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3 charged in robbery, murder

The wife of Canton resident Gary Urban says she is "relieved" by the arrests of three men for the murder of her husband. One of the defendants worked at the Dearborn Heights restaurant managed by Urban.

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
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Three Detroit men have been charged with murdering Canton resident Gary Urban Nov. 10. Lance Ray Rodgers, 20, James Erick

Lee, 21, and Vernard Meadows, 20, are currently being held without bond in the Wayne County jail.

Each faces first-degree murder, armed robbery and conspiracy to commit armed robbery charges. Rodgers also has one count of felony firearm

against him.

The Detroit men are scheduled for a preliminary examination Wednesday at 20th District Court in Dearborn Heights.

Linda Urban, widow of the Canton man, said she's pleased with the arrests.

"I'm relieved that they are off the streets," she commented, "so that nobody else's family has to suffer that kind of tragedy."

Meadows, Rodgers and Lee face up

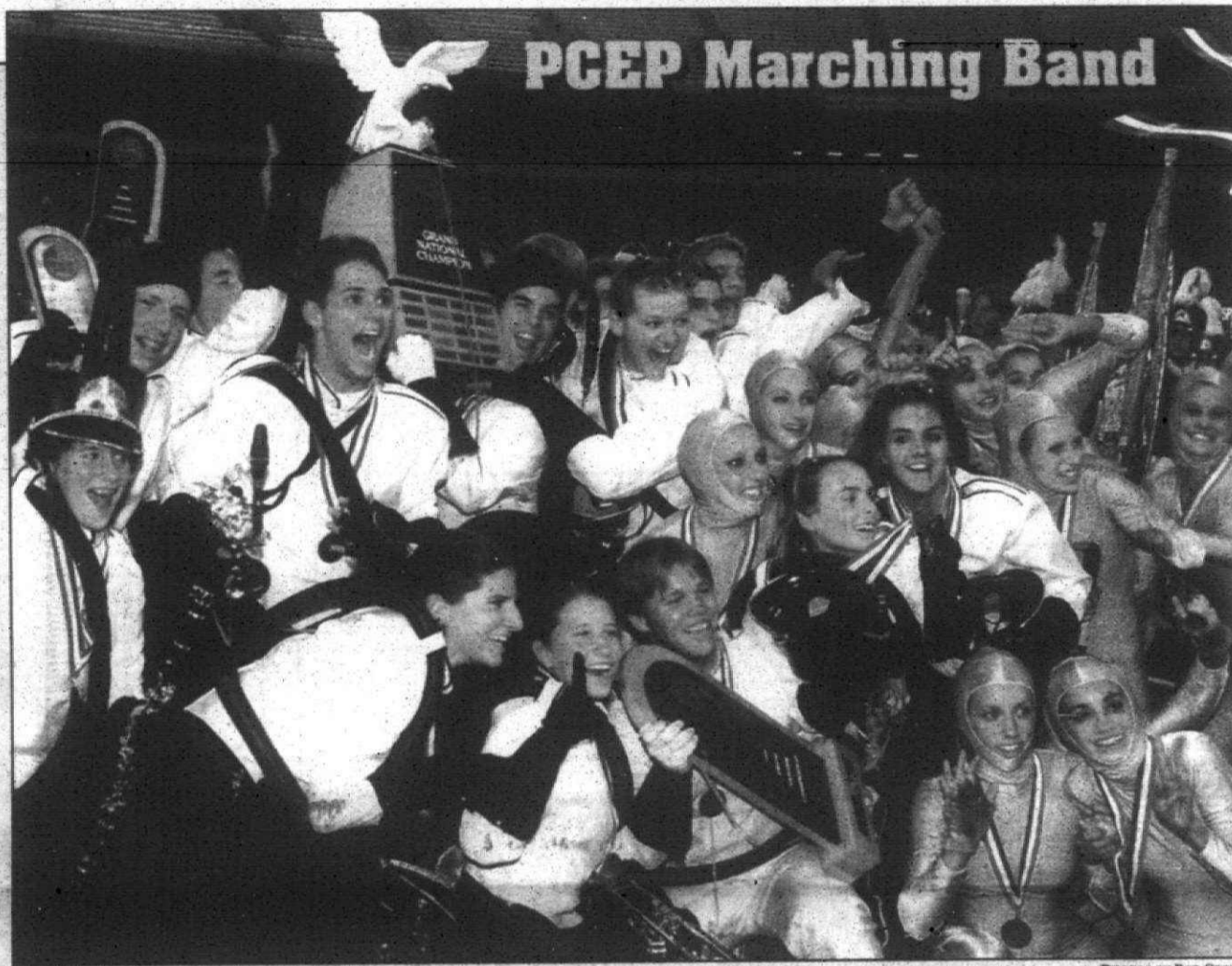
to life in prison if convicted of the felony charges.

Gary Urban closed the Dearborn Heights Ponderosa Restaurant where he worked as a manager at about 10:25 p.m. on Nov. 10.

Before he could get into his car, police believe a man robbed him and shot him seven times in the back with a .25-caliber handgun.

Somehow, Urban was able to go back inside the restaurant and call 911. A

Please see ARRESTS, A6



PHOTOS BY BOB CROSS

Grand National Championship Awards

Class AAA Division

CLASS CHAMPION
PCEP Marching Band

SECOND PLACE
Marian Catholic High School, Marian Ill.

THIRD PLACE
Center Grove High School, Center Grove, Ind.

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PCEP Marching Band

OUTSTANDING VISUAL PERFORMANCE
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OUTSTANDING GENERAL EFFECT
PCEP Marching Band

Bandtastic!

PCEP musicians march to National Title

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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If the New York Yankees are baseball's team of the '90s, then the PCEP Marching Band is the high school band of the decade.

For the third time in 10 years, the 220-member marching band beat out other bands from across the country in being named the Grand National Champion during competition at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis last weekend.

The championship trophy, like those won in 1990 and 1991, joins hundreds of other trophies, plaques and banners in the music room at the Park's Phase III.

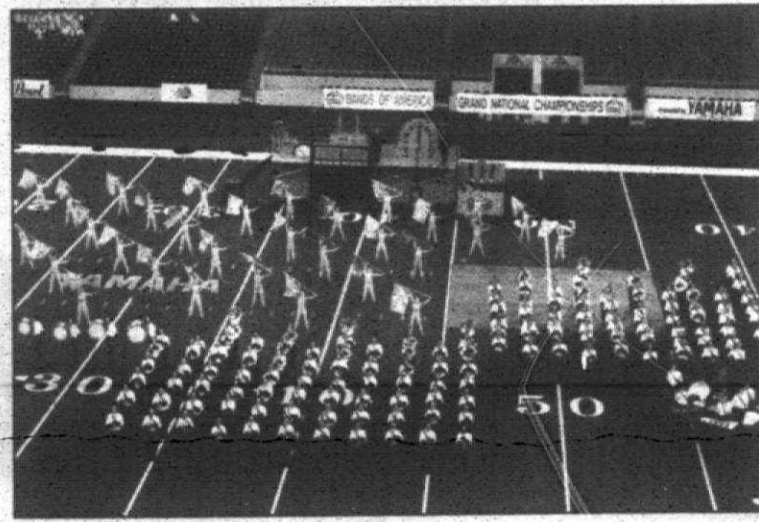
"This is absolutely the best experience I ever had," said drum major Julie Scott of Canton. "It made every bit of work we did worth it. It paid off in the end."

"It was pure joy. Things just clicked well," added Joe Fournier, a senior trumpet player from Canton. "The magic was in the air."

Band students were still flying high this week as they basked in the glory of knowing they are champions.

"It was the most incredible feeling walking off that field. I was just so excited," said senior tuba player Tim Strand of Plymouth. "We worked really hard for this. I can't describe the feeling in words."

Please see PCEP, A6



A hockey rivalry is born



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Facing off: Plymouth Salem High School students Melissa Horste (from right) and Amanda Coffey, both 15 and from Canton, join their friends while cheering for their team during introductions at Tuesday night's first ever hockey game between Salem and Plymouth Canton High School. Additional photos and game coverage are on Page A4 and in today's Sports section, C1.

Evicted conservatory looking for new home

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
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The Southeastern Michigan Arts Conservatory has been evicted from its Canton home.

That was the decision of 35th District Court Judge John MacDonald Nov. 9. He granted a motion by township attorneys to evict SMAC for failing to pay its rent.

"It doesn't surprise me," Canton Supervisor Tom Yack said. "They were there illegally and the judge agreed."

Conservatory Director Jeff Myers was disappointed in the decision, but didn't plan on appealing. He said SMAC will leave the former Arnoldt Williams Music Store by Saturday's midnight deadline.

"We tried to make it work," Myers said of the conservatory's financial relationship with Canton. "But in all reality, it will probably be the best situation for us."

A lawsuit was filed against the conservatory and Myers in August by Canton. The township is trying to collect more than \$40,000 in back rent it claims SMAC owes.

Canton leased the building, which sits just north of Ford Road and west of Canton Center, from the Williams family from Aug. 1, 1998, to July 31 of this year for \$150,000.

The idea was to use the former music store as a teaching and performing facility for music, dance and other artistic disciplines.

As part of an agreement with SMAC, the township agreed to pay half the lease. Myers was responsible for the balance in a graduated monthly payment system, Yack said.

While the Williams family has been paid in full, the Canton Township Board of Trustees authorized a lawsuit against SMAC in late August to recov-

Please see CONSERVATORY, A4



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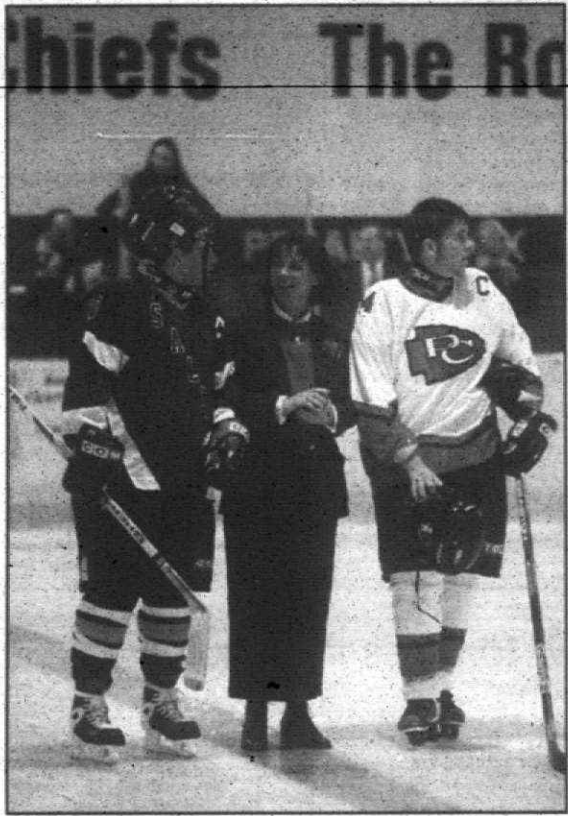
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Conservatory from page A1

er \$42,000. Additionally, the township planned to evict the conservatory on Oct. 5, but Myers filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection to stop the move. MacDonald, however, agreed with the township that the filing shouldn't protect SMAC from eviction. Yack said the township will continue to pursue the back rent as well. "It may take some time," he added, "but we want to be made whole." Myers, meanwhile, is scrambling to find temporary homes for the conservatory. A Canton church will hold some of its functions. Myers had hoped to move classes to the Plymouth Community Arts Council building on Sheldon Road, but that organization's board rejected the idea by a unanimous vote. "It was completely legitimate and understandable given the

Salem and Canton lace up the skates for historic game

The winner is ... Plymouth Canton High School student John Perkovich of Canton, 15, and his friends celebrate his winning the "Chuck-A-Puck" contest during the second intermission of Tuesday night's Canton-Salem hockey game at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Fans purchased a numbered orange plastic puck which they then tossed out onto the ice for the competition, which awarded a cash prize. A crowd of 1,200 attended the game, which Canton won 9-1.



