

Canton Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

COMMUNITY LIFE

An achievement: Thanks to her sister, Autumn Kucka is a Woman of Achievement. The Redford resident was among six women selected for that honor by the YWCA of Western Wayne County. /B1

AT HOME

Luxurious living: Luxury is more a part of everyday living, at least in the kitchen and bathroom, as indicated by recent seminars at the Michigan Design Center in Troy. /D8

ENTERTAINMENT

Theater: Schoolcraft College's "Merchant of Venice" is a wonderful production you won't want to miss. /E3

REAL ESTATE

Teaming up: When you hire a Realtor, you often get a network of professionals with experience in many fields. /E1

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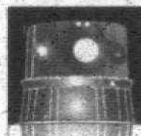
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Witness: Driver 'was passed out'



Two passengers in a car that lost control on I-96 testified that the driver was sniffing an inhalant before the Sept. 20 crash. Passenger Alisha Roberson, 17, of Canton was killed in the accident.

BY MATT JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER
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Shortly after inhaling from a can of pressurized dusting spray, Sarah Cappuccitti of Canton "fished out" at the wheel of a Ford Tempo and the car lurched across eastbound I-96, went up the freeway embankment, through a fence and struck a tree.

Students talk about inhalant use, A2

That was how two passengers in the car described the Sept. 20 crash in Livonia that killed a friend, 17-year-old Canton resident Alisha Roberson, who was sitting in the front seat.

"She had her head down and, uh, she was passed out," Natalie Reynolds said of Cappuccitti, who is charged with manslaughter, during a preliminary

hearing in 16th District Court Tuesday. "She wasn't looking at the road."

The hearing ended when Judge Robert Brzezinski sent the case to Wayne County Circuit Court. Cappuccitti, 20, is to be arraigned there on Tuesday, Nov. 23. She could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted of manslaughter.

About 45 seconds before becoming

Please see CRASH, A2

Search narrowed to final 3

SUPERINTENDENT

BY TONY BRUSCATO
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The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education has narrowed its search for a permanent superintendent to three candidates.

At Tuesday night's board meeting, trustees discussed which of the four remaining candidates they would invite back for a second interview. All seven of the trustees had Phyllis Wilson, deputy superintendent of Columbus (Ohio) Public Schools, on their short list of candidates they wanted back a second time for a more in-depth interview.

Four of the board members had William Weber, assistant superintendent at South Redford Schools, on their list. Four trustees also had Kathleen Booher, superintendent of Berkley Schools, on their list of candidates to bring back.

Please see SUPERINTENDENT, A6

MediaOne studio ready for action

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
AND SUE BUCK
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After several months of not having a nearby public access cable studio, MediaOne finally has one up and running.

The new studio/billing center opened Nov. 1 and has been booked fairly steadily, said Gary Grace, public access facility coordinator. The studio office is at 8008 Sheldon Center, south of Joy Road in Canton Township.

MediaOne is one of two cable firms serving Plymouth and Canton; the

Please see STUDIO, A4



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Back in the saddle: The West Side Silver Star Steppers hit the dance floor Monday night at Lucille's on Michigan Avenue. The 60-member dance group has been meeting Mondays for 10 years. Lucille's (pictured below) is featuring country music again after a stint as a Top-40 club.

Two-step

Lucille's returns to country roots

BY SCOTT NEINAS
STAFF WRITER

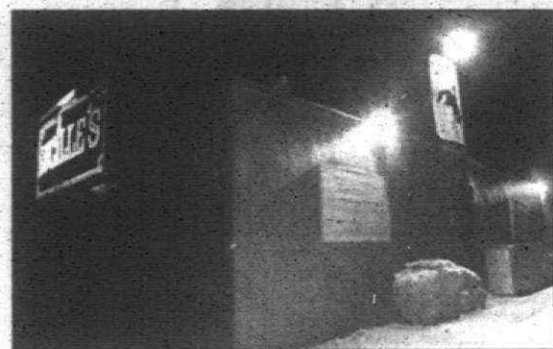
Lucille's is back where it belongs.

After an 18-month stint as a Top-40 nightclub, the Michigan Avenue bar has returned to its original format — country.

Steve and Joanna Whitt have taken over as managers of the club and have given it a new look, inside and out.

"We hope to be the hottest club in Canton," Joanna said.

Whitt thinks the bar can be prosperous doing what it had been doing since the late '80s, giving folks a



place to Texas two-step on a Saturday night.

She's also hoping some of the bar's loyal patrons will return. The bar reopened Oct. 1 with minimal pro-

motion.

Still, the message on the building's marquee announcing it's Friday night return spread like the widening loop of a lasso.

"It was so busy I had to put down what I was doing and help out behind the bar," Whitt said. We've had such a following over the years. We're glad so many people remembered us and came back."

Whitt is doing everything she can to help the bar get off on the right foot. She's planned a series of promotions, including a Wednesday night pool league with

Please see LUCILLE'S, A6

Park Players tackle Shakespeare



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Dress rehearsal: Phil Boileau of Canton as "MacBeth," embraces Jessica Krueger of Canton as "Lady MacBeth" during rehearsals Tuesday for the Plymouth Park Players production. For more on the play, which runs Nov. 18-20 at Salem High School, please turn to Page A3 in today's Observer.

Entertainment complex to break ground in spring

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
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Groundbreaking for Electropolitan, a massive multi-use entertainment complex, could come as soon as March.

Dancing, dining, an arcade, comedy club, banquet hall and billiards room would be included in the \$22.5 million project on Haggerty south of Ford. Canton trustees Tuesday granted a Class C liquor license to Electropolitan.

"It has been three years in planning," said George Marvaso Jr., who'll be general manager of the 106,000-square-foot facility. "I feel other cities and states will know about us. I think people will come from as far away as Ohio."

Plans for Electropolitan first came to the township in October 1998. Since then, developers have received rezoning, special land use and preliminary site plan approvals from Canton's board.

Marvaso hopes to have final approvals by February. Construction of the project will take 10-12 months, he said.

Several nearby residents voiced concerns over the entertainment complex during Tuesday's public hearing,

including its proposed seven-day operation, increased traffic, late hours, noise and lighting for a planned outside dining area.

Trustees said they would work with residents and the developer during the site plan approval process to address the concerns.

"I didn't put the kind of money into Haggerty Woods Court, where I live, to have a circus atmosphere," said Keith Kenyon. "I strongly disagree with this proposal."

Another Haggerty Woods resident, John Regal, said he was concerned about adding more traffic on Haggerty, which is already heavily congested.

Nancy Robinson, a Haggerty Road resident, said noise and lighting for the outdoor area could affect her quality of life. "As a resident and certainly as a mother I have a concern about an outdoor bar," she added.

Access to area highways was a major factor in locating Electropolitan in Canton, Marvaso said. The township's solid reputation was another

Please see COMPLEX, A6

Views on inhalant use vary

**BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER**

Plymouth-Canton security officials and students say inhalant use isn't an apparent problem on the nearly 5,000-student campus, but could be a problem off campus.

This could have been the case Sept. 20 when Alisha Roberson, 17, of Canton died after a rollover accident in Livonia off I-96. The driver, her friend, Sarah Cappuccitti, 20, also of Canton, is charged with manslaughter and could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Roberson was a Plymouth-Canton student and attended Starkweather Education Center at the time of her death.

Cappuccitti's passengers testified during a preliminary examination Tuesday that Cappuccitti and Roberson had been intentionally inhaling "Dust-off," a computer dusting spray, before Cappuccitti passed out behind the wheel, losing control of the

car.

Plymouth-Canton security officials say inhalant use or "fishing out" is not a big problem on the campus.

"Really, it hasn't been a problem here," said Tom George, chief of security at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. "I have not come across it. (But) we've picked up some students for marijuana or (using) hallucinogens. As for what students are doing off campus, I don't know."

"In terms of inhalants, it has not been a problem here," Leonard Schemanske, community relations officer with the Canton Police Department, works frequently at the Park. He concurred with George.

"We, as crime prevention officers, don't have a problem (with inhalants on campus)."

Some students said they know other students who have tried them, said sophomore James Cooper.

"I know this one kid who tried it," Cooper said. "He said it wasn't cool. He didn't even get high - he just passed out."

Cooper said he was affected by a commercial that warned against inhalant use by likening it to drowning.

"It got the point across," Cooper said. "(Inhaling) didn't sound that good."

Freshman Mike Little said using inhalants while driving is as dangerous as drinking and driving.

"I'd advise people not to do it when they're driving," Little said. "If you're driving (and using inhalants), you're going to get messed up. It's just a faster way to death."

Junior Melissa McElhiney said she knows people who have tried "whip its," or inhaling fumes from whipped cream cans.

"(Inhalants) cause a lot of brain damage," McElhiney said. "I think it's real bad - it has a lot of negative effects."

What to look for

Inhalant abuse or "huffing" has become such a common - and deadly - practice that most spray cans now contain warning labels about its dangers. But an estimated one in five American teenagers has sniffed inhalants to get high, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Widely abused products include glue/adhesives, nail polish remover, paint thinner, spray paint, butane lighter fluid, gasoline, household cleaners, whipping cream aerosols and air conditioning coolants. The products are either directly inhaled or soaked into paper towels or rags. Sometimes products are sniffed after being sprayed into small paper bags.

Effects include nausea, forgetfulness and inability to see clearly. Users may lose control of their limbs and can permanently damage vital organs including the brain, liver, heart and kidneys. They can also die from cardiac arrest.

"Dust-off," the spray com-

puter cleaner reportedly inhaled by the driver just before a Sept. 20 fatal car crash in Livonia, is commonly used for cleaning photo negatives and computers.

Some warning signs for parents:

- Unusual breath odor or chemical odor on clothing
- Slurred or disoriented speech
- Drunk, dazed or dizzy appearance
- Signs of paint or other products on the face or fingers
- Red or runny eyes or nose
- Spots or sores around the mouth
- Nausea or loss of appetite
- In chronic abusers, anxiety, excitability, irritability or restlessness

Parents who think their child may be abusing inhalants should seek professional help or contact a local drug rehabilitation center. For more information, contact the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition at (800) 269-4237 or visit their web site at www.inhalants.org.

'Story Wranglers' share their love of a good book

**BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
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As an educator for more than 30 years, Eileen Yoakam was responsible for teaching her students math, science, social studies and a variety of other subjects.

While she found those duties both challenging and rewarding, the longtime Canton resident is doing what she really loves in retirement - sharing literature with children.

"My favorite part of teaching was story-telling and acting out the stories with the kids," said Yoakam, who worked in the Dearborn Heights district.

She's one of 13 "Story Wranglers" for Canton's Public Library.

At least once per month, the Wranglers visit township daycares and preschools. Each visit includes several short stories, activities, music and fun take-home exercises for the children, who range in age from 3 to 4 years old.

Kristen Tierney, youth program specialist at the library, began the program on her own several years ago. But she found she couldn't reach as many kids as she wanted.

"We wanted to create something that would be more consistent," said Tierney, an Eastern Michigan University graduate, "where children could develop a relationship with an adult."

As a result, she and other library staffers developed the Story Wranglers program. It's currently in its second year and reaches about 25 daycares and preschools.

"We've had nothing but compliments from the schools," said Tierney. "They've been extremely receptive of the program."

She oversees the Wranglers, who range from college age to retirement age.

"A majority are moms with kids in school," said Tierney.

While Yoakam has a teaching background, it's not necessary to get involved, she added. Training is provided to the Wranglers, who are asked to make a nine-month commitment.

Each is required to make at least one visit per month. Wranglers see the same group of children, anywhere from 15 to 30, each time.

"A lot of the Wranglers average more than once per month," said Librarian Kathy Kershner, who helps oversee the program.

One theme is stressed during Wranglers' 30-minute sessions. Holidays, seasons and animals are just a few of the topics covered.

Kershner and Tierney supply Wranglers with all the materials needed for each visit. That generally includes books, finger play and activity materials as well as music.

Yoakam often supplements with her own materials. She said she keeps her visits brief so as not to disrupt teachers' plans.

"The kids tend to get restless after about 20 minutes," she added.

While the focus is on fun, Yoakam said she does use teaching elements in her sessions.

"I give the kids a purpose for listening," she said. "I want them to be curious how the story turns out at the end."

Yoakam often questions the children after reading stories to check for comprehension. Most of



Witches brew: The nine witches are played by Devin Burnstein, Megan Carroll, Alicia Christoff, Gina Datlode, Kellie Drinkharin, Nicole Gilman, Meg Hyland, Nicole Mellian and Abigail Stonerook.

On stage Plymouth Park Players set for 'Macbeth' Nov. 18-20

The Plymouth Park Players will stage the William Shakespeare tragedy "Macbeth" Nov. 18-20 in the auditorium at Salem High School.

The student production has been in rehearsal since September, said Gloria Logan, director and head of the FCEP drama department.

"We're using Scottish clan tartans to help identify the families as one of the visuals that will clarify the story and characters," Logan said.

"Shakespeare was not only a great artist, he was a great businessman," Logan said. He wrote plays to appeal to the people of the audi-

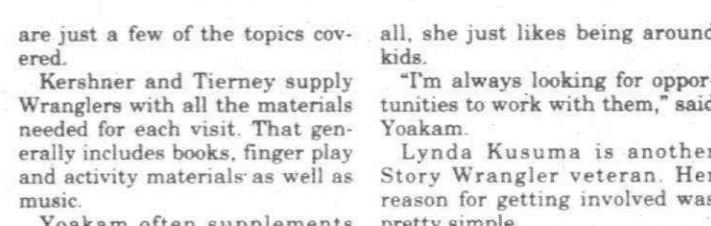
ence. So he filled them with human passions - love, ambition, hate, jealousy, nobility, loyalty...."

The cast and crew includes 75 Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem students. Macbeth is played by Phil Bioleau and Jessica Kroeger is Lady Macbeth. Mike Morton plays King Duncan.

Technical director is Paul Beard, with costume supervision by Penny Kindrake.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For tickets or information call (734) 416-7723.

Telling stories: Eileen Yoakam of Canton goes through her paces as a 'Story Wrangler,' a program sponsored by the Canton Public Library.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURCKHAM

Crash from page A1

unconscious, or "fishing out," Reynolds said, Cappuccitti had inhaled Dust-Off, a brand of pressurized spray designed to clean computers or photo equipment. It was the second time she had done so as she, Roberson, Sarah Vitto and Reynolds trav-

eled from Canton to Fairlane Town Center that evening, Reynolds said.

When Vitto, sitting next to Reynolds in the back seat, yelled at her not to inhale Dust-Off while driving, Cappuccitti replied, "No, I know how much to take and I won't fish out," Reynolds testified.

Roberson, who had also inhaled Dust-Off in the car, took the steering wheel after the Tempo went onto the left shoulder, nearly hitting the concrete median but couldn't control the car, Reynolds and Vitto testified.

The car may have been moving as fast as 95 mph, Reynolds said. "I felt us just go off the expressway, like that," Reynolds said, moving her right hand diagonally, in response to a question from assistant county prosecutor Michael Lehto.

Reynolds said she closed her eyes as the car moved to the right and felt it travel up the embankment and through what

she thought was the fence. The next thing she knew, she was waking up, clear of the car, and ran to it to help Vitto out, she said.

Then she looked at Roberson, she said. Crying, she told Lehto she couldn't remember what happened after that.

Vitto testified she had only seen Cappuccitti use the Dust-Off once while at the wheel that evening.

James De Witt of Farmington Hills, said the Tempo was probably going 90 mph before leaving the freeway. De Witt said he was a passenger in a truck that was going 75 or 80 mph, and "they passed us very fast" near the Levan-Road overpass.

After the hearing, Roberson's father, Stan Roberson, said that he and his wife, Denise, are struggling to come to terms with their daughter's death.

"We've lost a daughter, and we can't reclaim that," he said.

Their other daughter, Amber, 18, has been strong, he said.

"She has held my wife and myself up. ... She's very strong," he said.

Alisha's use of an inhalant was not something he had been aware of, her father said. "I had no clue," he said.

A public discussion of that use is hurtful, he said. "I'm feeling myself that my daughter is on trial. It's very unfair," he said.

Defense attorney Steve Fishman said Cappuccitti is "totally, 100 percent devastated by the ordeal."

"She hasn't recovered from it since, and she probably never will," he said.

Cappuccitti, with supporters in the courtroom, kept her head down for much of the hearing. She is free on a \$5,000 bond.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR PET

Veterinary Notes by Elizabeth Routson, D.V.M.

CAT TRAVEL

Always consider safety and comfort when traveling with your cat on car trips. Keep the cat confined to its travel carrier or kennel to provide a secure feeling and ensure a safer trip. Keep the cat's interior cool and well ventilated, regardless of trip length. An excited, nervous cat who is forced to travel in a stuffy environment becomes a prime candidate for car sickness. Try to avoid smoking in the car, as cigarette smoke can irritate the cat's eyes and mucous membranes. Crack the windows while traveling to prevent car exhaust fumes from nauseating the cat. If your trip will last longer than three hours, be sure to bring litter box accommodations and drinking water for the cat.

It is a safety hazard to carry a cat in your arms or allow it to ride in the car unrestrained. When your cat needs medical attention, bring it to **PARKWAY VETERINARY CLINIC**. We provide complete veterinary care, including emergency and routine treatments that will keep your pet happy and healthy. Visit either of our two locations at **41395 Wilcox Rd. in Plymouth, tel. 734-453-2577, or 5750 Lilley Rd. in Canton, tel. 734-981-4400.** We're open six days a week for your convenience.

P.S. For cats that are terrified by car travel, a vet may prescribe tranquilization as a last resort.

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Come visit our Feather Belly Deli

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Fifth grade teacher from Field honored

Fifth-grade Field Elementary School teacher Stu Raben was chosen by Metro Parent Magazine to receive the Golden Apple Award for Outstanding Teacher. He was named as one of 10 winners out of a group of 75 nominations from students and parents throughout metro Detroit.

Field is at 1060 South Hagger-

@ the Canton Public Library

Did you know?

- National Children's Book Week runs Nov. 15-21? It's a time to encourage the enjoyment of reading for young people.
- The Suez Canal opened on Nov. 17, 1869?
- There will be no "Lunch and a Book" discussion in December?
- YA Place has a new Time - 3:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays?

For your listening pleasure
Here are some books on audio tape available from the library:

- "Americans at War" by Stephen Ambrose
- "Critical Conditions" by Stephen White
- "Granny Dan" by Danielle Steel
- "I Thee Wed" by Amanda Quick
- "The Pilot's Wife" by Anita Shreve

Web Watch
Check out these Web sites:

tions for young adult readers:

- "Tune in-Anytime" by Caroline B. Cooney
- "Romiette and Julio" by Sharon M. Draper
- "Speak" by Laurie Anderson
- "The Crouching Dragon" by Lem Lamensdorf
- "When Jeff Comes Home" by Catherine Atkins
- "When Zachary Beaver Came to Town" by Kimberly William Holt
- www.airforce.com
- www.myruntime.com
- www.ExpertCentral.com

New science fiction
Readers who enjoy science fiction will find these selections interesting:

- "The Far Shore of Time" by Frederik Pohl
- "The Martians" by Kim Robinson
- "Vulcan's Heart" by Josepha Sherman
- "The Great War Walk in Hell" by Harry Turtledove

Hot topic of the week
■ Veterans Day/Veterans Day (formerly called Armistice Day) is the anniversary of the armistice between the Allied and Central powers signed Nov. 11, 1918, in France. This day was observed from 1919 through 1970. Beginning in 1971, the holiday was moved by law to the fourth Monday in October, which proved unpopular. Finally, in September 1975, lawmakers moved the holiday back to Nov. 11 beginning with the 1978 observance.

■ The Canton Library is compiled by Laura Dorogi of the library staff. The library is at 1200 S. Canton Center. For more information about library programs and services, call 397-0999.

missing something?

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Plea sends couple to prison

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

A Plymouth couple charged with sexually abusing their own daughters, as well as other children, will be spending time in prison as the result of a plea agreement.

The Wayne County prosecutor's office confirms John Bittenbender, 44, and his wife, Katharine Mae, 41, agreed to a plea bargain in exchange for not having the facts of the case brought out in court.

