

Canton Observer

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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Letters to Santa

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

Letters to Santa
Canton Observer
794 South Main
Plymouth, MI 48170

IN THE PAPER TODAY

SPECIAL SECTION

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

COMMUNITY LIFE

Festival time: Eight lighted candles, potato pancakes and gifts mean it's time for Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, and two area congregations are preparing celebrations filled with plenty of food and merriment. /B1

ENTERTAINMENT

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

Theater: Stuart Spencer's "Resident Alien," a hilarious out-of-this world comedy on stage at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre, has serious undercurrents. /E1

Dining: Newly renovated Archie's in Livonia celebrates its 17th anniversary and hosts a Customer Appreciation Day. /E8

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HOW TO REACH US

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STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMAN

Tough audience: Nicholas Fornalewicz, 2, wants nothing to do with Santa at Monday's tree lighting ceremony. His mother Angie attempts to comfort him. Pictured below, Lucy O'Neill, 6, (left) and her sister, Maggie, 3, watch as one of Santa's elves ties balloon animals inside Fire Station No. 1 during the festivities.

Canton aglow

Tree lighting sets holiday mood

BY TEDD SCHNEIDER
STAFF WRITER
tschneider@oe.homecomm.net

Canton's "traveling" Christmas tree lighting ceremony may have found a permanent home.

Some 200 people turned out at Fire Station Number One on a chilly evening to sing traditional songs, throw the switch on the township tree and get their first glimpse of the red-suited big guy.

Monday's festivities marked the 20th time Canton has held a public ceremony to ring in the holiday season and the inaugural ceremony at the fire headquarters on Canton

Center near Heritage Drive, which was completed last August.

The location has changed from the Summit to the administration building in recent years. Tom Yack, Canton supervisor, said the fire station could be ideal. "There's plenty of room and we don't have to schedule it around meetings, like we do at the administration building," he said.

Dozens of families appreciated the room to roam offered by the firetruck bays as well. "We come every year. My

Please see TREE A4



District works to stop arson

■ Plymouth-Canton school officials will use videos and other measures to address students about the dangers of recent bathroom fires that have been set at Canton High School.

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
tbruscato@oe.homecomm.net

Canton High School administrators are hoping peer pressure and education will help combat arsonists who are setting fires in school bathrooms, putting the lives of 2,500 students in danger.

Please see ARSON, A16

Recount bid withdrawn

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Canton Township trustee Melissa McLaughlin decided to withdraw her Wayne County Commission recount bid after additional votes were found in her opponent's favor.

A recount was conducted Monday in the cities of Wayne, Belleville and Huron and Sumpter townships. The recount, conducted by the Wayne County elections office, showed that the original results, showing Wayne attorney John Sullivan the winner, will stand. The two had vied for the same 11th District county commission seat, previously held by Bruce Patterson, who will move to the state House of Representatives in January.

Please see RECOUNT, A16

Testimony winding down in murder trial

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

A witness testifying in the trial of two Canton teens charged with murdering correctional Officer David Martell said he heard the defendants discuss the shooting both before and after it happened.

Chad Aho, a friend of defendants Matthew Leonard, 18, and Mark Edwards, 17, testified Monday that he was initially scared to tell police about his friends' discussions of the Nov. 19

ambush-style shooting because he feared he would be "shot and killed."

Aho testified that he had witnessed his friends plan the shooting and witnessed a confession by another suspect after the fact. He said he also heard the teens discuss using other people as alibis and saw them use a hand-drawn map of the mobile home park in their plans.

"(Leonard) said he was going to kill David Martell," Aho said, referring to a meeting before the Nov. 19 shooting.

Leonard was initially charged with concealing a stolen .380-caliber handgun, which he reportedly named "Baby 9." Edwards was seen with a .25- or .22-caliber handgun, according to testimony in the preliminary examination.

Spent casings from .380-, .22- and .25-caliber handguns were found at the scene. The teens had discussed hiding the weapons in a shed after the shooting, Aho said.

Aho also mentioned a "confession" by another suspect, James Blanchfield.

He also is being charged with first-degree murder but his case will be handled in a separate trial. Aho said Blanchfield had "spilled his guts" about shooting Martell after the incident.

Testimony at the teens' February preliminary exam in 35th District Court claimed Martell was shot because he put a friend up to stealing "guns and drugs" from another teen. The teens lived in Westpointe and Sherwood Village mobile home parks

Please see MURDER TRIAL, A8

Taco Bell goes 'grande' in restaurant remake

BY LILLY A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

Canton Taco Bell patrons will find it easier to get their Gorditas after Taco Bell replaces its small restaurant and twisty drive-through with a new place to run for the border.

The Canton planning commission Monday unanimously passed a recommendation to demolish Taco Bell and Lee's Fried Chicken restaurants on Ford Road and build a larger Taco Bell in its place.

The plan now moves to the township board for final approval.

Taco Bell purchased the closed Lee's Fried Chicken and is slated to start demolition of both fast food establishments in February. The new, improved Taco Bell should open by late April.

"The 20-year-old, 1600-square-foot building is a poor design, we would like to build a brand new prototype building," said Bill Beckett of WT Develop-

FORD ROAD

ment Corp. Beckett confessed that the current buildings are outdated and don't meet township standards.

"It will be a functional state-of-the-art building with a drive through and dining, the (old) drive-through was an add on," he said.

The new Taco Bell will be 2,400-square-feet and will seat 70, the current dining area seats 34. The parking lots that both restaurants use will provide more parking for the new building.

The construction design also includes replacing the current sign that doesn't conform to township standards and keeping the mature trees on the property.

Please see TACO BELL, A2

Winds close Warren Road



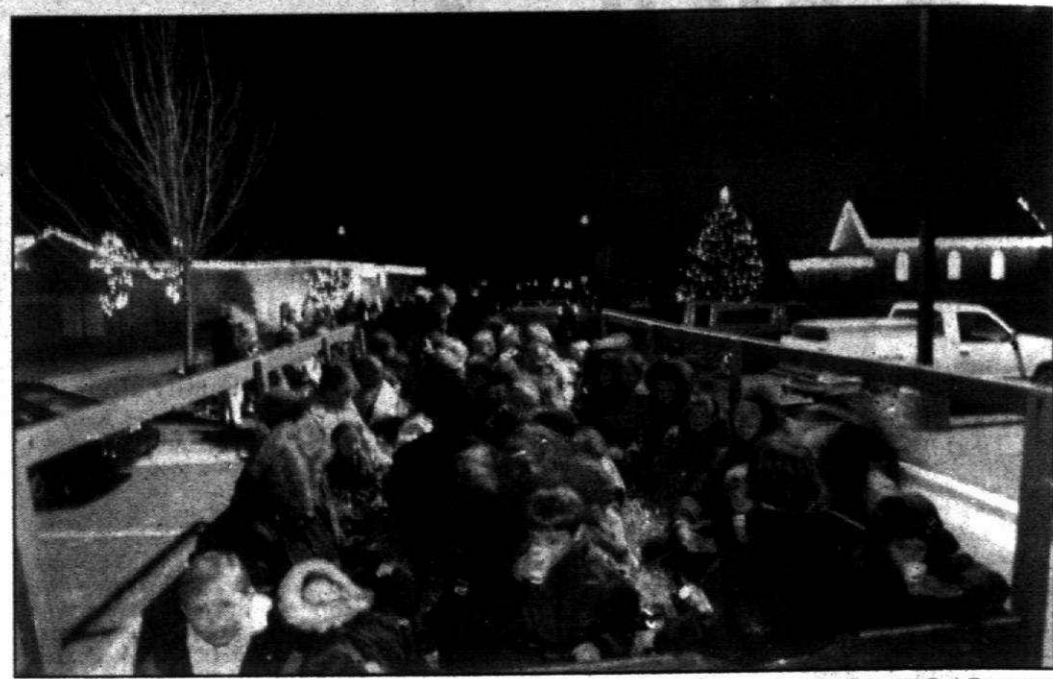
STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMAN

Low wire: An electrical pole at right leans over Warren Road east of Beck Tuesday morning, following high winds Sunday night. A spokesman from Detroit Edison said that the leaning pole was causing a wire across the road to dip too low for safe passage, forcing the road closure. For a story on area storm damage, please turn to Page A2 in today's Observer.

Tree from page A1

kids beg me," said Jean Paul of Canton. Paul, who has lived in Canton for 10 years, had four children - ranging from toddler to teen - in tow. "(Oldest son) Brian knows the truth about Santa but he enjoys it anyway," she said. Diane Gauthier and Caroline Roy, with eager children at their side, were both attending for the first time. "I'm here for my two boys (Christopher, 9, and Steve, 7)," said Gauthier. Roy's 2-year-old daughter, Jessica, tentatively peeked out from behind her mother at the clowns and other pre-tree lighting festivities. After a hasty, a cappella rendition of three songs - "Jingle Bells," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" - 10 kids picked out from behind her mother at the clowns and other pre-tree lighting festivities. After a hasty, a cappella

ants from the crowd as did Santa, who arrived appropriately enough via Canton fire engine. "The sleigh is in the workshop getting a last-minute tuneup for Christmas Eve," the bearded visitor explained. Santa then headed indoors to take Christmas requests in a receiving line that stretched from one end of the fire station to the other. Outdoor activities included hay rides, miniature train rides and an ice carving demonstration. Indoors, there were refreshments and a raffle of gift certificates from the Brighter Toys store on Canton Center Road.



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURCKMANN

Family fun: Hayrides through Heritage Park in the first Christmas-like weather of the season were a popular attraction for families. At right, Kristen Dillenbeck paints Christmas decorations on the face of Andrew Mosher, 3, following the tree lighting ceremony. Meanwhile, Santa (above, left) welcomes girls and boys and wishes them a merry Christmas.



Clowning around: Checks the Clown performs magic tricks for children inside Canton's new fire headquarters.



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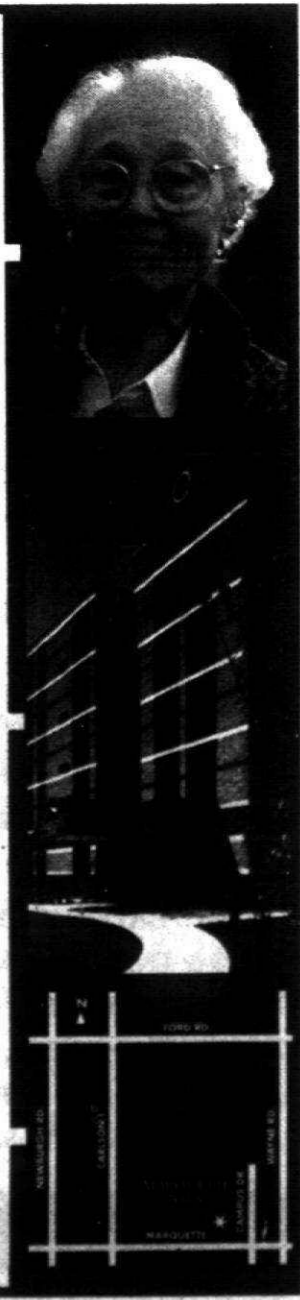
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GRAND OPENING GRAND OPENING GRAND OPENING GRAND OPENING

Most area restaurant owners don't support smoking ban

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabr@home.com.net

Last Valentine's Day, Don Payne decided to do something special for his customers. The owner of three Family Buggy restaurants, one of them in Livonia, made his Farmington Hills eatery smoke-free because he believed he had more non-smokers than smokers. But so far, the prohibition hasn't helped him financially.

"We tried it there, and the effects were devastating," Payne said, as he estimates he has lost \$70,000 in business since February. While Payne operates a non-smoking restaurant, is a non-smoker and prefers to eat without cigarette smoke permeating the air he breathes, he opposes a proposed Wayne County ordinance telling businesses they must prohibit smoking. "I just think it's a bad idea," Payne said. "Theoretically, it's a

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

"If you ban it in one county, they will drive out of the county. Businesses will suffer, and people will be out of work," Payne said. Smokers who used to patronize his Farmington Hills restaurant now go to his Livonia establishment. Despite his financial losses in Farmington Hills, Payne plans to continue the smoke-free policy in Farmington Hills but won't ban smoking from his Livonia and Rochester Hills eateries if he can help it.

Even if commissioners revised the ordinance to exempt businesses with fewer than 15 employees, that won't help Payne. He employs about 70 people in Livonia. "It doesn't take much when you count the dishwashers, waitresses and cooks and you are open all day with different shifts. Fifteen is almost a joke." Some restaurants already are smoke-free. Alissa Briggs, a bartender at Cafe Bon Homme in Plymouth,

said that restaurant has been smoke-free for six years. "Most of the customers are pleased with it," Briggs said. "We lost a couple of tables when we first started, but it really didn't impact it over time." Whether government should prohibit smoking altogether. "That's a big question," Briggs said. "I don't know. It's a big deal to the smoker, but I think it should be because of the rights

Please see RESTAURANTS, A11

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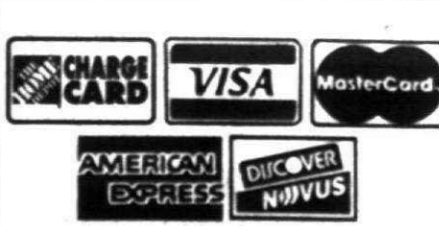
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Murder trial from page A1

in the Michigan and Haggerty area of Canton.

Aho testified that this robbery was mentioned while the shooting was planned.

Edwards' defense attorney Evan Callanan said Aho wasn't a credible witness.

"He's a lying scumbag sack of s---," he said immediately following Aho's initial testimony.

Callanan attempted to discredit Aho's testimony on grounds that he had not provided police with some vital details until late in the investigation and that he had misrepresented himself as being illiterate.