Opening ceremonies: Canton High School student Justine Blazer sings the national anthem prior to the game. At left, team captains Mike Thackaberry of Salem (left) and Jeremy Majszak flank Plymouth-Canton Hockey Boosters Club president Kathy Lash, who threw out the ceremonial first puck prior to the start of the first game of the inaugural season for both hockey teams.



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Consultant will examine city, suburban bus systems

BY KEVIN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
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COUNTY NEWS

A consultant is expected to be hired within the next two weeks to examine the two bus systems in metropolitan Detroit along with the implications a merger will bring to the systems. Financial consultant KPMG Peat Marwick of Detroit is putting together a contract to study the bus systems of the Detroit Department of Transportation and the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation. That contract is expected to be approved by the Regional Transit Coordinating Council, which governs the city and suburban bus systems and includes representatives from the city of Detroit, and the counties of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb. Peat Marwick will examine the business issues facing the systems, such as labor contracts,

workers compensation claims and insurance claims. It will examine the advantages and disadvantages of a merger. Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara said the consultant will give a professional opinion of the finances of the two systems. "They'll be looking at whether there are some economies to be gained," McNamara said. "(The bus systems) have two labor contracts, two different pay scales, and different kinds of transportation vehicles. They'll look at whether or not it (a merger) makes sense." Dan Dirks, SMART's general manager, told the Conference of Western Wayne Friday that the last detailed analysis of area bus systems was completed 20 years ago. The CWW is a legislative consortium of 18 communities.

Any merger that does not maintain quality or quantity of service for SMART customers will not be considered, Dirks said. "If it means we have to cut service, you're not going to see it happen," Dirks said. But DDOT and SMART were working to coordinate operations, Dirks added. DDOT and SMART have joint fares and transfers, and expect to coordinate radio operations, scheduling and timetables soon. Oakland County Assistant Deputy County Executive Gerald Poisson said, "If it's a merger, we'll look at a merger. If it calls for a different form of governance, we'll look at that, too." Poisson expects the contractual work will cost above \$100,000 and under \$400,000. The RTTC has not scheduled a meeting yet to discuss the contract, Poisson said.

Plans approved for road repairs

A committee of representatives of Wayne County's 43 communities and county engineers approved a transportation improvement plan Nov. 5 calling for repairs in 2001 to Beech Daly in Redford, Merriman Road and Six Mile Road in Livonia and Wayne Road in Westland. The plan must go to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the regional planning organization that distributes the federal funds, for its approval. Federal funds will pay for 80 percent of each project. Each year engineers rate the condition of each of the county's 700 miles of paved primary roads and develop a prioritized list of roads for improvements. Projects are selected on a "worst first" basis until the county's annual share of federal funds — about \$13 million — is obligated. Once projects are approved for funding, the county begins

design and engineering work. The list includes the following roads and the estimated federal funds available in western Wayne County:
■ Beech Daly, Six Mile to Grand River, in Redford, \$870,000 available
■ Merriman Road, Seven Mile to Eight Mile Road, Livonia, \$1.7 million
■ Six Mile Road, Farmington to Merriman, Livonia, \$700,000
■ Wayne Road, Cherry Hill to Ford, Westland, \$750,000

Also slated for 2001 is the reconstruction of Seven Mile Road between Merriman and Middlebelt using state transportation economic development funds. This year Wayne County enjoyed its largest road construction season, making repairs to 72 miles of roads, nearly twice the county's average annual rate. That means nearly 50 percent of the 156 miles of road county engineers rated in poor condition at the beginning of the year have been fixed. The additional work was possible due to a \$60 million road improvement bond program initiated in 1997 by County Executive Edward McNamara. "This is the kind of construction season we could deliver every year if the necessary funding was available," McNamara said. "Unfortunately, not enough of the state and federal gas taxes find their way back to local governments." For updates on current Wayne County road projects, visit the county's roads web site at www.waynecounty.com/waynero or call (734) 595-ROAD.

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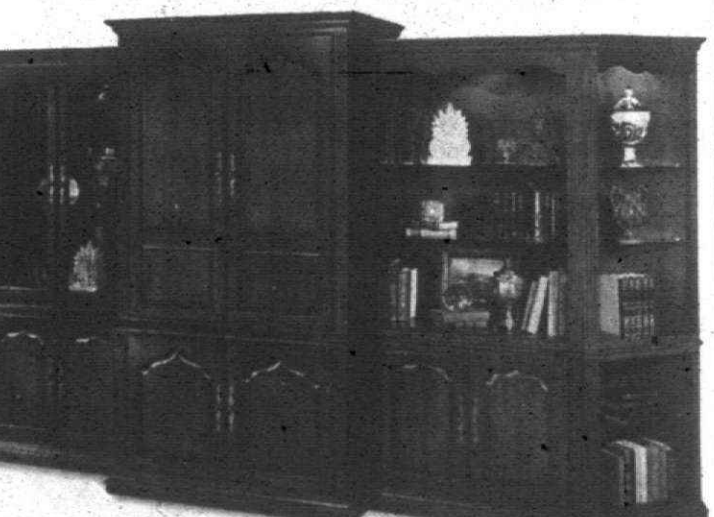
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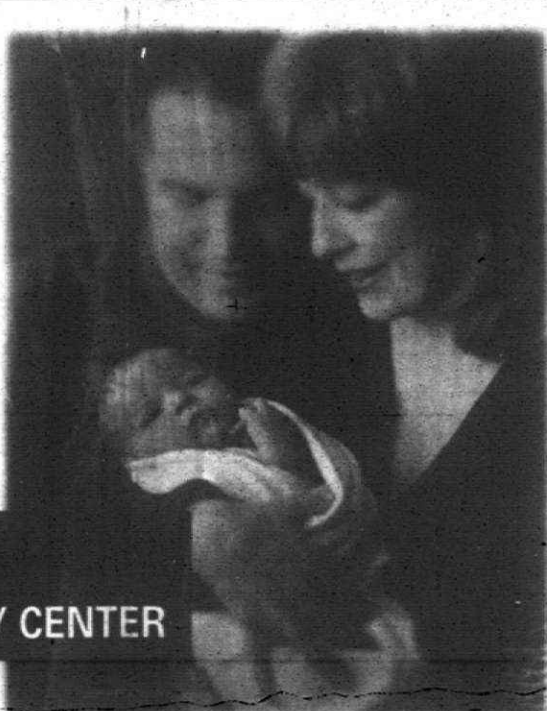
Collectors Cherry Wall Unit
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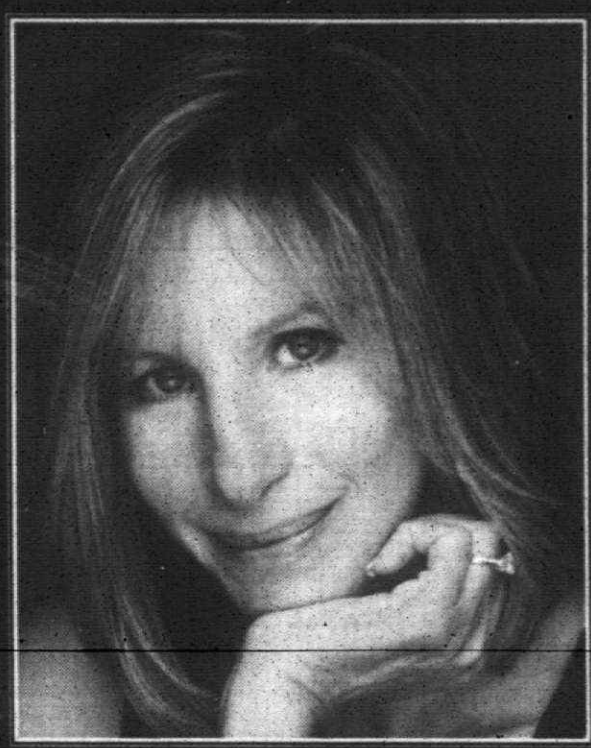
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P.A.R.I.S.I.A.N

Arrests from page A1

police detective arrived moments later. Urban told him what happened but couldn't describe the killer.

He died at about 10:45 p.m. at Garden City Hospital of multiple wounds.

Dearborn Heights Police Lt. Bob Niemczewski said Urban cooperated with his attacker, but was shot anyway.

"There's no such thing as a killing that makes sense," he added. "But this was really senseless."

Meadows worked at the Ponderosa as a dishwasher. Niemczewski said he had knowledge of when Urban made bank drops.

Police searched the homes of the Detroit men over the week-



Gary Urban

end, Niemczewski said. They were arrested Monday.

"I'm proud of my men," he added. "They came in during the

middle of the night and stayed until it got done. They just didn't quit."

Urban had worked for Ponderosa for more than a decade and managed the Telegraph Road and Warren store for seven years. District General Manager Conrad Knape was shocked that a restaurant employee may have been involved.

"I'm numb to the whole thing right now," he said.

Meadows, who had been employed by the restaurant for several months, has a 1998 armed robbery conviction.

"We screen (potential employees) as best we can," said Knape. "We call their references and screen social security history."

PCEP volunteer is Extra Miler

Sally Welch, a volunteer at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, received the Volunteer in Public Schools Extra Miler Award at a recent board of education meeting.

Welch is noted for providing leadership, organizational skills and efforts on numerous projects to benefit PCEP's programs and community.

She was cited as being an active volunteer who, while helping to facilitate many of the par-

ent volunteer programs at the Park, was also a key player in organizing the hepatitis B immunization program held this school year for students from both Salem and Canton high schools.