During sentencing on Nov. 16 in front of Wayne County Circuit Judge Prentice Edwards, John Bittenbender is expected to plead guilty to three counts of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree. Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Daniel Less

said the sentence agreement calls for Bittenbender to get 10-15 years in prison.

"The offer was negotiated, and Mr. Bittenbender accepted it because he didn't want to put his family through more grief," said Sam Churkian, the attorney for Bittenbender. "He wants to put closure to this ordeal as best he can."

Less said Katharine Bittenbender will plead guilty to one count of engaging a child in a sexually abusive activity. He said Edwards could sentence her for up to 20 years in prison.

Both are currently being held in the Wayne County jail in lieu of \$950,000 bond each.

During the couple's preliminary examination last February, Less said the father abused the girls while the mother took pictures.

The father was initially charged with four counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, as well as two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, for assaulting his teenage daughters. Less said the mentally impaired girls were sexually abused for 10 years.

He was also charged with third-degree criminal sexual conduct, plus another charge of sexually abusive activity, in a separate case.

The mother had originally been charged with two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and two counts of sexually abusive activity in the case involving her two daughters.

The case came to light when the then-16-year-old son went to a Plymouth Canton high school staff member complaining of not getting enough to eat.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBBARDMAN

Behind the camera: Gary Grace, public access facility coordinator for MediaOne, demonstrates equipment in the studio which opened Nov. 1.

Studio from page A1

other is Ameritech. It is still relatively rare for any community to have two cable services.

"This facility is strictly for use by the public," Grace said while giving a tour. "From day one, we've been up to full speed."

A talk show, called "The Possible Parent" is scheduled for taping Friday evening, Grace said. Most of the studio's portable equipment was already checked out.

Youth sports teams and non-profit groups are common users of the studio and equipment. People 18 and younger must have adult sponsors.

The "core office hours" for the production facility are noon-5 p.m., according to a brochure. There are flexible hours for productions.

The hours are the same as the former Ronda Drive facility, said Maria Holmes, MediaOne corporate affairs manager.

MediaOne closed its Ronda Drive studio and billing office earlier this year when employees complained about odors from a nearby stamping plant, said Michael Grover, a MediaOne

attorney.

MediaOne never asked permission to close the Ronda Drive facility, said Tim Cronin, attorney for Canton and Plymouth Townships said last month.

"MediaOne unilaterally breached the agreement for its own reasons," Cronin said.

The biggest sticking point during the transfer of MediaOne's franchise agreement and telecommunications permit in Plymouth Township to AT&T was the company's lack of a public access studio in the service area.

The cable service provider had made a studio in Dearborn Heights available to area residents.

The facility consists of a three-camera studio and an adjacent control/editing room.

The studio is basically self-service, with residents and members of non-profit groups doing their own taping and editing. Grace said users are asked to complete a series of training meetings before using the studio or equipment. The training and equipment are provided free.

Users can also take mobile equipment to record on-location events such as sporting events and festivals. They are also welcome to use their own recording equipment and edit it at the studio, Grace said.

People can also bring in their own pre-taped shows, as long as the material is not copyrighted, he added.

Any resident or community group from Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Northville and Northville Township, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Romulus and Van Buren Township can use the studio equipment. There are some restrictions, and availability is first come, first served.

"Users" have to be able to, in some way, attest that their program has value to the local community," Grace said. Under FCC guidelines, MediaOne cannot censor programming.

Phone (734) 667-2304 for details; customer service center is (734) 459-7300. Payment center hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon.

Supporters say charter schools improve all education

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

Lansing Mayor David Hollister saw where families were relocating in the Lansing area.

They were moving to Lansing's surrounding communities of DeWitt, Grand Ledge, Holt and Okemos, which led him to describe Lansing as a "doughnut," according to James Goenner.

The mayor talked about that (growth) and that keeping the young families in Lansing would keep the doughnut from getting bigger," Goenner said. "He said, 'We have to improve schools.'"

Of course, as the director of the charter schools office at Central Michigan University and a charter school advocate, Goenner agrees. Improving the schools will improve many of Michigan's cities, Goenner said. "As Compuware comes to Detroit, where will they send their kids?" Goenner asks.

What is a charter school?

Since August 1994 Michigan's elementary and secondary public school system has added more than 100 new public schools commonly referred to as public school academies or charter schools.

The schools must follow the same laws that govern traditional public education. Educators, community leaders, business people and parents who start charters select the curriculum, philosophies and emphasis of the schools.

Public universities, local districts and community colleges authorize charters, which supporters say adds a level of accountability not seen elsewhere by ensuring that each school upholds its written performance contract. Charters operate solely on state aid of \$6,000 per student; they cannot levy millages or issue bonds.

All charter schools are nonprofit, as required by law. A charter board may hire a service provider for administrative chores instead of hiring a central office staff.

Approximately 50,000 Michigan students attend 173 Michigan charter schools.

"I think the majority of parents love their children and want what's best for them. A majority of students are from minority households, a majority do care but they couldn't move to suburban districts."

Safer schools wanted

Goenner was asked about charter schools and their ethnic focus and whether that contributed to segregation.

Goenner said Hispanics in the Saginaw area wanted a charter school, so one was started. Many students continued to struggle with academics at that school and had problems with drug abuse. MEAP scores did not improve, but the school eventually graduated its first student and the Hispanic community helped her obtain a college scholarship. She continues to study at that college, Goenner said.

Many Detroit academies are African American with 95 percent or more of the population African American. Hall added: "They have the same needs, they have the same deficiencies and they have the same desires. They are looking for something different."

"They want the schools to be safe."

Hall said the schools do not pull from the "elite."

Students learn reading, writing and arithmetic, along with respect, responsibility and character education, highlighting values, honesty, truth and integrity, Goenner said. Academies also focus on the fine arts, automotive manufacturing and environmental science.

Western Wayne County does not have many charter schools because they tend to be proposed in areas that "need" them,

though that isn't always the case, Goenner said.

"Forest Hills in Grand Rapids is one of the top three in the state, and a charter school went there and filled up. It doesn't necessarily mean a school district is bad, it's just that a core of parents want something different."

Charter school instructors generally earn between \$25,000 and \$32,000 to start, Goenner said. With experienced instructors in public schools earning more than double that, Goenner admits it will be "hard to be competitive."

"They are looking at merit pay, and they are struggling with that," Goenner said. But charter school instructors praise the professional development offered at the schools, along with the appreciation and support of parents, Goenner said.

points-and outline mission goals, Goenner said. Parent involvement is spelled out as a non-academic goal, Goenner said.

"We issue contracts for three to five years," Goenner said.

Four CMU-authorized academies have closed. One had too small an enrollment to operate; another for pregnant teens was transformed into a private partnership. For the third closed academy, CMU was not "comfortable" in allowing a Catholic school on the first and second floors, and the charter school on the second and third floors.

It also characterized the difficulties in starting a charter school, Goenner said.

"Getting physical facilities is one of our toughest problems," Goenner said.

The closing of the fourth school - the Sierra Leone Academy in Detroit - was not viewed as a failure but what Goenner called a "victory" to show how the universities hold the academies accountable. "They were not good to work with, we did not get disclosure and cooperation," Goenner said. "We said, 'These schools will be accountable, we will oversee them.'"

Class size is regulated, so if a

school wants to increase above their contracted amount, they must amend their current agreement, Goenner said.

Parental requirements

Wilhelmina Hall, a former educator in the Detroit school system for 32 years and a charter schools advocate, said charter school teachers also are held accountable. "I know someone is checking on me to find out if I am doing this," Hall said.

Hall said parents must sign a contract, which includes a specified number of hours that parents must spend on academics with their child or children. Parents also must attend a parent-teacher conference, and the academy must provide them training.

"When you give (parents) a choice, it gives them a different aura," Hall said. "It doesn't matter with the poverty level. Because this is a choice, I have made this choice and I have chosen this school."

Parents like a "nurturing environment," Goenner said.

"We can predict a child's test scores based on income," Goenner said. "That's a sad commentary."

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Superintendent from page A1

The list of five candidates became four when Thomas Gay, Redford Union superintendent, withdrew from the selection process.

In a letter to the consulting firm conducting the search, The Bickert Group Ltd., Gay indicated the Redford Union school board passed a resolution which indicated "their lack of desire to release me, at this time, from my professional contract as superintendent. I have received a plethora of telephone calls from staff and community members asking me to reconsider my candidacy as superintendent at Plymouth-Canton Schools."

The Plymouth-Canton board will also notify Larry Thomas, educational consultant to, and former superintendent of, the Wayne-Westland district, that he is no longer under consideration.

A sixth original candidate, James Harris of Buffalo (N.Y.)

Schools, dropped out before the interview process began after accepting an offer from the Traverse City school district.

"We need to have three candidates that are very strong and a good fit for our community," said Trustee Roland Thomas.

"I looked at education and experience and all the candidates were very well qualified," said Trustee Darwin Watts. "I looked for a personality fit... and in my estimation I saw one person who fit that."

"I'm willing to go the next step and learn more about a couple of the candidates," added board member Judy Mardigan, who didn't rule out the possibility of starting the process over if none of the current candidates is a fit for the district. "We need this to work out and to work for many years."

"We need to know a lot more about these candidates because this community can become very

reactive at times," added Trustee Steve Guile. "I wasn't really that satisfied with any of them in the initial interview... maybe a second round of interviews would bring out more information about the candidates."

The board will meet individually with the finalists on Nov. 16-17, 22-23 and 29-30. The first day will include a dinner with the candidate, spouse and the Board of Education in a social setting. The next day will find the candidate visiting various buildings throughout the district, followed by a second interview designed to be more specific than the first.

After the three candidates are interviewed a second time, the board could choose to hire one of them to start Jan. 1, or wait and re-start the selection process with hopes of having a new superintendent in place sometime next summer.

Speaking from Mona Shores, Mich., Walcott said he would

Walcott likely won't stay long after contract ends

BY TONY BRUSCATO
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Interim Superintendent Ken Walcott

If the Plymouth-Canton school district decides to go through a second job posting to find a qualified candidate to become the district's next superintendent, trustees may also have to find another interim superintendent to last through the summer.

Interim Superintendent Ken Walcott, whose six-month contract ends Jan. 11, said "it's not my intent to stay here another six to eight months. I want to get on with other aspects of my life."

Walcott, a school consultant before accepting the interim position last July when Chuck Little resigned as superintendent, said he "wouldn't leave the district hanging, but would leave whenever we could work it out. I want to be fair with the district."

Walcott expects to return to URS Greiner Woodward Clyde

in Grand Rapids, an international architectural firm, from which he took a leave of absence.

"It's been a challenge, and hopefully the district will find a superintendent in the current process," said Walcott. "There are a lot of issues that need to be resolved to move this district forward. The board needs to find someone with vision, leadership and energy."

The board of education has narrowed its search to three potential candidates, after interviewing five last week. If the board and the Superintendents Search Committee can't come up with a viable choice to begin work Jan. 1, a second search would start after the first of the year.

"We have to follow through with the process of finding a new superintendent before worrying about an interim," said Sue Davis, school board president. "It's a little premature."

Bowling challenge to benefit Oakwood

Henry Ford Community College's radio station, WHFR 89.3 FM, will challenge the Plymouth-Canton schools station, WSDP 88.1 FM, in a bowling

benefit 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, at Westland Bowl on Wayne Road north of Ford Road.

Both radio stations are non-commercial and educational. All

proceeds will benefit programs sponsored by the Oakwood Healthcare System Foundation Children's Fund.



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STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBBARD

Swing your partner: Disc Jockey Norman Auten of Plymouth helps put dance club members through their paces Monday at Lucille's.

Lucille's from page A1

free pizza, a Dec. 5 fund-raiser for Horses Haven, a shelter for abused horses, and Buck Out Saturdays (buck outs are mini rodeos).

Prize-winning bronco busters will receive a pitcher of beer on the house and will be able to view the highlights of their rides on TV from the safety of a barstool.

Karaoke has been added for Monday nights and dance classes on Thursdays and Fridays begin Nov. 11.

"It's a fun bar. It's safe and friendly. We want to get the neighborhood bar feel that you see on 'Cheers,'" Whitt said.

The building was renovated for three weeks prior to its reopening.

A paint job and landscaping spiffed up the outside while the interior was rearranged to make room for pool tables and a disc jockey booth.

To punctuate the bar's image, the familiar logo outside was dropped. A cowboy straddling a bronco replaces the ponytail girl who for years had served as the bar's trademark.

Whitt worked at Lucille's six years ago as a bartender.

When she and her husband were asked to take over, they decided to change the format of the bar "to make it into what it used to be, a fun place to go to where you can relax and dance."

A regular house band, Cherie and the Blue Mountain Rockers, plays Thursday-Saturday nights with DJ Jenny spinning country tunes between sets.

Whitt says people get the wrong impression of Lucille's because of its location and genre of music.

"Being a country bar on Michigan Avenue doesn't mean we're a bunch of rednecks, it means fun. We don't have a rough crowd." Management would like the bar, located on the south side of Michigan Avenue between Sheldon and Morton Taylor Road, to have more of a presence in Canton.

"We've always kind of sat back, but now we're looking to be more involved in the community. I plan on joining the Chamber of Commerce and getting involved in fund-raising activities. We want to give back," Whitt said.

Lucille's primary competition for drawing roughriders is the Diamondback Saloon, a much larger nightclub in Van Buren Township. Whitt hopes to get her share of cowpokes by offering a relaxed atmosphere with live music and friendly company.

"We're trying to get the trust back from our former customers. We're not gonna leave you again," Whitt said.

Complex from page A1

"We don't feel we'll have any problems there," said Marvaso, whose family owns the Electric Stick pool hall in Westland. "Canton is a nice community."

Likewise, Public Safety Director John Santomaro doesn't think the complex will present major problems for the township.

"The sheer size of it will generate some activity," he commented. "But I don't see it being a heavy drain on police and fire services."

Much will depend on the strength of Electropolitan's management, Santomaro said.

"If it's not properly run," he added, "there could be a potential for problems."

About 24,000 square feet would be used for an arcade. Marvaso said it will feature the latest in virtual reality games aimed at adults and children.

A 400-seat comedy club will be featured. Electropolitan will have a pool hall with nearly two dozen tables and an 8,000-square-foot dance floor.

A restaurant serving steaks, ribs, pasta and sandwiches is planned. A 500-seat banquet facility would host wedding receptions and other events.

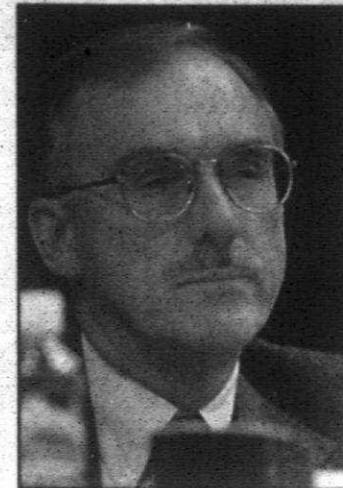
Marvaso said he and his family originally planned a 50,000-square-foot building. But it kept growing as more uses fell in place. Electropolitan will cover about 14 acres.

Developers of the project have said there's interest in building two or three "four-star" hotels adjacent to the complex on Ford Road.

Staff writer Todd Schneider contributed to this story.

HMO reform aims at care continuity

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net



State Rep. Gerald Law

Patients will be given a 90-day transition period if their doctors decide to leave their HMO, according to a set of bills just approved in the state Legislature.

Rep. Gerald Law (R-Plymouth), one of three sponsors for the three-bill package, explained the bills are intended to provide "continuity of care," giving patients time to find new physicians within the health maintenance organization without having to rush.

Additionally, pregnant women who have made it to their second trimester will be able to stay with that physician throughout their pregnancy. Terminally ill patients may stay until death.

According to Law, the change to state laws regulating managed care is one of the last areas in need of reform. With a few additional "tweaks," the Michigan Legislature will have accomplished the major portion of reforms the U.S. Congress has been unable to address.

to find the doctor has left the HMO. They then have been faced with paying for the visit uninsured, or rushing to find a new doctor in the HMO system.

Law said HMOs in Michigan did not oppose the legislation. Some HMOs were already offering such transition periods to their customers.

The most controversial portion of the bill revolved around a requirement that doctors notify patients within 15 days of deciding to leave the HMO. Law said that notification was left as optional for the doctors, explaining he believed most doctors would send such notification in an effort to keep their clientele.

The bill was tied to House Bill 4485, by Rep. Sandra Caul (R-Mt. Pleasant), and House Bill 4486, by Rep. Randy Richardville (R-Monroe). Law's bill was approved in 105-0 and 36-0 votes in the House and Senate, respectively, after amendments were rejected to extend the transition period even further.

Also on Law's list for HMOs is a change addressing prescrip-

tions. Currently, HMOs are allowed to specify what drugs patients can use for various treatments. Law wants doctors on the HMO boards which decide which drugs are to be used.

Already in place in Michigan is legislation which allows a doctor to go off that list of prescribed drugs, if a different treatment is medically necessary. The doctor can call for a different drug, Law explained, but the HMO may have a higher deductible or co-pay for drugs off the list.

Law said Michigan HMO reform is well ahead of Congress' efforts because the state has already adopted a patient's bill of rights. Although little known and poorly publicized by the state so far, Law said, legislation has already been enacted in Michigan allowing for appeals to the state should an HMO deny a drug or treatment to a patient.

Appeals of denials from HMOs are decided by the state Department of Community Health. Appeals of denials from other health insurers are resolved by the state Financial Institutions Bureau.

Wayne County joins Project Zero program

Four Wayne County Family Independence Agency district offices have joined the Project Zero welfare reform initiative.

The Redford, Greenfield-Joy, Inkster and Schoolcraft-Stansbury districts joined the drive to reduce the number of FIA families without earned income to zero, said FIA Director Douglas Howard.

The offices are part of 36 Project Zero sites joining 35 existing sites across the state. Joining Howard at the Wayne County Project Zero kickoff were: Ann Marie Sims, zone manager of Wayne County FIA, Vince Ranger from the Michigan Department of Transportation; Janet Howard of the Michigan Department of Career Development; managers from the four FIA district offices and community partners.

"Project Zero is what welfare reform is all about - communities coming together to identify barriers to employment and redirecting their efforts and resources to remove those barriers," Howard said.

With the 36 new Project Zero sites starting this month, 49 counties are now represented in Project Zero.