"You lied each and every time you talked to police and you did not tell them about this gathering," Callanan said, referring to a meeting at a friend's house in Taylor, where the defendants, according to witnesses, talked about killing Martell. This meeting occurred after the shooting.

Aho said, "I was scared I would have been shot and killed."

Chad Aho
—Witness for the prosecution

"I was scared I would have been shot and killed," Aho said of his hesitance to provide some details to police.

Callanan said that Aho had been misleading about not knowing how to read. Early in the



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Northville Roads
Plymouth
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45674 Ford Road
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734-207-7866



Ron Mathison
5867 N. Lilley Road
North of Ford Road
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734-981-3600



Dolly Cogal
8130 Canton Center Rd.
Across from Plymouth
Canton High School
Canton
734-454-0070

Thieves strike Bennett home

COP CALLS

Investigation, Aho reportedly said he didn't know how to read, though Callanan said he thought it was an attempt to stall the process.

"Were you just giving us a hard time?" Callanan asked Aho, who said his reading skills are improving.

"I've been learning (to read) slowly," Aho, who reportedly has completed the 11th grade, said to the court. When asked to read parts of his police statements, he stumbled over some words, including "interview."

Christopher Coyle, assistant Wayne County prosecutor, also addressed the topic of Aho's literacy during questioning.

"Do you know what the word 'specific means'? Do you know what the word 'exactly' means?" Coyle asked. Aho said "no" to both questions.

Victoria Riordan, Martell's mother, said Monday that it's been a long, painful process. So far she's attended every court proceeding pertaining to the case.

"I hope the end results (bring) what they deserve," Riordan said, referring to the suspects.

Edwards' and Leonard's trial is expected to be wrapped up either today or Friday, according to Coyle.

For the second time in about three months, township Clerk Terry Bennett's home has been the focus of a break-in.

Bennett told police someone took a \$135 leaf blower, two chain saws valued at \$700 and a generator valued at \$650 from her garage Dec. 2.

Bennett said a Belleville landscaping firm was doing brick work on her porch and was using the garage to store a variety of equipment. Two workers reportedly asked Bennett's mother-in-law, who was the only one home, to pay them but didn't provide a bill. She said she wouldn't pay without a bill and the men left. Later the items were reported taken.

Another incident was reported Labor Day weekend, when a cellular telephone was taken from a truck belonging to Bennett's husband, State Sen. Loren Bennett, and a compact disc player was taken from daughter Wendy's truck.

Drunken driving
A 36-year-old Westland woman was arrested and taken into custody Dec. 2 for operating a vehicle under the influence of liquor. She reportedly rolled her vehicle near Lotz and Lotzford and was walking down the road when stopped by a police officer. A preliminary breath test was administered, revealing a .223 blood alcohol level. Michigan's legal limit is .10.

Vehicle break-ins
Two vehicles belonging to one family were reportedly broken into Dec. 5. Taken from a 1989 Ford Bronco was an AM/FM cassette player valued at \$500 and taken from the 1992 Pontiac Grand Prix was a \$350 radio/compact disc player. Both vehicles sustained damage to the locks and interior doors. Both vehicles were parked in the 4000 block of Tamarack. Police have no suspects.

A \$700 leather jacket, a \$40 cellular phone adapter and a \$50 backpack filled with clothing of undisclosed value were reportedly taken Dec. 5 from a vehicle parked in the 1900 block of Manton. The doors were locked but a window was left open. Police have no suspects.

A \$300 cassette/stereo and a \$40 wrench set were reportedly taken Dec. 5 from a vehicle parked at an auto repair shop in the 4600 block of Ford Road.

County to run juvenile program

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabr@home.com



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I don't want to get into a yelling match with the county, but you look at the road dollars and how they refused the state to audit their accounts. I'm not convinced of the accountability of the county at this point in time," Bennett said.

Wayne County also would be allocated an \$80 million debt to the state.

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

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

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

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

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

Geake called the package "extremely controversial."

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

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

Revenue sharing bill helps suburbs, protects Detroit

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@home.com

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

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

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

The House on Dec. 3 approved a bill paring Detroit's city personal income tax over 10 years. Residents will see their rate drop from 1.5 to 1 percent, non-residents from 1.5 to 1 percent, under HB 5391. (Detroit's council and mayor could cut the tax unilaterally, but future officials could raise it again. Detroit has a special state law that permits it to levy the high rates.)

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

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

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



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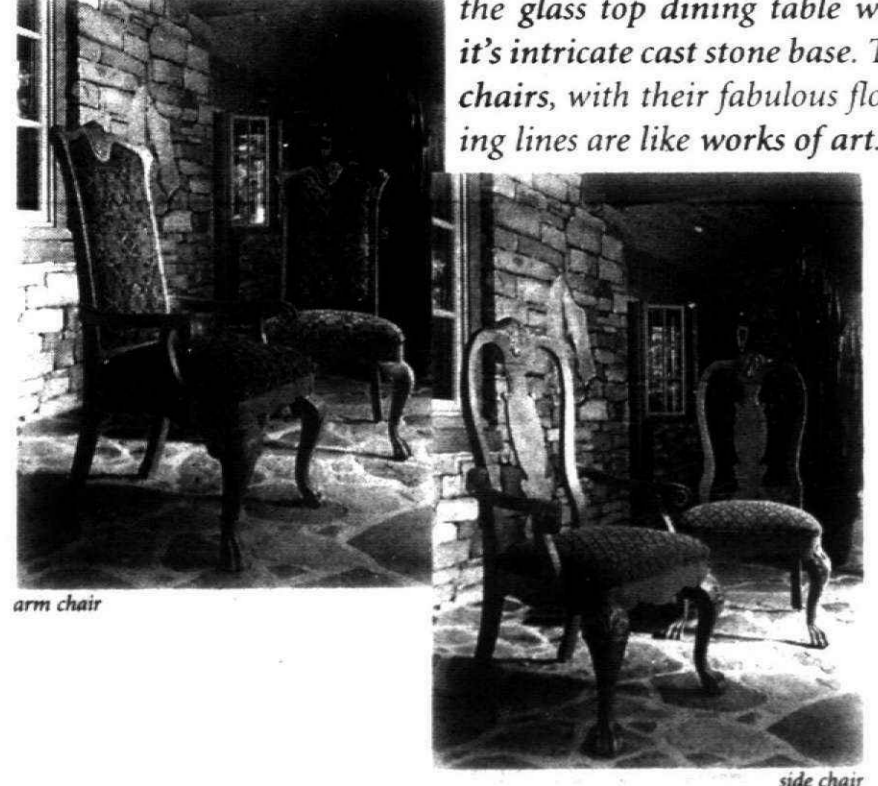
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Commissioners react to ordinance Restaurants from page A5



BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabrancyk@oe.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Wayne County Commission should not be trying to regulate the economy and businesses," McCotter said the commissioners should not act without economic studies on the possible effect on Wayne County businesses. "We can't run our own airport, now Wayne County is

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

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

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

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

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

Gatto said his establishment has no problem offering a no-smoking section and discourages people from smoking cigars. "We're in the business of taking care of people. They can eat here if they want and, if it's too smoky, they can eat somewhere else. They can work here if they want or if (the smoke) bothers them and they don't want to work here, they can quit and go down the street."

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

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

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

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

Commission committee to review smoking ban

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

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

Workplaces not subject to the ordinance include private residences, except when used as a childcare, adult care or health care facility; retail tobacco stores; public areas where bingo is held, where at least 40 percent of the seating area is designated and maintained as smoke-free.

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

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

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

Beginning Sept. 1, 1999, smoking will be reduced to no more than 20 percent of the seating capacity. Beginning March 1, 2000, there will be no designated smoking areas in restaurants.

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

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1 1/2" Oval Pitcher	\$50.00	\$25.00
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Roman, Inc.

Hot toys!

Young shoppers have long lists for Santa this season

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finding the right toy

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



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

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

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

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

High expectations

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

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

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

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

Please see TOYS, A14

MET applications available now

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

secured by the assets of the trust. Applications are available at banks, grocery stores, day care facilities, hospitals, Rite Aid stores, Secretary of State branch offices, libraries and Treasury offices. A nonrefundable \$25 fee is

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Sharing

from page A9

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

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

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

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

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

NO - Deborah Whyman, R-Canton.

ABSENT - Gerald Law, R-Plymouth.

Michigan has two revenue-sharing pieces of legislation:

- The constitution, which distributes \$558 million per year on a per-capita basis. Only the voters can change it.

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

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

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Poles - Scott Classic	\$44		
Total Retail \$589			
Skis - Salomon X-Free 08	\$420	Package Set	\$355
Bindings - Salomon Quad 600	\$180		
Poles - Scott Classic	\$44		
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Bindings - Salomon Quad 300	\$120		
Poles - Scott Storm	\$29		
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Poles - Scott Classic	\$44		
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Toys from page A12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Madonna business students win top honors

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

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

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

master's degree in quality and operations management.

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

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

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



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

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

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

semesters. Additionally, 63 students have completed 40 semester hours in the major, 30 semester hours at Madonna University and 15 hours within the past

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

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

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

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

Westland residents Michael Baker and Albert Fucirelli also received awards.

Special toy: Alex Smith, 3, listens to her C Watch tell her the time and then say, "You Go Girl!"

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Lisa Harston-LeDoux, MD, is a board-certified specialist in Internal Medicine. She earned her medical degree at the University of Illinois, and completed residencies at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center and its AIDS Specialty Clinic. As a resident, Dr. Harston-LeDoux received the Applause Award for Excellent Customer Service, the Outstanding Resident Award, and Resident of the Year Award. She is a member of the American Medical Association and the National Medical Association.
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Seat belt use up slightly - study

Michigan's just-released safety belt use rate is up only slightly from last year, according to a survey conducted by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). Use of safety belts is 69.9 percent in 1998 versus 67.6 percent in 1997. The national rate in 1997 was 67.6 percent. This is the first year Michigan and other states are reporting safety belt use rates as the average for passenger vehicles, sport utility vehicles, vans-minivans and pickup trucks. Lowest rate of usage is among

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Arson from page A1

As a result of an arson fire on Oct. 16, principal Patricia Patton spent last Friday morning with Canton Fire Marshal Dave Champagne, outlining plans to produce videos designed to alert students to the dangers of arson. Shortly after she returned to the school, the second arson fire in less than two months again forced the evacuation of Canton High School.

Last Friday, a paper towel dispenser was set on fire in a girls' bathroom on the first floor, causing approximately \$3,000 in damages. Patton said two short videos will be produced over the holiday break, and will be played for all students when they come back for second semester in January.

After the second arson fire, I heard a lot of parents talking to the part of students against those who are setting the fires. Students don't like being taken away from what they're doing and being put in a dangerous situation," said Patton. "We're hoping to educate students on the dangers and consequences of setting fires in public buildings."

Two 17-year-old students have been expelled from school and are facing arson charges in Wayne County Circuit Court for the Oct. 16 fire. "What we want to do is provide feedback to kids to show them how serious fire is, and the explanation and ramifications of the smoke and fumes," added Siegel.

Recount from page A1

McLaughlin asked that the vote be recounted in every community except for Canton, where she defeated Sullivan on her home turf. A total of 57 precincts encompass the 11th District, which includes the cities of Belleville, Romulus and Wayne and the townships of Canton, Sumpter, Van Buren and Huron.

McLaughlin said. "It's not the best way to spend a Tuesday night." She said her loss put her in the same category as former Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole and former President George Bush.

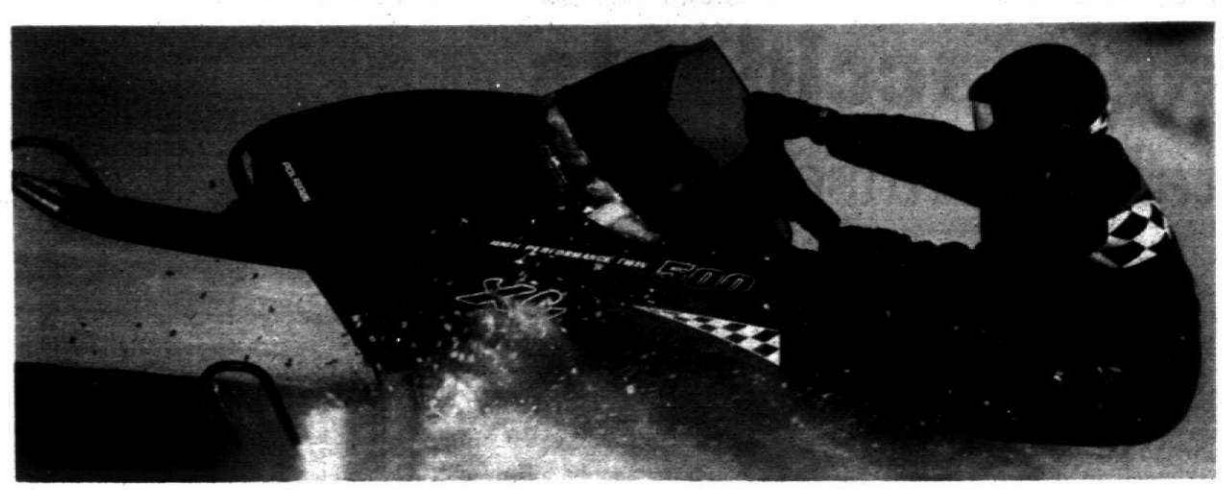
McLaughlin needed 25 votes to swing the election her way. She took the news of the recount fall, and in stride, as she did her election day loss. "Losing an election is no fun," she said.

OBITUARIES

Services for Marie Greene, 83, of Plymouth were Dec. 2 in the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with the Rev. John Sullivan officiating. She was born May 22, 1915, in Nebraska. She died Nov. 29 in Livonia. She was a homemaker. She was a clerk-typist for Wayne County, retiring in 1975.