Welch scheduled volunteers to be present on each of the 14 days of this program. She helped schedule 1,200 students as to time, dates, and locations where they would receive their immunizations.

Assistant Principal Sharon Strawn said, "Mrs. Welch is the first parent to organize other parents. Her work has resulted in a much greater partnership with parents."

Welch was instrumental in creating the High School Parent Involvement Committee last school year. She designed a parent survey and compiled a list of parents who could answer questions that other PCEP families may have.



On the move: Band members march through their show, "Thought Crime: Music for an Orwellian Era," Saturday at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

PCEP from page A1

"I've waited four years for this and now we're going out with a bang," added Todd Bonner of Canton, also a senior tuba player. "The goal wasn't getting first place, but doing our best. But, in our own minds, we wanted it."

And the pressure was on, considering the marching band finished second last year and was expected to win it all this year.

"The whole weekend people were saying we were the band to beat, and none of us wanted to believe it," said band director Dave McGrath. "Our goal this year was to raise our standard. But when you finish second, there is no place left to go than number one."

McGrath said the winning performance was the band's strongest of the season.

"Friday afternoon we had a clean performance and it was together musically, but it lacked spark," admitted McGrath. "We increased the tempo on Saturday for the semifinals and it was more emotional, but not quite as clean."

"Saturday night was the best of both worlds. It was amazing, they peaked at just the right time. I don't think they could have done it any better."

And the judges agreed, giving them 97 out of a possible 100

points in their final performance. One judge kept noting the "standard-setting performance" of the Plymouth-Canton marching band.

"We tend to have an identity as a group that puts on shows that go against the norm," said McGrath. "We tell a story and are theatrical. The performance level is above and beyond the typical high school band."

McGrath said the most emotional point for him was performing for 800 parents and alumni in an empty RCA Dome after the championships.

"We had tremendous support," he said. "Watching their faces, and the faces of the kids ... the realization set in. It was just amazing."

"We could tell by the reaction of the crowd it was a totally awe-some performance," said Liz Adams of Canton, who watched as her 14-year-old daughter Adrienne performed as a member of the Color Guard. "The kids were confident, and they really nailed it. I'm proud of all of them."

Plymouth-Canton became the first marching band to win the Class AAA championship while capturing all three caption awards for outstanding music performance, outstanding visual

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Nature lovers question reason for controlled hunts

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net



Nature lovers fear that the controlled deer hunts scheduled to take place in three metroparks - Stony Creek near Rochester, Kensington in Milford and Hudson Mills near Ann Arbor - are a backdoor attempt to introduce sport hunting to Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority land.

HCMA officials, however, insist the hunts are a herd management tool, aimed solely at reducing the number of deer there. The critics have so overpopulated the parks that they live there in numbers 2 1/2 to almost six times what HCMA officials believe the land can support.

The first controlled hunt, in Stony Creek Nov. 5-7, was a success, Dave Moilanen, chief of interpretative services and public relations, told the HCMA board at a meeting Nov. 11.

Thirty-three bowhunters took 37 deer, generating some 1,380 pounds of meat to be distributed to food banks and charities. Most importantly, there were no accidents. Safety was the highest priority, Moilanen said.

As a result, the board made no plans to alter its deer culling program. Another controlled archery hunt is slated for Stony Creek Dec. 3-5. Muzzleloaders will be used Dec. 10-12 and Dec. 17. Shotgun hunting is scheduled for Dec. 18 and 19. At Hudson Mills, bowhunting is set for Dec. 3, 4, 10 and 11.

Marksman at Kensington

At Kensington, the most overpopulated park, rangers trained as marksmen will conduct deer hunts over bait piles at night sometime in mid-January. Aerial infrared surveys will be conducted before and after to update the deer population counts.

Activists reacted sharply to the report of the first hunt. The strongest statement came from Ann Arbor resident Robert Parnell, a self-described wildlife photographer and nature lover.

"It seems this hasn't been about facts, it's about politics and money," he said. "The three hunting organizations on the Wildlife Advisory Committee (the HCMA-appointed panel that recommended the herd management plan) are from the (Department of Natural Resource's) Hunting and Fishing Task Force. This task force has a stated objective to, 'Where possible, expand opportunities to hunt and fish in urban parks and recreation areas.' And further on says ... 'take any actions necessary to bring about the completion of this vital mission.'"

"It seems that what this is really about is the HCMA playing ball with the DNR so that it can continue to receive financial favors from the DNR."

One grant referenced by Parnell was actually turned down by the DNR, but HCMA Chief Planner Dan Duncan confirmed the authority has indeed received two grants from the DNR this year - one for a playground and lake access site, the other for development of a picnic area. Neither was related to hunting.

In fact, Duncan, who handles grant application writing for the HCMA, said the DNR has never asked or pressured the metropark authority to open its lands to hunting in return for grant money.

Conflict of interest?

Livonia resident Noreen Owens, a member of the Metropark Deer Preservation Council, said she believes the presence of three hunting organizations on the advisory committee constitutes a conflict of interest. Those organizations - the DNR, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and the Michigan Bowhunters Association - also had representation on the Hunting and Fishing Task Force, a panel appointed by Gov. John Engler to promote hunting activity in Michigan.

Owens asked that the make-up of the advisory committee be revised.

Northville resident Judy Brock, also a member of that council, explained her group did not intend to accuse any member of the HCMA board of improprieties. She explained that when council members found an Internet Web site containing the recommendations of the task force and that they included expanding hunting into "urban parks," they believed there was a "hidden agenda" among those three hunting groups. And she contended those groups could stand

members were wildlife biologists. "There were meetings in which the Humane Society said, 'We can't go along with the killing of deer.' There were meetings where the hunters said, 'Our members won't go along with bringing in a sharp shooter.' Everyone was on an equal footing. I don't remember any meetings where anyone said, 'Gee, we got everything we wanted,'" Mogos said.

Hunts a success

Craig Mortz, executive board member of Metro Wildlife Management Base Inc., a consortium of Michigan conservation organizations, and John Spehar, also on that board, rated the first weekend of hunting a success. Along with the hunters, they said some 70 to 75 volunteers donated their time to manage the hunt and process the meat for food banks.

Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger covered the costs of the food processing. They helped organize the hunt with the HCMA, from training the hunters to selecting the blinds which were used as the hunting

sites. The hunt had proved safe, which Mortz and Spehar said

was their main goal. Mogos said the reason various methods of hunting are being

used is to evaluate the effectiveness of those methods at thinning the herd.

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Airport makes changes to avoid a winter disaster

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

Officials at Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport are hoping equipment purchases and operational changes will help ease the air traffic gluts during snow storms. They expect the opening of a

third de-icing pad later this month near the end of the airport's runways will make planes safer by preventing the accumulation of ice on the planes, but also allow for better air traffic management and quicker departures for passengers in winter weather. On Nov. 4, Wayne County

commissioners also approved the lease of five snow blower trucks with 18-inch brooms for \$1.9 million with C.E. Pollard of Detroit. The county intends to execute a Ford Motor Credit Municipal Lease for five years, with a \$1 buyout. Deicing used to be completed near the airport's gates. Work

crews used to move equipment from gate to gate, which took time, according to Detroit Metro Airport spokesman Mike Conway. The new pad will help clear those gates. "Gates will remain available for other flights," Conway said. That should help Northwest Air-

lines, which is Metro's principal carrier with more than 70 percent of the airport's 31 million annual passengers. The Federal Aviation Administration had issued an advisory earlier this year that stated that airports in cold-weather cities should build deicing pads if planes face long taxis from gates to runways. Accumulated ice and snow can affect the lift of airplanes.

The three pads also should help prevent air traffic tie-ups similar to those created during the Jan. 2 snowstorm when many planes containing scores of holiday travelers remained on taxiways for several hours. While the de-icing procedures were not attributed as a cause for the airport delays, the snows and winds were attributed to Northwest's flight crews inability to get to the airport.

The third pad was built at a cost of \$11.2 million and contains six tanks that can hold up to 10,000 gallons of deicing fluid. That fluid, glycol, will be recycled by EQ-The Environmental Co., a firm that paid Metro \$50,000 for a three-year contract. With the two deicing pads and a program to recycle glycol, the

COUNTY NEWS

county's costs for sewer and water use went from \$1.3 million in 1997-98 to \$923,460 in 1998-99, a decline of 30 percent, Conway said.

The five new snow blower trucks will be used after plows during snow removal operations. "Brooms will be attached to the trucks for use during light snows, or as a finishing task after the snow plows," said Brian Lassaline, airport spokesman.

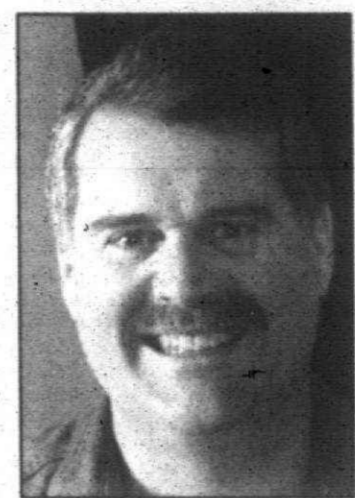
The trucks are expected to arrive in December, Lassaline said.

Commissioners also approved a \$127,000 contract with Stand-by Power Inc. of Redford for the purchase and installation of a 500-kilowatt backup generator for Detroit Metro Airport's Fire Station, as required for FAA regulations and Y2K compliance.

A resolution authorizing condemnation proceedings related to the acquisition of one-half acre for Runway 4/22 (Crane Road) at Metro Airport also was approved by commissioners.

Bennett unhappy with residency bill compromise

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net



Sen. Loren Bennett

City employees would no longer be required to live in town by city charter or municipal ordinance, but such residency requirements could be subject to collective bargaining, under a compromise struck by the state House.

Rep. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, author of the compromise, said the purpose of his proposal is to preserve "home rule" and local control of the city governments while at the same time addressing the concerns over residency requirements.

"They (unions) said (city officials) wouldn't discuss it. Well, this now forces it to the bargaining table," Kuipers said. If finally approved, the compromise will mean city residency requirements will be a topic in union negotiations. If it is important to workers, unions will be able to trade off other benefits to get rid of such residency rules.

That doesn't sit well with Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, chief sponsor of the bill. He will attempt in conference committee to get the bill restored to something closer to his original version of Senate Bill 198, according to legislative aide William Sullivan.

Opposed to compromise Rep. Robert Gosselin, R-Troy, is adamantly opposed to the compromise.

"The freedom to choose where you want to live is a fundamental civil right," Gosselin said. Which means the issue isn't settled yet.

"I anticipate Bennett will be on the conference committee, because he's the sponsor. Typically, they put the committee chair on it too," Kuipers said, explaining why he thinks Gosselin will have a seat at the table, too. "I'm asking to be on the committee, but I don't know yet. If they restore it to the original version or something close to it, they are in for a fight from

allowed in collective bargaining, residency could not be required. Sullivan said Bennett is not satisfied with the compromise, although "it's better than what we have."