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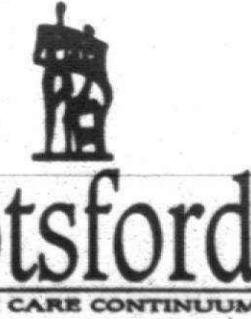


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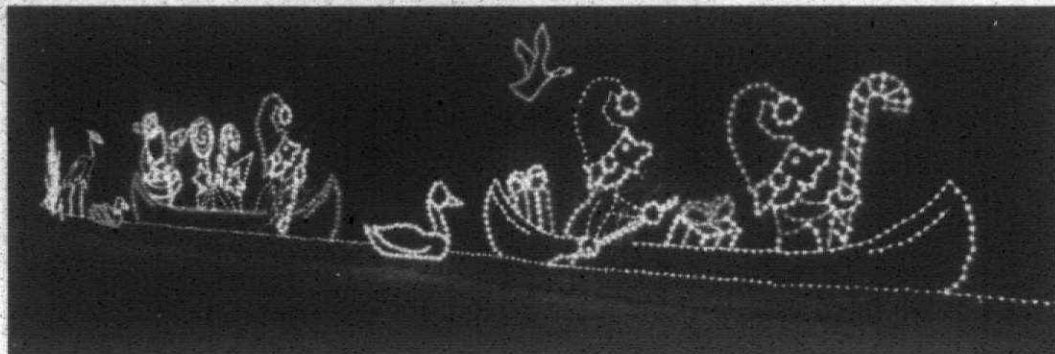
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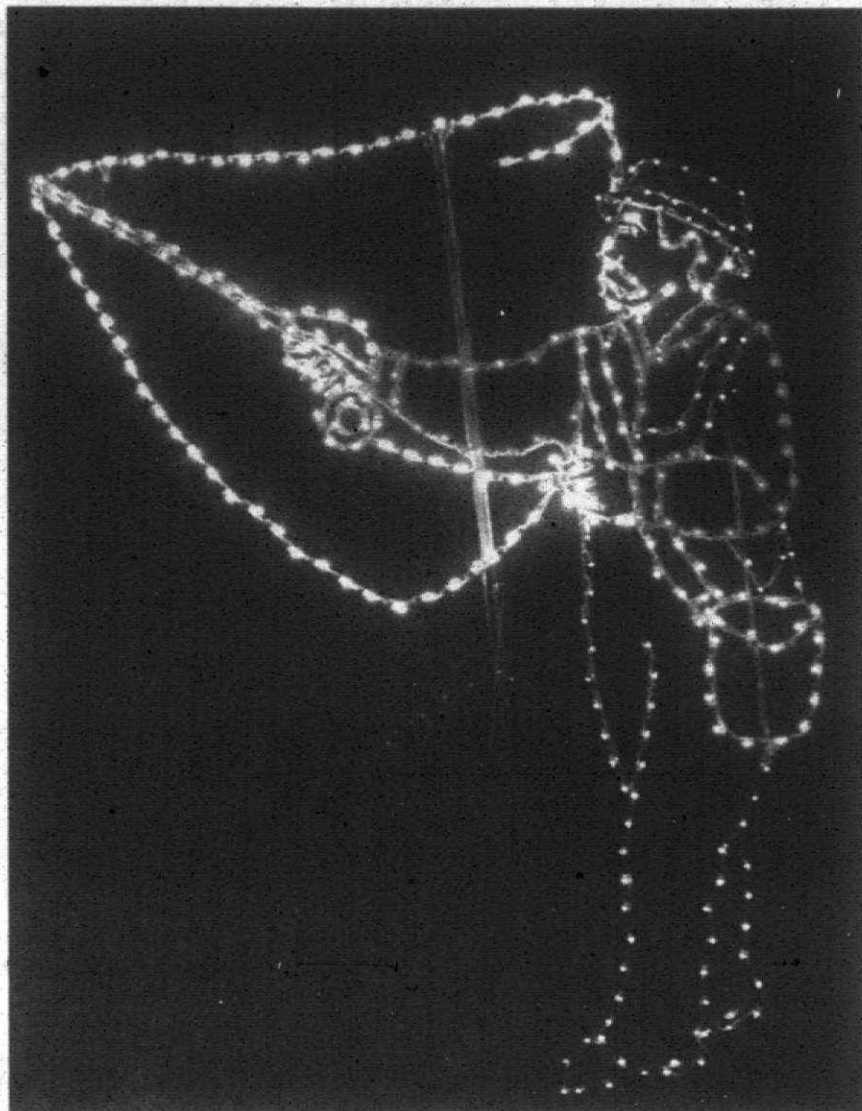
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FILE PHOTOS



Flashy fishing: *This electric fly-fisherman will catch your fancy. He's one of many clever designs along the 4 1/2-mile display.*

Hines LightFest begins Nov. 18

Starting next Thursday, 39 giant displays will light up the night skies along Edward Hines Drive in western Wayne County.

The displays will be illuminated for Wayne County's LightFest, which begins at 7 p.m. Nov. 18 along 4 1/2 miles of Hines Drive from Westland to Dearborn Heights.

The displays will be lighted 7-9 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, from Nov. 18 through Dec. 30, but the LightFest will be closed Dec. 25.

Each display features animation. This year display visitors can expect to see parachuting reindeer, Santa's sleigh ascending into the sky and a ball shot over the Inkster Road bridge.

Displays include the Lochness Monster and a giant poinsettia wreath.

At the end of the festival drive, visitors can stop by Santa's Shelter at the Warrendale Picnic Area for refreshments, gift shopping and - after Nov. 24 - take a picture with Santa Claus.

A \$5 minimum donation per car helps keep Wayne County LightFest operating. There is an additional charge for commercial vehicles and buses, which are encouraged to pre-register.

Wayne County LightFest is made possible through donations from festival visitors and event sponsors including AAA Michigan, Ameritech, CVS Pharmacy, Bank One, Blue Care Network of

Southeast Michigan, Detroit Edison, Friends of Wayne County Parks, WDIV/TV4, Torre & Bruglio, Warren Valley Banquet Center, the Farbman Group, Lewis and Munday, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ring Screw Works, Melody Farms, Avis Ford, Lewis & Thompson Agency and NTH Consultants.

Hines Drive will be closed on the evenings the LightFest is open, starting at 5:45 p.m. Traffic enters Wayne County LightFest at Hines Drive and Merri-man in Westland.

For more information on Wayne County LightFest or to arrange bus/limo tours, call (734) 261-1990.

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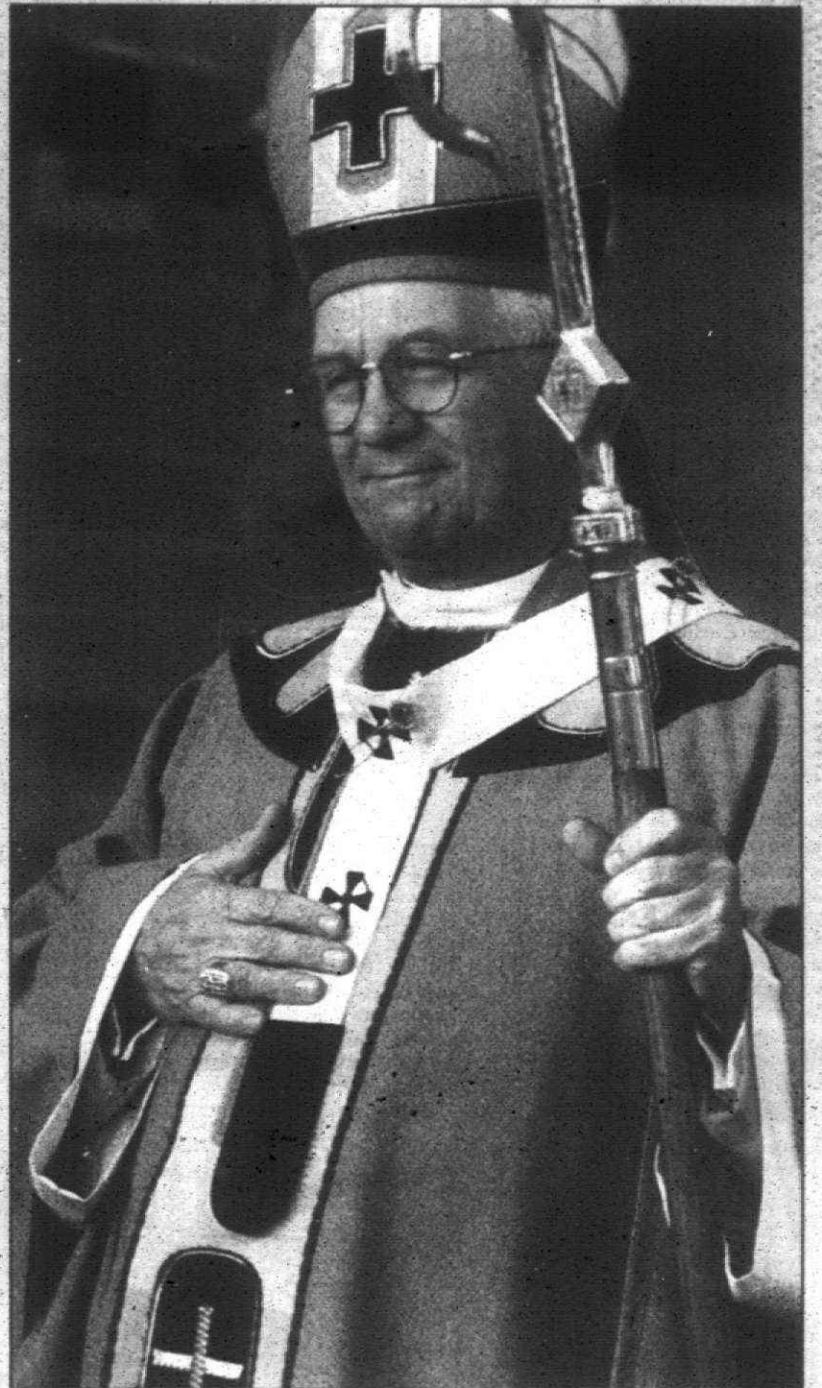
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Great occasion: (Far right) Adam Cardinal Maida, archbishop of Detroit, leaves the Felician Chapel House after presiding over a solemn Eucharistic Liturgy.

(At right) About 700 joined the sisters for their celebration which included a Mass at the Chapel House and a reception and dinner at Laurel Manor.

(Below) Felician sisters and distinguished guests participate in a Mass marking the order's 125th year in the United States.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY JACOBS



SOLEMN MASS

MARKS FELICIAN ANNIVERSARY

The Felician Sisters of Livonia marked the 125th anniversary of the order in the United States Sunday with a Solemn Eucharistic Liturgy at the Felician Chapel presided over by Adam Cardinal Maida, archbishop of Detroit.

Eight bishops and 30 other clergy celebrated the Mass with about 700 in attendance. The Mass was followed by a reception and dinner at Laurel Manor. Sister Mary Cynthia Strzalkowski, minister general of the international community of Felician Sisters, was the keynote speaker.

The Livonia province of the Felician order has 230 members and grew out of a movement in Polonia, Wis., in 1874 when Father Joseph Dabrowski invited five pioneer Felician sisters from Poland to teach the children of Polish immigrants in the rural Wisconsin community. The order had been founded 19 years earlier by Sister Mary

Angela Truszkowska.

Within five years, the small Felician community attracted other members and began ministries in Michigan, Illinois and New York.

The order's central headquarters was moved to Detroit in 1882 and to Livonia in 1936.

The sisters operate several institutions at their 300 acre Livonia site bounded by Schoolcraft, Five Mile, Levan and Newburgh - Angela Hospice, Ladywood High School, Madonna University, St. Mary Hospital, Marywood Manor and Marybrook Nursing Care Center, Montessori Center of Our Lady and Senior Clergy Village. They also operate retreat centers in Jackson and Holly.

The order has 2,300 sisters worldwide.

The celebration in Livonia is one of several being held at the order's facilities in Poland and the United States.

During September and October, Felician sisters from Michigan and Indiana flew to Warsaw, Poland, to join more than 300 Felician sisters from around the world for a pilgrimage honoring the 100-year anniversary of their founder's death.

Another pilgrimage is planned for Nov. 19-28 as sisters travel by bus from Polonia, Wis., to Buffalo, N.Y., retracing their beginnings in North America.

The highlight of this trip will be the sisters visiting the cemeteries where the five pioneers are buried, including the leader, Sister Mary Monica Sybilki in Mt. Elliott Cemetery and Sister Mary Raphael in Mt. Olive Cemetery, both in Detroit," said Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, provincial secretary.

The pilgrimage will be in the Metro Detroit area Nov. 24-25 and will include a Thanksgiving Day Mass at the Felician Sisters Provincial House in Livonia. The public is welcome.

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Rival bills try to improve school building inspections

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

All new buildings in Michigan are inspected for structural integrity when they are constructed - all buildings except schools. And according to state senators, they haven't been since about 1978.

Wall collapses in two Michigan school districts have brought the issue to the forefront in the state Legislature - one at a middle school in Woodhaven in 1990 and another at a high school in Flushing in 1998.

No one was hurt in the collapse at the 70s-era Woodhaven school, but repairs cost some \$6 million, according to Joe O'Reilly, legislative aide to Sen. Christopher Dingell (D-Trenton). Four workers died, however, in the collapse at the Flushing high school, where the wall was part of an auditorium under construction at the time.

Both incidents have been attributed to improper design and construction, and senators believe inspections would have caught the problems early.

Senators now aim to address the oversight, Republicans and Democrats alike, but there are disagreements over the best way to accomplish that goal. Those differences led to heated words recently.



Senate Republicans are endangering the lives of school children across Michigan by repeatedly refusing to include schools in the state construction code. By not mandating the inspection of school buildings - by inspectors trained to look for structural integrity, we run the risk of putting our children in dangerous buildings like the one

in Woodhaven," Dingell said. His comments came after senators rejected a revision to the state construction code, Senate Bill 463, which was originally sponsored by Sen. Leon Stille (R-Spring Lake) and co-sponsored by Sen. Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) and Dianne Byrum (D-Onondaga). The state code is enforced by building officials in local municipalities. The bill had been amended in the House to eliminate exemptions to the code, and therefore local inspections, for school buildings.

Bills differ
According to O'Reilly, the reason for the rejection was that Senate Republicans would prefer another bill sponsored by Sen. Mike Rogers (R-Howell). Senate Bill 805 would require that all new schools be inspected by the state Bureau of Construction Codes, but it would allow school districts to opt for inspections by local municipal building officials instead.

The difference between the two bills is not just politics, Rogers' press secretary Sylvia Warner assured. Taking the exemption for schools out of the state construction code might have some unintended consequences, she warned. Rogers' bill, on the other hand, adds inspections in education law, resulting in the "cleanest public

policy," easiest for school boards to understand and follow, Warner explained.

Rogers' bill, SB 805, has received one hearing in committee, she said. Members asked for additional research before voting, so she predicted the bill would not reach the full Senate for a vote until early 2000. According to O'Reilly, the delay to Rogers' bill is over the question of whether inspections should be conducted now for those schools which have been built in the past few years. SB 463, proposed by Sen. Stille, was once approved by senators and won approval in the House. But representatives amended the bill to end the exemption for schools, causing senators to reject the measure. The bill is now headed to conference committee. Action on that bill may also be delayed until after the start of the new year.

When all is done, O'Reilly said the goal is to get schools inspected. If senators reject SB 463, Dingell will support Rogers' bills, O'Reilly said.

Long history
The oversight that led to the lack of construction inspections has a long history, according to O'Reilly. It dates back to the 1920s and '30s. At the time, he contended, school buildings were often the largest and most com-

plicated building projects in many communities.

Municipal building inspectors often did not have the expertise at the time to review construction for buildings of that size. Additionally, there were problems with animosities between school districts and the municipalities in which they were located - which is still an issue in school construction - as well as problems with so-called sweetheart contracts and out-and-out bribery.

"The one person considered to be above reproach was the state superintendent of public education," O'Reilly said, so the job of inspecting school buildings was turned over to him. But state superintendents also did not have expertise in construction standards, so they increasingly relied on contracts with outside offices to conduct the actual on-site reviews.

In 1978, the entire job was turned over to the Office of Fire Safety under the state fire marshal.

"The number one safety issue for schools is fire safety, don't get me wrong," O'Reilly said, "and the Office of Fire Safety does an excellent job." But inspectors there also are not trained to review structural integrity, he added.

New buildings
New school buildings have long been a source of disagreement between municipalities and local districts. Schools have for years been outside the control of zoning authorities within local governments, so while city councils and township boards are able to control the placement of all other buildings in their communities, placement of schools rests solely with the school board.

Up until 1992, zoning regula-

tions did apply to all non-school land and buildings in a district, O'Reilly explained. So municipalities could control placement of, for example, the district's bus garage. That ended in 1992 under a bill offered by then-Sen. Jack Faxon, which exempted all school land and buildings from local municipal control.

If zoning officials don't like those rules, city fire chiefs have long had stronger arguments with the state law. While it is state inspectors who do the reviewing, it is city fire departments that are expected to put out any blazes there. Some chiefs have complained that the rules mean their first look inside new school buildings has come when they were called there for an emergency.

All those are side issues for the time being, O'Reilly said.

"The vast majority of school buildings typically exceed public building codes, but inspections are not required during construction," Rogers said. "Tragically, this oversight already has resulted in the deaths of several workers who were building an auditorium in Flushing just over a year ago. Requiring inspections of new construction projects assures parents that their children will be safe. Inspections help assure that human error won't result in another tragic incident."

Senators rejected the amended SB 463 in a 16-20 vote Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Sens. George Z. Hart (D-Deerborn) and Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield) voted yes.

Sens. Loren Bennett (R-Canton), Bill Bullard (R-Highland), Mat Dunaskiss (R-Lake Orion), Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak) and Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) voted no.

Sen. John D. Cherry Jr. (D-Clio) was absent.

Bill would end 'spousal privilege'

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
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An age-old concept in common law known as the "marital privilege," which means criminal defendants can keep their spouses from testifying against them in court, may be ended by legislation currently under consideration in Lansing.

The privilege now means that what you say to your marriage partner in confidence, even if you tell your spouse you committed a murder, can't be used against you in a criminal case. But it would be eliminated by House Bill 4684, sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Faunce (R-Warren).

"Do you know where the privilege comes from?" Anica Letica, assistant Oakland County prosecutor, asked. "Its origins go way back in common law to a time when you were not allowed to testify in your own case because it was presumed you were too biased. When you got married, your spouse 'became one with you.' Of course, now people can testify in their own cases, but we've kept the marital privilege. Today, it's known as the sit-down-and-shut-up rule."

Letica appeared before the House of Representatives' Committee on Family and Civil Law to testify in support of the bill in October.

But the long-standing legal tradition also has its supporters, so the proposed change is beginning to draw fire. On Tuesday, Nov. 2, Michigan Family Forum, a conservative family advocacy

'This bill is family-friendly. It gives the option to the (witness spouse) so they can testify when it is the moral thing to do.'

Rep. Jennifer Faunce
R-Warren

group, announced its opposition, saying ending the privilege could destroy marital harmony in some relationships.

"True, the bill might assist prosecutors in their endeavors, but it might also produce the unintended consequence of exposing spouses to threats about whether they should testify or not," Family Forum Executive Director Mike Harris wrote in a letter to the House.

"This is not a family-friendly situation. One can certainly argue that deserving families don't get themselves into such situations, but the argument ignores the principle that the law should equally protect everyone whatever their social status might be."

"Divorce and marital strife get enough promotion from Michigan law via no-fault divorce statutes. We'd rather not add to the carnage by turning the marital privilege laws on their heads."

Rep. Bob Brown (D-Deerborn Heights) said he can't support the bill in its present form, which he sees as a blanket elimination of the privilege.

"If someone drives home drunk," he said, "a prosecutor would be able to force a spouse to testify that he came home

drunk. This is a very dangerous bill for families." But Brown did say he would vote for it if exceptions are added.

Faunce disagreed. She contended that her bill doesn't end the privilege, it simply changes who gets to make the decision about testifying. Under present law, the defendant is the one who has the option as to whether the spouse can testify. HB 4684, Faunce said, would give that option to the spouse.

"This bill is family-friendly," Faunce argued. "It gives the option to the (witness spouse) so they can testify when it is the moral thing to do."

"They say they're afraid prosecutors will use this to mean, to coerce spouses to testify. In my experience, prosecutors are not mean people. They are elected officials and they get there by being trusted individuals. If they are mean, then get rid of them," she said.

Having worked as an assistant prosecutor for seven years, Faunce said spouses could not be coerced to testify. "Prosecutors are not allowed to threaten people."

"I don't see how you are disrupting marital harmony," Letica said, arguing in support of Faunce's bill. "You are putting

New law makes credit identity theft a felony

BY MIKE MALOTT
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Identity theft - when a criminal applies for credit in someone else's name - can cost the victim a great deal of time.

"If someone takes my identity, it may take nine months to a year to clear my name," Rep. Bob Brown (D-Deerborn Heights) said. "There may be additional costs, like losing out on low-rate mortgages in the meantime."

Because credit card companies and credit bureaus have had to establish security departments to prevent such forms of fraud, Brown said he believes credit identity theft has become the costliest form of fraud today, costing us millions if not billions.

"What many people don't realize is that credit identity is often worth more than the money actually taken, because people spend a lifetime building up their credit histories. Credit is often the most valuable asset we have," Brown said.

To address the problem, Gov. John Engler signed Brown's legislation, House Bill 4413, on Thursday, Nov. 4, making it a felony punishable by four years in prison or a \$2,500 fine to apply for credit in someone else's name.