Services for Ester K. Harris, 95, of Howard, S.D., were Dec. 3 in the Vermeulen Funeral Home with the Rev. Dr. William C. Moore officiating. She was born Aug. 24, 1903, in Minden, Iowa. She died Nov. 30 in Ann Arbor. She was a homemaker. She was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

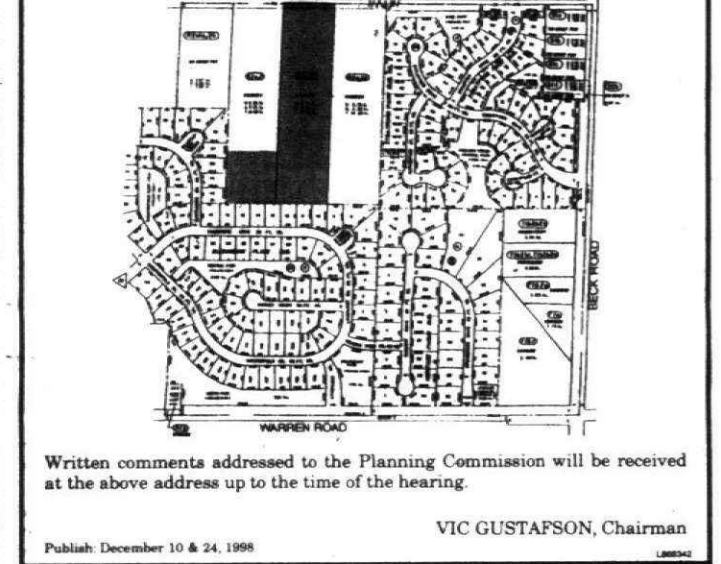
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CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 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 4, 1999, 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.



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

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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.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS. A Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, December 3, 1998 at 1150 South Canton Center Road. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Section 14. [Reserved] Section 15 and 16. Insurance, Liability and Indemnification. These provisions require a telecommunications provider to provide and maintain certain insurance coverages, to name the Township as an additional insured, and to indemnify the Township against liability arising from the acts or omissions of the provider.

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Section 17. Other Provisions Not Waived. The Township reserves its police powers to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and reserves the right of reasonable control of the Public Utility Easements and Rights of Way pursuant to the Michigan Constitution.

Section 21. Other Provisions Not Waived. The Township reserves its police powers to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and reserves the right of reasonable control of the Public Utility Easements and Rights of Way pursuant to the Michigan Constitution.

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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.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS. A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, December 1, 1998 at 1150 South Canton Center Road. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Expansion Ms. Bilbrey-Honowetz said that the critical areas for expansion were the fitness center and the locker rooms, the family locker room and the maintenance space. She would like to see one more meeting room added on to the Summit.

POINTS OF VIEW

Tree search bears strong resemblance to a beauty contest

It may well be that some of the romance has gone out of this affair, but what can you expect after so many years? The allure and intrigue of this oft-repeated ritual have dropped off a bit in favor of more practical considerations. Now, instead of eyeing some beauty from afar, then moving in closer until the fragrance fills my nose, and finally observing the suppleness of the limbs, I now buy my Christmas tree at one of those huge home improvement centers.

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



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

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

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

Tragic accidents
Fatalities raise serious issues

Tragedy is magnified when it strikes close to the holidays. The Observer joins the community in mourning two area residents killed in separate car-pedestrian accidents on Canton roads during the past month. Our prayers and wishes go out to the families of Dianne Alf and Tiffany Morante.

Still, difficult as it may be, there is a need to examine underlying issues in these incidents. We speak of inadequate lighting in suburban neighborhoods, drinking and driving and personal responsibility regarding alcohol consumption.

Morante, a 21-year-old Plymouth resident and 1995 Salem High School graduate, had just come home from Michigan State University during the Thanksgiving break. She was struck by a motorist while crossing Ford Road about 2 a.m. Nov. 26. Both Morante and the driver, a 27-year-old Northville man, had come from Bailey's Pub, about a mile away in the Kroger shopping center. (They weren't together and apparently didn't know each other, police said.) The driver, whose blood-alcohol level registered .08 - impaired but not legally drunk - faces possible criminal charges.

There have been several high-profile, campus drinking incidents this fall - including two other deaths. Thanksgiving weekend, which marks the first extended vacation for students since the start of the semester, always seems to be a big excuse to party. Testing personal boundaries is part of the college experience. But we'd like to see peers exercise more responsibility more often, instead of contributing to bad behavior choices.

And it's frustrating, almost incomprehensible really, that society is still struggling in its effort to get a better handle on drunken driving after 20 years of the MADD/SADD campaign. We've seen more informed judges, stricter sentencing laws and more education in high school, but obviously still have a way to go.

Meanwhile, poor road conditions, particularly lighting, are more noticeable as Canton's population and vehicle traffic expand.

Alf, 57, was apparently walking her dog in her Sheldon Road neighborhood Nov. 14 when she was struck by a car shortly after 7:30 p.m., police said. The accident occurred on the Sheldon Center/Canton Center connector at Charrington, a stretch of road that police and others say is poorly lit, with only a few businesses and the backs of homes throwing off illumination. Alf may have run into the road to corral her Dalmatian, Spot, police believe. The driver, a 48-year-old Canton woman, wasn't at fault, police said.

There have been four fatalities involving a pedestrian or bicyclist being struck by a car or van during 1998 and police believe dark roads may have contributed to at least three of them. Ronald Cowan, 28, of Ypsilanti was killed in a hit-and-run crash last January while bicycling along Michigan Avenue, near Beck. Police believe numerous drivers passed by unaware as Cowan and his crumpled bike lay in a ditch by the side of the dimly lit road.

The poor or non-existent street lighting is an unacceptable leftover from Canton's rural past. Lighting improvements need to be part of any reworked master plan for township roads and streets as Canton continues to grow.

Goodfellows gear up for the holidays



Paper drive: John Spencer sells newspapers for the Canton Goodfellows Saturday outside of the used sports equipment sale at Pheasant Run Golf Course Clubhouse. The organization is also raffling off a handmade quilt and accepting additional donations to help area disadvantaged families celebrate Christmas. For information, call (734) 397-8975.

'Zero' common sense

The case of Greg Lankford illustrates the foolish results of a "zero tolerance" policy. In Greg Lankford's case, as reported in the past Observer, Greg wore his DARE jacket to school, and then discovered that his stepfather had inadvertently left a pack of cigarettes in the pocket. Greg dutifully turned the cigarettes in to his teacher. For his honesty, Greg was rewarded with a suspension. The administration explained that the possession of cigarettes is a violation of the district's zero tolerance policy on drugs. Apparently, Greg was punished not because they didn't believe his alibi, but because there is no such thing as an alibi under a zero tolerance policy.

In our school district, zero tolerance means that all offenses in a particular category are treated the same, regardless of the circumstances. A student who finds someone else's cigarettes in his pocket, or who brings a Tylenol to school, is treated the same as a student caught with cocaine.

Zero tolerance means that administrators abdicate their responsibility to use their judgment and deal with the situation as appropriate under the circumstances. We should expect that the administrator would consider the nature and seriousness of the offense, whether the student is a repeat offender, whether another student was hurt or threatened, and (certainly) whether the student was knowingly and intentionally violating some school rule. None of these factors are considered under a zero tolerance policy. Zero tolerance is the opposite of the time-honored policy of letting the punishment fit the crime.

Since we pay administrators for their judgment and experience, we should demand that they use it, and not hide behind a "zero tolerance" mantra as an excuse for not using common sense.

Wrong message

I am fuming mad at the article I just read in the Observer! I can't even begin to find the words that even partially describe my outrage at our school administrators. I'm referring to the (Nov. 22) article, "Mixed Messages: D.A.R.E. student suspended for honesty". With all of the double-talk, dishonesty, and just plain garbage that fills my children's world every day, now I have to explain why they might get into trouble for taking something harmful they find to their teacher???

Do we really hire administrators who are this stupid? People who don't have enough brain cells to examine an issue and reward honesty and integrity over some legalistic wording? Someone ought to inform our school administration that one of the reasons we have authorities is to apply the spirit and intentions of rules and laws, to judge right and wrong.

At no point does it appear there was any question that the items involved belonged to the child. The boy got figuratively slapped for doing the right thing, and you can bet every other kid in that school will remember it. I pray some child doesn't pass over a weapon or something truly harmful they may find on school grounds for fear of getting expelled!

I expect outrage on the part of our school board. This principal should stand in front of that entire school, admit her mistake, and apologize to every honest student in that school. But that would take character, a backbone and a brain. I'm sure we'll hear no apologies or admitting of mistakes. Once again it will be our perception problem and not their behavior. I can't wait to find another community in which to raise my children. A community that actually demonstrates honesty and principles, even to go as far as to admit a mistake (you know, one of those things we try to tell our children to do).

My only objection to the Observer's coverage was that it should have been titled "Wrong Message!"

George S. Shea
Plymouth

David Bard
Canton

We're shortchanged at the mall

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

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

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

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

Contributing factors undoubtedly include the current labor shortage, which affects low-paying service jobs more severely. But global competition, mergers and the squeeze on retailers' bottom lines have an impact as well.

In fact, real customer service has now become the domain of a few, high-end department stores and specialty shops. Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom have carved out reputations based on going the extra mile for their clientele.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION: Have you visited or are you planning on going to the new Great Lakes Crossing Mall in Auburn Hills?



"I plan on going but it's been too busy lately."



"No, I haven't been up there yet but I'd like to go one time before Christmas."



"No interest at all. My wife does the shopping."



"No, I really don't plan on going."

Canton Observer

TEDD SCHNEIDER, COMMUNITY EDITOR, 734-459-2700
SUSAN ROSEK, MANAGING EDITOR, OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS, 734-953-2149
HUGH GALLAGHER, ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR, 734-953-2118
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- Philip Power

Downtowns a vital part of community health, well-being

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

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

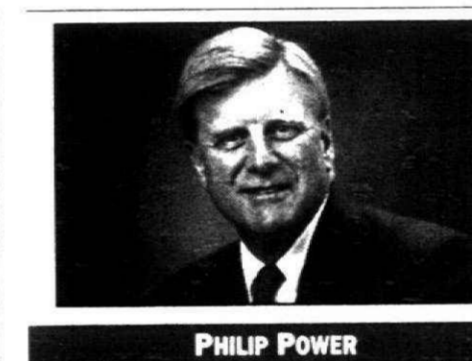
This year's special is a British Ferret Mark I armored car. "Carries a crew of two; one of two 'friendly' people may be added to the commander's seat for cruising around the ranch." If you hurry, you can still get delivery in time for Christmas as only \$25,000.

So much for this year's monument to materialism.

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

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

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



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

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Families celebrate at Nankin Mills



PHOTOS BY BON POKNEY

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

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

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

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

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



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

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COMMON SENSORS



JACQUE MARTIN-DOWNS

P.E.T. helps kids develop brain power

I met a woman several years ago who told me a sad story which could have been titled, "The Child That Wasn't Wanted." She told me about her unplanned pregnancy and lethargic attitude about taking care of herself during the pregnancy, mainly because she didn't want the baby. So, she drank, she smoked, she ate junk food, she stayed up all night with friends and took little interest in staying healthy for the baby. She talked about the depression she felt when the baby came and how she would ignore the baby's needs for a time before changing her and giving her a bottle. She talked about how the baby grew, and although she was cute, the mom hated her whining and seemingly endless crying. She remembers thinking: "I didn't like her father and she reminds me too much of him." So she ignored her. When her second baby arrived, she admitted that she acted completely different with him. The sadness I heard in her story was only heightened by the sadness I felt for the little girl. This little girl did not ask to be born, and yet, now

Please see SENSORS, B2

Festival of Lights

Jewish congregations prepare for Hanukkah

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eight-day celebration

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

Please see PARADE, B2

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Religion from page B7

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

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

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

The choral drama will feature the Celebration Choir, soloists and drama ministry of Calvary Baptist in telling how the innkeeper's wife and one of the magi discover in their own ways the significance of the newborn "King of the Jews."
There will be a separate Christmas party for children during the 8 p.m. Dec. 18 performance, and a nursery will be available at all performances.

WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

in accordance with Budget Adjustment Nos. 98-35-180, 98-35-181, and 98-35-182.
The hearing will be held:
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1998, 10:00 a.m.
Wayne County Building
600 Randolph, Commission Chambers
Detroit, Michigan
Copies of the above items may be obtained or reviewed at the Commission Clerk's Office, 406 Wayne County Building, 600 Randolph, Detroit 48226. (313) 224-0903.
Publish: December 10, 1998

Call (734) 465-0022.
LIVE NATIVITY
Fair Haven Baptist Church will have a living Nativity at 7 and 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 17-18, at the church, 34850 Marquette, east of Wayne Road, Westland. The display is free of charge. For more information, call the church at (734) 728-4549.

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

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

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST
Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance to divorced and separated Christians, will have a White Elephant gift exchange at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, Haggerty south of Five Mile, Plymouth Township.
The group meets regularly on Sundays for breakfast and Mass - 10 a.m. at the Redford Inn, Five Mile west of Beech Daly, Redford, and at 11:15 a.m. at St. Aidan's Church, 17500 Farmington Road (north of Six Mile), Livonia - call Val at (734) 729-1974 - for coffee and conversation at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Archie's Family Restaurant, 30471 Plymouth Road, Livonia, and for pinocchle at 7 p.m. every other Friday - call Rose at (734) 464-3325.

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

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

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

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

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

THRIFT SHOP
The Thrift Shop sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth has opened its new location at 494 N. Mill St., one block north of Plymouth road.

