Oh deer: Candy Bouquet in Canton has created a reindeer bouquet. A 25-inch high reindeer is filled with domestic and imported candies and chocolates along with colorful accents.

Personalize gifts by following theme

By CAROL COMMAND
SPECIAL WRITER



all with something unique? Just focus on a theme.

From the rose basket that sings "take me away" with relaxation tapes and bath oils to the bucket that hauls the armament of cleaning essentials necessary to keep his wheels shining, a little creativity can make an ordinary container special.

The Car Wash bucket at Basket Kreations in Canton, for example, is bubbling over with cleansers to remove road crud and add sparkle for under \$40.

For his or her own bodywork, fill a rose motif metal basket with botanical bath soaps and crystals. Add Camille Beckman fruit and floral scented cremes and a loofah to slough away winter's dryness. And add any combination of blissful items that say relax. You could include a book on aromatherapy.

"We do a lot with candles and stationery," said Leslie Hladis, salesperson

Please see **THEME**, A17



Candy creation: A plastic white top hat filled with colorful accents and candies is available at the Candy Bouquet, 8473 North Lilley in Canton.

Theme from page A16



at Basket Kreations. This gift store offers a variety of bath baskets for under \$50, and you can pick the flavor. If peach is a pleaser, you might set the mood with peach-scented candles and lotions. Or you could make it a strawberry or vanilla night in the tub. Don't forget to include mood music. An ethereal Enya tape, a sensual Rimsky-Korsakov or the aquatic accompaniment of Songs of the Humpback Whale by Earth Music Productions will make that escape complete. If Basket Kreations doesn't have your favorite tune, just bring it along and they'll include it in the basket.

And if you really want to put a smile on his or her face this holiday, consider a gift certificate for a professional massage. Healing Arts Clinic in Plymouth can provide an hour of deep-tissue- or

gentle Swedish massage for \$50.

Have a cigar

Some baskets say Happy Holidays with a little more gusto. "You could add a couple of cigars to your beer basket," said Vinnie Shoukri, co-owner with Sam Shoukri of Showerman's Fine Wine & Liquor in Livonia. Vinnie explained the renewed interest in the art of cigar smoking as he pointed to shelves of cigars inside a glass case.

Of course you can also select from non-alcoholic as well as alcoholic champagnes and from a selection of more than 300 California wines to fill anything from a bucket to a bushelbasket.

"When you want to give above and beyond a bottle," Vinnie said, "you give a basket."

Weighing in at 60 pounds, a wicker basket filled with a variety of rums,

Please see **THEME**, A18

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Theme from page A17



wines, liqueurs and champagne is ready-made and waiting to be sold at \$225. "You name it, and it has one of each type," he explained.

Last year it took three people to carry out a 4-foot-wide basket of holiday liquors sent from one doctor to another, Sam said. The price: \$500.

A simple but elegant choice might be the transparent pitcher that holds Kahlua liqueur, Kahlua mix and coffee for \$21.99.

A basic basket of gourmet merchandise starts at \$25. Add from \$5 to \$25 for a bottle of wine. Chianti might accompany a basket filled with pasta and Italian cookies and chocolates. The \$59.99 gourmet basket includes pates of turkey, salmon and crab; pepper and almond cheeses; Danish canned ham; a Columbia Crest chardonnay; orange marmalade and crackers; and Irish creme coffee and more.

For last-minute shoppers or those without a plan Showerman's will have 15 to 20 baskets in stock right up to Christmas.

If, however, you have on your list a Single Malt Scotch connoisseur with a passion for Havana-seeded cigars and she hasn't been too naughty, don't hesitate to enlist Sam or Vinnie in the design of a special package for her.

"We can make anything you want, custom made for whatever purpose you specify."

Baskets of ideas

Santa's elves have endless ideas to help those who like to think as a team.

For just over \$100, the Basket Kreations staff can transform any food basket into an ethnic indulgence. Give your friends an Italian or TexMex night in their own home. For \$45 a stylishly packaged basket with red bandanna and Star of Texas holds hot and spicy bean dip, chutney, chips and salsa, chilies and hot pepper sauce.

Since food for thought goes well with food for the tummy, you might also

include a video, available at most discount department stores, that enhances the ethnicity of the evening and generates conversation on those long winter nights.

For example in the video, "The Big Night," two brothers epitomize the Italian traditions of good food and good company. Or add a Lone Star video, and see a personal history of contemporary Texas with the backdrop of its rich and painful past.

Since even Scrooge loves either candy or flowers, how about a ready-made bouquet of candy to remember the difficult to buy for on your list?

At Candy Bouquet of Canton, Kwang and Silvia Chung will combine international chocolates and candies into a striking bouquet of colors. They've only been open a short time and are anxious to use Silvia's artistic talents to bring a garden of candy to you. They will mix a basket, sundae glass or mug full of edible candies from Belgium, England, Egypt and other places. Chocolate long-stemmed roses or sugar-free selections can make even a holiday centerpiece tasty.