Previously, the law did not address credit applications. Brown explained that police often had a hard time charging perpetrators when they applied for credit using a false identity. It wasn't considered illegal until something of value had changed hands. Police were in a position of "trying to concoct a charge" against those caught making such applications, he said.

Brown's bill was tie-barred to House Bill 4598, sponsored by Stephen Ehardt (R-Lexington), which makes it illegal to possess credit information with the intent of passing it on to another for the purpose of credit fraud. So serving as a "clearinghouse" for stolen credit information, Brown explained, could net perpetrators four years in prison or a \$100,000 fine.

Brown said he believes his bill is the first Democrat-originated initiative to win the governor's signature this year.

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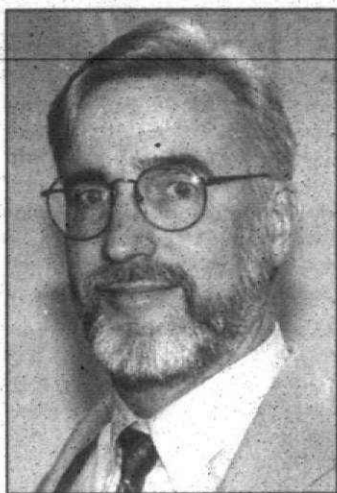
Madonna University creates new College of Education

In 1947 when Madonna College in Livonia was established, the training of teachers was one of three academic programs instituted. During the following 52 years, the college became Madonna University and grew to offer more than 50 undergraduate majors and 14 master's degree programs enrolling approximately 4,000 men and women.

Recently, the Madonna University Board of Trustees approved the change of the Education Department to a College of Education.

"This organizational change recognizes the Education Department's role in the growth of the university and its solid reputation in preparing teachers," said Ernest Nolan, vice president for academic administration. "The education of teachers has been central to our mission of service to the community."

The College of Education directs the teacher preparation curriculum at the undergraduate level, as well as four master's degree programs. The academic majors in family and consumer science, child development and early childhood education are also housed in the new college. All the undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of



New dean: Robert Kimball

Teacher Education.

In conjunction with the designation of the College of Education, Robert Kimball was named dean. Kimball had been chair of the Education Department for the last nine years. The South Lyon resident earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan. His teaching experience spans more than 30 years and includes serving as director of student teaching and chair of the Teacher Education Department at Mercy College of Detroit.

Kimball has long been interested in educational computing and has written five computer programs for school children. He also designed Web pages for the College of Education, which can be found at the University's Web site - www.munet.edu.

"The goals of the College of Education are to offer high quality instruction, to nurture and support all students through faculty mentoring and to meet the career need of future and current teachers," said Kimball.

Students are expected to benefit from the change, since the new college will offer more personal attention and academic resources, said Kimball.

Over the past decade the teacher education program has grown dramatically. Four graduate programs were developed - a master of arts in teaching with specializations in learning disabilities and literacy education and a master of science in administration with specialties in Catholic school leadership and educational leadership.

Madonna University's College of Education is an approved Michigan teacher preparation institution authorized to grant teaching certificates at the elementary and secondary levels. For more information about teacher education programs, call (734) 432-5339.

Henry Ford holds pre-education forum

Find out how Henry Ford Community College can help you get started on a teaching career at HFCC's second annual Pre-Education Conference. The conference is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, in the Administrative Services and Conference Center, located on HFCC's main campus at 5101 Evergreen Road in Dearborn.

At the conference, participants will learn about teacher certification, the job market outlook and how to apply and interview

for teaching positions. HFCC representatives will provide information on the college's pre-education transfer program.

During break-out sessions, participants can speak with HFCC instructors as well as HFCC alumni who have transferred to teaching programs at four-year colleges and universities.

A continental breakfast will start the conference at 8 a.m. After breakfast, keynote speaker Carolyn Logan, director of teach-

er certification for the Michigan Department of Education, will discuss the teaching profession in Michigan. Other speakers include Janice Cataldo, director of the Early Child Care program for the Dearborn Public Schools and Nancy Wilkinson, assistant human resources director for the Dearborn Public Schools.

Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door.

For more information, call Deborah Zopf, HFCC mathematics instructor, at (313) 845-6430.

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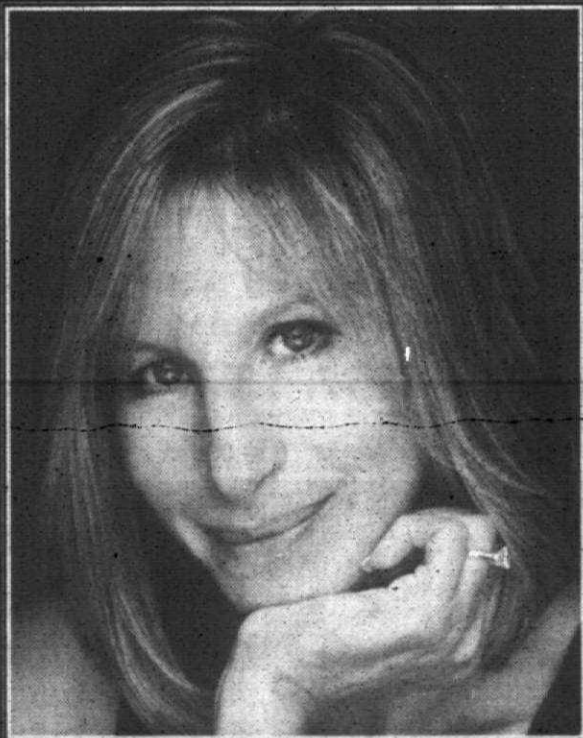
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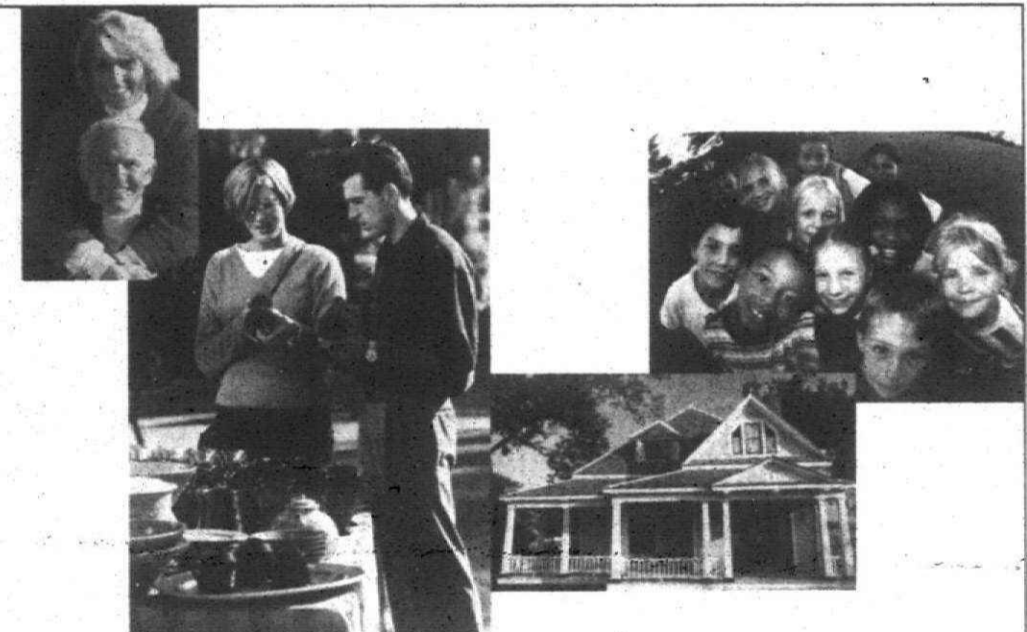


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JACK GLADDEN

Getting there: Her TripTik vs. my map

It was that fool TripTik that got me into trouble. That, and those highway signs that use exit numbers instead of telling you where you're going, if you get off at a particular exit.

Women love TripTiks. They're small, compact, detailed. They tell you which exit numbers to take. But they don't show the whole picture.

They plot your trip in 30-minute or one-hour segments. When you come to the edge of the page, you have to flip to a new one to see where to go next.

Men like road maps. They're big and awkward, but they do give the whole picture. Detroit is here and Orlando is down there, and there's more than one way to get from here to there. TripTiks just show you one marked route.

In this case, we were headed to Stratford to catch a couple of Shakespearean plays. And we were running late.

We had just crossed over the Blue Water bridge at Port Huron and were cruising east on Provincial Highway 402. The Feminist had the TripTik in her lap but got distracted and wasn't paying attention to it as I sailed past exit 44 without a thought.

A few minutes later she looked up. "Where are we?" she asked.

"Somewhere in Canada," I said.

"What was the last exit you passed?"

"I don't know. I think it said exit 44."

She looked at the TripTik. "That was the one we were supposed to take," she said, somewhat irritated. "If you passed it, we've gone too far."

"I wasn't looking for exit numbers," I said. "I was looking for something that said Highway 7."

"I thought you looked at the map before we left," she said, really irritated now. "I thought you knew where you were going."

"I did look at the MAP," I said. "The MAP. Not this thing."

"Look up there," she said. "We're coming up on exit 56. We missed our exit."

I pulled off on the shoulder of the road, illegally, I'm sure.

"Let me see the map," I said. She handed me the TripTik.

"Not that. I mean the REAL MAP."

I unfolded the bedsheet-sized Official Road Map (Carte Routière) of Ontario and checked our location.

"Look," I said, "we get off here, take Highway 6 north, cross Highway 12 and then we'll pick up Highway 7 right here."

"Whatever you say," she snapped. "It doesn't show that on the TripTik."

About 20 minutes later, we pulled up to a stop sign.

"This is it," I said. "This is Highway 7. We're just a few miles east of where we would have been if we had gotten off at your exit."

Fortunately, for me, the westbound route on Highway 7 was barricaded.

"Bridge Out," the sign read.

"See," I said, "if we'd followed your TripTik route, we would have had to turn around and go back. This actually saved us time."

"Well..." she said. "Lucky for you. Yeah, lucky for me. We got to the Festival Theatre five minutes before curtain time."

But we made it.

All through the performance, I kept thinking about something The Teenager's best friend had said just before we left.

"Oh, you guys get TripTiks, too," she said, after seeing it lying on the kitchen counter.

"Yeah," I said. "I don't like them."

"Neither does my dad," she said.

"But my mom always gets them."

Somehow that made me feel better.

Jack Gladden is a copy editor for The Observer Newspapers. He lives in Canton Township.

WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

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

Autumn Kucka has a work ethic her sister Brandy Krupp felt needed some recognition. So without her sister knowing, Krupp nominated her for an award.

And so it was a surprise when Kucka was one of six women honored Nov. 5 by the YWCA of Western Wayne County as Women of Achievement for 1999. The Redford resident was the Young Woman honoree.

"I was very surprised: I didn't know she was doing it," said Kucka at a reception prior to the luncheon at the Fairlane Club in Dearborn. "They (YWCA) called and left a message on my answering machine. I wasn't sure where it came from."

This is the eighth year the YWCA has recognized women in six categories who have demonstrated qualities of outstanding leadership and excellence in both the professional and personal endeavors for the betterment of western Wayne County.

Joining Kucka as honorees were Marnette Perry of Northville, president of Kroger Co. of Michigan, in business/industry; Joan Dyer-Zinner of Belleville, editor of The View, in arts/communications; Karen Fort Hood of Detroit, presiding judge of Wayne County Circuit Court's Criminal Division, in government/law; Jane Romatowski of Trenton, associate dean of the University of Michigan-Dearborn School of Education, in the professions; and William M. Miller of Detroit, a retired nurse, in the volunteer category.

A 'work ethic'

At age 23, Kucka "embodies the American work ethic," according to her nomination. A graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in journalism, she carried a full class load while working two or more jobs to pay for her education.

And the multiple job experience carried over in her life after college. In addition to working as a communications specialist with the Canton Department of Public Safety, four nights a week she is a manager at a bar and restaurant and three days a week helps out at the tanning salon



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Youthful winner: Autumn Kucka of Redford waits with other winners and nominees for the start of the YWCA's annual Women of Achievement Awards luncheon, held at the Fairlane Club last week.

of an ailing friend.

Even though she has the responsibilities of owning a home, she has found time "squeeze in" many of the volunteer activities of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, including chairing the Zeta 2000 Day and "Race for the Cure" to benefit the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

She also is a member of the Leukemia Society's "Team in Training" fund-raising program and volunteers her skills at the child Abuse Prevention Council by preparing press releases, fliers and other marketing materials.

"I guess they looked at my age, 23, and all that I've accomplished so far - all the volunteer work, owning my home, working three jobs," said Kucka. "It's where it has led me down the road."

Standing nearby was Canton resident Dollie Lieberman, who was "overwhelmed" when Maureen Karby, Canton's volunteer coordinator, nominated her for being a "volunteer extraordinaire in Canton."

"She and her husband Ron are always available to volunteers for township-sponsored activities," said Karby. "I call and they're always there."

Lieberman happily tells you she has "retired from three careers and I'm looking forward to the fourth one." She was director of a day camp for the Easter Seals Society, a hospice nurse for Individualized Home Nursing Inc. in Ann Arbor, and a quilting teacher at Wayne County Community College and Summit-on-the-Park.

She belongs to the greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild and the Plymouth Piecemakers and her quilts decorate the Canton Township Treasurer's

office, Canton Chamber of Commerce office, Gallimore Elementary School, and Canton Fire Station No. 1.

"I make quilts for First Step and the AAA Crisis Pregnancy Counseling Center ... and whatever Maureen wants me to do," said Lieberman with a chuckle.

The mother of six and grandmother of 10, she now is teaching her granddaughter to quilt.

"Those are the joy of my real life," Lieberman said of her family.

Like Lieberman, Nancy Remick of Plymouth was nominated

for her volunteerism.

"I definite couldn't believe it," said Remick of her nomination. "I don't deserve something like this."

Good listener

Her nominator Sandy Luoma disagrees. "She has given so much time to wanting to help people," she said. "She has a good listening ear."

For 11 years, Remick has been a volunteer at Schoolcraft College's Women's Resource Center in Livonia, handling the WRC's mailing list and counseling people who come in for assistance.

For the past two to three years, she has been a docent at the Plymouth Historical Museum, "spending hours adjusting and modifying" her presentation to suit the group she will be guiding through the museum.

Among the nominees for Women of Achievement Awards were Livonia residents Maureen Miller Brosnan, a Livonia city councilwoman; Charlotte (Charlie) Mahoney, regional manager for Detroit Edison; state Rep. Laura Toy, 19th District Republican; and Cynthia Wishart, vice president of Aon Risk Services Inc. of Michigan.

Also nominated were Dr. Patricia Johnson of Wixom, Jeane Lee of Orchard Lake, Doretha Armstrong of Belleville, Dr. Patricia Boyle of Detroit, Mary Bugeia of Dearborn, Catherine Cooper of Inkster, Marieta Edje of Inkster, M. Jeannie Fields of Oak Park, Linda Hallick of Dearborn, Sheila Sasser of Taylor, Joy Squire of Taylor, Beth Stanton of Southgate, Margaret Watson of Dearborn, Dorothy West of Taylor, and Sarah Young of Inkster.

'Healthy Teens' - so parents can get involved

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

The checking and rechecking is done; the last chapter has been signed off on.

Now all Alice McCarthy has to do is wait until Monday, Nov. 15, when the third installment of her "Healthy Teens: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives" goes on sale.

"It's been a long, long process, and one of the most interesting ones I did," said McCarthy. "I had the counsel and help of many, many authorities who could talk about teens. The content is the most important element. If you don't have anything to say, you don't have a book."

With two-thirds of 1,000 high school students in a recent Shell Poll saying it's "tough" being a teenager today, "Healthy Teens" is written for parents and professionals who work with them.

"Healthy Teens: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives" is a one-stop, easy-to-read guide that provides a broad base of information on high-risk life issues for youth as well as a variety of tools and resources to deal with them.



Alice McCarthy

Among the subjects the book looks at are many of the issues that are in the news almost daily - teen sexuality, substance abuse, school violence, relationship violence and physical and

mental health.

"I'm not a therapist, I'm an educator and I want to help parents understand what's happening in the world of teens today," said McCarthy. "Parents, if they know what's going on in their teens' lives, can do a better job."

McCarthy is a nationally known educator and writer with degrees in human ecology and education from Cornell and Wayne State universities.

In addition to "Healthy Teens," she authored "Health 'n Me," a national curriculum in health for kindergarten through sixth grade. She also produces a four-page "Healthy Newsletter" for families of kindergartners through sixth graders.

Pamphlet to book

"Healthy Teens" started out as a pamphlet in 1995, took on book form in 1996 and grew to 104 pages by the time the second edition was printed in 1997.

And 14 months ago, when the Birmingham resident decided to do a third edition, she heeded the advice of her son Jimmy and had the second edition critiqued by a group of "eminent people," including the parent of two

teenagers, a high school principal, health education professionals and a high school student.

It was their suggestions and recommendations that helped shape the latest version.

Dr. Victor Strasburger of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine found the second edition "very old-fashioned looking." To address that, McCarthy went to "the finest design firm in the United States," Ford & Earl Associates in Troy, to do the design work.

Donald Gainey, a high school principal in Milford, Mass., said the children in the photographs looked too happy, so McCarthy turned to Mary Douse for illustrations and to her grandson, Michael Edward McCarthy, a high school junior, for a dozen of the photographs that were used.

"This book sort of snowballed because of the demands, because of all the things people felt it needed," said McCarthy. "It kept growing and growing. We knew from the advice we received we had to expand."

Gainey found the book to be "an

McCarthy from page B1

extraordinary reference for parents, teachers, principals - anyone concerned about adolescents... while Northville resident Barbara Flis, the mother of two teenagers, said the book "is a great place to start" to build a better relationship between parents and teens.

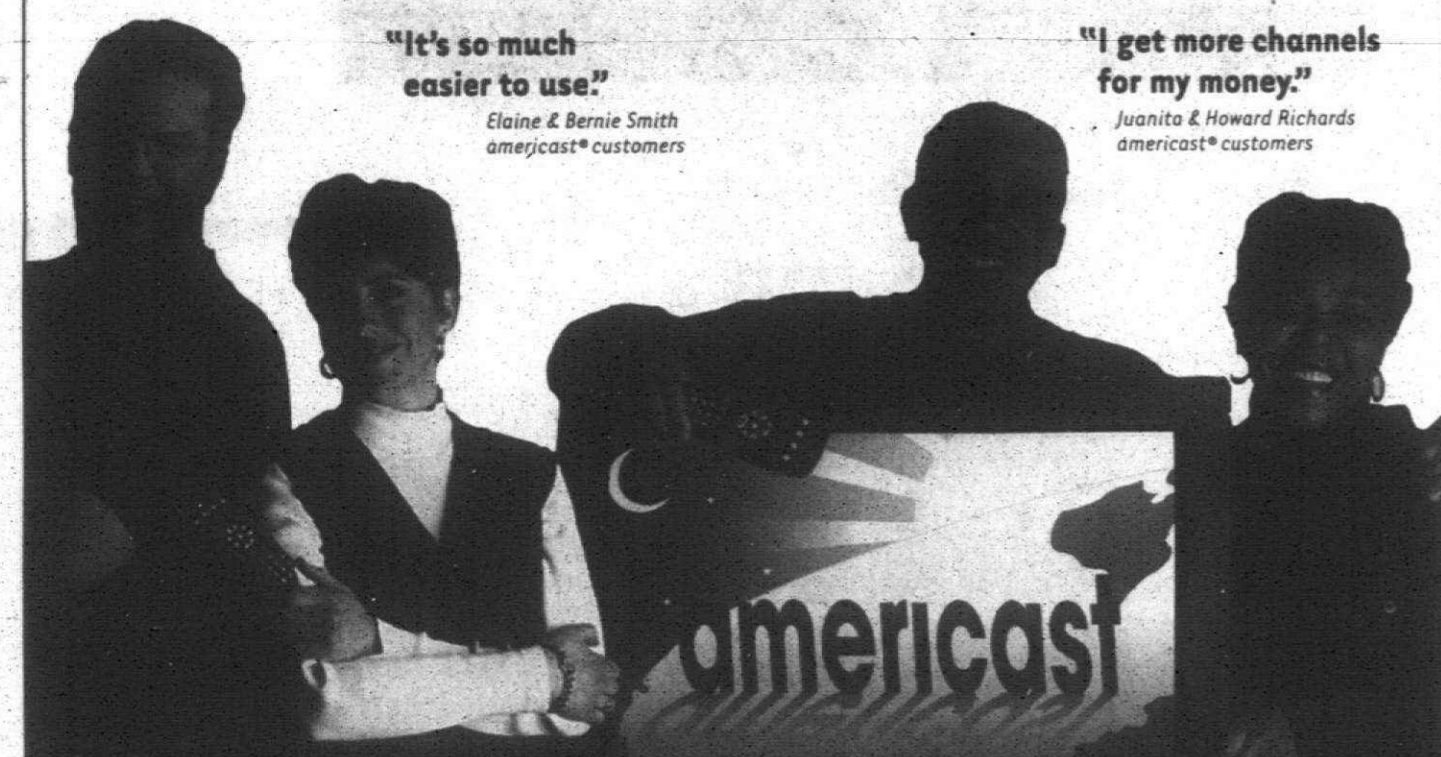
Auction soars to Light Up a Life

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a fighter pilot? You can spend a day finding out if you're the highest bidder for that item at the 12th annual Light Up a Life benefit for Angela Hospice.