Plymouth. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call the store at (734) 459-1250 or e-mail the church at fpcp@uno.com

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

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

6 women join UM-D sorority

Six western Wayne County women were among 16 recently initiated into Delta Phi Epsilon International Sorority at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. The women, who successfully completed a six-week educational stint, represent the excellent academic and social standards of the sorority. The new members include Melissa Carabott, Kate Kings-

bury and Danielle Voyles of Canton, Kerri Klinck of Garden City, Jennifer Kesler of Livonia and Jeannie Castillo of Westland. Delta Phi Epsilon was founded in 1917 at New York University's School of Law. There are now 80 chapters in the United States with more than 32,000 initiated members. UM-D's Alpha Mu chapter was founded in 1989.

WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wayne County Commission Permanent Subcommittee on Veterans Services will hold a public hearing to consider:
An Enrolled Ordinance introduced by Commissioner Beard to establish guidelines for benefits provided for the relief of indigent Veterans of Wars and military expeditions in which the United States has or shall take part. (98-88-012)
The hearing will be held:
Wednesday, December 16, 1998
10:00 a.m.
600 Randolph St. Room 402
Wayne County Building
Detroit, Michigan
Copies of the proposed ordinance may be reviewed at the Commission Clerk's Office, 406 Wayne County Building, 600 Randolph, Detroit, MI 48226. (313) 224-0903.
Publish: December 10, 1998

WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wayne County Commission, Committee of the Whole, will hold a public hearing on the following:
An Ordinance to provide for smoke-free work environments in public and private facilities in order to protect the health of all Wayne County residents.
At its meeting held:
Tuesday, December 15, 1998, 10:00 a.m.
Wayne County Commissioner, Hearing Room 402
600 Randolph, Detroit, MI 48226
Copies of the above items may be obtained or reviewed at the Commission Clerk's Office, 406 Wayne County Building, 6000 Randolph, Detroit, MI 48226. (313) 224-0903.
Publish: December 10, 1998

There are ways to cope with holidays for those who grieve

The holidays are an especially difficult time for someone who has lost a loved one. Each and every holiday tradition serves as a reminder of happier times.
Cathy Clough, director of bereavement services for Arbor Hospice, has a few suggestions that have helped people who are grieving cope with the holiday season.
Since family get-togethers may be extremely difficult, Clough suggests people be honest about their feelings. They should sit down with the family and decide what they want to do for the holiday season.
"Don't set expectations too high for yourself or the day," Clough said. "If you wish things to be the same, you are going to be disappointed. Undertake only what each family member is able to handle comfortably."
There's no right or wrong way to handle the day. Some people may wish to follow family traditions; others may choose to change them, Clough said. But what people choose to do the first year doesn't have to be done the next.
"The more you try to make it the same as it was before, the more obvious your loved one's absence will be," Clough said.
Other things people can do:
■ Keep in mind the feelings of your children or other family members. Try to make the holiday season as joyous as possible for them.
■ Be careful of "shoulds." It is better to do what is most helpful for you and your family. If a situation looks especially difficult over the holidays, try not to get involved.
■ Set limits. Realize that it isn't going to be easy. Doing things that are very special and important to you. Do the best you can.
■ Once you have decided how you and your family will handle the holidays, let friends and relatives know.
■ Emotionally, physically and psychologically, the holidays are draining. You need every bit of strength, so try to get enough rest.
■ One possibility for the first year may be to visit relatives or friends or even go away on vacation. Planning, packing and the like keeps your mind somewhat off the holiday and you share the time in a different and, hopefully, less painful setting. If you feel you need to be home on Christmas Day, make plans to leave the next morning.


■ Consider not sending or cutting back on your cards this year. It is not necessary to send cards, especially to those people you will see over the holidays. You might consider sending a Christmas letter, sharing your loss and your appreciation of those who are there for you.
■ Holidays may magnify feelings of loss of a loved one. It is important and natural to experience the sadness that comes. To block such feelings is unhealthy.

Keep the positive memory of your loved one alive.
■ Don't forget: Anticipation of any holiday is so much worse than the actual holiday.
"Often after the first year, people in your life may expect you to be 'over it,'" Clough added. "We are never over it, but the experience of many bereaved is that eventually they enjoy the holiday again. Hold onto to that hope."
Clough also has some tips for friends and family members of the grieving person:
■ Do talk about the person who died. Grieving individuals feel worse if you don't. It makes them feel others didn't care about him or her.
■ Do include them in your holiday card list. In that card, mention their loved one and how he or she is missed. If you have a picture of that person or a special memory, share it.
■ Do include your bereaved friends in your family gatherings. Setting extra plates for dinner is a simple thing for you to do and means a lot to the person who is grieving. Don't assume that others are including them. Give them a chance to decide if they are up to it or not.
■ Do call your bereaved friends on Christmas morning and tell them you're thinking of them. Bereaved individuals, even those surrounded by family, need to know that others care and are thinking of them on special days.
■ Do give your grieving

friends options. Instead of saying, "Call me if you need me," say, "We can go to dinner Friday or I'll make dinner for you. Which would you prefer?"
■ Do offer to help them with their Christmas shopping this year or offer to take their young children shopping. Grieving individuals often find it difficult and overwhelming to go places where holiday cheer is evident and expected.

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

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Gibson holds annual girls' conference



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

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

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

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

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

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

The cost is \$7 per person and includes lunch and refreshment. Pre-registration is required due to limited seating. To register or for more information, call the school at (313) 547-8688.

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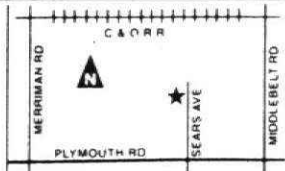
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Historical museum
to hold workshops

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hudson's from page B3

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

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

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

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

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

The store may be gone, but not

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

Cheryl Andrzejewski
-remembering Hudson's

the memories.

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

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

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

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

BIRMINGHAM GROVES
Class of 1969
A reunion is planned for July 17 and a reunion picnic for July 18.

BISHOP BORGESS
Class of 1989
A reunion is planned for August 1999.

CHERRY HILL
Class of 1983
Reunion and alumni family picnic is planned for August.

DEARBORN FORDSON
Class of 1989
Aug. 14 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club, Westland.

DETROIT CENTRAL
January-June classes of 1944
May 23 at the Hotel Baromette, Novi.

DETROIT COOLEY
Class of 1950
A reunion is being planned.

DETROIT PERSHING
Classes of 1949-53
Are planning a reunion.

DETROIT REDFORD
Class of 1949
May 15 at Plum Hollow Country Club.

DETROIT SOUTHEASTERN
Class of 1959
A reunion is planned for Sept. 26.

DETROIT WESTERN
Class of 1949
Is planning a reunion.

GARDEN CITY WEST
Class of 1968
A reunion is planned for September 1999.

HENRY FORD TRADE
Class of 1949
A reunion is planned for June 1999.

HIGHLAND PARK
Class of 1969
Is planning a reunion.

LADYWOOD
Class of 1988
March 13 at the Italian-American Club of Livonia.

LIVONIA BENTLEY
Class of 1964
July 24 at the Holiday, Laurel Park, Livonia.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Class of 1979
Aug. 7 at the DoubleTree Suites, Southfield.

NORTH FARMINGTON
Oct. 2 at the Double Tree Suites, Southfield.

NORTHVILLE
Class of 1979
July 10 at Italian America Club, Livonia.

PLYMOUTH CANTON
Class of 1979
Aug. 7 at the Holiday Inn-West in Livonia.

PLYMOUTH
Class of 1989
Aug. 6-8 at the Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi.

PLYMOUTH
Class of 1949
Is planning a reunion for September 1999.

PLYMOUTH
Class of 1979
Aug. 28 at the Somerset Inn, Troy.

PLYMOUTH
Class of 1979
Aug. 14 at DoubleTree Guest Suites, Southfield.

PLYMOUTH
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Arbor Hospice support group aids widowed

Arbor Hospice has a group for young widows and widowers who are under age 46. It meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month at the First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth Township.

For more information about the group and other age- and loss-specific programs for adults and children offered by Arbor Hospice, call (800) 783-5764 or the Arbor Center in Northville at (248) 348-4980.

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ANNIVERSARIES



Kenny

Raymond and Elenor Kenny Sr. of Lake City, Mich., recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at St. Edith Catholic Church in Livonia and a dinner reception, hosted by their children, at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland.

The couple met at the Third Order of St. Francis in Detroit. They were married at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Dearborn on Sept. 25, 1948. She

is the former Elenor Schneider. They have 10 children - Kevin and wife Claudia of Holly, Karen Dei and husband Tim of Brighton, Joseph and wife Anne of Plymouth, Carol Selleck and husband Ronald of Livonia, Eileen Kenny and husband Matt Schneider of Westland, Maureen Kenny of Dearborn, Shawn of Cadillac, Ray Jr. and wife Jeanine of Westland, Timothy and wife Joy of Detroit and Terry of Dearborn.

They also have 13 grandchildren.

McQuesten

Richard and Jean McQuesten of Livonia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at a reception at the Scotsdale Apartments clubhouse in Westland on Oct. 30.

They also renewed their vows on Nov. 1 at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Livonia. Their son, the Rev. Mark McQuesten, officiated.

The couple exchanged vows on Oct. 30, 1948, at St. Mary

Catholic Church in London, Ontario, Canada. She is the former Jean Smith.

They have four children - the Rev. Mark of Norway, Mich., Gail of London, Ontario, Janice of Westland and Kurt of Miami, Fla. - and nine grandchildren.

Retired four years, he was a traffic manager for Don Cartage Co. for 24 years. She is a homemaker.

Their hobbies include dancing, bowling and travel.



Jacobs

Frank and Ginger Jacobs of Moran, Mich., formerly of Livonia, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a dinner and show at the Detroit Opera House.

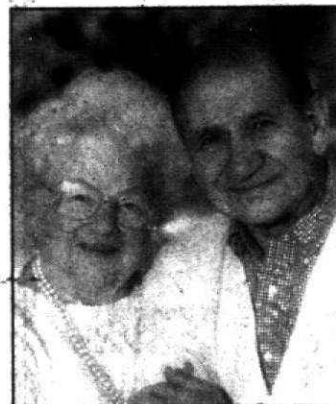
The couple exchanged vows on Oct. 8, 1938, at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church in Detroit. She is the former Ginger Dybas.

The couple has four married children - Eileen Urick and husband Michael of Livonia, Ronald and wife Laurie of Grosse Ile, Donna Yergler and husband Kary of Laguna Hills, Calif., and

Richard and wife Liz of Belleville. They also have five grandchildren.

He retired from the Ford Motor Co. Rouge plant after 40 years in supervision and was active in the Knights of Columbus in Livonia. She also worked for Ford before becoming a homemaker.

They enjoy bowling and are members of St. Michael's Parish in Livonia, where they lived for 35 years. They also enjoy traveling and quality time with their grandchildren.



Thomas

Wayne and Phyllis Thomas of Westland celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by repeating their vows on Oct. 24 at the First Baptist Church of Garden City.

The ceremony was followed by refreshments on the lower level of the church.

The Thomases exchanged vows on Oct. 30, 1948, at the same church. She is the former Phyllis Horchem.

He retired in 1987 from the Ford Motor Co.'s Livonia Transmission Plant. She was a dental assistant for Dr. Francis Schmitt.

Their hobbies include collecting stamps, coins, post cards and antiques.



Burke

Jerry and June Burke of Redford celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by gathering with family members for Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church and dinner at Hawthorne Gardens. The couple exchanged vows on Oct. 9, 1948, at St. Theresa Church in Detroit. She is the former June Berry.

The couple has four children - Kevin and Diane, both of Livonia, and Sue and Michael, both of Redford. They also have seven grandchildren.



Gutowski

Ed and Cindi Gutowski celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with family and friends on Oct. 12.

They have two children, Adam and Sara.

The son of Jane and Theodore Gutowski of Livonia, he is currently employed with Chrysler Corp. The daughter of Helen and Samuel Hassen of Dearborn Heights, she is employed by the Livonia Public School District.

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**OBSERVER
SPORTS
SCENE**

Kicks advance

The Plymouth Kicks '89, an under-10 boys select indoor soccer team, finished first in Group A and reached the finals of the Detroit Regional Tournament for the North American Indoor Soccer Championships last weekend at the Total Soccer locations in Wixom and Fraser.

The Kicks had shutout wins over Red Star, from Georgia, and USL Team United, and also beat the San Marino Cougars in Group A play. They met Vardar, the Group B winner, in the regional final and had a 2-0 lead but lost 3-2. Both teams advance to the national indoor championships next February in Cleveland.

Kicks team members are Grant Blakey, Paul Carhini, Kevin Costa, Josh Hammond, Gabe Hicks, Andrew Koet, Matt Kulczycki, Ryan Langdon, Alex Lumley, Mike Marek, Danny McLaughlin, Blaine Paden, Jeff Selasky, Nick Vella, Brian Walsh and Brett Windecker. The team is coached by Rich Kulczycki and Paul Lumley.

Malewski All-America

Madonna University sophomore middle hitter Brandy Malewski (Redford Thurston) was recently named NAIA second-team All-America after leading the Lady Crusaders to a 44-7 season.

Malewski, who led Madonna to a 12-0 regular season record in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and a WHAC championship, recorded 589 kills (3.25 per game) and a .403 hitting percentage.

She also led the team in all blocking categories, including 112 solo blocks, 355 assist-blocks and 2.58 blocks per game.

Scholars recognized

Senior Rayna Vert (Flint Carmen-Ainsworth) and junior Deanne Helsom (Grand Blanc) were both named to the NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete team in women's volleyball.