And you might do a sports package for the jock or outdoor-lover in your life. Dunham's Discount Sports is one place where the staff is anxious to help you put that package together.

"Part of our everyday selling procedure is qualifying the customer," said Bill Merrifield, manager of Dunham's at Wonderland Mall in Livonia.

Personalizing a gift from golf to roller blading is typical. Or you might consider the unusual yet traditional sport of black powder gun as something for a special person on your list.

Merrifield can help you get together accessories such as powder, caps, cleaning rod and ball starter. He can even offer tips on lessons.

There's no limit on gift ideas with all of Santa's helpers out there.

Food from page A5



ness 18 years ago as an alternative to sending flowers and keeps in touch with what made it a success. "Giving great care" remains important to her and her staff because every basket has "a beautiful story; every basket represents the sender."

If Santa were flying over the area right now, he'd see how inventive Metro people are filling baskets and other containers with fun foods.

At Williams-Sonoma, manager Katy Moore will be filling pots and pails, warming pans and woks with gourmet edibles and accessories. Just give her 15 to 20 minutes and she'll put together combinations of food in a container of your choice. Maybe a popcorn bowl for New Year's Day? or a relief pattern bowl packed with gourmet mulling

spices and syrups that infuse red wine or cider with the flavor of cloves and cinnamon? How about a wok chock full of Thai Basil noodles surrounded by Jasmine and Red rice? Most gift packages range between \$42 and \$250, Moore said.

From soup to chocolate, from pancakes to pasta, a basket is already prepared or can be made for you usually with just 24-hours notice.

Whether it's an earthenware chicken or a Calphalon soup pot at Williams-Sonoma, or baskets of chocolates or pastries, you can personalize a gift yet take the big guesses out of shopping.

Containers of food are not as personal as buying clothes, but they're gifts people come back for year after year, merchants agree.

"You don't worry about color or size," Moore said.

"Everyone loves to eat."



PHOTO BY JERRY MENDOZA

String of pearls: Necklaces embellished with pearls, like the one pictured above, are always favorites for the special woman on your list. Black pearls are particularly popular this year with gold or silver accents.

Jewelry from page A15



occasions. It's available in gold or silver and white or black pearls.

DeBeers, diamond experts, in addition to several other well-known distributors, are selling the Diamond Lock Pendant or solitaire necklace that has women wishing and men searching. Jewelers say you don't have to look far for the solitaire diamond in a gold setting with a chain attached to each side of the gem or flowing through a loop on the top of the setting.

They also have Diamond Lock Pendants with princess cut diamonds in an invisible setting (no metal separating the diamonds) that gives the illusion of a solitaire diamond.

"Diamonds are a part of the '90s everyday lifestyle," said Pappas. "They can be worn daily and it's very acceptable."

For that man on your list, diamond rings, bracelets, cuff links, chains, money clips and watches make great stocking stuffers. Cuff links, money clips and brass golf ball markers can

be engraved to add a special monogrammed touch or opt for an initial ring.

A solid gold man's watch never goes out of style, said Pappas. The Garden City jeweler carries Citizen, Tag Heuer, and CYMA Swiss watches for business, casual or athletic wear. Watches can be simple accessories in gold/silver or highlighted with diamonds or mother of pearl dials.

Other stocking suggestions, say jewelers, include earrings, necklaces and pendants, charms and classic pocket watches.

Most independent and franchise jewelry stores have layaway plans to accommodate your budget and accept most major credit cards. Several jewelry stores have their own line of credit that can be applied for while you shop in a matter of minutes.

"Jewelry is always a smart gift because it says so much and has a great deal of significance attached to it," said Anderson. "It would be really hard to go wrong with a diamond bracelet or a gold watch for that special someone on your list."

Be on cutting edge of diamonds

Know your C's.

Diamonds are graded in four areas known as the Four C's: Cut, Clarity, Color and Carat weight.

Cut refers to the cutting angles and proportions of the stone, which are responsible for the stone's brilliance. Whether it's round, oval, or emerald-shaped etc., the proportions play a big part in the value of the stone. Clarity refers to the presence of internal breaks or inclusions as well as external imperfections, called blemishes.

Most diamonds have some flaws, but these flaws help to identify the diamond, much like fingerprints. Those diamonds deemed "flawless" are more expensive and more rare than those containing flaws.

Color refers more to the absence of color than a true color. The most valuable diamonds are those with the least amount of color, with the exception of

"fancy" colored diamonds. These diamonds have distinct attractive tints, such as a fancy yellow or green diamond.

Carat refers to the weight of the stone and is the most objective of the Four C's, since loose diamonds can be weighed precisely on a carat scale. One hundred "points" equals one carat.

Each person's choice of a diamond will depend on his or her personal taste and budget. Some people want a larger size and are willing to sacrifice clarity, while others want the most perfect stone they can afford and will sacrifice size for clarity.

Always have a diamond appraised before buying it.

An appraisal by an independent appraiser will tell you whether you're paying too much for a diamond as well as confirm the grading.

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