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"They (unions) said (city officials) wouldn't discuss it. Well, this now forces it to the bargaining table," Kuipers said. If finally approved, the compromise will mean city residency requirements will be a topic in union negotiations. If it is important to workers, unions will be able to trade off other benefits to get rid of such residency rules.

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But Kuipers said he is also strongly supportive of local control, the rights of cities to set their own rules. His compromise would put the issue into collective bargaining. The only exception in his verbiage is when married couples are employed in different cities which both have residency rules. Then, even if

mouth, and Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, voted yes. Reps. Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, and Laura Toy, R-Livonia, voted no.

Not a major issue

Still, residency is not something that will be a significant issue for most employees, he explained.

If only 10 of 100 employees care about the issue, aides predicted the unions would more likely concentrate on other issues, like pay and benefits.

Kuipers denied his version was just an effort to move the issue from the House floor to conference committee.

"Many (lawmakers) came up to me to say thanks for coming up with something they could vote for," he said.

Kuipers said the issue was the subject of intense closed door discussions on the final day of session Wednesday, Nov. 10, before the Thanksgiving break.

"I knew I was involved in a big issue when the mayor of Detroit called to say he wanted to meet with me," Kuipers said. Dennis Archer came to see him in his Lansing office the day of the vote.

The issue is one of special importance to Rep. David Woodward, D-Madison Heights. While many older urban areas are getting rid of residency rules, one of the cities in his district, Hazel Park, just approved a new residency rule in the last election. The vote was 70 percent in favor of residency.

He said he believed the compromise found the middle ground, addressing the concern of employees while allowing cities the right of "self-determination."

The House voted 82-26 on final passage. The conference committee will likely be named after lawmakers return to session Nov. 30.

Representatives voted 60-32 to replace the bill with Kuipers' substitute.

Reps. Gerald Law, R-Ply-

"I know I was involved in a big issue when the mayor of Detroit called to say he wanted to meet with me."

Rep. Wayne Kuipers
R-Holland

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Madonna University begins winter registration

Madonna University's registration for the winter 2000 term is in progress now through Jan. 7 for new and returning students. Office hours will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and until 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, with the exception of Dec. 20 and 23 when the office will close at 5 p.m.

All offices will be closed for Thanksgiving (Nov. 25-28) and Christmas (Dec. 24 to Jan. 3). Classes begin the week of Jan. 10.

The convenience of fax-in registration for all students is available and will be accepted through Dec. 17.

Students may enroll in day, evening and weekend classes and non-admitted students must obtain a permit to register from the admissions office. Transfer students are welcome. There is no application fee.

Madonna University is at 1-96 and Levan Road in Livonia. It offers men and women associate's and bachelor's degrees in more than 50 career-oriented majors and 14 master's programs in diverse areas of business, education, health services, hospice and nursing. For more information, call the Admissions Office at (734)432-5339.

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Senate approves bill limiting right to public defender

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
MMALOTT@HOMECOMM.NET

Defendants who have already pleaded guilty to a criminal charge in Michigan will no longer be able to waste taxpayers' money by using public defenders to file frivolous appeals ... or justice after plea bargaining will be reserved for the rich, depending on which side of the issue you listen to.

State senators voted 24-13 to pass House Bill 4625 Nov. 10, to limit a defendant's right to a court appointed attorney to file an appeal after having pleaded guilty to a charge.

The House has already approved the measure, sponsored by Rep. Judson Gilbert, R-Algonac. Considering that Gov. John Engler has pushed hard for the measure and that his staff did much of the research used to support the proposal, Engler is expected to give the bill a quick signature. Only a few technical glitches are slowing the bill and will have to be cleared up by the legislature in December, the governor's office said Nov. 15.

But critics are strong in their condemnation of the measure.

"I believe this bill is unconstitutional," said Sen. Alma Wheeler Smith, D-South Lyon, during the Senate debate. "I believe this legislation reinforces what the general public already believes about the criminal justice system. That is, if you are poor, you don't get justice, and if you have money and resources, then you have the right to justice and you often get it. I think that's a terrible message for the Legislature of the state of Michigan to be reinforcing."

Sen. Virgil Smith, D-Detroit, objected more strongly.

"We are setting up a two-tier system with this legislation. If you have money, then you automatically have a right to appeal and you have a right to have leave to appeal, because you have money and you can hire an attorney ... Ninety-seven to 98 percent of criminal defenders would have no ability to file an appeal on their own, they would have to have competent legal counsel. So that means only 2 percent might have the ability as

a jailhouse lawyer, to file a competent appeal which is not thrown out on a procedural basis in front of the Court of Appeals. So in effect, you're eliminating all appeals on behalf of indigent defendants who cannot afford to hire an attorney."

Virgil Smith said the state supreme court is already wrestling with the very same issue in a case known as People v. Bolger. He warned that if the court eventually rules opposite the legislature's decision, Michigan's court system could then get hit with a backlog of appeals.

"We're stepping into treacherous waters ... There is not a state in the union which does not allow a right to appeal criminal cases. This in effect would accomplish that goal by taking away the right to have an attorney. We don't have the guts to confront the issue directly and deny all appeals of any criminal convictions made by a guilty plea in this state. But we will go around the back door and try to knock out 98 percent of them by denying them the right to have an attorney. This is a dangerous

piece of legislation," he concluded.

Sen. William Van Regenmorter, R-Hudsonville, argued that the bill follows the wishes of Michigan voters, who approved wording ending automatic appeals in criminal cases. Van Regenmorter contended that when a judge takes a guilty plea or a plea of "no contest," court rules already require that the judge make sure the plea is being entered voluntarily. A judge can't accept the guilty plea unless he or she is convinced the charge is accurate and that the defendant understands it as well as the potential sentence. So there are already built-in protections for those who plead guilty,

he argued. The Michigan Chapter of American Civil Liberties Union has taken a position opposing the bill, but it is supported by the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan.

"This is only after the defendant has pleaded guilty, has admitted that he did the crime he's being charged for," Tom Robertson, spokesman for PAAM, said. "Where's the injustice in that?"

He argued the bill has enough safeguards built in to protect defendants' rights. For instance, he said, they will be able to get court-appointed attorneys if the sentence goes outside state-set guidelines or does not match

what the defense attorney and prosecutor agreed to. There may be cases in which conditional plea bargains are struck, in which a defendant pleads based on evidence over which the admissibility is still in dispute. If an appeal to a higher court is already agreed to before the plea bargain, the defendant could keep his appointed attorney, Robertson said.


Those safeguards should avoid abuse of defendants' constitutional rights, he said.

On passage of the bill: Sens. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, and Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, voted yes.

Sen. George Z. Hart, D-Dearborn, voted no.

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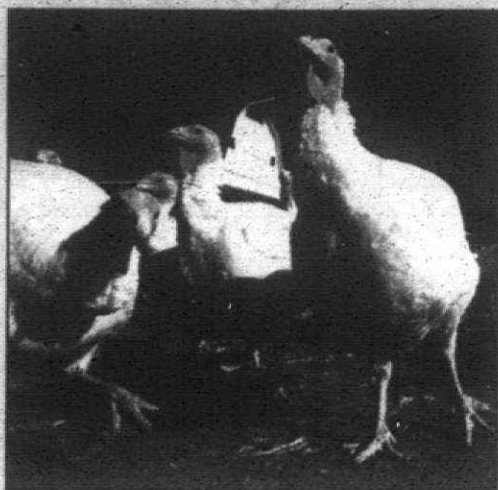
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Feathers fly at family farm Turkeyville

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

Let's talk turkey. Ready? "ERRR, ERRR, ERRR, UT, UT, UT, GOBBLE, GOBBLE, GOBBLE!" Just trill your tongue at the 4,500 turkeys awaiting the ax at Roperti's Turkey Farm on Five Mile Road between Levan and Farmington in Livonia and you'll get quite a response. And if you're brave or foolish enough to wade through the flock of plump, beady-eyed broad Wilford whites, don't wear anything with buttons below the waist. For turkeys, pecking off buttons is considered a sport.

In a small, cluttered turquoise and pink office, owner Christine Roperti and her new daughter-in-law, Ferida, keep busy taking orders over the phone, often repeating the same phrases over and over: "We carry 15-18 pounders and 19-23." "No, ma'am, I don't have any 10-pounders. They'd be too bony."

"Ma'am, you could freeze my turkeys for 12-15 months and they'd still taste like fresh." "All our toms are gone." "Delicious."

Farm girl

Roperti grew up on the 5 1/2-acre farm, which her father and mother, Thomas and Mary Roperti, Italian immigrants from the Calabrese region in Italy, started in 1948. The family leased 240 acres and maintained a herd

of 40 dairy cows along with the turkeys. They also grew their own feed.

They milked the cows by hand and sold the milk to Twin Pines Dairy. Roperti recalls her father working from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. "Oh my gosh, it was hard work."

Roperti's older brother, Fred, was in the Army in the mid-1950s, leaving his 10-year-old sister to drive the tractor to their fields on the northwest corner of Six Mile Road and Haggerty. Her father would follow in a truck.

"I was my dad's boy," said Roperti. Roperti took over the farm in 1988, shortly after her parents died. Today, with the help of her two sons, Tony Skrabut and Fred Roperti, and her husband, Wesley Bates, she operates a thriving landmark business.

But there's no mistaking who's boss, said Ferida Roperti with affection. The business remains a sole proprietorship. Deservedly so, Christine Roperti has

Remembering when . . .
Fifty-five years ago, Thomas Roperti, bemoaned the market price of turkeys - 10 cents a pound less than the previous Thanksgiving, or about 39 cents a pound, live-weight.
Roperti had been a turkey farmer for five years and wanted a return on his investment. After all, he had 1,600 beaks to feed, and turkey feed was \$3 a ton.
He started out with just 25 turkeys. Today, his daughter Christine, raises 4,500 birds, which she sells for \$2.35 a pound.

come to be known as "the turkey lady."

A turkey's life

The fledgling turkeys arrive at Roperti's farm the first week in August. They're shipped from Holland in a large semi-tractor trailer, stacked in five layers of cages. They weigh about three or four pounds. "They're all legs," said Ferida Roperti.