Vert, an outside hitter majoring in Elementary Education, has maintained a 3.62 cumulative grade-point average. She was also named first-team All-WHAC and All-Great Lakes Region after finishing second on the team with 2.53 per game. Vert also led the Crusaders in digs with 528.

Helsom, a setter majoring in Communications, carries a 3.5 GPA. She averaged better than 11 assists per game and led Madonna with 79 service aces en route to second-team All-WHAC honors.

In women's soccer, Madonna junior midfielder Vimbai Tsodzo (Zimbabwe) and junior forward Angie Negri (Flint Powers) both made the NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete Team.

Zsodzo, majoring in Dietetics, carries a 3.66 GPA. She played in all games for the Crusaders.

Negri, majoring in Nursing, sports a 3.57 GAP. She tallied one assist and played in all 16 games.

All-America Scholar-Athletes must be at least a junior and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better.

College standouts

Jared Biniiecki, a junior at Central Michigan University from Plymouth Salem, competed for the Chippewas at the NCAA Division I men's cross country championships Nov. 23 in Lawrence, Kan.

Biniiecki was CMU's seventh runner, placing 205th in the team race and 242nd overall. He completed the 10,000-meter course in 35:08.6.

CMU was 20th in the 31-team field with 476 points.

Wayne State's women's basketball team slipped to 1-5 overall, 0-3 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, with a 78-61 loss to Northern Michigan last Saturday.

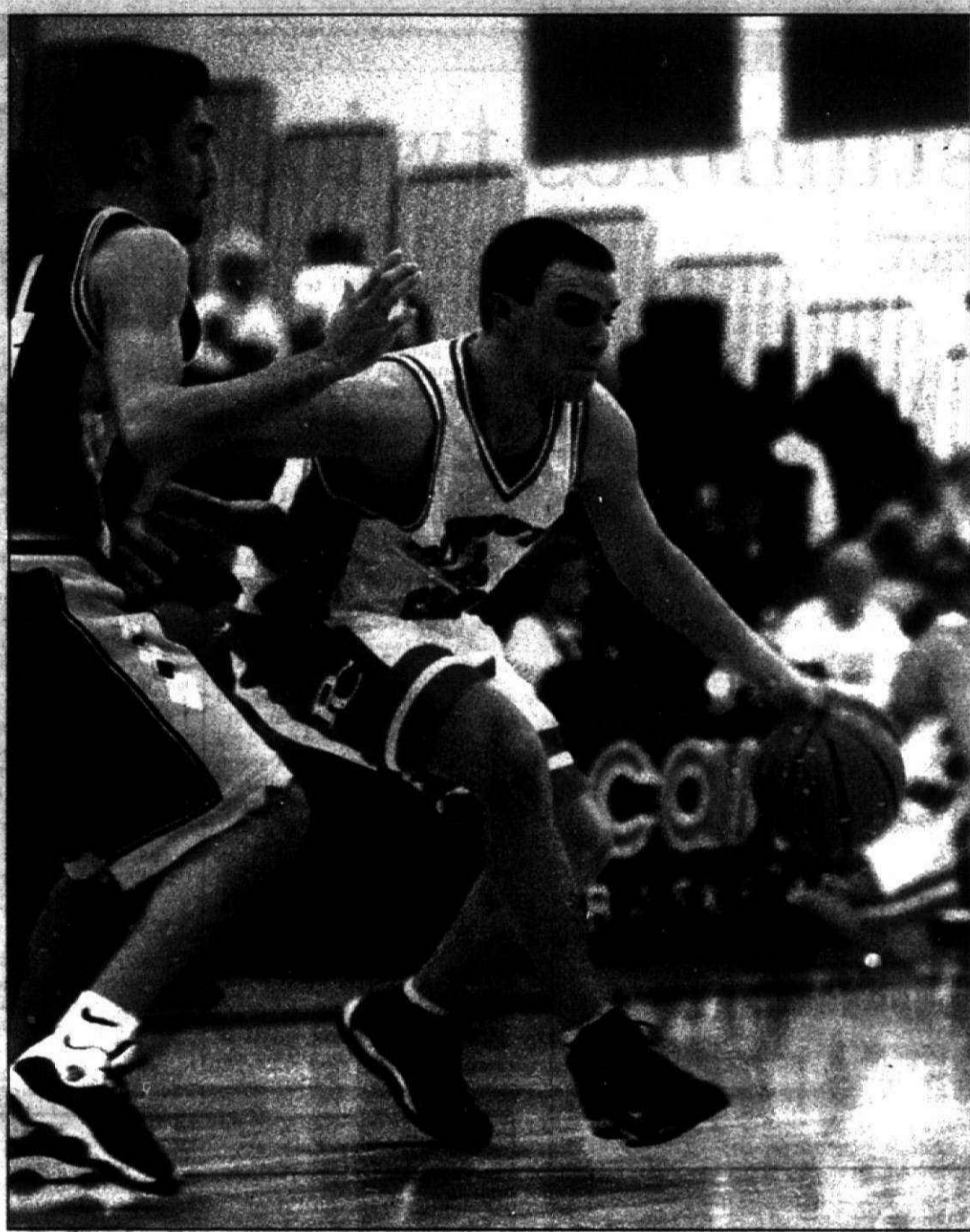
Sarah Warnke, a junior forward from Plymouth Canton HS, came off the bench to score 11 points and grab six rebounds for the Lady Tartars.

Travel baseball tryouts

The Michigan Indians Baseball Club's Pee Wee Reese Division travel team (11-year-olds, born after July 31, 1987) is searching for three serious young players to fill its roster for the 1999 season. Indoor practice clinics begin in January. The season will consist of approximately 60 games.

For more information, call Nick Marrone evenings at (734) 459-0695.

Canton opens with OT win



BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

As first games go, it was a first game. Plymouth Canton struggled past ragged Wayne Memorial, 55-53, on Scott Samulski's tip-in with 12 seconds left in overtime Tuesday night to get the boys basketball season started for both teams.

The Chiefs and Zebras both had moments of quality play as they began their annual searches for a team identity.

"We made a million mistakes," Coach Chuck Henry of Wayne said, "and he (Coach Dan Young of Canton) probably felt his kids did too."

Both teams had the game "won" at various points but it took a buzzer-beater of at least 32 feet by Canton junior Jim Reddy to send the contest into overtime.

Taron Smith's pair of free throws with 16 seconds to play in regulation gave Wayne a 51-46 lead.

Reddy made two free throws with eight seconds left to pull the Chiefs up to 51-48. The Zebras missed the front end of a 1-and-1 with five seconds left and Canton called a quick timeout.

The Chiefs inbounded the ball to Joe Cortellini, who drove to the top of the key and dished off to Reddy when met by two Zebras. Reddy's shot was in the air when the buzzer sounded and it went through the rim like being pulled by a string.

Smith knocked in a shot from the right baseline at 2:27 of overtime to start Wayne out with a 53-51 lead but the Zebras, who turned the ball 11 times after holding a 45-37 lead with 4:41 left in regulation, couldn't score again.

Jason Waidman, who led all scorers with 22 points, made a free throw with 1:16 left to make it 53-52 and Joe Cortellini's free throw with 45 seconds to play tied the score.

Canton got the ball back on a turnover and missed a shot. But Samulski skied at just the right time and tipped the ball off the palm of his left hand. It nestled softly into the basket to break the tie.

Wayne's three-point attempt as time expired was off the mark.

"We did a great job of making plays when we had to," Young said, "and we really picked up our defense down the stretch."

Wayne's three-guard offense and pressure defense led to an 18-12 third quarter that contributed nearly put Canton out of the game. The Zebras led, 36-27, at one point.

"We're small," Henry said, "so we have to be a perimeter-oriented team. We have to be to give ourselves a chance to win."

The Zebras tried putting their two bigger players on the perimeter and cutting the guards underneath late in the game but that didn't net much.

Wayne was head, 15-11, after the first period but trailed, 23-21 at halftime. Canton got back into the game with an 8-3 run to end the third quarter and

Please see CANTON HOOP, C3

Big gun: Canton's Jason Waidman (with ball) could not be contained by Wayne's Justin Goins or any of the other Zebras Tuesday. The junior forward finished with a team-leading 22 points.

PCA starts with a runaway victory

The first game of the boys basketball season wasn't much of a test for Plymouth Christian Academy.

BASKETBALL

The Eagles led 18-8 after one quarter and 41-15 at the half. A 26-9 surge in the third quarter put Macomb behind, 67-24.

One good reason for Taylor's optimism is junior Derek Isensee. The 6-foot-3 junior led PCA, which finished 14-7 in 1997-98, in scoring (17.6) and rebounding (9.4) last season. "He's just going to be phenomenal,"

promised Taylor.

There's more, however. Even though the Eagles lost nine players to graduation, the likes of Isensee and junior Jordon Roose, another returning starter who averaged 9.4 points, 4.7 assists and 3.5 steals a game last season, have bolstered hopes. Isensee totaled 22 points and nine rebounds against Macomb; Roose, a 5-10 point guard, finished with 11 points, five steals and four assists.

A strong addition to the team is 6-4

junior center Mike Huntsman. A junior varsity player last season, Huntsman had 14 points and seven boards in the win over Macomb.

"The guys up from JV are going to do great for us," said Taylor. "It's going to be a lot of fun this year."

PCA has just one senior on its varsity: 6-foot forward Evan Gaines, a returning varsity player who had six points against Macomb. Among the other players who figure to contribute

Please see PCA HOOP, C3

Whalers stay hot - and so is Druken



There seems to be no way to slow down Harold Druken.

The Plymouth Whalers' center added two more goals to his league-leading

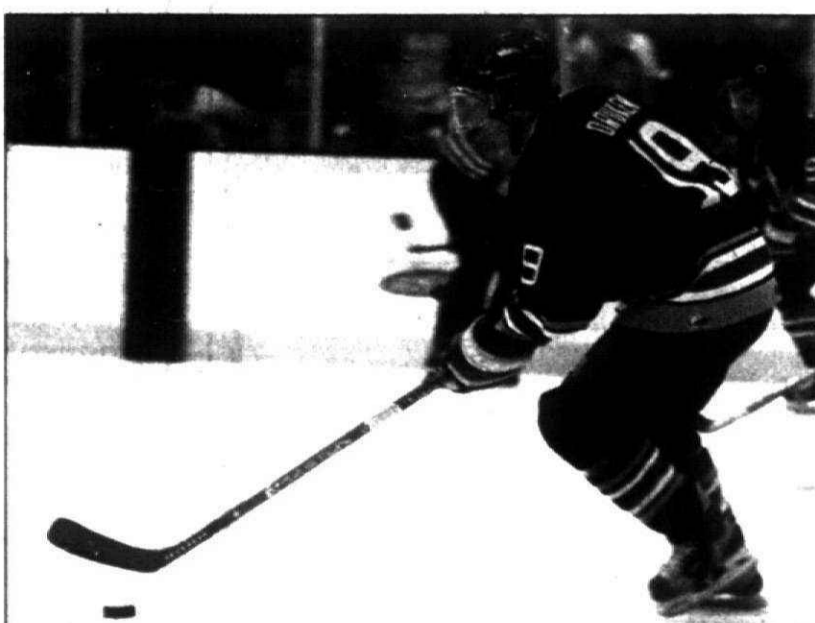
total in the Plymouth Whalers' 4-1 victory over the London Knights in an Ontario Hockey League game Saturday at Compuware Arena.

Druken increased his goal total to 37 (next highest in the league is Ivan Novoseltsev of Sarnia with 26). Druken's 60 points also tops the OHL; second in the league in total points is teammate Adam Colagiaco with 53 (16 goals, 37 assists).

Randy Fitzgerald notched the other two goals for Plymouth against the Knights, giving him four for the season, and had one assist. Colagiaco picked up three assists.

Plymouth led 2-1 after one period and 4-1 after two in improving its West Division-leading record to 22-4-2. London slipped to 11-18.

Robert Holsinger made 15 saves to



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HIRSCHMANN

Still steaming: The Whalers' Harold Druken continues to dominate the OHL in scoring with 37 goals and 60 total points.

pick up the victory. Gene Chiarello had 40 saves for the Knights

Compuware splits

The Compuware Ambassadors ran their North American Hockey League-leading record to 19-4-2 by splitting a pair of games with host Soo Kewadin Casino Indians, the NAHL's second-

place team with an 18-7 mark

The Soo won the first game Saturday by a 2-1 margin, with Mark Mink scoring for Compuware. Josh Lyerly got the Indians regulation goal, then scored the game-winning penalty shot.

On Sunday, the Ambassadors

Please see WHALERS, C4

FOOTBALL NEWS

MHSAA votes to expand grid playoffs

The Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association voted Wednesday to expand its post-season football playoffs to a five-week, 256-team tournament, effective in 1999.

The plan would double the number of playoff qualifiers and add a week to the post-season.

Schools that play a nine-game regular-season schedule, beginning a week earlier than years past, may qualify with at least six wins. Teams that opt to play an eight-game schedule may qualify with five victories.

Under the adopted proposal, those schools whose win total qualify them for the playoffs will be ranked by enrollment following the completion of the regular season, and then divided into eight divisions of 32 schools each. If fewer than 256 schools qualify by win total, the

Please see PLAYOFF FORMAT, C5

4th-place finish a step forward for Chiefs

Plymouth Canton wrestling coach John Demick made no lavish claims about turning the Chiefs' program into an instant success. He was well aware it would have to be done in steps.

Canton finished fourth at the seven-team event, scoring 138.5 points. And they were closer to third-place Anchor Bay (163.5) than to fifth-place Warren Mott (84.5). Ford won the tournament with 202 points.

Musser, wrestling at 130, lost to Sterling Heights Stevenson's Brian Picora 9-7 in the final. Rob Demick was also a narrow loser in the championship round, losing to Utica Eisenhower's David Josef by a 7-6 count at 160.