CRAFTS CALENDAR

CLARENCEVILLE The Clarenceville High School Athletic Booster Club will have its annual holiday boutique 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 13 at the high school, Middlebelt between Seven and Eight Mile roads, Livonia. There will be more than 150 juried crafters, bake sale and raffle. Admission will be \$2 and baby-sitting will be available. No strollers permitted.

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Webber-Klonowski



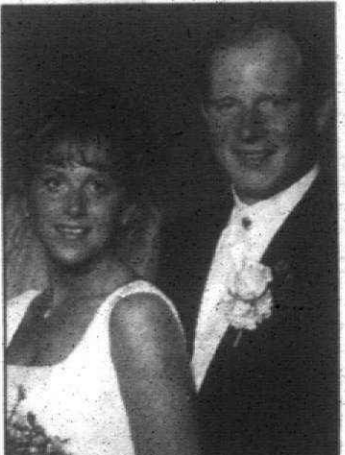
Karen Marie Klonowski and Corey Robert Webber were married July 10 at St. Charles Bromus Church in Detroit by the Rev. David Preuss.

Gregorich-Gaffield



George and Helen Gregorich of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathryn Rose, to Benson Wilder Gaffield of Livonia, the son of Craig and Cynthia Gaffield, also of Livonia.

Smith-Anderson



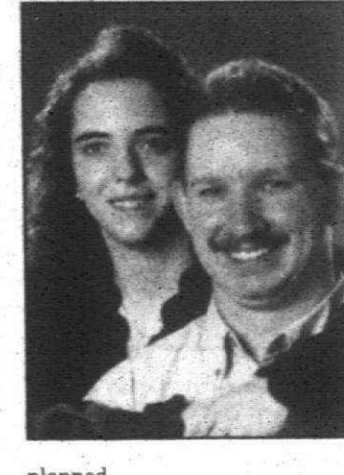
Loren William Smith and Johanna Lynn Anderson were married Aug. 27 at St. Edith Catholic Church in Livonia by Deacon John Kenny.

Demeester-Palombit



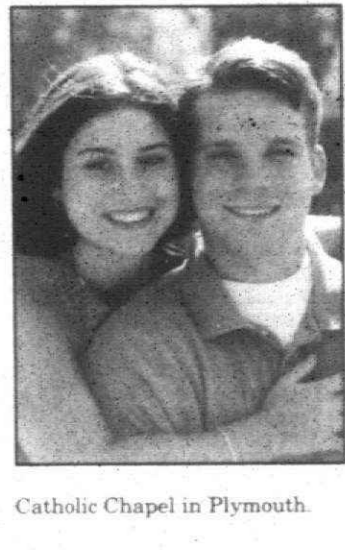
James and Theresa Demeester of Caseville announce the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Demeester, to Raymond Galliano Palombit, the son of Raymond and Cynthia Palombit of Canton.

Meadows-Sellers



Harry and Delores Meadows of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Jaime Lynn, to Robert Donald Sellers, the son of Bill and Ginny Sellers of Garden City.

Sultana-Taylor



Joseph and Maria Sultana of Canton, formerly of Livonia, announce the engagement of their daughter, Josie, to Damian Taylor, the son of Daniel and Kathy Taylor of Livonia.

NEW VOICES

Keith and Jennifer Cunningham of Westland announce the birth of Sydney Mikaela May 13 at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. Grandparents are Sheri and Carl Clements of Wayne and Jackie Cunningham of Dearborn and the late Leon Cunningham.

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

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

"DIAPERS AND WIPERS"
The First United Methodist Church of Wayne is conducting a "Diapers and Wipers" collection now through Sunday, Nov. 28, as part of the national Make a Difference Day campaign. The diapers and baby wipes will be donated to the Wayne County Family Shelter in Westland. The shelter has a great need for large diapers (more than 250 pounds). Donations can be dropped off in the church fellowship hall, 9 Town Square, Wayne. For more information, call the church at (734) 721-4801.

VISAS PARTY
St. Bernadine of Siena Parish will have its annual Visas Party, 8 p.m. to midnight, Friday, Nov. 12, at the church, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail at Merriman Road, Westland. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and admission will be \$5 per person. For more information, call (734) 427-5150.

SINGLE POINT
Single Point single adult ministries of Ward Presbyterian Church will have therapist, author and speaker Jenie Gordon speak about "Are men and women different?" at Talk It Over 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, in Knox Hall of the church, 40000 W. Six Mile Road, Northville. Coffee and cookies will be served and a free-will offering will be accepted. For more information, call the Single Point office at (248) 374-5920.

Gordon also will speak about "Stuff of Life and Relationships," a growth seminar, at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, in Room C307/309 of the church. Topics covered include "Anger, the Healthy Emotion," "Relax - You've Got to Be Kidding," "Grabbing Hold of Your Future" and "On Your Mark, Get Set... Wait." The seminar costs \$20. Call the Single Point office to register.

SPECIAL CONCERT
Grammy-nominated songwriter Karen Taylor-Good will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, at Unity of Livonia, 28860 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Taylor-Good was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1995 for her song, "How Can I Help You Say Good-bye." Notables like Al Jarreau and Laura Branigan have performed her songs. Her voice has been heard on commercials for United Airlines and McDonald's. A free-will offering will be taken at the concert. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-1760.

"RAISING POSITIVE KIDS"
Rick Miller of Christian Training Ministries in Greenford, Ohio, will lead a seminar, "Raising Positive Kids," 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, at Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman Road, Livonia. Participants will learn about the positive factors in healthy families, how to generate values in children, tips for building a healthy self-image, meeting the challenge of discipline, ways to motivate your children, how to express loving support, teaching children to think and more. The cost is \$7 for individuals and \$10 per couple who register by Nov. 7. After that date, the cost is \$10 and \$15 respectively. To register, call Ray Sanders at (248) 476-8222.

SILENT/LIVE AUCTION
St. Thomas A' Becket Catholic Church will have its third annual silent and live auction, "Tropical Evening," 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13 at the church, 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton. Tickets cost \$30 and include a bidding number, gourmet hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, open bar and mini desserts, and Polynesian music 7-9 p.m. Only 250 tickets will be sold. They are available by calling Mike Middel at (734) 981-5383.

HAVING A BABY
Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church will present a workshop, So You're Having a Baby, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, in Room 450-452 of the church, 40000 W. Six Mile Road, Northville. The workshop will prepare parents-to-be for the many life changes that accompany the birth of a child. Couples will learn how to balance protecting and nurturing their relationship with meeting the emotional and physical needs of their baby. There is a \$7.50 materials fee. To register, call (248) 374-5978.

OPEN HOUSE
An open House will be held 1:30-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, at the Agape Counseling Center in Suite 104A of the Plymouth Office Plaza, 40400 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Opened by the Plymouth Church of Christ, the center offers a compassionate counseling ministry with a Christian perspective.

The open house will acquaint the community with the center and the services - family and marital problems, crisis intervention and personal problems, such as depression, anxiety, stress and loneliness, individually or in groups. Counseling services will be provided by David Thomas, a licensed professional counselor who has a master's degree in community counseling from Eastern Michigan University. Thomas has done pastoral counseling for 25 years. His training includes a bachelor of science degree from Harding University as well as advanced work at Harding's School of Religion. For the past 14 years, he has been the minister of the Plymouth Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon Road. Royce Dickinson Jr. is taking over Thomas's ministerial duties at the church. For more information, call the center at (734) 454-1136 or the church at (734) 453-7630.

SISTERHOOD
Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood will present entertainment by Vivian Stollman and Sonny Lipenholtz at its paid-up membership luncheon at 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, at the synagogue, 31840 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia. For more information, call (248) 474-7616.

Concert to celebrate dedication of organ

Organist Ray Ferguson will perform in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 13542 Mercedes Ave., east of Inkster Road, Redford. Accompanying him will be Michael McGowan on trumpet. They will perform music from the United States, France, England and Germany. The concert is being held to celebrate the dedication of a new three-manual Johannus organ. Ferguson, a West Bloomfield resident, is co-director of organ studies in the division of organ and church music at Wayne State University in Detroit. The organist for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for 20 years, he is active in the American Guild of Organists and has performed extensively both in North America and Europe. McGowan, a Farmington Hills resident, has performed with the Michigan Opera Theatre and appeared with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and has taught in the Wayne State University Department of Music. A light meal will be served following the concert. A free will offering will be accepted. For more information, call the church at (313) 638-2660.

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Observer Sports

The Observer

INSIDE:
Basketball, C2
College sports, C4, C5

P/C Page 1, Section C

C.J. Risak, Editor 734-953-2108, cjrisk@oe.homecomm.net

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

Thursday, November 11, 1999

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

All-WHAC soccer

Madonna University's men's and women's soccer team had plenty to boast about when the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference announced its all-conference teams.

For the Madonna men, four players were selected to the all-WHAC team — including sophomore Sam Piraine, who was also named the conference's player of the year.

For the Madonna women, three players were selected to the all-WHAC team and Lady Crusader coach Rick Larson was named coach of the year.

For the men, Piraine — although limited to 16 games due to injury — set a new single-season school record for goals scored with 25. The Dearborn Crestwood graduate also had six assists.

Other Madonna selections to the men's team were midfielder Charlie Bell, a senior from Derry, Ireland, appeared in every game for Madonna this season and was third in scoring with seven goals and eight assists.

Ryan Thomason, a senior from Plymouth (Plymouth Christian Academy), has been the Crusaders' steadiest defender the last four years. He filled the sweeper spot this season while he anchored the defense, while also pushing forward to support the offense. Thomason scored three goals, including the game-tying goal against Indiana Tech that led to a Madonna win in OT.

Dave Hart was in goal for all 22 games this season for the Crusaders, posting four shutouts — the biggest coming in the WHAC Tournament semifinals, in which he stopped 14 Siena Heights' shots in a 1-0 Madonna win. The senior had a 1.67 goals-against average.

Leading the Madonna women's team were Jenny Barker, a sophomore keeper from Livonia (Stevenson HS), started 16 games for the Lady Crusaders and posted an 11-4-1 record. In their 2-1 WHAC semifinal win over Aquinas, Barker made a diving stop on a penalty shot to keep the scored tied at 1-1.

Melissa Jacobs, a sophomore defender also from Livonia (Stevenson HS), is Madonna's only repeat selection from last season. Jacobs anchored the Crusader defense once again, and also pushed forward enough to score six goals and add three assists.

The third Lady Crusader named to the all-WHAC team is Kelly Delaney, a freshman midfielder from Clawson (Bishop Foley HS) who was second on the team with 11 goals; she also had 10 assists. She started the season playing on defense, but was moved forward as the season progressed.

Larson was responsible for taking Madonna's second-year program to a third-place finish in the regular season and to the WHAC Tournament title match, where the Crusaders lost to Siena Heights, the regular-season champion, 1-0 last Saturday. Madonna was 14-6-1 this season.

All-MCCAA volleyball

The various teams selected for all-Michigan Community College Athletic Association's volleyball honors have been announced, and some familiar names are upon it.

On the all-Region 12 team, Henry Ford CC setter Laine Sterling, a freshman from Plymouth Salem, was among the 12 players chosen.

The all-state Eastern Conference team included Lauren Ruprecht, a freshman middle hitter at Schoolcraft College from Livonia Churchill, one of five selected; she was not selected to the all-region team because SC is in the NJCAA Division I.

On the all-Eastern Conference team, the Lady Ocelots landed two more players: Nicole Boyd, a freshman hitter from Livonia Franklin, and Jennifer Smith.

1st-place Shooters

The Canton Shooters, a Canton Soccer Club under-11 boys team, finished first in the Michigan Division of the Great Lakes Youth Soccer League with a 9-1 record.

Team members are Tony Antonucci, Andrew Chmielewski, Joshua Chudney, Ryan Flaherty, Anthony Giove, Sean Glinski, Kyle Koslowsky, Derek LaPan, Tyler Locklear, Armando Munoz, Paras Patel, Daniel Popoff, Karl Riggs, Matt Rose, Michael Schwartz, Mike Spitzley and David Whalen. The team is coached by Dan Schwartz and Matt Sheurman.

Ocelots ousted, 2-0

It was a good season. Make no mistake about that. Schoolcraft College men's soccer coach Van Dimitriou isn't, that's for certain.

Sure, his team might have gone further in the NJCAA Tournament than the District finals. But after a 1-3 start, maybe it isn't all that bad.

The Ocelots advanced to the district final, which they hosted Sunday, by beating Iowa Central 1-0 in Saturday's semifinal at SC.

In the final, the Ocelots — struggling with injuries to several key players — could not mount an adequate offense and lost to Belleville Area (Ill.), 2-0.

SC finishes its season at 16-6-1 overall. Belleville advances to the NJCAA Tournament with a 19-2-1 record.

"We still had a very good season," said Dimitriou. "I think this team made more progress than any other team I ever had."

SC's hopes for advancement were diminished sig-

SCHOOLCRAFT SOCCER

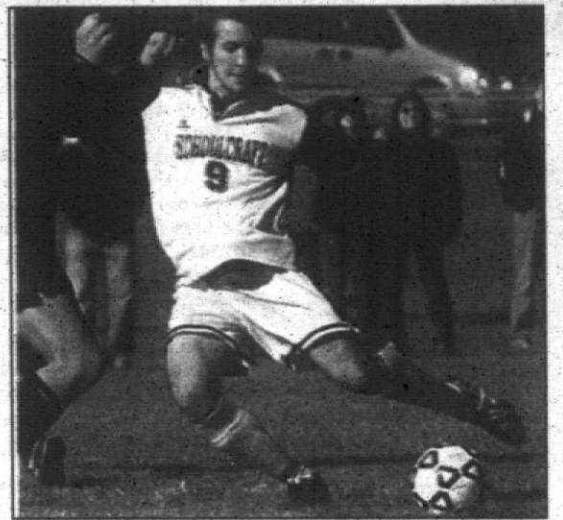
nificantly by the luck of the draw. The Ocelots had to play a very tough, very physical Iowa Central team in the opening round.

With 24 minutes gone in the first half, Dan Wielechowski (from Plymouth Salem) took a through pass from Jesse Solocinski and put the breakaway into the net — the game's only goal.

SC's defense, led by marking backs Paul Ansara and Andy Meyers, stopper Sergio Mainella (Livonia Stevenson) and sweeper Tom Stark, with Ben Davis (Plymouth Canton) in goal, choked off any Iowa Central attacks.

"They just had no serious shots on goal," said Dim-

Please see SC SOCCER, C3



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMBELE

Goal-scorer: Dan Wielechowski, a Salem graduate, scored SC's only goal Saturday.

A final trip! Rocks win semi

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR
cjrisk@oe.homecomm.net

Semifinal?

Such a term leads one to believe that if this were good, wait'll you see the next one.

But Wednesday's Division I state soccer semifinal between Plymouth Salem and Livonia Stevenson, played at Jackson's Mehall Field, was close to unbeatable.

It featured two evenly-matched teams, with strong defenses and lightning-quick forwards ready to prey upon any stray balls. With the score even at 1-all and time dwindling down, it had become a test of nerves.

Who would err first?

It was Stevenson. A defensive lapse was all that Salem forward Scott Duhl needed; he quickly pounced on a loose ball in front of the Stevenson net and pounded it past keeper Joe Zawacki to give Salem its winning margin with 9:02 left.

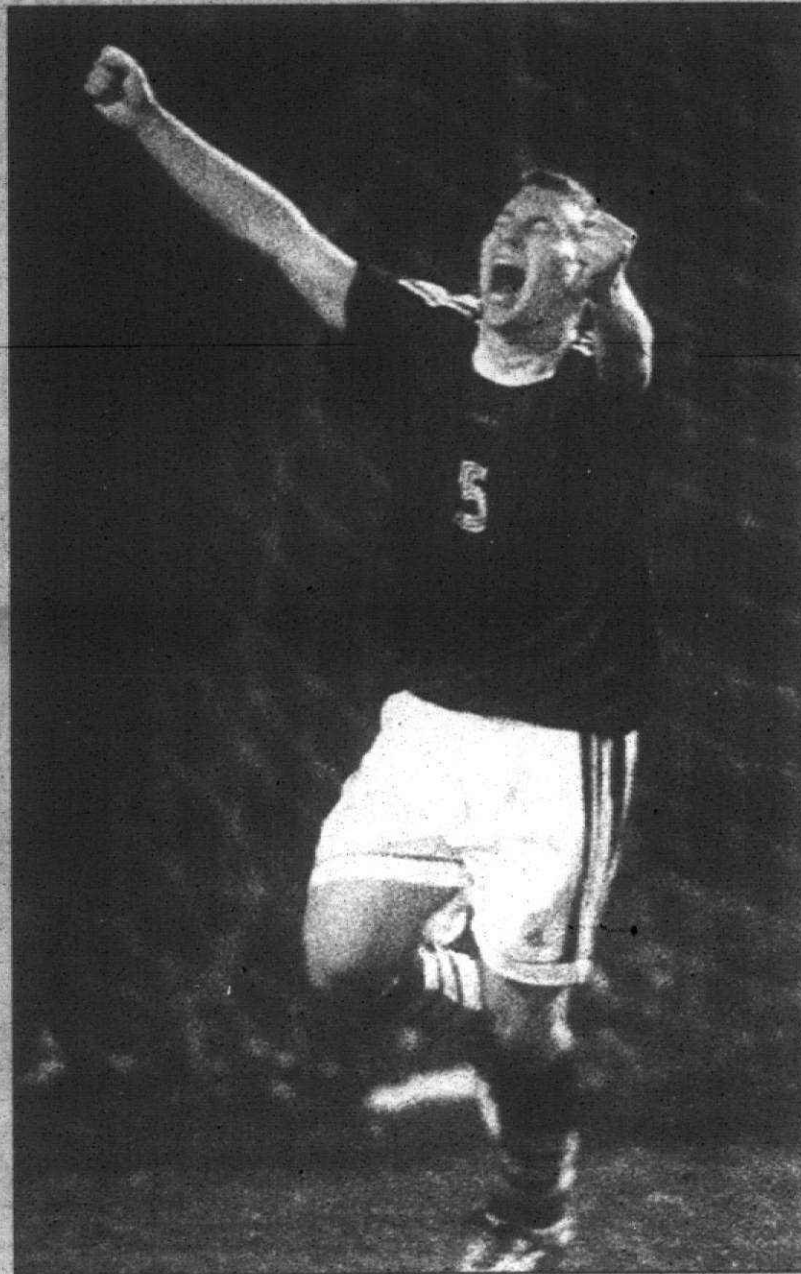
Duhl added an insurance goal on a breakaway, scored in the final second of the match, to make it a 3-1 victory for the Rocks. They advance to play Rochester Adams, a 2-1 winner over Birmingham Brother Rice, in the Division I state final at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Bloomfield Hills Andover HS.