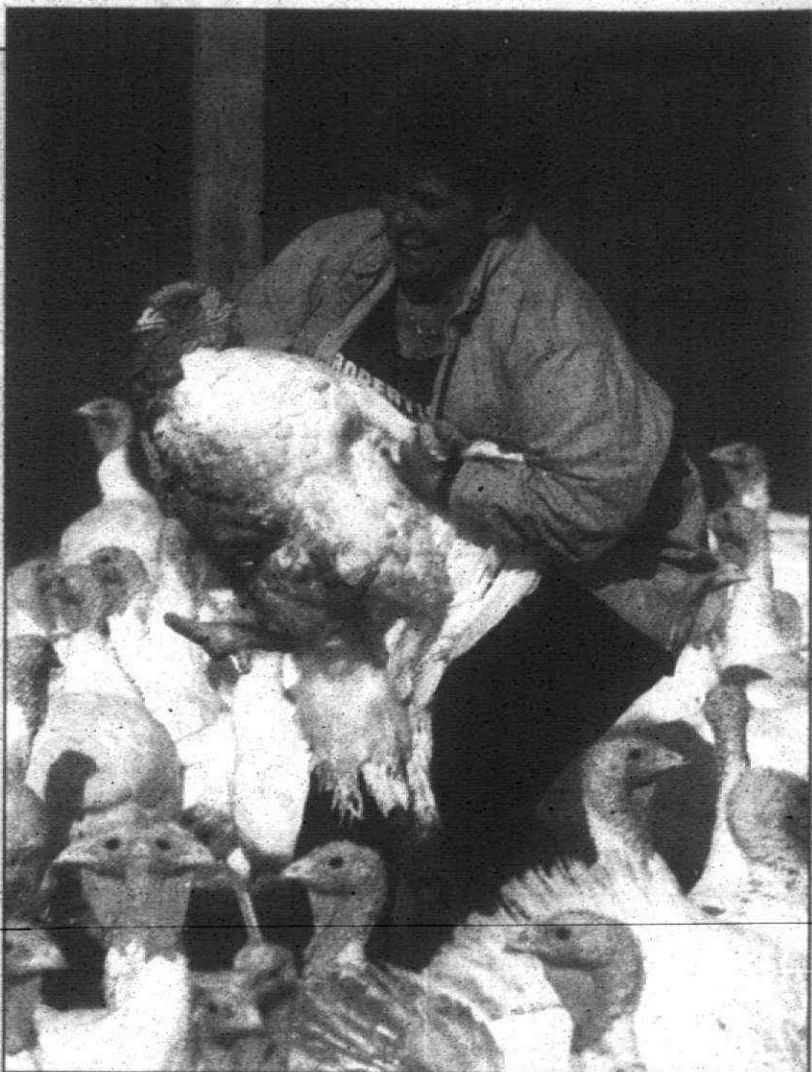
Fed a diet of corn, wheat, and oats mixed with a mash concentrate, the turkeys soon triple their weight. Roperti starts processing turkeys for special orders Oct. 1, when many of the birds have plumped up to 12-14 pounds.

The largest tom she dressed last year topped the scales at over 42 pounds. This year may be a record-breaker. "The weather has been real good, so they're eating a lot."

Roperti doesn't freeze any of her turkeys until after Christmas. Freezing, she tells her customers, doesn't alter the taste of her hand-raised birds, known for their broad, juicy breasts. "All the taste, the juice and the gravy, comes from what the turkey has been eating. The secret is not fresh, it's what they've been fed."

Roperti's oldest son, Tony Skrabut, is the last person the turkeys see in their short, happy lives. "He's the killer. He kills every single turkey," she said.

Skrabut dispenses the birds six at a time. The process is simple and efficient. The birds are hung upside down by their feet and zapped by an electric knife. After their necks have been slit and the



PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Get a grip: Christine Roperti shows off her turkey-nabbing technique. She's had plenty of practice of putting wing-locks on birds determined to run away.

blood drained, they're put in scalding hot water to loosen their feathers. Then comes a tumble in a feather-picking machine, followed by a final picking by hand. Heads and feet are then chopped off and the birds are gutted. Finally, they're packaged and weighed and ready for the customer. Ferida Roperti says her mother-in-law never fixes turkey for Thanksgiving. "We have filet mignon, lobster tails, scallops, and shrimp - just because you're so sick of turkey by that day." In addition to processing fresh turkeys, Roperti sells a few smoked

birds. She soaks them in her own brine recipe, then smokes them over apple, cherry and hickory chips. "These are to die for," said Ferida Roperti. Roperti and her turkeys will be together for many more years. She's proud of what Roperti's Turkey Farm has become and grateful for the community's support. "The city has been very good to me. I plan to be here for a long time." Roperti sells her turkeys for \$2.35 a pound. Smoked sell for \$3.69. To place an order, call (734) 464-6546.

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Parents get jail terms in sex assaults on kids

After hearing from two young girls about how they felt about being sexually abused by their own parents, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Prentice Edwards sentenced a Plymouth couple to prison.

Schools get computer donation

More than 17 metro Detroit human service agencies and schools will receive new computers and software, thanks to IBM and United Way Community Services.

EMU Livonia campus: 'Perfect fit for western Wayne'

Carl Pursell thinks Eastern Michigan University is the perfect fit for western Wayne County.

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EMU's nursing program is expected to have a high demand because some registered nurses don't have a four-year degree, Wagner said.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS NOVEMBER 9, 1999

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, November 9, 1999 at 11:50 South Canton Center Road.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Amount, Total. Includes General Fund, Fire Fund, Police Fund, etc.

District 1996-2 was prepared pursuant to the Resolutions of the Township Board adopted on the 21 day of November, 1999 and to my best judgment confirm in all respects to the directions contained in such Resolutions and Statutes of the State of Michigan.

THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor Notary Public, Wayne County, My commission expires...

EXHIBIT A DESCRIPTION OF IMPROVEMENTS TONGUISH CREEK STORM SEWER SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 1996-2

Improvements for the Tonguish Creek Storm Sewer Special Assessment District 1996-2 consist of design and construction of a detention basin with a restricted outlet to the Tonguish Creek along with storm sewer to serve proposed industrial lots.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Amount, Total. Includes Engineering Design, Construction Contingency, 15% Construction, etc.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter that the request of Sangee Corporation to transfer stock in a 1995 Class C licensed business located at 43297 Joy Road, Canton MI 48187, adding Michiyasu Yakamoto as stockholder through issuance of fifty (50) shares from the Corporation (Step 1), be considered for APPROVAL, it is the consensus of this legislative body that the application be recommended for issuance. All eyes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to adopt a resolution for the extension of the final approval of the preliminary plat for Cobblestone Ridge Subdivision No. 3. All eyes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize the Township Supervisor and Township Clerk to execute the Warren and Grant Deeds for (part of) parcels 71-117-99-0001-000, 71-076-99-0009-000 and 71-077-99-0008-000. All eyes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter that to Wally Baker and Michael Gulikewicz be reapportioned to serve three-year terms on the Recreation Advisory Committee beginning January 1, 2000 and expiring on December 31, 2002. All eyes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the budget amendment in the FY 1999 CDBG Administration budget for a new Community Development Block Grant program: Increase Revenues \$426,000.00, Increase Appropriations \$426,000.00.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton does hereby move, effective immediately, to allow enforcement of Summit Parkway for traffic enforcement on private property, in response to their request and in compliance with Local Ordinance No. 68. All eyes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton does hereby move, effective immediately, to allow enforcement at Fox Meadows Condominium for traffic enforcement on private property, in response to their request and in compliance with Local Ordinance No. 68. All eyes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the FCC Form 394 Cable Franchise transfer request to transfer the MediaOne cable franchise and telecommunications permit to AT&T conditional upon Federal Communications Commission and Justice Department approval of the MediaOne/AT&T transaction. All eyes present.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to introduce, table and publish the First Reading of the Sign Ordinance 100, for publication in the Canton Observer on November 18, 1999. All eyes present.

FIRST READING SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 120 SIGN ORDINANCE AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF THE CONFIGURATION, FABRICATION, LOCATION, INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF SIGNS WITHIN THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN, INCLUDING: PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFIGURATION AND FABRICATION REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR INSTALLATION AND LOCATION REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE LIMITATION OF THE NUMBER OF SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR APPEALS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SAVINGS CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

REQUIREMENTS

- 29.004 Section 4. SIGNS PERMITTED WITHOUT REQUIRING A SIGN PERMIT. This section sets forth what signs are permitted with a sign permit. 29.005 Section 5. SIGNS PROHIBITED IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS. This section sets forth signs which are considered to be unsafe, dangerous, hazardous or an attractive nuisance, and therefore not permitted without a variance. 29.006 Section 6. SIGNS PERMITTED IN ALL SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS AND REQUIRING A SIGN PERMIT. This section sets forth details, including but not limited to, the type, periods of time, sizes, placement, allowable number of signs and which require permits. 29.007 Section 7. SIGNS AUTHORIZED WITH A PERMIT IN SINGLE FAMILY ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL (R-8), MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (MR) AND MOBILE HOME PARK (MHP) ZONING DISTRICT. This section sets forth details, including but not limited to, the type, size, period of time, placement, allowable number of signs authorized with a permit. 29.008 Section 8. SIGNS AUTHORIZED WITH A PERMIT IN OFFICE DISTRICT (O-1) AND MID-RISE (MRD) AND HIGH-RISE DEVELOPMENTS (HRD). This section sets forth details, including but not limited to, the type, size, placement and numbers of allowed signs, and exceptions. 29.009 Section 9. SIGNS AUTHORIZED WITH A PERMIT IN ALL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICTS (C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6). This section sets forth details, including but not limited to, type, size, and placement of signs. 29.010 Section 10. AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICTS (RA, RB, RE). This section sets forth details, including but not limited to, type, size, placement and location of allowable signs with permits in agricultural or open space recreational use and golf courses. 29.011 Section 11. NON-COMMERCE SIGNS. This section details what constitutes a non-conforming sign, the owner's responsibility and the Township Board's remedial options therefor. 29.012 Section 12. RE-ZONING SIGNS IN ALL DISTRICTS. This section sets forth the requirements for an application for re-zoning or amendment to a Consent Judgment or Planned Unit Development. 29.013 Section 13. CONSTRUCTION OF SIGNS WITH NATURAL MATERIALS. This section sets forth the definition, compliance, illumination and area of signs made of natural materials. 29.014 Section 14. PORTABLE SIGNS. This section sets forth which may use portable signs, their size, placement, and limitations of such signs. 29.015 Section 15. GASOLINE SERVICE STATIONS SPECIAL SIGNS. This section sets forth size, number, and limitations for use of special signs by service stations and for which permits are required. 29.016 Section 16. DIRECTIONAL SIGNS. This section details size, message and placement and permit requirement for directional signs. 29.017 Section 17. ENFORCEMENT AND VIOLATIONS. This section provides for enforcement of the Sign Ordinance. 29.018 Section 18. PENALTIES. This section provides for the penalties for violation of the Sign Ordinance. 29.019 Section 19. CONSTRUCTION NON-APPLICABLE APPEALS. This section sets forth the procedure for the application of the Sign Ordinance, and the ability of the Zoning Board of Appeals to modify the Ordinance. 29.020 Section 20. REPEAL. This section provides for the repeal of all conflicting ordinances. 29.021 Section 21. SEVERABILITY. This section provides that the Ordinance is severable and if any portion of the Ordinance is declared invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions of the Ordinance will remain valid. 29.022 Section 22. SAVINGS CLAUSE. This section provides that the repeal and amendment provided for herein shall not abrogate or affect any acts committed or done, or any penalty for forfeiture incurred, or any pending litigation or prosecution or any right established or occurring prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. 29.023 Section 23. EFFECTIVE DATE. This section provides for publication of this Ordinance. *Note: A summary of the First Reading of the Amendment to Ordinance 120(C) will be published within the Minutes of this meeting in the Canton Observer on November 18, 1999. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public inspection in the Office of the Township Clerk, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI during regular business hours. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the creation and filling of the position of Mechanical Inspector in Building & Inspection Services. All eyes present. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the reclassification of the Programmer/Analyst position in the Public Safety Department to Systems Administrator. All eyes present. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the purchase of a 2000 Ford Super Duty F-250 XL/Super Cab four-wheel drive pickup truck through Argenson Ford, 5533 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan who was the lowest qualified bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$27,466.00. All eyes present. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the creation and filling of a Clerk I position to be shared between the Clerk and Treasurers' offices, which is budgeted in the budget for the year 2000 (101-215-705-0000 and 101-253-705-0000). All eyes present. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the Canton Center Road Streetscape Project and, pursuant to Wayne County landscaping permit requirements for said project in the Canton Center Road right-of-way (West of the intersection of Glastenbury Boulevard), Canton Township agrees to the following requirements: A) Canton Township will maintain the permitted landscaping materials at no expense to Wayne County; B) Canton Township indemnifies and saves harmless Wayne County and all of its employees (and their estates) from all claims and judgments of every name and description arising out of the operation covered by the permit or the issuance of the permit; C) Canton Township authorizes Terry G. Bennett, Township Clerk, to sign the permit on behalf of Canton Township. All eyes present. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to move to a closed session for the purpose of discussion of pending litigation at 8:50 P.M. All eyes present. TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Virtual University starts winter term registration