Canton did have a champion: senior co-captain John Pocock finished first in the 135-pound division by pinning Ford's Nick Miles in 5:11 in the championship bout.

Other Chiefs to reach the finals were Steve Bernacki, who was pinned by Tom Conlo of Anchor Bay in 1:33 at 112, and Jared Chapman, who was pinned by another Anchor Bay wrestler, Joe Cole, in 1:11 at 275.

Madonna stumbles twice

The trip to that Mecca of college basketball — Lexington, Ky. — was fruitless for Madonna University's men's basketball team.

The Fighting Crusaders were winless at the Transylvania University Tournament last week-end, losing to the host team 75-72 on Friday and to the College of West Virginia 110-71 Saturday.

West Virginia hit 44-of-84 shots (52.4 percent), including 15-of-36 three-pointers (41.7 percent); Madonna made 28-of-70 floor shots (40 percent) and just 3-of-22 triples (13.6 percent).

West Virginia led 54-27 at the half. Best for Madonna was Russaw with 17 points and nine rebounds. Mike Maryanski, Massey and Hurley contributed 12 points each, with Hurley adding five boards, three assists and two steals.

Steve Stator did the damage for West Virginia, scoring 38 points (14-of-19 from the floor and 7-of-11 on triples).

Against Transylvania, Madonna trailed 39-33 at the half and was behind 72-56 with 4:29 left. The Crusaders managed to trim that to 74-72 with :45 left, but never caught Transylvania; a desperation three-pointer at the buzzer by Nick Hurley (from Plymouth Canton HS) missed.

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Ronald Rhodes added 15 points and Omar Logan had 12.

Madonna women 8-1 A strong defensive effort combined with solid shooting propelled Madonna University's women's basketball team to an easy 96-60 triumph over the College of Mount St. Joseph in its second game at the Hampton Inn-Concordia College Classic Saturday in Ann Arbor.

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- For those who want to participate please complete the donor sheet, collect donations in advance and submit them to the foundation. Early registrants will receive ice time preferences. Donations can still be accepted after one has registered, just bring the additional funds on February 4th.

• At this time we are unable to list celebrity skaters.
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Dec. 12th, 19th, Jan. 9th, 23rd

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Canton hoop from page C1

ran off nine points in a row after the Zebras were up 45-37. Nathan Wade had 16 points to lead seven Wayne scorers. Gary Johnson scored 10, Mike Zielinski eight, Robert Price and Smith scored six apiece.

"You feel good when you win and you know you didn't play your best," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "Especially against a quality team like that."

Waidman scored 10 of his points in the second quarter and did a nice job of setting screens. Six other Chiefs scored between four and seven points each.

"We passed the ball better," Young said, "and I was pleased with the different people scoring."

Canton got some mileage out of offensive and defensive substitutions as the game wound down.

"It gives me more energy," Young said, "and makes us fresher at both ends. I credit our assistants, especially Jeremy Rheault, for coming up with that."

It didn't, thanks to Tony Jancevski and Aaron Rypkowski. The two seniors led Salem back to the forecourt, Jancevski scoring 10 points and Rypkowski eight in the third-quarter rally.

Each finished with 22 points to lead the Rocks; Jancevski also grabbed 15 rebounds, while Rypkowski hauled in nine. Adam Wilson was their next-best scorer with eight.

Salem 62, Monroe 57: It was a bit of an up-and-down start for Plymouth Salem, but the good news is—it ended on an up.

Monroe got 23 points from Carl Ford and 11 from Myron Johnson.

The Rocks overcame a 31-24 halftime deficit by outscoring visiting Monroe 22-9 in the third quarter of their season-opener Tuesday. They eventually stretched their advantage to 14 before a late Trojan rally narrowed the final margin to five.

"I was happy," said Brodie. "Even the players off the bench gave us a good game. Everybody contributed."

PCA hoop from page C1

are 6-1 junior guard/forward Dave Carty; 6-1 sophomore forward P.J. Woodman; and 5-11 junior shooting guard A.J. Sherrill, a transfer student from Orlando, Fla.

Southfield's David Damesworth hit a three-point basket with six seconds remaining to send the game into overtime. Damesworth then scored five of Franklin Road's nine OT points to seal the win.

Macomb was paced by Eugene Height's eight points.

Aaron Schroder led the winners with 22 points while Damesworth added 21. For Canton Agape (O-1), Steve Mecklenburg scored 23 points and Paul Anleitner added 19. Dave Herzog also grabbed 17 rebounds and scored five points for the Wolves.

The championship game is set for 7 p.m. Saturday. All games are at PCA.

Agape goes up against Howell West Highland at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in a tournament consolation game.

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Borgess to face early tests

By the end of this week, Redford Bishop Borgess' boys basketball team will have played both Detroit St. Martin DePorres and Detroit Country Day.

The Spartans, who lost their season opener to DePorres, 75-54, on Tuesday, travel to Country Day to meet the host Yellow Jackets in their tip-off tournament at noon Saturday.

The Spartans will then be idle for 13 days before playing three games in the Roundball Classic coached by U-D Jesuit Dec. 28, 29 and 30.

Borgess coach Rosey Barnes said the first week will give him an indication of where the Spartans stand but it won't tell the total picture because they're so young.

Borgess lost about 70 percent of its offense with the graduation of Kevin Jordan, Aaron Jessup and Sam Hoskin. Jessup is playing at Wisconsin-Green Bay, Hoskin at Eastern Kentucky and Jordan is playing football at a junior college in Minnesota.

Each was a three-year starter and led the Spartans to last year's Catholic League A-B Division championship. The Spartans also lost their top defender, Walter Malone, and

BASKETBALL

James Williams, who is playing at a junior college in Florida.

Country Day figures to be a tall order, even without its best player, Colin Dill, who is out with a broken leg.

"It's a good matchup for us because I can see what we're made of," Barnes said.

As for the long layoff before the Roundball Classic, Barnes said "I like it because we're young. It gives us more time to get in the gym and work with them."

The Spartans return three seniors: Curtis Allen, Justin Gleton and Ramone Scott.

Curtis is the Spartans' starting point guard and Gleton is the starting small forward.

The Spartans have an exceptional sophomore class, led by forward Marcus Young, who scored 16 points against DePorres, and guard Marcus Bennett, who had 10.

Young started off and on on the varsity as a freshman and Bennett was the Most Valu-

able Player of the Spartans' junior varsity.

Junior guard Donald Didiak, who scored eight points against DePorres, and 8-3 sophomore Mario Peoples also will get plenty of playing time.

The Spartans finished with a 14-10 record last year, losing in the Class C regional final to DePorres, the eventual state champion.

DePorres senior center Aloysius Anagnone, who committed to Michigan State, made sure there was a repeat on Tuesday night with 16 points, 12 rebounds and nine blocked shots.

"We were in the game, it was not a blowout," Barnes said. "We made bad decisions, didn't take care of the ball very well."

Detroit Catholic Central, which returns all-state selection Nick Moore at guard, will be one of the favorites to win the Catholic League Central Division, but there's no shoe in, according to Barnes.

"CC is going to always be there, (Birmingham) Brother Rice and U-D Jesuit are going to be there," Barnes said. "The Catholic League is a real tough league. You can't take a night off."

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 10
Eagle Kickoff at PCA, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
Huron Valley MHS Tourney, 6:30 p.m.
St. Agnetes at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Annapolis at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
Redford Union at Churhill, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Dearborn, 7 p.m.
Fordson at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Wayne at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Taylor Truman at Thurston, 7 p.m.
A.A. Huron at Salem, 7 p.m.
Lapeer West at N. Farmington, 7 p.m.
Clinton at Monroe, 7:30 p.m.
Harrison at Lapeer East, 7:30 p.m.
N.D. Prep at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
Borgess at Country Day, noon.
Eagle Kickoff at PCA, 1 & 5 p.m.
Huron Valley at MLHS Tourney, TBA.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 10
Madonna at Wayne State, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
Ferris State at Madonna, 2 p.m.
Cuyahoga (Ohio) at Schoharie, 2 p.m.
Oakland CC at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Dec. 11
Whalers at S.S. Marie, 7:30 p.m.
Fly, Whalers vs. Erie Otters at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Thursday, Dec. 10
W.L. Central vs. Redford Unified at Redford Ice Arena, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
Franklin vs. Churchill at Edge Arena, 8 p.m.
Farm. Unified vs. Dearborn at Farm. Hills Arena, 8 p.m.
Stevenson at W.L. Central, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
RU at W.L. Western, 2:20 p.m.
Farm. Unified vs. B.H. Andover at Detroit Skating Club, 8:30 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

Whalers from page C1

avenged their Saturday loss by beating the Soo 2-1 in overtime. Mink scored in the third period to give Compuware a 1-0 lead, but the Indians tied it on a goal by Adam Nightingale.

Jack Redwood's goal 1:51 into OT won it for the Ambassadors. Goalie Craig Kowalski, named NAHL goalie of the month for November, added another honor to his list by earning goalie of the week accolade.

Kowalski leads the NAHL in goals-against average (2.04); he allowed two goals in the important show-down series against the Indians, stopping 52 of 54 shots.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS				
East Division	W	L	T	Pts.
Ottawa 67's	25	2	2	52
Peterborough Petes	17	11	0	34
Belleville Bulls	14	10	5	33
Oshawa Generals	14	10	2	30
Kingston Frontenacs	9	19	1	19
Central Division	W	L	T	Pts.
Barrie Colts	21	5	2	44
North Bay Centennials	11	16	3	25
Toronto St. M. Majors	9	15	4	22
Sudbury Wolves	9	16	3	21
Miss. Ice Dogs	1	25	2	4
West Division	W	L	T	Pts.
Plymouth Whalers	22	4	2	46
SSM Greyhounds	16	8	3	36
Sarnia Sting	14	11	3	31
London Knights	11	18	0	22
Windsor Spitfires	8	16	3	19
Midwest Division	W	L	T	Pts.
Quincy Storm	21	9	0	42
Erie Otters	16	11	1	33
Owen Sound Platers	13	13	3	29
Chatham Rangers	8	19	2	18
Brampton Battalion	4	23	1	9

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Observer & Eccentric

TACYLILIER RILTYCALEI ILLITERACY

The number of lives affected by illiteracy is staggering. One out of every five Americans has difficulty reading and writing.* For them, life can feel like an endless series of obstacles.

But these people can learn—all they need is someone who can give them the confidence to take the first step.

That's why Philip Morris Companies Inc. developed a learning program called Gateway: Paths to Adult Learning. By making the Gateway materials available at no cost to community organizations, Philip Morris provides an easy way for adult learners to take the first step to literacy—and the first step to a better life.

If you would like to volunteer to help someone, or if you know of someone who needs help, call 1-800-671-6200 for more information about Gateway, or contact your local literacy coalition.

* U.S. Department of Education, 1993.

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OUTDOORS CALENDAR

CLUBS
CLINTON VALLEY BASS
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910 for more information.

ARCHERY
JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information.

CLASSES
ICE FISHING
Bob "Hangman" Mitchell, of Redford, will give a seminar entitled, "Everything You Want to Know About Ice Fishing," beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at the monthly meeting of the Huron Valley Steelheaders at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for more information.

ICE FISHING
ICE FISHING
Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tyers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

ACTIVITIES
GANATCHO TRAIL
Come and explore the Ganatcho Trail, which runs from Windsor to Tecumseh parallel to the Lake St. Clair shore, during this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27. The event is sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Group Sierra Club. Participants should meet at the tourist information center on Route 3, south of the bridge in

CLASSES
PET BIRD TRAINING
The second archery season runs Dec. 1-Jan. 3. The muzzleloading season runs Dec. 4-13 in Zone I (Upper Peninsula) and Dec. 11-20 in zones II and III (Lower Peninsula). There are several other special seasons. Check the 1998-99 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for details.

CLASSES
ICE FISHING
A special late season will be held Dec. 1-Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

CLASSES
ICE FISHING
A special late season will be held Dec. 1-Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

CLASSES
ICE FISHING
A special late season will be held Dec. 1-Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

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Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Posvar, Jessica Makowski, Fernington Hills Mercy



Erin Downs, Katy Ballantine, Kelly Carlin, Fernington Hills Mercy



Julie Kern, Lindsay Fetters, Teri Hanson, Fernington Hills Mercy

State champs rule Observer

It was a season featuring Observerland's two dominant teams in girls swimming. One of them — Farmington Hills Mercy — was good enough to beat all takers at the Class A state championship meet.

The Marlins captured the state title by scoring well in all three relays, including a state-record swim in finishing first in the 400-yard freestyle. It was apparent Mercy was well-prepared for the state finals — seven varsity relays fell en route to the victory. The Marlins had four swimmers score in the 200 freestyle.

Such preparation is what champions are made of. It also earned Mercy coach Jim Downs Observerland coach of the year accolades. Mrs. Carlin also extended its streak of Catholic League titles, wasn't the only team that dominated. Livonia Stevenson claimed its eighth consecutive Western Lakes Activities Association crown. Between them, Mercy and Stevenson collected 19 of the 24 all-Observer first and second team berths, including all six relays.

Not to be overlooked are some of the outstanding individual performances, such as the first at state by Mercy's Amy McCullough in the 500-yard free and the second-place swim at state meet by the Marlins' Erin Downs.

There were plenty of others, of course, so read on.

First team
Amy McCullough, Farmington Hills Mercy, 200-yard freestyle: The sophomore had an outstanding season, winning the state title in the 500 freestyle and placing second in the 100 and 200 free (1:52.46). She was also the Oakland County champion in the 200 and 500-yard freestyle. McCullough holds Mercy's record in both events, having set it at the state final. At the Catholic League meet, she was first in the 100 free (54.35) and 100 backstroke (1:00.80).