"They both laid off of it and sat back," said Duhl, describing the Spartan defenders on the game-winning play. "I guess it was a miscommunication by their defense. Thank God I took advantage of it."

It was a game featuring massive emotional swings, with both sides riding the crest part of the time, then struggling to keep from drowning at others.

Salem got the first ride at the top, and it had to rankle Stevenson (18-3-1 final record). The memory of the 4-1 regular-season loss to the Rocks Sept. 29 — a defeat which cost Stevenson a shot at the Western Lakes Activities Association title — was fresh; Salem had scored three times in the game's first 10 minutes of that game to make it a laugher.

Two minutes into Wednesday's match, Sean Loewe took a throw-in deep in Stevenson's defensive zone. The Jackson field was narrower than the Salem/Canton field, and Loewe's



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Game-winner: Scott Duhl had a lot of goals for Salem this season, but none bigger than the two he scored in the semifinals.

throw-in showed it: It went well in front of the net, and Brett Stinar headed it home to make it 1-0 with 37:14 left in the first half. But Salem's ride atop the emotional crest was short-lived. This was not

going to be a repeat.

Stevenson made certain of it, scoring in the same fashion as Salem had, with Tom Eller tossing a throw-in deep in the Rocks' defensive zone all the way to Mike White, who headed it past Salem keeper Tavio Palazzolo to knot it at 1-1 with 33:05 left in the half.

That's the way it stayed, although both sides played extensively without key players. Salem lost Palazzolo, who had 11-straight shutouts (a school record) in goal coming into the match, to an ankle injury suffered in a collision with Stevenson's Jeff Budd with 4:45 left in the half.

With 25:15 remaining in the second half, Eller got a yellow card after a hard slide-tackle, forcing him to the bench for 10 minutes.

"This is a game of momentum," said Stevenson coach Lars Richters. "It was in our favor at that point (in the first half). We felt we were getting our chances."

Richters made few changes because of it. Ed McCarthy, the Salem coach, was facing a different situation, with his keeper sidelined and Stevenson controlling play.

"At halftime, when I was looking into some of those eyes, I was very worried," said McCarthy. "We were nervous. But we just went down our individual assignments and talked things over."

The discussion worked. The Rocks calmed down, then got back to the top of the emotional crest, aided by Eller's yellow card. "I think that gave us energy, too," said McCarthy. "When (Eller's) in, our marking game is completely different."

Richters could only agree that Salem, with Mike Harkins supplying the defense, marked Eller superbly.

As for the defensive mistake that proved so costly, Richters could only say, "I guess (a mistake) often does decide it, doesn't it? We had one miscommunication and it cost us."

Salem's defense was its usual 'Rock'. "Our defense did a fantastic job limiting shots in the second half," he said. As for new keeper Justin Griffin, who performed well for Palazzolo, "Fortunately, he wasn't in a position that he had to make a big save."

He'll get his chance, come Saturday.

Stevenson's 1st again; Salem is 4th

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR
cjrisk@oe.homecomm.net

There were no surprises at the Western Lakes Activities Association girls swim championships last Saturday at Plymouth Salem HS. Unless you're surprised by the level of domination continuously exhibited by Livonia Stevenson.

Yes, the Spartans won again — that makes it nine WLAA titles in a row, 13 in the conference's 17 years of existence. Yes, they did it by dominating even more so than last year.

Stevenson finished first by 202 points in '98; this year, the winning margin was 276. The Spartans scored 691 points to 415 for runner-up Northville.

North Farmington was third (366), host Salem was fourth (339), Walled Lake was fifth (295), Plymouth Canton, was sixth (234), Farmington Harrison was seventh (162), Livonia Churchill was eighth (147), Livonia Franklin was ninth (123), Westland John Glenn was 10th (104) and Farmington was 11th (86). (See statistical summary)



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Point-scorer: Canton's Michelle Nilson splashed to a 12th-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley, the Chiefs' only point-scorer in the event.

The Spartans won two of three relays, but only two individual events. However, their swimmers filled 19 of the 54 berths in the nine championship heats in individual events. They had two swimmers in every championship

heat but one: the 100-yard backstroke.

"This is the first year I've coached a team — and I've been doing this for 14 years — where we scored every entry," said Stevenson coach Greg Phill. "So that's a first."

"The kids just stepped up and had a great meet. And that was the end result."

Mind you, Stevenson's team — which numbers 74 swimmers — could only enter 22 in the league meet. If more Spartans had had a chance, the gap would probably have been wider.

"When you have a team effort, it's hard to single anybody out," said Phill. "We had a lot of kids sitting at home that would have scored in the meet that couldn't get in. It's unfortunate for them, but just the way it is."

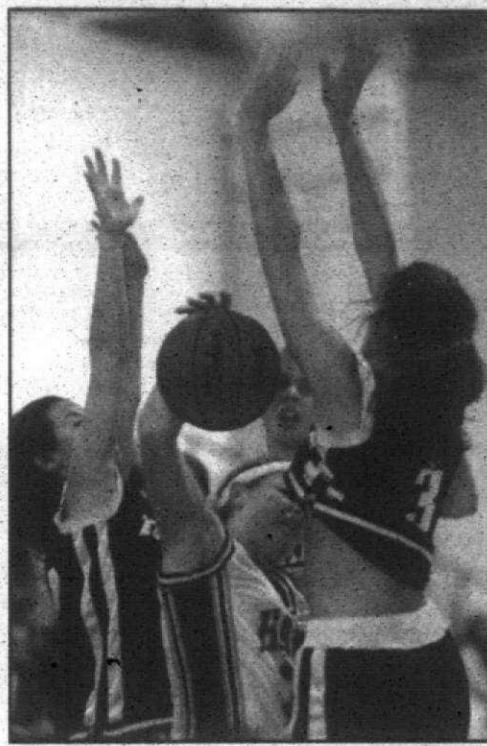
There were two double-winners in individual events in the meet: Livonia Churchill's Angela Simetkosky, a senior, was first in both the 200-yard (1:57.05) and 500-yard (5:08.88) freestyles.

North Farmington sophomore Lindsay McErlean was a winner in both the 200

Please see WLAA SWIM, C6

Agape gets victory over Huron Valley

It was a case of too many Henrys for the Hawks. Margie Henry scored 14 points Tuesday night and her freshman sister Amy added nine to lead Canton Agape past Westland Huron Valley Lutheran, 54-31, in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference game. Agape, coached by Chuck Henry, roared out to a 15-6 lead in the game at Marshall Middle School and stretched it to 23-11 by halftime. The spread was 20 after three quarters. Sara Chrenko contributed seven points and nine rebounds to Agape's cause. Every player on the team scored as Agape improved to 17-2. Rachel Zahn paced



Sandwiched: Agape's Sara Chrenko (right) and Margie Henry force a steal from Stacie Graves (middle).

Huron Valley Lutheran, 12-7, with 17 points. The Hawks had just 12 defensive rebounds in the game. Cabrini 51, PCA 39: A 20-9 start settled things early as far as Allen Park Cabrini was concerned. Host Plymouth Christian Academy pulled back to within 35-29 after three periods and scored the first four points of the fourth but the game unraveled after that. Bonnie Baker scored 15 points for Cabrini; Colleen Daniel netted 10. Junior Laura Clark paced Plymouth Christian with 12 points and six assists while Rachel Sumner scored eight. Allen Park Cabrini is now 8-11 while Plymouth Christian fell to 7-12.

Falcons rout Blazers

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
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Livonia Ladywood's trip to the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall turned out to be a Sunday afternoon of misery. Unbeaten Dearborn Divine Child, ranked No. 1 in Class B, spoiled Ladywood's bid to become Catholic League Central-AA-Division champions for the first time since 1984 by beating the Blazers for the third time this season, 61-38. (DC also defeated Ladywood during the Central Division schedule, 60-40 and 52-37.) Divine Child, now 19-0 overall, will meet Detroit King (17-1) in the Operation-Friendship title matchup 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Calihan. Meanwhile, Ladywood (13-6) closes out the regular season against Detroit Renaissance, 1 p.m. Saturday at Calihan. Divine Child guards Maria Jilan (17 points) and Chris Brewis (16 points) gave Ladywood fits with their adept ball-handling, passing and shooting, not to mention their ball-hawking defense. The two combined for all 20 first-quarter points as the Falcons roared out to a 13-point

LEAGUE FINAL

Ladywood's 38 points with 13 and 12, respectively. But the Blazers committed 20 turnovers to Divine Child's 16 (only four in the opening half) and shot just 29 percent (14 of 48). "I thought we handled their press well, we only really had two turnovers off of it," Gorski said. "We also got good looks at the basket, but they didn't fall." Meanwhile, DC's guard tandem of Brewis and Jilan both have the green light to create their own plays. "It's kind of freewheeling style," Brewis said. "I'm comfortable with it. It's a matter of trusting their judgment because they have the tools." The Falcons also know how to play defense. Every player is required to wear knee pads. "When I looked this team over the summer I knew we'd press, be aggressive and be diving on the floor for loose balls," Brewis said. "It's more comfortable going down on the floor with knee pads and people kind of laughed at us for wearing them." But when you play Divine Child, it's no laughing matter as Ladywood can attest. "Merandi always gets picked on because we have Lorenzo Parker on the other side and no one wants to throw his way," said Western coach Mike Zdebski, whose team is undefeated in 11 games. "But Merandi is on the same 400-meter relay team that made it to state's in track and is an incredibly fast young man." "He beat me a couple times before the half," said Merandi, who had another interception that led to a Western field goal in the third quarter. "Their receivers don't run that fast and I knew from the start they might do the same. I played in on it and it just happened." Three second half CC turnovers led to Western points and the Warriors also added a two-point safety to erase a 7-6 halftime deficit and gain a berth in the region championship against Westland John Glenn. CC, which had a 30-game win-

Shamrocks ousted Western ends CC's domination

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
skowalski@cc.home.com.net

Redford Catholic Central scored on a 27-yard touchdown pass from quarterback John Hill to Matt Lorradas with 1:03 remaining in the first half of Saturday's Division I district championship at Howard Kraft Field. The Shamrocks used three short "out" pattern passes to receiver Steve Ivey to add the scoring drive that covered 57 yards. The next time the Shamrocks tried a pass like that, Wallied Lake Western's Paul Merandi was waiting for it. Merandi intercepted an "out" pass intended for Ivey and raced 32 yards for the go-ahead score with 7:01 left in the third quarter as Western upset CC 24-7 before an overflow crowd. "Merandi always gets picked on because we have Lorenzo Parker on the other side and no one wants to throw his way," said Western coach Mike Zdebski, whose team is undefeated in 11 games. "But Merandi is on the same 400-meter relay team that made it to state's in track and is an incredibly fast young man." "He beat me a couple times before the half," said Merandi, who had another interception that led to a Western field goal in the third quarter. "Their receivers don't run that fast and I knew from the start they might do the same. I played in on it and it just happened." Three second half CC turnovers led to Western points and the Warriors also added a two-point safety to erase a 7-6 halftime deficit and gain a berth in the region championship against Westland John Glenn. CC, which had a 30-game win-

CC FOOTBALL

ning streak snapped and is the two-time defending Class AA state champion, played without starting tailback and linebacker John Kava, held out for precautionary measures with a shoulder injury. "The player who would have taken Kava's place, junior Dave Groth, also missed the game with a shoulder injury. That left junior Matt Markowicz as the Shamrocks' starting tailback and he gained 38 yards on 18 carries. CC senior fullback Mike Wilk, who averaged four yards per carry coming in, was held to 24 yards in nine carries. CC's first possession of the second half ended with a 52-yard field goal attempt that was just short and the next three ended in turnovers, allowing Western to enter the fourth quarter with a 22-7 lead. "We heard about (Kava's injury) coming over and it's a travesty for the young man," Zdebski said. "Of course you'd like to see him play because some might second guess that this isn't the best CC team we've faced. But they're still going to play 'CC football.' This was a big win for us but it won't really matter if we stumble next week." Merandi's second interception and return to the CC 36 set up a 42-yard field goal by Alan Mukhtar that gave Western a 15-7 lead with 1:53 left in the third quarter. On the Shamrocks' next offensive play, Western's Rob Pisha picked up a CC fumble near midfield and returned the ball to the Shamrocks' 4. Two plays later quarterback Chris Payton scored

Canton Lions varsity, JV advance

On to the Super Bowl! The Canton Lions varsity football team advanced to just that — the Western Suburban Junior Football League title game — with a 22-6 victory over the Westland Meteors in the Junior Football League playoffs last Sunday. The Lions will face the Belleville Cougars Sunday in Farmington to decide the league championship. The only score of the first half came courtesy of a 3-yard run by Eric Mitchell. Drew Amble added a 5-yard scoring run and Bobby Pollard added a 6-yard TD run in the second half. Amble finished with 210 yards rushing. Amble also had an interception to aid a defense that also capitalized on fumble recoveries by Mitchell and Ryan Lewis. The Lions junior varsity also advanced to the Western Suburban Junior Football League title game, beating the Westland

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Meteors 30-8 Sunday. Dominique Fischer, Julian Smith, Chris Drabicki and Josh Leduc all had touchdowns. The defense was paced by David Scherbaty's two interceptions and a fumble recovery by Drabicki. The defense also recorded a safety, with Jonathan Wood, Nathan Rzepka, Joe Clark and Sean Downey all combining on the tackle. Lion cheerleaders excel The Canton Lions cheerleaders turned in award-winning performances at the Western Suburban Junior Football League cheerleading rally last Saturday at Wayne Memorial HS. Gold medal winners at the varsity level were Ashley Cook, Jessica Dzialowski, Susan Francisco, Jessica Frisk, Elizabeth Hasse, Brianna Hord, Amanda Jones, Sophie Kim, Hillary King, Kristinaa Heedham, Kimberly Peterson, Stephanie Reed, Kristin Reiser, Ashleigh Rotondo and Emma Schmid. The team is coached by Kinetta Freeman, Sue Kimek, Ashleigh Kimek and Amanda Freeman. The junior varsity Lion cheerleaders earned a bronze medal in their division. Team members are Jon Monique Brown, Kaitlin Downey, Melissa Hamm, Kaitlin Hoert, Cassi Jurin, Nicole Pitts, Stephanie Sadek, Kelly Smith, Julia Speaker, Rachel Thomas, Julie Trubowski and Kaleigh Zebari. The team is coached by Gail Meares. The Lion freshmen earned blue ribbon honors. Squad members are Dawn Bomy, Sarah Cooper, Michelle Farmer, Amanda Fennely, Heather Freeman, Lindsay Haar, Courtney Hewitt, Carl Jurin, Colleen Keena, Jessica McComas, Megan Steiner, Dominique Toscano, Alyssa Thrompeter, Kaseigh Zebari and Jordan Thowler. The team is coached by Kerry Thompson and Jaime Oziolowski. The cheerleading director is Sue Kimek.

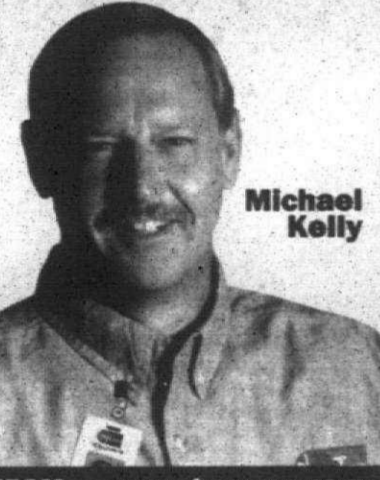
SC soccer from page C1

The same could not be said for Belleville. Mainella was sidelined with an ankle sprain and didn't play, leaving the middle of the field open to attack. Steven Hendrickson took advantage, scoring 18 minutes into the match to put Belleville up 1-0. Wielechowski, who had suffered some leg injuries in the match against Iowa Central, was also forced to the sideline for a period of time (he did return). But with his team at less than full fitness, Dimitriou knew a victory would be hard to come by. Larry Scheller increased Belleville's lead to 2-0 with six minutes left in the half, scoring off a lob pass. Offensively, there was nothing SC could do to counter it. Stark, a sophomore at SC from Brighton, was named the Region 12 player of the year. Mainella, Gary Bell and Johnny Demergis (Plymouth Canton) were selected to the all-region first team. Tony Maldonado (Livonia Stevenson) was named to the second team. Stark, Mainella and Wielechowski were chosen for the all-Midwest team. And Dimitriou earned region coach of the year honors.

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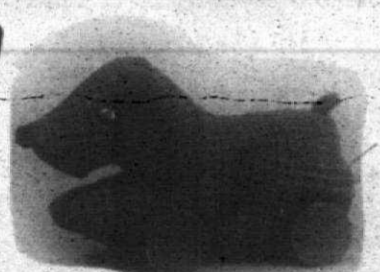
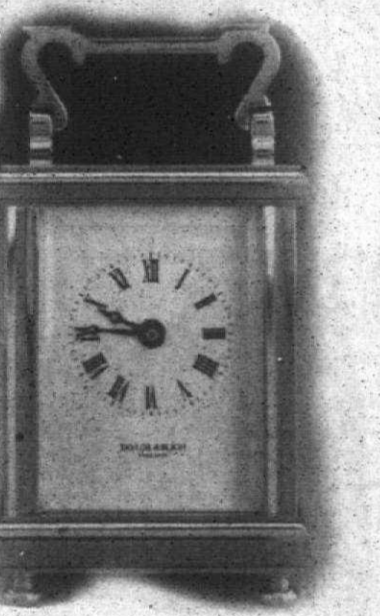
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Wesleyan rips Madonna

It wasn't worth the trip. Madonna University could get nothing going in the early going Saturday at Indiana Wesleyan, and that ruined the Fighting Crusaders chances as they fell 89-68 in a men's basketball game Saturday. The loss evened Madonna's record at 1-1. The Crusaders managed to make just 10-of-27 first-half free

COLLEGE HOOP

shots (37 percent) while Wesleyan was hitting 19-of-38 (50 percent). The host team also had four three-pointers and 11 free throws in the opening half in building a 53-30 lead. Madonna outscored Wesleyan 38-36 in the second half, but it made no difference in the outcome. Mike Massey's 17 points paced the Crusaders (on 7-of-21 shooting). Josh Jensen added 15 points, seven rebounds and three blocks, and Chad Putnam had 13 points and six boards. Danny Morris topped Wesleyan with 27 points. Willie Ivory had 14 and Kenny Hanso scored 12. Madonna hosts Rochester College at 7 p.m. Saturday.

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Observer & Eccentric

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS
Friday, Nov. 12
(Division I-Region B Final)
John Glenn at W.L. Western, 7:30 p.m.
(Division II-Region IV Final)
Harrison at Flint Powers, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 13
(Division I-Region III Final)
Farmington vs. U-D Jesuit at Ferrdale H.S., 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Nov. 11
Macomb Christian at Agape, 5:30 p.m.
St. Agatha at Cedarville, 6 p.m.
Wayne at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Thurston at Bellevue, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Fordson, 7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 12
PCA at A.A. Greenfield, 6:30 p.m.
St. Agatha at Macomb, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 13
(Ope-Friendship at Calhoun Hall)
Ladywood vs. Renaissance, 1:30 p.m.
Dr. King vs. Divine Child, 2 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER
TBA — to be announced

WLAAs swimming from page C1

individual medley (2:09.83) and 100 backstroke (1:00.60).
"Sh is real focused on the state meet," Churchill coach Ken Stark said of Simetkosky. "We knew she was going to have a little bit of fun.
It's a little indicator on what she's going to do in the state meet. She swam really well and

the Spartans (1:50.95) and Clark, Michelle Aristeo, Ashley Eilers and Hurn teamed for a first in the 400 free relay (3:43.22).
Other individual-event winners were Jenny Carr of Northville in the 50 free (25.08); Tonya McVarty of Walled Lake in diving (416.85 points) and

Stephanie Sabo of Northville in the 100 free (55.96).
Salem's Monica Glowksi, a sophomore, twice finished second by a narrow margin. Glowksi was runner-up in both the 50 free (25.37) and 100 free (56.01).
State finals are Nov. 19-20 at Oakland University in Rochester.