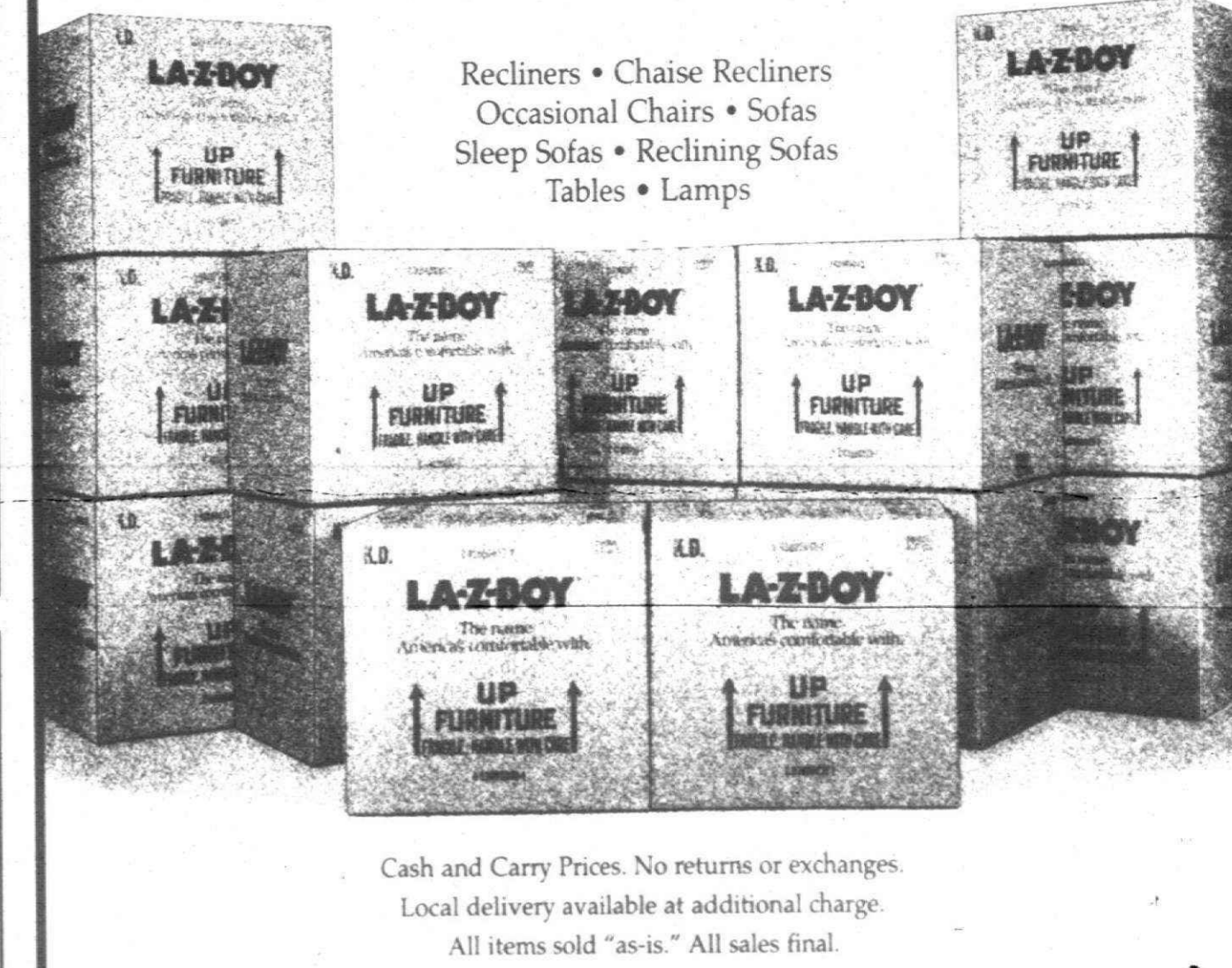
The Michigan Virtual University is beginning winter registration. The virtual university serves as a central access point for courses provided by Michigan's community colleges.

Open To The Public 3 Days Only!

Incredible Savings on genuine La-Z-Boy furniture!

Warehouse Sale! This Friday and Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-5

- Unclaimed Layaways and Returns
Manufacturer's Samples
Floor Samples & Close-Outs
Cancelled Special Orders
Slightly Damaged Items
One-Of-A-Kind Items & More



Goodwill Antiques Show Since 1948. Benefiting Goodwill Industries job training programs for persons with barriers to employment. November 19, 20 and 21, Friday 10-8, Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5. General Admission \$5.00, Seniors \$3.00. Pre-sale Centering, Thursday, November 18, 7-9 P.M.

NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND AND ORCHESTRA BOOSTERS WINTER ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR Saturday, Nov. 20, 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission \$2.00. Includes a table with categories like Music, Art, etc.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Township Clerk resolution adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Canton, County of Wayne, State of Michigan at a regular meeting held on November 9, 1999 and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 207, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

OBITUARIES

CAROL ANN SHERWOOD Services for Carol Ann Sherwood, 74, of Plymouth Township were held Nov. 16 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with the Rev. Daniel J. Murphy officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth.

She was born Dec. 26, 1924, in Minneapolis and died Nov. 14 in Plymouth Township. She was a homemaker who came to the Plymouth community in 1946 from Minnesota. She was a member of the V.F.W. Auxiliary in Northville and loved gardening and working in the yard.

Mrs. Sherwood was preceded in death by her husband, Robert. Survivors include her brother, Daniel (Barbara) Christensen of Canton; one friend, Alexandria Johnson of Plymouth; and one niece, Janet Roberts of Carmel, Calif.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice.

ELAINE C. ASSALONE

Services for Elaine C. Assalone, 53, of Canton were held Nov. 9 at St. John Neumann Church with the Rev. Jack Quinlan officiating.

She was born Oct. 2, 1946, in

Flushing, N.Y., and died Nov. 7. She worked as a office clerk for an automotive company.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John. Survivors include her daughter, Loretta (Galen Huren) Assalone; one son, Anthony; and two grandchildren, John and Julia.

Local arrangements were made by the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Canton.

VIRGINIA L. ANDERSON

Services for Virginia L. Anderson, 68, of Canton were held Nov. 15 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Canton, with the Rev. George Charney officiating.

She was born April 23, 1931, in Detroit and died Nov. 11 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Superior Township. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, Arthur E. Anderson; two sons, Richard Anderson and Steven Anderson; two daughters, Linda Dempsey and Laura Anderson; one brother, Gene Twarog; and five grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Local arrangements were made by McCabe Funeral Home, Canton Chapel.

PATRICIA M. WINK

Services for Patricia M. Wink, 72, of Bloomfield Hills (formerly of Beverly Hills) took place Nov. 16 at Holy Name Church, Birmingham.

She was born Oct. 1, 1927 in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and died Nov. 10 at Woodward Hills Nursing Home in Bloomfield Hills.

She attended the University of Detroit. She was a member of Thomas More Church, the League of Catholic Women, The Village Club and The Oakland Hills Country Club. She was a supporter of Mary Reparatrix Retreat Center and enjoyed playing tennis.

Survivors include her husband, William J. Wink Jr.; two daughters, Judi A. Duerr of Canton and Caqrol A. Schaeffer of Ypsilanti; one son, William J. Wink III (Karen) of West Bloomfield; and five grandchildren, Jason, Joshua, Lindsey, Collin and Hanna.

Memorials may be made in lieu of flowers to Detroit Automobile Dealers Association Charitable Foundation, 333 W. First St., Suite 2010, Detroit, MI 48226.

Local arrangements were made by A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, Royal Oak.

SYBILL E. PHILLIPS

Services for Sybill E. Phillips, 81, of Plymouth were held Nov.

18 at Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth, with the Rev. Steven B. Schafer of Mount Hope Congregational Christian Church, Livonia. Burial was in Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia.

She was born April 14, 1918, in Albany, Vt., and died Nov. 15 in Livonia. She was a cashier in a cafeteria at J.L. Hudson's and a member of the Eastern Stars.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman A. Phillips; her parents, Dwight Dow and Kathryn Dow Pillsbury; and one son, Norman E. Phillips. Survivors include her daughter, Joan (Ron) L. Handloser of Livonia; one sister, Mildred Larkin of Burlington, Vt.; one brother, Robert Pillsbury of Burlington; three granddaughters, Rhonda (Chris) Weber, Marilyn Handloser and Kathryn Handloser; one grandson, Greg Handloser; and one great-granddaughter, Ashley Weber.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 17220 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076.

Local arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth.

CARA M. MITCHELL

Services for Cara M. Mitchell, 36 of Canton, were held Nov. 18 at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Canton, with the Rev. Jack Quinlan of St. John Neumann Church officiating.