"Her potential is still way out there," coach Jim Downs said. "She's already a bona fide state champion in the 500 free with two sub-five minute performances this year."

Elizabeth Posvar, Farmington Hills Mercy, 200-yard individual medley: On a team of stars, Posvar was one of the brightest this year. She finished fifth in the state in the 200-yard IM (2:07.42) and 100 freestyle (52.26). At the Catholic League meet, which Mercy won, she was first in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:08.27) and swam on three first place relays. She has school records in both the IM and 100 free.

In all, the junior qualified for seven open events at the state finals. "I'm glad she's on our side," Downs said.

Jessica Makowski, Livonia Stevenson, 60-yard freestyle: Makowski was one of the Western Lakes premier freestyle swimmers. The junior never lost a dual meet race in the 50 and was the WLAAC champion in the 100 freestyle (55.72). She placed second in the 50 at the WLAAC meet (25.18).

Farmington Hills Mercy, 400-yard freestyle relay: The Marlins complete a sweep of our all-Observer relay teams with Kelly Carlin, Kristin Lorida, Amy McCullough and Elizabeth Posvar. The 400 free was the longest relay to do was win a state title in the event, setting a new state record of 3:31.25, that was also earned Mercy a first place team finish.

Katy Ballantine, Livonia Stevenson, diving: The eighth-ranked diver (330.0 points), in the WLAAC championships, Ballantine was second (.379.20). Her 256.75 points were by far the best six total recorded in Observerland.

"Along with being a very talented diver," Phill said, "Katy is a very hard worker. We're looking forward to a great senior year from her."

ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SWIMMING

- 200-yard medley relay
1. Mercy (Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Posvar, Erin Downs, Kelly Carlin)
2. Stevenson (Lindsay Dolin, Marti McKenzie, Katie Clark, Jessica Makowski)
- 200-yard freestyle
1. Amy McCullough, Mercy
2. Elizabeth MacDonald, Mercy
3. Elizabeth Posvar, Mercy
4. Katie Clark, Stevenson
5. Katy Ballantine, Stevenson
- 50-yard freestyle
1. Jessica Makowski, Stevenson
2. Marti McKenzie, Stevenson
- 400-yard freestyle
1. Erin Downs, Mercy
2. Teri Hanson, Canton
- 100-yard freestyle
1. Kelly Carlin, Mercy
2. Kristin Lorida, Mercy
3. Kristin Lorida, Stevenson
4. Julie Kern, Stevenson
5. Meghan Mocerri, Stevenson

A brave heart is a powerful weapon," said coach Jim Downs.

Kelly Carlin, Farmington Hills Mercy, 100-yard freestyle: The junior was one of the area's most versatile swimmers. At the state finals, she was good enough to finish 12th in the 200 freestyle (1:56.58) and she swam on all three of the Marlins relays, which scored. Carlin also placed first in both the 500 free (5:19.06) and the 200 individual medley (2:15.04) at the Catholic League finals. At the Oakland County meet, Carlin was seventh in the 100 butterfly.

"She showed true dedication day in and day out," said Downs. "As she goes, we go."

Julie Kern, Livonia Stevenson, 500-yard freestyle: Kern was one of the Spartans most valuable swimmers, placing fourth in the 500 free at the state meet (5:00.82). The senior also won WLAAC championships in the 200 (1:58.55) and 500 (5:06.10) freestyle events.

"Julie has been a state finalist all four years at Stevenson," said Phillis. "She will be greatly missed."

Lindsay Fetters, North Farmington, 100-yard backstroke: Fetters was in search of a talented freshman. Look no further. Erin Downs finished seventh in the state in the 100 backstroke (59.38), breaking a school record, and she was 15th in the 200 IM (2:14.36). She also qualified in the 100 breaststroke.

At the WLAAC finals, McEneaney placed second in the 100 back (1:01.55) and third in the 200 IM (2:17.58).

"She did a lot of great things for us this year," coach Pat Duthie said. "She probably one of the easiest athletes I've worked with from a coach standpoint. She's very receptive and picks up new things quickly."

Lindsay Fetters, Farmington Harrison, 100-yard breaststroke: Not many swimmers finish in the top six in two events at the state finals. Fetters did, taking fifth in the 100 breaststroke (1:06.61) and sixth in the 200 IM (2:08.89).

"She was also on both events at the WLAAC finals, capturing the 200 IM in 2:12.43 and the 100 breast in 1:09.03."

Lindsay has been an all-state every year since she was a freshman," coach Ross Bandy said. "She is in a good position to make a run at being state champion next year."

"The good old American work ethic did not disappear," Downs said. "It lives within us."

200-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY TEAM

Erin Downs, Kristin Lorida, Elizabeth MacDonald and Kelly Carlin.

Erin Downs, Kristin Lorida, Elizabeth MacDonald and Kelly Carlin.

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Erin Downs, Kristin Lorida, Elizabeth MacDonald and Kelly Carlin.

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Livonia Stevenson's 400-yard freestyle relay team: Katie Clark, Meghan Mocerri, Meghan Lesnau and Julie Kern.

Livonia Stevenson's 200-yard freestyle relay team: Jessica Makowski, Meghan Mocerri and Julie Kern (not pictured: Marti McKenzie).

Livonia Stevenson's 200-yard medley relay team: Lindsey Dolin, Katie Clark and Jessica Makowski (not pictured: Marti McKenzie).

Spartans get a win; Huron drops Glenn

The drought is over. Livonia Stevenson's boys basketball team won't be going 0-for-the season this year.

Stevenson opened its 1998-99 scheduled Tuesday night at Wyandotte Roosevelt and brought back a 70-61 victory — its first win since the 1996-97 season ended.

The Spartans didn't win in 21 tries last season.

"I was glad for the kids," coach Tim Newman of Stevenson said after his team pulled the game out with a hot 23-11 fourth quarter. "These kids work real hard and they put the ball in the basket."

Junior guard Mike Lenardon scored 18 points to lead the Spartans, junior guard Keshay McChristian had 16 and senior guard Marty Kennedy 13, including all eight free throws he tried in the fourth quarter.

Harland Beverly and Ryan Tobin each scored eight.

Wyandotte started out with a 19-14 lead after one quarter and expanded it to 38-30 at the half before Stevenson started its comeback with a 17-12 third period.

"Our kids picked it up," Newman said. "We had some trouble in the first half making choices. We didn't handle their offense very well so we made some adjustments."

The biggest difference was in the fourth quarter we made 14-of-15 free throws."

BASKETBALL

Jeff Mehi had 24 points for Wyandotte to lead all scorers but he was clamped down on in the second half, when he scored just nine. Jeff Powell and Chris Wayda each had 12 and Damien Meta had 10.

For the game, Stevenson made 22-of-31 free throws and Wyandotte sank 9-of-16.

A.A. HURON 77, JOHN GLENN 65: The middle two periods made the difference as the visiting River Rats outscored the Rockets, 37-25.

Imani Wilson paced Huron with 19 points, Andrew Walton had 17 and Amir Kasham and Derek Ginyard 15 apiece.

Ty Haygood led Westland John Glenn with 18, Bill Foder scored 16 and Ben Harris 14.

Junior guard Eric Jones was scoreless in the first half and scored seven in the second.

Huron led, 18-17, after the first quarter and John Glenn outscored the River Rats 23-22 in the final eight minutes.

The Rockets made just 7-of-25 free throws, compared to 14-of-21 for the River Rats. Huron also held the edge in triples, 5-2.

DEARBORN 89, CHURCHILL 54: The Chargers couldn't get the ball up the floor against host Dearborn's full-court pressure and ended up paying the price.

"That's a real solid Dearborn team," coach Rick Austin of Livonia Churchill said Tuesday night. "We played solid half-court defense, but we didn't rebound as well as I expected."

Ryan Golem, Colin Wilkinson, Colin

O'Donnell and junior Sean Turner scored 12, 13, 14 and 15 points, respectively, for Dearborn.

Junior guard John Bennett paced the Chargers with 24 points and junior forward Avery Jessup had eight.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 60, ST. ALPHONSUS 44: A strong second half helped the Warriors open their new sea-

son successfully.

"We stayed the same in the second half," coach Dan Ramthun said Tuesday night after his team blitzed its way to a 37-17 post-intermission. "We played man-to-man."

"We were getting good shots all night, we just started hitting them in the second half."

"Our defense was better in the second half, too, so we got some turnovers and some transition baskets."

Lutheran High School Westland got 16 points from forward Tom Habitz, 14 from junior guard Charlie Hoeft and 13

from forward Ryan Ollinger.

Host St. Alphonsus led, 14-13, after one quarter and 27-23, at the half. It was led by junior forwards LaMonte Bonny, who scored 12 points, and Travis Spencer, who had 10.

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NOTICE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

WINTER TAXES


Winter taxes are due December 1, 1998 and payable through February 16, 1999 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office. Open Friday, December 4, 11, 18 and Wednesday, December 23 until 5:00 p.m. After hours payments can be placed in 24 hr. **DROP BOX** located in parking lot adjacent to Building #1 or **DROP BOX** adjacent to entry way. Standard Federal Bank, Plymouth Township Office, will also accept payment for your convenience through February 16, 1999. **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH TREASURER'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** during the Christmas Holidays on Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th. The Treasurer's Office will be open to accept Tax Payments and Other Payments on Monday, December 28th through Thursday, December 31st.

RON EDWARDS, Treasurer
Charter Township of Plymouth.

Published: December 10th & 13th, 1998

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Notice to Bidders

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids until 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 22, 1998. For the following:

Installation of New Windows at the City Hall Building.

Location: 201 South Main Plymouth, MI
Contact person: Scott A. Baker 734-453-7737

Specifications and proposal forms are available at the office of the City Clerk during regular office hours. Vendors shall meet or exceed the attached bid specifications with a comparable product and procedures in installing the Windows. Vendor is responsible for all measurements and verification of all window quantities and Sizes.

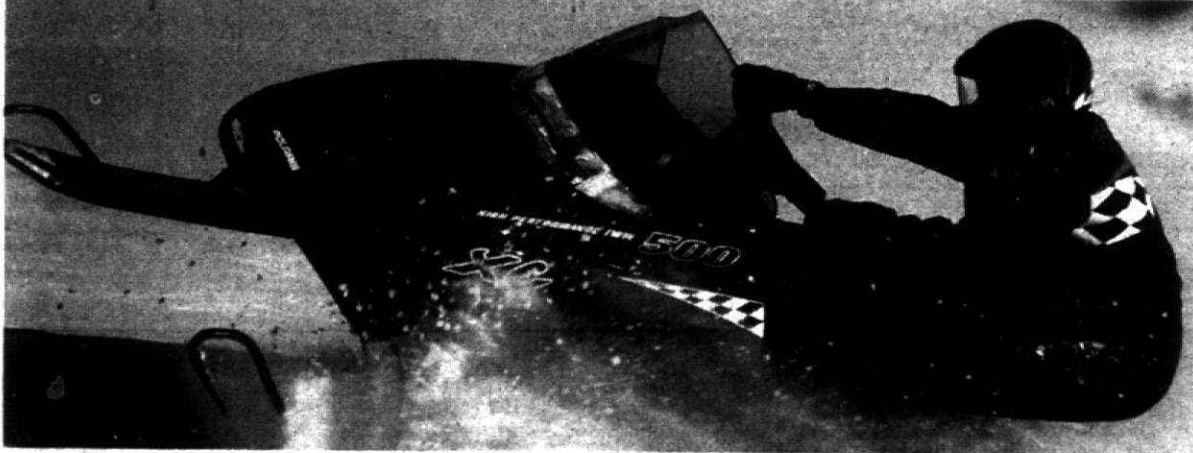
The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or part, and to waive any irregularities.

Send Sealed Bids to:

LINDA LANGMESSER, CMC/AEE
City Clerk
201 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170

Published: December 10, 1998

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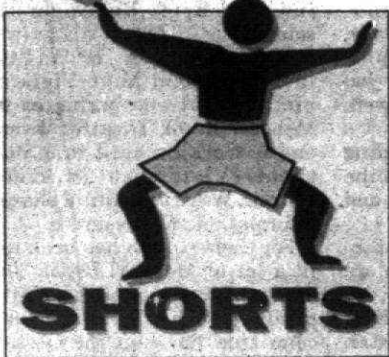
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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Players present "Shorts - A Theatrical Potpourri," featuring works by Edward Ablee, Robert Harling, Louis Phillips, Neil Simon and Tom Topor, 8 p.m. at the Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road at I-696. Tickets \$8 adults, \$5 students, available at the door, or call (248) 471-7667.

SATURDAY



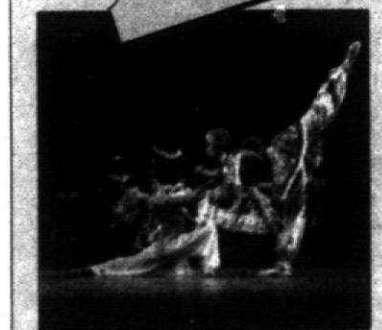
Join Alabama for a Country Christmas 8 p.m. at the Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Tickets \$24.50, (248) 645-6666 or (248) 377-0100.

SUNDAY



St. Dustan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook presents "The Sleeping Beauty," 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. at the playhouse, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$6 per person, call (248) 644-0527.

HOT TICKET



Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents "The Nutcracker" with Ballet Internationale, featuring ballet stars from around the world, and opulent new sets and costumes. Over 85 young dancers from metro Detroit area will also appear in the production, Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 10-13 and Dec. 17-20 at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets \$16 to \$35, call (313) 576-1111 or (248) 645-6666.