WLAAs SWIM FINALS RESULTS

WLAAs GIRLS SWIM MEET RESULTS
Nov. 6 at Plymouth Salem
TEAM RESULTS: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 691; 2. Northville, 415; 3. North Farmington, 366; 4. Plymouth Salem, 339; 5. Walled Lake, 295; 6. Plymouth Canton, 234; 7. Farmington, Harrison, 162; 8. Livonia Churchill, 147; 9. Livonia Franklin, 123; 10. Westland John Glenn, 104; 11. Farmington, 86; 12. TBA.
EVENT RESULTS
200-YARD FREESTYLE: 1. Stevenson (Lindsay Dolin, Andrea Hurn, Katie Clark, Jessica Makowski), 1:50.95 (state cut); 2. North Farmington, 1:55.91 (state cut); 3. Northville, 1:56.54 (state cut); 4. Canton, 1:58.42; 5. All Star, 1:59.11; 6. Walled Lake, 2:06.41.
Consolation: 7. Franklin, 2:05.97; 8. Farmington, 2:06.60; 9. Harrison, 2:06.68; 10. John Glenn, 2:06.94; 11. Churchill, 2:09.73.
200-YARD FREESTYLE: 1. Angela Simetkosky (LC), 1:57.05 (state cut); 2. Michele Aristeo (LS), 1:59.03 (state cut); 3. Sarah Rogers (PS), 2:00.02 (state cut); 4. Meghan Moore (LS), 2:02.44; 5. Sarah Paska (NF), 2:02.68; 6. Melissa Naivas (NF), 2:06.67.

100-YARD FREESTYLE: 1. Stevenson (Lindsay Dolin, Andrea Hurn, Katie Clark, Jessica Makowski), 1:50.95 (state cut); 2. North Farmington, 1:55.91 (state cut); 3. Northville, 1:56.54 (state cut); 4. Canton, 1:58.42; 5. All Star, 1:59.11; 6. Walled Lake, 2:06.41.
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PERSONAL SCENE
WOMEN SEEKING MEN
WISHFUL IN WATERFOOT
CLASSY AFFECTIONATE
ALMOST ANGEL
49 LOOKS 39
BRUNETTE ATTRACTED
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ON JANUARY 1, 2000 BE PART OF YOUR HOMETOWN HISTORY

Our first editions of the new millennium will serve as an exciting "time capsule" featuring messages like the ones you see here.

Here is your opportunity to mark the turn of the century with a message about the future or a last loving look at the the past!

Be part of this very special edition of your hometown Observer with a picture and message about your family, your service organization, your place of worship...the list is endless. Perhaps you had a significant anniversary, a special event, or another important milestone in your lives during the past century. Here's your opportunity to record it for your friends, family, neighbors and business associates!

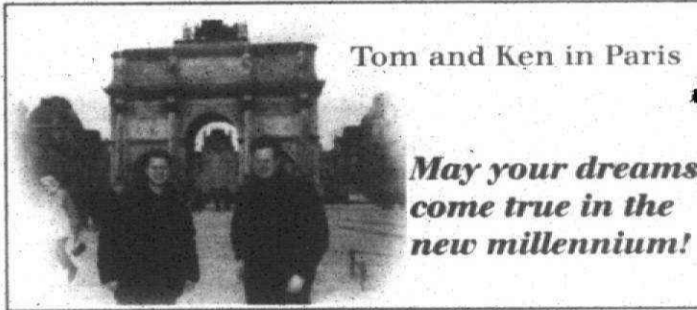
These special messages will appear on the pages of the January 1st edition of your hometown Observer on January 1, 2000 and you can deposit the entire issue in your own time capsule, so that when you look at it again in the years to come, you'll enjoy remembering or telling your grandchildren what was going on in your hometown!

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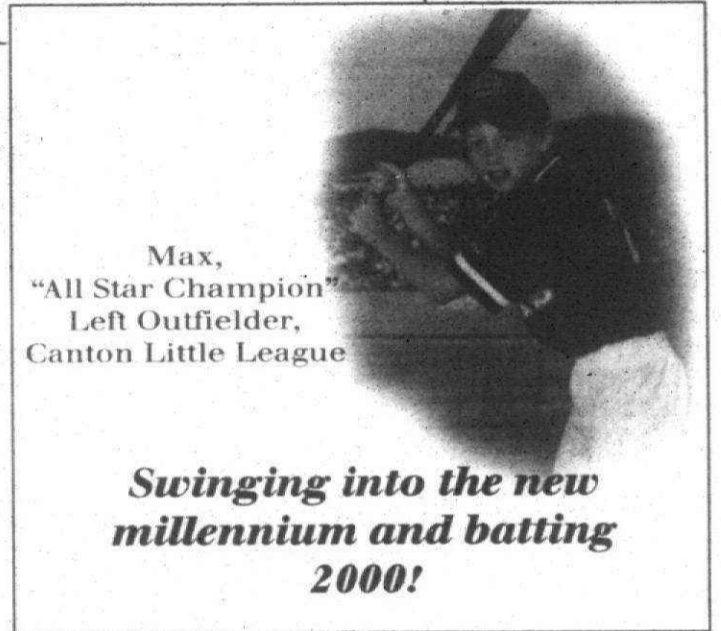


The Hammerheads hail the new millennium and remember March 16, 1999.



Tom and Ken in Paris

May your dreams come true in the new millennium!



Max, "All Star Champion" Left Outfielder, Canton Little League

Swinging into the new millennium and batting 2000!

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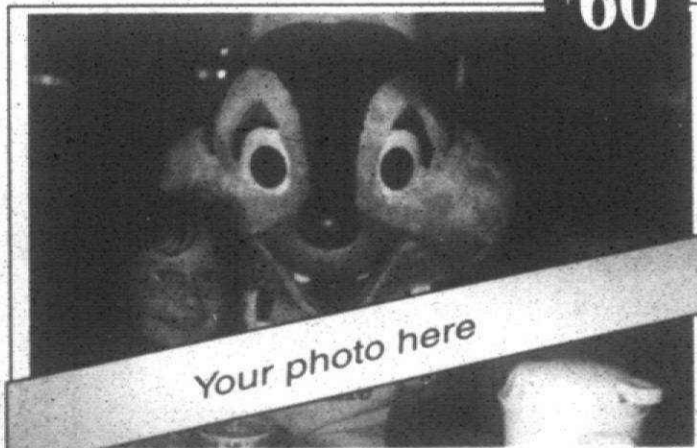
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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Jack in the Box Productions is calling all "Lunatics, Lovers and Poets" for an evening of scenes and monologues derived from the works of William Shakespeare, 8 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, Five Mile Road between Farmington and Merriman roads, Livonia. Tickets \$10 adults, \$7 seniors and students, \$6 high school students. Group rates available, call (734) 797-JACK.

SATURDAY



Some call him "The Freddy Krueger of Comedy." Don't miss The Amazing Jonathan, 8:15 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Tickets \$20 for patrons 21 and over, reservations required, call (248) 542-9900.

SUNDAY

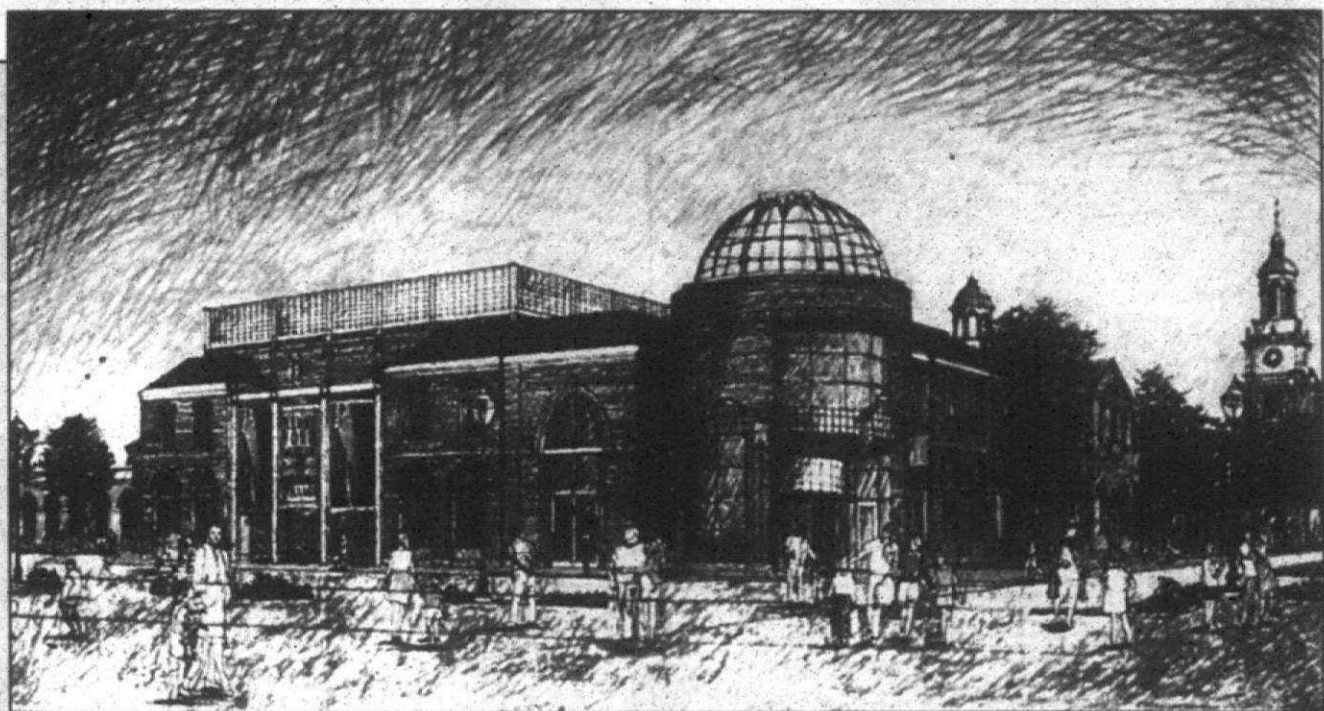


Boo Resnick returns home to Southfield. Catch Boo and his bluegrass band, Austin Lounge Lizards, 3 p.m. at the Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road, Southfield. Tickets are \$8, call (248) 424-9022.

HOT TICKET



Hot Tix: Legendary violinist Itzhak Perlman will make his Detroit conducting debut, and perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Listen for his solo in Bach's Violin Concerto in E major. Performances 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$19-\$66, call (313) 576-5111.



HENRY FORD MUSEUM & GREENFIELD VILLAGE

SENSE!SATIONAL

Ford Museum IMAX Theatre makes you a part of the show

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

MAX is the biggest thing to happen at Henry Ford Museum in ages, and we're not just talking theater size.

The theater, opening Friday, Nov. 19, to the public, "is our gift to the community for their support over the last 70 years," said Steven Hamp, president of Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village.

Built adjacent to the museum's clock tower entrance, the \$15 million facility is a short walk from the parking lot. You can enter the museum or Greenfield Village by walking through the lobby of the new modern theater. There's even a concession stand where you can buy popcorn, soft drinks and candy to enjoy during the movie.

Workers were putting finishing touches on the outside of the theater, landscaping, and laying carpet on the inside when I visited on Tuesday, Nov. 2, to take a sneak peek.

Wearing a hard hat, I walked up to the third floor projection room where Ron Bartsch of Troy, IMAX Theatre projection manager, and his crew were testing "The Magic of Flight."

Bartsch studied broadcasting at Wayne State University and worked as a cinema projectionist, but fell in love with IMAX on a vacation to Tampa.

After seeing his first film he decided that IMAX and he had a future together. He saw a film at the Detroit Science Center's domed IMAX Theatre, and got a job there. He left to start up an IMAX Theatre at a science center in Louisiana, and returned to work at Henry Ford Museum.

"I love the IMAX films," he said. "I've always been technically oriented, it comes naturally. I love putting

on the best show possible."

Bartsch is fascinated by the sheer size of IMAX - the screen is six stories tall and eight stories wide and covers nearly 5,000 square feet.

"It fills your vision area, and the film image is so large that it makes you feel like you're in the film," he said. "The sound enhances it, IMAX has the most powerful sound system. The speakers are behind the screen."

Even though the theater isn't open yet, Bartsch says he's "totally pleased with it."

Henry Ford Museum's IMAX is state-of-the-art. "We're capable of showing 3-D films," said Bartsch. "The audience will wear polarized glasses. You'll feel like you want to reach out and touch the images."

There are no plans to show 3-D films at the theater until the summer, but in the meantime audiences have much to look forward to.

"The Magic of Flight," a 1996 IMAX film narrated by Tom Selleck takes viewers on a journey to discover the history of flight. You'll learn how birds fly, about the Wright Brothers, and join the Blue Angels for a practice session. The 39 minute film was produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films for the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Fla.

A short pre-show, narrated by James Earl Jones with musical backdrop by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, tells the story of "Edison to IMAX."

Bartsch said the pre-show and the film complement Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

"The Wright Brothers are part of 'The History of Flight.' You can see their shop in the village, and there are aviation displays in the museum. It ties in with our theme of technology and innovation. The film tells a great story of flight and features Blue Angels test pilots. It's



New attraction: Above, The IMAX Theatre, pictured in this drawing, is the newest attraction at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. Left, "The Magic of Flight," narrated by native Detroit Tom Selleck, is the first film to be shown at the new theater.

THE FACTS ON IMAX

WHAT: New IMAX Theatre opens at Henry Ford Museum, Oakwood Boulevard and Village Road, just west of the Southfield Freeway and south of Michigan Avenue, in Dearborn.

WHEN: Opens Friday, Nov. 19. Shows every hour on the hour, subject to change. The IMAX Theatre will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (800) 747-IMAX (4629) or (313) 271-1570 for information. Advance tickets now on sale at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

ADMISSION: Adults \$7.50, seniors age 62 and over and children ages 5-12, \$6.50; children under 4 and members \$6. Combination tickets for Henry Ford Museum or Greenfield Village and IMAX adults \$17.50; seniors \$16, kids \$12.50; children under 4, \$6. Combination tickets for Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village and IMAX, adults \$28, seniors \$27, kids \$19, children under 4, \$6. Call (313) 271-1620 or on the Web at www.hfmv.org for more information.

FILMS

- "The Magic of Flight" Nov. 19 through Jan. 1
- Walt Disney Pictures' "Fantasia/2000" opens Jan. 1 and continues through April 30. You can visit the Web site www.fantasia2000.com

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Henry Ford Museum Store - just outside the theater. Scheduled to open this week, lots of interesting gift items. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Accessible to shoppers just visiting the store through the new Visitor Reception area and entrance.
- "Traditions of the Season" Friday, Nov. 26, to Sunday, Jan. 2, at Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village. Holiday displays and activities.

FAMILY SHOW

'Toy Story' is a special playtime for ice skater

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

She's been playing with the same toys since 1996, but Lisa Horowitz isn't bored.

"We're good friends, and have a good time. It's fun to put on a costume and be someone else," said Horowitz, who portrays Bo Peep in "Disney on Ice presents Toy Story," which plays Joe Louis Arena in Detroit Nov. 17-21.

"It's been a great show since it started. The show evolves as people become more

comfortable with what they're doing. We get new cast members, and with time only get better," said Horowitz who has always played Bo Peep in the ice skating extravaganza based on Disney's popular 1995 film "Toy Story."

The ice show follows the movie. When 6-year-old Andy isn't around, the toys come to life. His favorite toy, a pull-string cowboy, is in charge until Andy gets a new toy, Buzz Lightyear. Buzz Lightyear is a very cool space ranger with retractable jet wings and a laser who believes he's crash-landed on a strange planet.

Bo Peep is Andy's girl friend, until Buzz Lightyear comes along. "All the toys are freaking out when Buzz Lightyear comes along," explained Horowitz. "Woody is no longer Andy's

Please see TOY STORY, E2

THE STORY ON TOY STORY

WHAT: "Disney on Ice presents Toy Story," an ice show based on Disney's 1995 film, "Toy Story."

WHEN: Wednesday-Sunday, Nov. 17-21 at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Performances 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, with additional shows 11 a.m. Thursday; noon and 3:30 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

TICKETS: \$30, \$18.75, \$16.75 and \$13.75 available at the box office and all Ticketmaster outlets. Opening night tickets \$10 (excluding \$30 VIP seats). Kids, age 12 and under, and senior citizens, age 62 and over, save \$3 on the 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, and noon Saturday, Nov. 20, performances, excluding VIP seats. To charge tickets, call (248) 645-6666. For more information, call (313) 983-6606, or visit www.olympiaentertainment.com on the Web.



Toys are back: Bo Peep hooks Woody's attention in a scene from "Disney on Ice presents Toy Story."

Toy Story from page E1

favorite. Bo likes Buzz, and tries to keep order with the other toys. "Everyone was a kid once and played with a toy or a lot of toys. They come to the show and relive their childhood," said Horowitz. "A lot of us believed that when we closed the door to our room our toys came to life."

"Toy Story's" cast of characters includes a lot of childhood favorites such as Mr. Potato Head, green army men, and Slinky Dog.

"Adults bring their kids. It's a great time to relax, and the kids will be happy for two hours. The skating is incredible and very creative."

When Horowitz glides on the ice at Joe Louis Arena on Wednesday, she will have performed the show 1,200 times.

"Toy Story" hasn't lost its charm yet for Horowitz or, she believes, the audience.

"In rehearsal we put little twists in so it's still interesting for us," she said. "We have to be as excited the 1,000th time as

the first time. The audience is very special."

Horowitz, an award-winning figure skater, grew up in Minnesota. She joined Feld Entertainment Inc., which produces "Disney on Ice presents," in 1990 after completing high school.

After two years performing the role of Cleopatra in "Disney on Ice presents Time Machine," she joined "Disney on Ice presents Beauty and the Beast" as the understudy to Belle.

"I met my husband Craig in 'Beauty and the Beast,'" she said. "I joined Toy Story in 1996. My husband was Mr. Potato Head in the show."

They performed in the show when it visited Detroit in 1997, and although Craig is in Louisiana skating in "Grease," Horowitz is looking forward to returning to the Motor City.

"Figure skating is a small world," she said. "We have friends here. Anywhere we go we know people. It's really fun to get together."

There are 49 skaters in "Toy Story" who range in age from 17 to 32. Olympic Gold Medalist Robin Cousins choreographed the action-packed story about friendship, which features colorful costumes, car chases, and daring rescues.

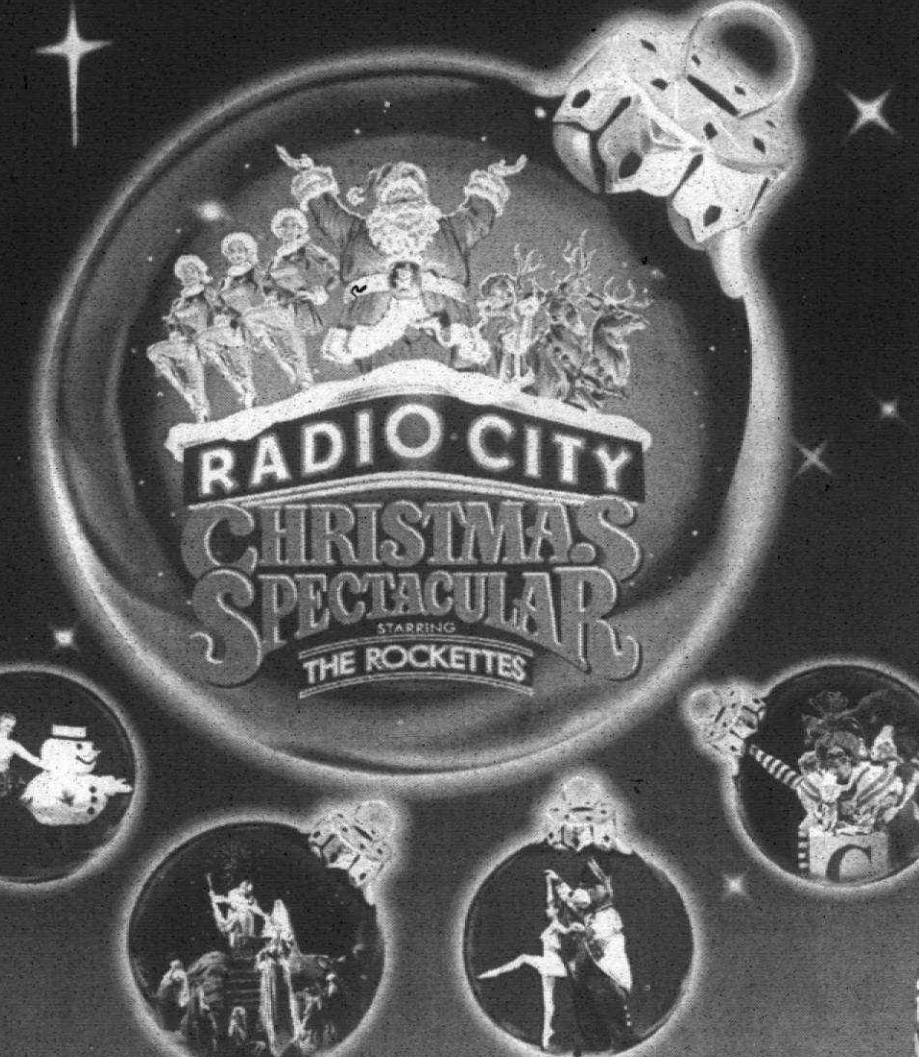
The international cast features Eddie Gornick as Woody and Alexander Klimkin as Buzz Lightyear.