She was born April 25, 1963 in Detroit and died Nov. 15. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, Larry D.; one daughter, Lauren M.; three sons, Larry D. Jr., Eric W., Logan L.; parents, Mary Young, Paul Young; one brother, Patrick A. Young; and parents-in-law, Dianna Mitchell and Lawrence Domogala.

She was preceded in death by

her mother, Beier Luella. Survivors include her husband, Anthony Riggiero of Plymouth; father, Roman Deier of Tiffin, Ohio; two daughters, Regina (Daniel, Jr.) Paradiso of Huntington, N.Y., and Annette (Peter) Dyke of Los Gatos, Calif.; one sister, Joanne Crockett of Clyde, Ohio; two brothers, Jeff Beier of Eaton, Ohio, and Jerry Beier of Green Springs, Ohio; and five granddaughters, Domini Paradiso of Huntington, N.Y., Michela Paradiso of Huntington, N.Y., Chiara Paradiso of Huntington, N.Y., Giavanna Paradiso of Huntington, N.Y., and Camryn Dyke of Los Gatos, Calif.

Memorials may be made to Josephine Ford Cancer Center, Office of Philanthropy, 1 Ford Place 5A, Detroit, MI 48202 or in mass cards.

Local arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth.

Local arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth.

Local arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth.

FLORENCE PANATTONI

Services for Florence Panattoni, 84, formerly of Plymouth, will take place Nov. 27 at the

Shurgard of Canton 2101 Haggerty Rd., Canton, MI 48187

Notice is hereby given that the following unit(s) will be sold to the highest bidder by open auction on December 29, 1999 at approximately 9:30 am at Shurgard Storage located at 2101 Haggerty Rd., Canton, MI 48187. (313) 981-0300.

Unit #4038 - Eli - Misc. household items, TV, misc. boxes, chairs, microwave, clothes.

Unit #5225 - Rodriguez - Washer, dryer, refrigerator, wood.

Publish: November 18 and 25, 1999

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!



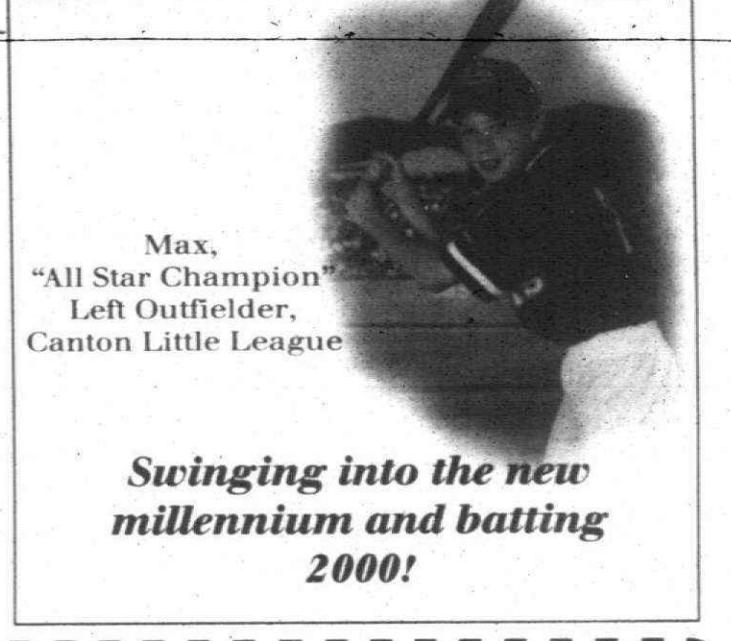
The Hammerheads hail the new millennium and remember March 16, 1999.

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! Here's all you do to be part of our Hometown History pages:



Tom and Ken in Paris

May your dreams come true in the new millennium!

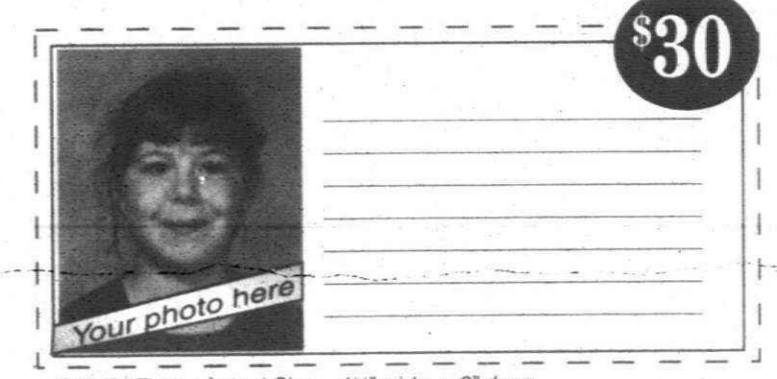


Max, "All Star Champion" Left Outfielder, Canton Little League

Swinging into the new millennium and batting 2000!

- 1. Fill in the information requested on the form below.
2. Clip one of the sample ads below and send it with your message and photo
3. Enclose one photo, no larger than 8"x10" per message. (If you wish photo returned please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope)
4. Compose your message of 25 words or less.
5. Tell us in which Observer newspaper you would like your message to appear.
6. Include your check for \$30, \$60, or \$90 for your message, made payable to: "The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers"
7. Mail to: 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150- Attention: Hometown History
8. Questions? Call Jane Garner (734) 953-2235

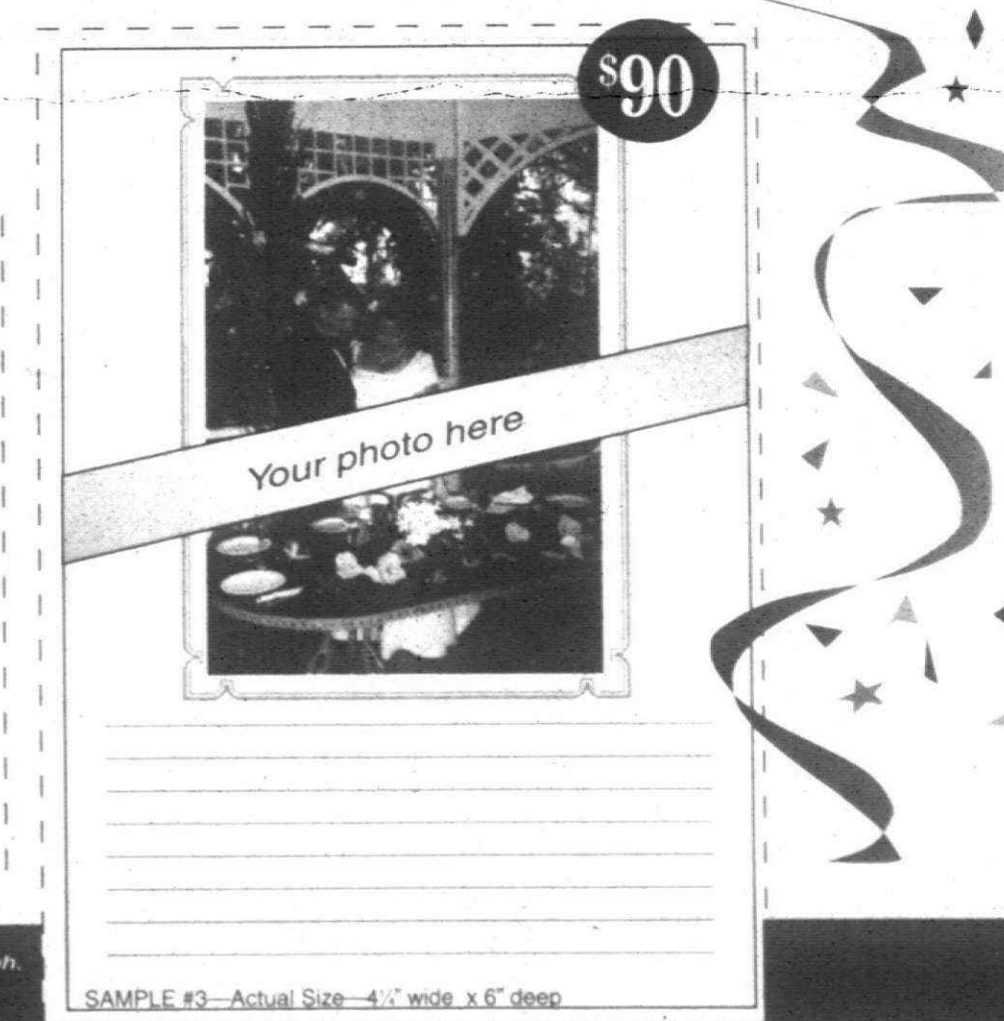
Please include the enclosed message and photo on The Observer HomeTown History pages! (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)
NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY:
DAYTIME PHONE WITH AREA CODE:
NAME OF GROUP:
or NAMES OF PEOPLE IN PHOTO:
I would like my message to appear in: (check one)
Livonia Observer
Plymouth Observer
Redford Observer
Canton Observer
Westland Observer
Garden City Observer
Farmington Observer
MY HOMETOWN HISTORY MESSAGE:



SAMPLE #1—Actual Size—4 1/4" wide x 2" deep



SAMPLE #2—Actual Size—4 1/4" wide x 4" deep



SAMPLE #3—Actual Size—4 1/4" wide x 6" deep

Clip the sample ad you want, attach it to the message form, along with your photograph, and mail with your payment.

Is Thanksgiving Day Just a Parade, a Football Game and a Turkey Dinner? No... Not Really! LET'S GIVE THANKS FOR THE GOOD RECEIVED. Join us at our Thanksgiving Service; Thursday, November 25th at 10:30 a.m. First Church of Christ, Scientist 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

Now Open Ready, Set, Paint! Paint-Your-Own-Pottery Studio Come in to paint your holiday gifts and decorations. Create personalized gifts to give to family, friends, teachers, etc.

SHURGARD OF CANTON 2101 HAGGERTY RD. CANTON, MI 48187 Notice is hereby given that the following unit(s) will be sold to the highest bidder by open auction on December 29, 1999 at approximately 9:30 am at Shurgard Storage located at 2101 Haggerty Rd., Canton, MI 48187. (313) 981-0300.

Information Center Now Open! You haven't seen Assisted Living until you've seen a Sunrise. A home-like quality care alternative for seniors and a special "Reminiscence" program for those with memory impairment.

SUNRISE ASSISTED LIVING AT ANN ARBOR NORTH 1901 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105 734-741-9500 Act Now for Lowest Prices and Best Suite Selection!