STOCKING STUFFERS

Pop music's top acts celebrate holidays

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

A quarter-filled St. Andrew's Hall looks dank. Stage lighting reveals gum stuck on the hard wood floors, the sticky film of spilled drinks, and a thin haze of swirling smoke.

The first of Cheap Trick's three nights at the club were sparsely attended, but Grosse Pointe native Gregg Alexander took it as an opportunity to show Detroit why he left home.

Alexander, singer/songwriter/producer of the pop band New Radicals, ran away from home, as the story goes, about 10 years ago to pursue a music career. After two failed albums, Alexander is finally getting his due.

St. Andrew's Hall showed new life the minute his scantily clad background singer, former child actress Danielle Brisebois, took the stage reciting lines from the New Radicals sprightly hit "You Only Get What You Give."

Alternating between jumping around the stage and stretching out his long arms, the gangly, bald Alexander seemed at home pounding out a four-song, half-hour set that included two renditions of "You Only Get What You Give." Alexander, Brisebois and their five-piece band had all the energy of a veteran pop band playing to a sold-out arena.

One of Alexander's fondest memories of Detroit is seeing the rock band Almighty Strut open for Cheap Trick. Heading downstairs to the Shelter after the set, Alexander was greeted by Cheap Trick singer Robin Zander. Alexander's career had come full circle.

According to Alexander, he ran away at age 16 because he "couldn't take the Grosse Pointers," whom he compares to the cast of "The Truman Show" with "an extra \$50,000 per year in disposable income." With his parents' blessing, he went to California.

"Specifically I told my dad I was running away and he said, 'Fine, be back by September.'"

He didn't come back.

"I wanted to have some adventures and make rock 'n' roll records and cause some trouble," he said.

His first album, "Michigan Rain," was recorded under the name Gregg Alexander for A&M Records in 1990.

"I made an album that came out amongst the hype of grunge that got lost. It didn't make me too bitter or anything. You can't blame yourself if your record doesn't get through the myriad of 35,000 records that come out a year," said Alexander who splits his time between California, New York City and London.

Two years later, he signed with Epic Records who re-released "Michigan Rain," and put out his follow-up "Intoxification," which also flopped.

Staying at the home of a friend who was out of town, he toiled around in the recording studio putting to tape "magic moments of a difficult time."

"When I was done with the songs, I was listening and thinking, 'God, I hope these things get heard by people.' I played it for a few friends and pretty soon

Please see STUFFERS, E2

Take note

This year's stocking is stuffed with radio station-sponsored holiday concerts. Here's a nice tidy Christmas list to prepare you for the season. Tickets for all concerts are available at Ticketmaster outlets, by calling (248) 645-6666 or by visiting <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

"Holiday Hootenanny"

SPONSORED BY WPLT-FM (96.3)

features the Goo Goo Dolls, Christian rappers DC Talk, Semisonic, Better Than Ezra and Edwin McCain, at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at Cobo Arena, Detroit. Tickets are \$15.96 and \$25.96 for the all-ages show. For more information, visit <http://www.planet963.com>.

"Rockin' for the Hungry"

SPONSORED BY ANN ARBOR'S WQB-FM (102.9)

features Candlebox, The Hunger and Blue Plate Special, at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$21.03, \$27.50 limited superfan seating includes afterparty ticket. For more information, call (734) 763-TKTS.

"WDRQ Freeze for All"

SPONSORED BY WDRQ-FM (93.1)

features 98 Degrees, Ace of Base, Voices of Theory, Monifah, L.F.O., Inoj and C Note, at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. The show is sold out. Call (248) 546-7610 for more information.

"Holiday Concert for a Cure"

SPONSORED BY WKQI-FM

features Bryan Adams and Sixpence None the Richer at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. The concert, open to those 21 and older, is sold out, but Q95 is conducting on-air contests to win tickets. Visit <http://www.q95.com> for a complete line-up. Net proceeds benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

John Berry and JoDee Messina

SPONSORED BY WYCD-FM (99.5)

perform as part of radio station WYCD-FM (99.5) Christmas show at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets are \$25 for the all-ages show. For more information, visit <http://www.wycd.com>.

"A Smooth Jazz Christmas"

with Dave Koz, David Benoit, Brenda Russell and Peter White, begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$20 and \$25 for reserved theater seating. For more information, call (313) 961-5451.

"The Night 89X Stole Christmas"

SPONSORED BY CIMX-FM (88.7)

features performances by Beck, Garbage, Everlast, Placebo and Marcy Playground, and is emceed by Kid Rock, at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Tickets are \$20.89, \$25.89 and \$30.89 for the all-ages show. For more information, visit <http://www.89x.com>.

"The River's Cool Yule '98"

SPONSORED BY CIDR-FM (93.9)

features performances by Rusted Root, New Radicals and Susan Tedeschi, at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets are \$22.50 in advance. Visit <http://www.theriver939.com> for more information.

Stocking photos above

A. Returning home: Former Grosse Pointe Gregg Alexander returns to town with his band the New Radicals to play "The River's Cool Yule '98" at the Detroit Opera House on Dec. 30.

B. Rare appearance: Swedish pop stars Ace of Base - from left, Linn Berggren, Ulf Ekberg, Jenny Berggren and Jonas Berggren - make a rare live appearance on Saturday, Dec. 12, as part of WDRQ's "Freeze for All" concert at the Royal Oak Music Theatre.

C. Holiday fete: The Goo Goo Dolls - from left, drummer Mike Malinin, guitarist/vocalist Johnny Rzeznik, and bassist/vocalist Robby Takac - are set to play Cobo Arena as part of WPLT-FM's "Holiday Hootenanny" concert on Friday, Dec. 11.

THEATER

'Resident Alien' visits Jewish Ensemble Theatre

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

Repeating the magical words "there's no place like home," Dorothy escapes the alien Land of Oz and returns home to her beloved Kansas in "The Wizard of Oz."

Dorothy always knew her heart and home was in Kansas, but playwright Stuart Spencer, who also grew up in a farming community, felt like an alien.

"I remember being four or five and telling my mother 'we ought to move to the city,' and I didn't even know what it was," said Spencer whose play "Resident Alien" is being presented by the Jewish Ensemble Theatre through Jan. 3 at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the lower level of the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. "We lived outside of a

Please see ALIEN, E2

On Stage

WHAT's Jewish Ensemble Theatre presents "Resident Alien" by Stuart Spencer

WHERE: Aaron DeRoy Theatre, lower level, Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road (corner of Maple and Drake Roads), West Bloomfield

WHEN: Continues through Sunday, Jan. 3. Performances 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday; 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Additional matinee 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23.

TICKETS: \$13-\$23, call (248) 788-2900 or <http://commnet.org/jet> for more information.

HIGHLIGHT
JET will present two special New Year's Eve performances of "Resident Alien," 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31. Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. show \$35 per person includes hors d'oeuvres, champagne, and party favors. Tickets for the 10 p.m. show \$50 per person includes champagne, party favors, and breakfast. Call number listed above for reservations/information.



Playwright: Stuart Spencer wrote "Resident Alien." Jewish Ensemble Theatre is presenting the Michigan premiere of his work at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the lower level of the Jewish Community Center.

DINING

Archie's celebrates anniversary, thanks customers

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homedomain.net

Open since 1981, Archie's in Livonia has been renovated three times. "We remodeled almost from the ground up, at least that's what the checkbook feels like," said Tom Palushaj of Farmington Hills who runs the kitchen of the family owned and operated restaurant. "You get into a project, and make changes as you go."

"We're established here, people know us," added his brother George of Livonia who manages the restaurant. Brothers Pasko, Nick, Kola and Michael also work there along with other family members. "You've got to put money back into the business. From the beginning we had the relentless pursuit to become the best restaurant on the west-side. We have the best service, the best food, and now we have the best atmosphere."

Archie's stayed open during construction, which began in 1996 with the new, expanded parking lot. To thank customers, and celebrate their anniversary, Archie's is offering 25 percent off, excluding alcoholic beverages, on Monday, Dec. 21.

The light fixtures, booth coverings, floor and kitchen are new. Oak trimmed doorways, benches and tables, and glass etched accents help create a comfortable dining atmosphere.

Architect Robert J. Tobin of Tobin Associates in Troy redesigned the upscale contemporary exterior of the restaurant. The bathrooms were also remodeled. Luke Palushaj, an art director at R.J. Thompson,

Archie's
Where: 30471 Plymouth Road, (between Middlebelt & Merriman), Livonia, (734) 525-2820.
Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Closed Sunday. Will be open until 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, closed Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25, open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31, open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1.
Menu: Upscale family restaurant, daily specials, American favorites including chicken, seafood and steaks, some Italian and Greek dishes. Lots of daily breakfast, lunch and dinner specials. Children's menu just for kids under age 10.
Cost: Reasonable; dinner entrees and specials \$5.99 to \$10.50, sandwiches \$2.85 to \$5.50, breakfast \$2.09 to \$7.99.
Discounts: Senior citizens receive 10 percent off regular dinner menu. **Frequent Diner Card**, buy 15 dinners or lunches, and get \$5 off next meal.
Credit Cards: All majors accepted
Carry-out: Available
Banquet Room: Seats up to 70 people
Highlights: 17th Anniversary Celebration and Customer Appreciation Day, Monday, Dec. 21. Twenty-five percent off all day, not including alcoholic beverages.

designed the interior which has a green, beige, and brown color scheme. There are lots of hanging plants and bright red poinsettias.

The good news for customers is that prices were raised very little. "We want to make sure we keep our prices affordable for families," said Tom. "Our secret to cooking is keeping the food fresh and buy the best quality ingredients we can buy."

"A couple can have dinner with wine for under \$30," said George.

You're sure to find something to satisfy your appetite at Archie's. There are daily breakfast, lunch and dinner specials, homemade soups, and rice pudding. Often ordered dishes include Archie's Famous Fish & Chips, and the Grilled Reuben

on Rye. Broasted Chicken was added to the menu this summer.

Regular customers know what daily dinner specials to expect - Monday, baked meatloaf; Tuesday, baked Salisbury Steak; Wednesday, City Chicken; Thursday, Stuffed Cabbage Rolls, Friday, Fish & Chips, Saturday, Chicken Florentine with Fettucini Alfredo. If what you're looking for isn't on the menu, check out the numerous daily lunch and dinner specials. The ones listed are just a sample.

George welcomes many customers by name, Archie's is still a family restaurant, but now, it's a little more. "It looks like you're going somewhere really nice, it's no longer the neighborhood restaurant," said Tom. "People want to spend more time here on Saturdays," added Tom.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNEGIE

Happy holidays: George (left) and Tom Palushaj in the newly renovated dining room at Archie's. Broiled N.Y. Steak, Broasted Chicken with mashed potatoes, and Greek Salad are among the many dishes you'll find on the menu at Archie's.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

The musical question "What are you doing New Year's, New Year's Eve?" has been asked for many decades. It's time to answer it for this year.

Whether you want a quiet dinner, one that includes romantic dancing or a grand party with midnight champagne toast and party favors, one of the following restaurants is sure to please. Please note that some restaurants require tickets paid in advance. But if you wait until the last minute to reserve, you'll most likely be disappointed just about anywhere.

■ **Big Rock Chop & Brew House** - 245 S. Eton, Birmingham (248) 647-7774.

A la carte menu including appetizers, soup, salad, main courses (ranging \$19-30), vegetable accompaniments and dessert. With any entree, one-half pound Alaskan King Crab Legs or lobster tail can be added for an additional charge. For reservations 10 p.m. or later, enjoy the music of Reggie Braxton on the Stone Terrace and ring in the New Year with champagne toast and party favors at no additional charge. Big Rock's fabulous upper level Got Rocks lounge is first come, first served, but be advised, it was packed last year at midnight.

■ **Cafe Bon Homme** - 844 Pennington, Plymouth (734) 453-6260.

From 5 p.m. to midnight an all a la carte menu has eight entree selections ranging \$29-33 and includes seafood, duck, lamb veal, steak and Wellington of beef.

■ **Cafe Cortina** - 30715 W. 10 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills (248) 474-3033

Early diners can choose from the open menu beginning at 4:30 p.m. Starting at 9:30 p.m. there's a special package, \$85 per person including antipasto, pappardelle with pomodoro and basil, winter salad, choice of entree from among salmon, veal medallions, filet mignon or French-cut veal chop, and completed with Napoleon dessert. Also included are DJ dancing to top 40s, party hats and champagne at midnight.

■ **Excalibur** - 28875 Franklin Road, (corner of 12 Mile Road and Northwestern Highway), Southfield (248) 358-3355. New Year's Eve party (reserved seating by prepaid tickets only) with dancing and entertainment by The Warren Commission begins 9:30 p.m. at \$100 per person (not including liquor, tax or gratuity). Menu includes appetizer medley, mixed salad and choice of an entree from 2-pound lobster, veal porterhouse, sauteed chicken breast, swordfish or filet mignon, completing with dessert medley.

■ **Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro** - 26053 Town Center, Novi (248) 380-8460

Want dinner with quiet jazz music? That's on tap at Diamond Jim's between 4 p.m. and midnight. Five special entrees accompanied by a salad range \$15-19. Start with an appetizer at \$8 and add dessert for \$7.

■ **Fox & Hounds** - 1560 North Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, (248) 644-4800. Regular menu selections with entrees ranging \$18-25 will be offered. Reservations 10 p.m. and later will have party favors and midnight champagne toast. Pub entertainment throughout the evening.

■ **Opus One** - 565 East Larned Street, Detroit (313) 961-7766. Two seating periods 5 or 5:30 and 7:30 or 8 include offerings from the regular menu. A 9:30 or 10 p.m. seating at \$75 per person includes a four-course dinner from a special expanded menu. Also, at this time, you can listen and dance to the smooth sounds of B&B. Price includes party favors, but not beverage, tax or gratuity.

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