The sequel to "Toy Story," "Toy Story 2" is scheduled to open Wednesday, Nov. 24, at metro Detroit movie theaters. Andy goes to summer camp and leaves the toys behind. An obsessive toy collector kidnaps Woody, who doesn't know he is a highly valued collectible. Then it's up to Buzz Lightyear and the gang to save Woody from being a museum piece.

Horowitz doesn't think the movie sequel will affect the popularity of "Disney on Ice presents Toy Story."

"We're number one," she said. "They're number two."

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Tickets available at the Fox Theatre box office and all TicketCity locations. Ticket Centers: Hudson & Huron; St. Clair & Huron; St. Clair & E. 12th. For group discounts (20 or more) call: 313-471-3099. A Presentation of Radio City Entertainment and Brass King Productions.

Avon Players meet the challenge of 'Wait Until Dark'

Avon Players presents "Wait Until Dark," 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 11-13 at the theater, 1185 Tenken Road, 1 1/4 miles east of Rochester Road in Rochester Hills. Tickets \$13, call (248) 609-9077. BY JOHN O'DONNELL SPECIAL WRITER

The second production in the 1999-2000 season at the Avon Players theater, Frederick Knott's "Wait Until Dark," is an ambitious undertaking for the company and a bold directorial debut for Jeff Stillman.

Set in the Greenwich Village basement apartment, the story centers on the efforts of three men to trick a blind woman into revealing the whereabouts of a doll they believe is stuffed with contraband. It's a mystery that relies heavily in the first act on the intrigue of changing identities, misplaced trust, and empathy for the seemingly vulnerable sightless woman, Susy Hendrix. After intermission, Susy emerges as formidable opposition for the trio — dupe-

less and resourceful. Her ability to use her lack of vision to her advantage is the play's unbeatable hook.

Avon Players veteran Lesa Bydalek does an appealing job in her role as Susy, capably making the transition from prey to predator and retaining the strength of her character when the script suggested helplessness or craftiness. Bydalek was clearly well prepared for a demanding role.

There may be no greater challenge than a suspense drama for a theater company, because it depends greatly on the flawless execution of many elements. This production makes the most of Kim Garr's outstanding set design, which not only had the feel of a modest New York apartment, but accommodated the

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Wonderful performances in 'The Merchant of Venice'

Schoolcraft College presents "The Merchant of Venice," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 12-13 in the Liberal Arts Theatre on campus, 18600 Haggerty, between Six and Seven Mile roads, Livonia. Tickets \$8, call (734) 462-4596. BY BOB WEIBEL SPECIAL WRITER

If you have shied away from Shakespeare, because it's "too hard to understand" you may want to reconsider, and attend Schoolcraft College's production of "The Merchant of Venice." The play is easy to follow and the principal players turn in wonderful performances. Professor James Hartman has edited the play slightly to update archaic words from Shakespearean times to make it more palatable.

For example, "in sooth" becomes in truth. And "rate of usance" becomes rate of interest.

The central conflict involves a young man borrowing money from a friend to finance a romance with a wealthy young lady. To test the values of her father, she promises her dead father to marry the man who makes the correct choice

between gold, silver and lead chests. Lots of comedic possibilities there — and no doubt 400 years ago Elizabethan audiences found it very funny. There is a dark side to the play, however.

Much of the world was virulently anti-Semitic in Shakespeare's time. Who better to be a villain than Shylock — the Jew — who lends money to Christians. Today, the derisive language directed at him is a bit disconcerting, similar to the way modern popular culture treated American Indians not so many years ago. Ray Van Hoek (Shylock) creates a marvelously sympathetic character. His "revenge" speech in which he explains why he insists on his "pound of flesh" in lieu of repayment of his loan is spellbinding. If only the actor entering at the end would delay a beat, however, allowing us to digest the moment.

Despite his wonderful character, Van Hoek tends to hold one stage position too long. Both he and Jerri Doll (Portia) deliver Shakespeare's lines in such a natural manner that one is seldom aware that they are speaking in verse. Not any easy task as many of the less experienced actors can attest.

Doll, as Portia, lights up the stage with energy and style as a young woman hoping the man of her dreams selects the correct chest. It is a stunning performance. Brian Taylor gives his usual solid performance as Bassanio, her love interest. John Rowland (Antonio) looks the part of a successful merchant, but needs to add more spice to the delivery of his lines and variety to his movement. Colleen Greenwell is very good as Portia's friend, Nerissa. Diane Aretz is most effective as Shylock's daughter, Jessica, who runs off with his money and marries a Christian. Others appearing include Jason Birky, Benjamin Karl, Nick Ward, David Ormsby, Lisa Brawley, David Jenvey, Ryan-Iver Klann, Jeremy Hargis, Tom Rowland, John Abair, Brandon Smith, Charles LaCroix, Antonio Muse and Tom Noe.

The setting, lights, sound and costuming are well done, though there are an interesting variety of footwear for a period piece.

Bob Weibel is a Westland resident who writes about theater for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Avon from page E2

varying movements of a blind character and the thugs, who tend to move erratically. It's a thing thing.

As you might imagine, a play with a blind lead character puts a premium on lighting to draw the audience in to the unfamiliar circumstance of having to rely on their instincts. Cast members were supported throughout this production by lighting techniques that enhanced their scenes. No simple task, given the importance that the many different degrees of light had to the plot. John Deierlein, who also did scenic design for the season opening production of "The Music Man," deserves applause in this area.

"Wait until Dark" is a dialogue-intensive play which taxes its performers and the director to sustain suspense. There were occasional lapses in the exchanges between characters and glitches in sound and special effects that prompted audience members to settle a bit deeper in their seats.

Director Jim Stillman is an unabashed fan of Knott's mysteries, including the classic "Dial M for Murder," which Avon presented two years ago. Here, he presents the story in an easy-to-follow manner, and although the production is not exactly a nail-biter, he does establish a distinct identity for each character. This is most evident with the con-

men, portrayed by Michael Jeffries, Mike Fraley and Anthony Sherman.

Musicals and comedies will always have an advantage in being consistent crowd-pleasers. An audience that believes community theater should also attempt to stretch itself by presenting more challenging productions will appreciate this one.

John O'Donnell is a Troy resident who writes about community theater for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

STAY TUNED

For three decades Bobby Lewis and his Crackerjack Band have been rocking around Metro Detroit. The classic rock band will grab audiences attention at Livonia's Winter Wonderland Parade Saturday, Nov. 20 while performing at Wonderland Mall.

Sure it isn't the old "Your Mustang" lounge in Dearborn, where Lewis played with his band Sticks and Stones for 13 years, but audiences are sure to love that blend of rock, jazz and bluesgrass.

It's a mystery to me. One Livonia reader wrote with a question. What has happened to

KISS FM? One night she turned on the radio to find it changed to a rock format? Anyone with information may e-mail seasalo@oe.homecom.net.

While Delilah may be missing from the airwaves, director Kevin Smith ("Clerks," "Chasing Amy") is in plain sight with his latest film "Dogma." While the movie may be shrouded in controversy for its take on religion, Alanis Morissette's latest single "Still" should tide eager fans over before she completes another album. Look for Morissette's cameo as "God in a Blue Dress" opening tomorrow.

Picasso

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The Toledo Museum of Art

Public Picasso: Women with Horns, September 1916

All works by Pablo Picasso © 1999 Estate of Pablo Picasso/Arts Rights Society (ARS), New York.

This exhibition has been organized by the Norton Simon Museum and the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University. The exhibition has been made possible by a generous grant from Iris and John Friedlander.

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- Friday, Nov. 19, 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 20, 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 21, 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m.

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- Saturday, Nov. 27, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 28, 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 28, 6:30 p.m.

and all performances December 16-26

SCREEN SCENE

'Light It Up' intense drama in high school setting

BY CARRIE COOPER SPECIAL WRITER

The scene: A neglected inner-city high school in Queens, New York, a dedicated teacher is suspended, broken windows and no heat, six students protesting for a better education...

Judd Nelson, is suspended and Jett, along with his fellow classmates takes a stand against their principal.



Drama: Clifton Collins, Jr., Rosario Dawson, Sara Gilbert, Robert Richardson, Fredro Starr and Usher Raymond star in 'Light It Up.'

While the students continue to deal with their own personal conflicts, the police are trying to deal with the hostage issue. To do that they bring in hostage negotiator Audrey McDonald (portrayed by Vanessa L. Williams).

'Light It Up' is a very intense movie that is unlike any other film in a high school setting. Normally a principal or teacher would come into a school and change the lives of troubled students.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Table with movie listings categorized by theater and location. Includes titles like 'The Bachelor', 'The Straight Story', 'Omega Code', and 'The Messenger'.

Insightful local artists have realistic perspective

It has been suggested that those who work in creative fields may be inclined to have only a tenuous grip on reality. I've discovered that the opposite is often true.

'Tintypes' will leave you happy

Meadow Brook Theatre presents 'Tintypes' through Sunday, Nov. 14. Tickets \$24-\$35, call (248) 377-3300.

Society works to keep blues alive in Detroit

Ed Schenk is on a mission. As president of the Detroit Blues Society, he's determined to keep the blues alive and well in Detroit, and he's got a secret.

Where to catch the blues. Listen for those shades of blue near your neighborhood. Some of the best blues clubs in the area include the following.

when he hosted his own public access TV show in Eastpointe. He joined the group in 1995. Just over two years later he was chosen as president of the organization.

The Detroit Blues Society was formed in 1986 under the name Detroit Country Music and Blues Society.

Detroit Blues, is an event for anyone who loves the blues or has a curiosity to learn more about it.

the community as well. I couldn't have said it better myself. Check out Women of Detroit Blues, 2-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13.

Sounding off: November music reviews

In an effort to bring our readers in tune with the newest music by national and local artists, the Observer-Eccentric Newspapers will now be compiling music reviews.

manes in Farmington Hills, Rochester Hills and Pontiac. Hazlett's fourth CD and latest effort provides the perfect accompaniment for those subdued times of the day.

Pokemon: The First Movie advertisement featuring Pikachu and other characters. Includes text: '#150 THE POKEMON MATCH OF ALL TIME IS HERE. #151 NEW TWO VS. MEW'.

A MASTERPIECE!

Advertisement for the movie 'The Messenger' featuring Milla Jovovich and Justin Hoggan. Includes text: 'A film of inspired passion. An epic with a heart and soul.'

'THE INSIDER' IS ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR.

Advertisement for the movie 'The Insider' featuring Al Pacino and Russell Crowe. Includes text: 'GOOD MORNING AMERICA ROLLING STONE'.

HANDS DOWN THE BEST ROMANTIC COMEDY OF THE YEAR.

Advertisement for the movie 'The Bachelor' featuring Chris O'Donnell and Renée Zellweger. Includes text: 'CHRIS O'DONNELL RENÉE ZELLWEGER'.

DINING

Cleveland's Gill & Grill offers familiar ambience

BY RENÉE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER
rskoglund@oe.homecomm.net

Cleveland's Gill & Grill, one of downtown Ann Arbor's newest eateries, promises to be a favorite for those who like fresh, well-presented seafood dishes, as well as tasty meat, chicken and pasta entrees.

While the emphasis is on fresh fish — there's always a list of daily specials — Cleveland's serves a wonderful sautéed pork loin in a molasses citrus glaze with sun-dried cherries (\$13.95 for dinner, \$8.95 for lunch). The dish, created by Chef Michael Dopkowski, developed quite a following at John Cleveland's former restaurant in Plymouth Township, The Water Club Grill.

"It sells even better in Ann Arbor," said Cleveland. The London broil (\$13.95), served on a bed of oven-roasted potatoes, onions and sweet peppers, is another satisfying meat-eater's choice for cold, fall evening. So is the filet mignon (\$18.25), nestled in a fried onion basket and lightly covered with a Crimini mushroom sauce.

The file is good, said Cleveland, very good. Thank goodness Cleveland has transferred much of the Water Club's menu to his new place, including the creamy, rosy-hued Palomino clam chowder and the Maryland crab cakes with a roasted red pepper sauce. If my taste buds remember correctly,

Cleveland's Gill & Grill
Where: 311 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor (directly across from The Ark), (734) 213-2505
Open: 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday; 3-9 p.m. Sunday.
Menu: Lots of seafood, a good selection of steaks, just enough chicken and pasta entrees. Homemade pumpkin pie.
Cost: Moderate to moderately high, lunches range from \$5 to \$10; dinners \$9-\$17. Most dinner items are in the \$11 to \$15 range.
Atmosphere: Comfortably bistro, with nautical themes. Mostly non-smoking. Smoking section on second floor.
Credit cards: All major credit cards accepted
Reservations: Recommended for parties over five. Diners may call ahead one hour for a table.

those crabcakes should be worth the drive to Ann Arbor.

"I liked the menu we had. I thought it was a well-balanced menu. I thought it would transition well to Ann Arbor. We've offered more appetizers to encourage grazing. People can come over before and after performances at The Ark and have appetizers and a glass of wine," said Cleveland.

Appetizers include shrimp cocktail, steamed mussels, crabcakes, several kinds of oysters, baked brie, sautéed wild mushrooms, and sautéed spicy black bean cake. Prices range from \$4.95 to \$7.95.

The black bean cakes are big sellers, as is the baked brie, said Cleveland. "In one month here we'll sell as many baked bries as we sold in three months in Plymouth."

Cleveland's wife, Sarah, has added a specialty to the menu:

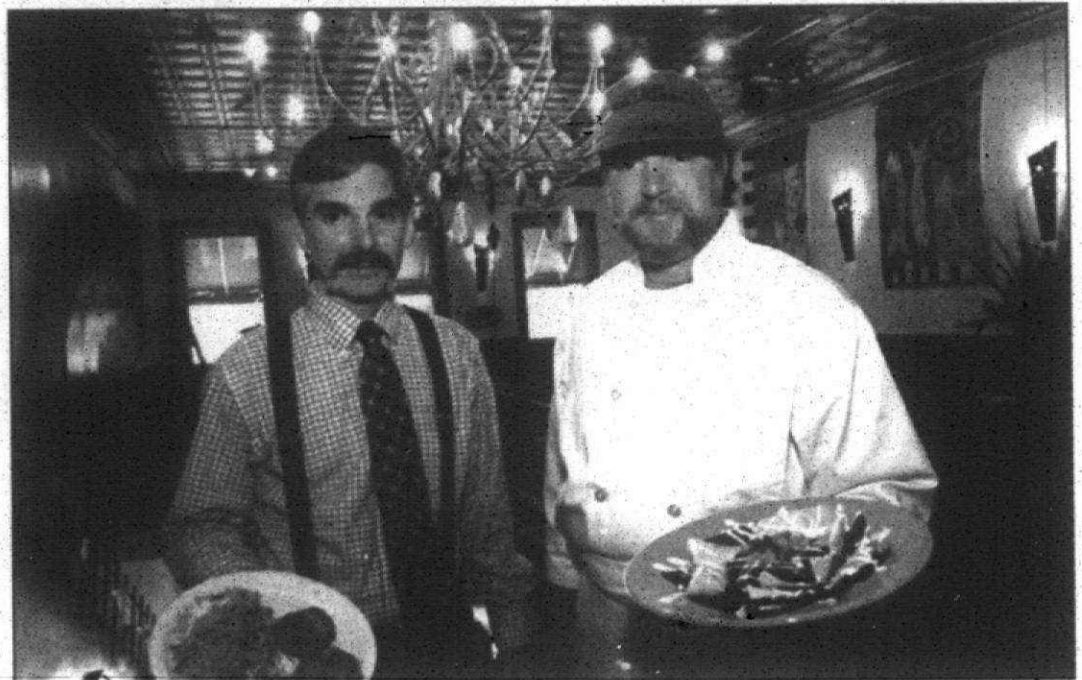
Her homemade pumpkin pie. "It has more spices. It's hardy, interesting pumpkin pie. We sell out every weekend," said Cleveland.

Ambience also is part of Cleveland's new place. The building, which dates to 1901, has been reincarnated several times, mostly as a bar. It retains much of its comfortable turn-of-the-century look, with half-pannelled walls and original tin ceilings. And both floors — yes, this is a two-story restaurant — have their own vintage, wood bars.

The well-worn oak bar in the restaurant's main, street-level dining room comes from Ironwood, Mich. Cleveland believes it was constructed about 1900. It certainly bears testimony to a century of use.

"There are literally thousands of elbow marks rubbed into it," said Cleveland.

However, Cleveland has added enough contemporary touches —



At your service: John Cleveland (left) presents Maryland crab cakes, and Chef Michael Dopkowski, black bean cakes, a popular appetizer, at Cleveland's Gill & Grill in Ann Arbor.

like the sweeping nautical-theme murals — to give his new place its own 90s-nostalgic, nicely hip personality. He calls it a "recycled ambience."

The employee Cleveland is a hometown boy. He grew up in Ann Arbor and knows many of

its merchants and business owners. He was the general manager of the Gandy Dancer from 1989-1992 and the assistant manager from 1977-81.

He likes to stop by tables and ask his guests about their meals.

He wants them to walk out the door having had a truly satisfying dining experience.

"I want them to feel like it was a comfortable place, an interesting place. Like they have been here before."

WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax, (734) 591-7279 or e-mail kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

■ **Fox Hills Country Club** ● RJO Productions presents "Fox's Liar Dinner Theater" Saturdays through Nov. 13, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, followed by show,

at Fox Hills Country Club, 8768 North Territorial, Plymouth. Tickets \$29.95 per person, call (734) 453-7272.

■ **Buddy's Restaurant & Pizzeria** — kicks off "got pizza?" 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, at its Farmington Hills location 31646 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills to benefit the St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center. WDIV-TV Anchorwoman Carmen Harlan, the first "got

pizza?" celebrity sporting a red pizza sauce mustache, will be live at this Buddy's around 7 p.m. But the first 100 big and little kids will have the chance to create their own "got pizza?" mustache and have their photo taken and printed on a souvenir Buddy's tee-shirt. From the 16th through the end of November, visit any Buddy's and order the Carmen Harlan Signature Pizza (includes cheese, bacon, ham,

sausage, green peppers and onions) and \$2 will go towards the St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center. In the coming months, other local celebrities will get their mustache and signature pizza with \$2 going to their favorite children's charity.

■ **Candlelight dinner dance** — sponsored by the Italian American Club of Livonia, 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec.

5, at the Italian American Banquet Center, 32900 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Cost is \$36 per person, includes dinner, drinks, cappuccino, espresso, dancing to Steve King and the Dittilies. Call (734) 591-0042.

■ **Annual Madrigal Dinners** — 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 9-11 in the Waterman Center of the Schoolcraft College Livonia campus. The cost is \$35

per person, call (734) 462-4417 for information/reservations.

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