THE BARN ANTIQUES Invites you to join us for our Annual Christmas OPEN HOUSE Friday, Nov. 19, 10-8 Saturday, Nov. 20, 10-6 Sunday, Nov. 21, 11-6 Join us for Holiday Refreshments All weekend SANTA'S HERE ALL DAY NOV 20

Countdown to the new millennium... you are invited to attend MASTERCRAFT JEWELERS Annual Swiss Watch Show Sat., Nov. 20th 11am - 9pm Sun., Nov. 21st Noon - 6pm Featuring Fine Swiss Timepieces. BREITLING OMEGA MOVADO GUCCI VIZIO MONT BLANC

Madonna receives technology grant

With a recent grant from the United States Department of Education, Madonna University will equip itself for the 21st century with state-of-the-art instructional technology.

The \$1.6 million Title III grant incorporates many uses of technology which respond to the demands of Madonna University's diverse student body. These include: using technology to improve student retention; strengthening retention efforts across the university; assessing the technology literacy of graduating students; enhancing the technology infrastructure; augmenting faculty professional development; and expanding distance education instruction and support services.

"The Title III funding will allow Madonna University to excel in the area of technology," said Dr. Ernest Nolan, vice president for academic administration. "The award comes at a critical juncture in the history of the long-range planning process, when the university is positioning itself for the future. The grant will support the infrastructure to make it possible to explore the curricular implications of technology across the university."

Among the initiatives slated to strengthen student learning will be technology literacy placement tests, which will assist in

'Of importance is the use of technology as a learning tool while maintaining a strong dimension of our mission, including respect for each person's talents and needs.'

*Sister Mary Francilene
Madonna University President*

placing students in computer courses according to their skill level. The current computer lab will be expanded to accommodate more students and to increase multimedia capability.

To ensure student satisfaction with the technologies for teaching and learning, an annual survey will be conducted.

For students experiencing academic difficulties, several measures will be employed. A Web-based learning/advising center will increase contact between students, faculty and advisors. Also, an electronic tracking system, including an early-warning mechanism, will be employed to track at-risk students.

To assess the knowledge students have gained about technology, students preparing for graduation will be required to make a multimedia presentation in major senior courses and will be evaluated using a common technological literacy assessment instrument developed by the fac-

ulty. Online testing of student computer proficiency will be conducted prior to graduation.

The university will initiate an upgrade plan that will equip six classrooms per year for five years with the appropriate level of technology for the teaching-learning needs of faculty and students.

The faculty will receive additional computer training, which will result in increased learning opportunities for all students, particularly those who are academically and economically disadvantaged. By January 2003, the faculty will integrate computer technologies into all general education and major classes.

A faculty professional development center will include a multimedia authoring lab with eight work stations to assist faculty in teaching in the classroom or through distance learning. By September 2004, it is proposed that all faculty members will be oriented to the lab and will pro-

duce at least one piece of courseware for their classes.

To meet the needs of today's busy student, an accelerated baccalaureate degree program in general studies will be delivered through distance education by the fall term in 2003.

"The Madonna University community acknowledges the U.S. Department of Education for providing us the opportunity to support the rapid changes in technology that influence how students and faculty together can enhance the teaching learning process," said Sister M. Francilene, president.

"Through the utilization of advanced computer technology across the University, it is projected that students will respond positively, resulting in increased student learning, academic success and greater student retention. Of importance is the use of technology as a learning tool while maintaining a strong dimension of our mission, including respect for each person's talents and needs."

To continue project activities beyond the funding period, the university will participate in an endowment challenge grant in the amount of \$180,000 over five years to be matched on a 2-to-1 basis, or two federal dollars to each institutional dollar for a total technology endowment of \$270,000.

Group wants to track power outages

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

A toll-free number may be available next year for residents in western Wayne County to report power outages, part of an effort by leaders of those communities to pursue outage issues with Detroit Edison.

The Conference of Western Wayne, a legislative consortium of 18 communities, created an ad hoc committee in October. On Friday, that group forwarded recommendations back to the CWW, a consortium of elected officials from the cities of Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland and the townships of Canton, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren.

The committee recommended that:

■ Effective Jan. 1, 2000, all CWW communities begin to document power outages within their communities for a one-year period, including input from residents. CWW communities will ask residents to contact their city or township hall after notifying Detroit Edison of the power outage. CWW

staff also will explore the feasibility of adding a toll-free phone number to report power outages.

■ Individual communities research and identify when "troubled" lines were installed.

■ CWW fire chiefs will forward to the CWW copies of the Michigan Fire Incident Report System filed with the state for 1999 and 2000. The MFIRS tracks responses to downed wires or shorting/arcing incidents.

■ Communities will forward to the CWW their franchise agreements with Detroit Edison. These agreements were enacted about 30 years ago and are currently expiring in many CWW communities. CWW communities may wish to determine as a region the length of the new franchisee agreements.

■ The CWW will enhance its relationship with the Michigan Public Service Commission and gain a better understanding of the MPSC's role.

CWW Executive Director Marsha Bianconi expected a follow-up report will be made to the CWW in December on the feasibility of establishing a toll-free number and the other recommendations.

CLEARANCE sales event of the century.



1999 mercury cougar

Up to
\$1,250
Cash Back**

features include: Available 170-hp Duratec 2.5L 16-valve DOHC V-6 engine • Quadralink rear suspension system • Premium speaker sound system • 50/50 split-fold rear seat • Power windows and locks • Second generation dual airbags*** • SecurILock™ passive anti-theft system



1999 mercury sable ls

0.9% APR
Limited-Term Financing**

Plus **\$2,750** Cash Back**

features include: Available 3.0L DOHC V-6 engine • The 1999 Mercury Sable with the government's highest five-star crash test rating* • Second Generation dual airbags*** • Tilt steering column • Available SecurILock™ passive anti-theft system • Power windows and door locks




1999 mercury villager

0.9% APR
Limited-Term Financing**

Or **\$3,000** Cash Back**

features include: 3.3L SOHC V-6 engine • Front-wheel drive • Second Generation dual airbags*** • In-Track™ rear sliding seat system • AM/FM stereo/cassette • 100,000-mile scheduled tune-up intervals† • Power front windows and door locks

Mercury  Live life in your own lane

NOT ALL BUYERS WILL QUALIFY FOR LOWEST APR. SEE DEALER FOR QUALIFICATIONS. CASH BACK OFFER ASSUMES \$500 DEALER CONTRIBUTION ON 1999 COUGAR, \$750 DEALER CONTRIBUTION ON 1999 SABLE LS, AND \$1,000 DEALER CONTRIBUTION ON 1999 VILLAGER AND MAY VARY BASED ON ACTUAL DEALER CONTRIBUTION. *Driver and passenger front crash test. **Ford Credit APR. Residency restrictions apply. For cash back and/or APR, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/16/2000. ***Always wear your safety belt and secure children in the rear seat. †Under normal driving conditions with routine fluid/filter changes.

www.lincolnm Mercury.com

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apollo@merc.com

DEARBORN
Krug
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Between Southfield & Telegraph
(313) 274-8800
krug@merc.com

DETROIT
Bob Maxey
16901 Mack Ave.
at Cadieux
(313) 885-4000
bobmaxey@merc.com

DETROIT
Park Motor
18100 Woodward Ave.
Opposite Palmer Park
(313) 869-5000
parkmotor@merc.com

FARMINGTON
Jack Demmer
31625 Grand River Ave.
1 Block West of Orchard Lake
(248) 474-3170
demmer@merc.com

GARDEN CITY
Stu Evans
32000 Ford Rd.
Just West of Meridian
(734) 425-4300
stuevans@garden-city.com

LAKESIDE
Stu Evans
17500 Hall Rd.
at Romeo Park
(810) 840-2000
stuevans@lakeside.com

NOVI
Varsity
49251 Grand River
1/2 Block South of Regent East
1-800-850-NOVI (6684)
varsity@merc.com

PLYMOUTH
Hines Park
40601 Ann Arbor Rd.
at I-75
1-800-550-MERC
hinespark@merc.com

ROCHESTER HILLS
Crisman
1185 South Rochester Rd.
Between Hamlin & Aun Rd
(248) 652-4200
crisman@merc.com

ROSEVILLE
Arnold
29000 Grant St.
at 12 Mile Rd
(810) 445-6000
arnold@merc.com

ROYAL OAK
Diamond
221 North Main Street
at 12 Mile Rd
(248) 541-8830
diamond@merc.com

SOUTHFIELD
Star
24350 West 12 Mile Rd
at Telegraph
(248) 354-4900
star@merc.com

SOUTHGATE
Stu Evans
16900 Fort Street
at Pennsylvania
(734) 285-8800
stuevans@southgate.com

STERLING HEIGHTS
Crest
36200 Van Dyke
at 13 Mile Rd
(810) 939-6000
crest@merc.com

TROY
Bob Borst
1950 West Maple
Two Miles West
(248) 643-6600
borst@merc.com

WATERFORD
Mel Farr
4178 Highland Rd. (M-59)
2 Miles West of Telegraph
(248) 683-9500
farr@merc.com

YPSILANTI
Sesi
950 East Michigan
5 Miles West of I-75
(734) 482-7133
sesi@merc.com

COMMON SENSORS



JACQUE MARTIN-DOWNS

Being there for your kids does matter

My cousin came to town recently to be part of a family reunion. At one point he and I were sitting and talking about children and working parents.

"Ya know," he said, "with my girls as young as they are (2 and 4), Robin (his wife) and I have been considering having one of us stay home and be there for the girls. And I've been the one thinking about doing it."

Here is a guy who, among other things, used to write ads for Leggs pantyhose. I thought I'd drop my teeth out when he said he was thinking about giving up a "high-powered career" to take care of the children, because he was a corporate kind of guy.

More and more families are revisiting the idea of whether both parents should work. Lots of parents want to be more involved in their children's lives.

A recent piece of research gave some of the reasons parents are rethinking full-time work. Ellen Galinsky, a work-family researcher, recently published a book titled "Ask the Children: What America's Children Really Think About Working Parents."

Although the headlines in the newspaper suggested that kids basically don't have a problem with their parents working, what struck me was that her study found that kids ages 8-18 are not necessarily content with their relationships with their parents.

On the question of whether the kids felt their parents spent time talking to them, only 43 percent gave their parents an "A."

On the question of whether their parents really knew what was going on in their lives, 31 percent gave dad an "A" and 35 percent gave mom an "A." Half the 1,000 children surveyed thought their time with their parents was rushed.

Based on the survey, it sounds as though kids would be pleased with just hanging out with one or the other parent. Hanging out is a hard notion to get in your head when time is precious.

As a mom who worked part time when the children were little, I can vouch for the fact that when you're at home, you're often still working - cleaning, cooking, mowing, doing laundry. Being with the kids is very different from just being home.

If I had to do it again, I would have "hung out" more with the kids. The legacy I leave would sound much better if it read, "I was there for my kids" rather than, "I was there for my job."

Time seems to be the critical factor. Nobody ever has enough of it. I applaud my cousin's desire to stay home. He knows that's the only way he will ever have enough time with those kids. As he said, "When it's all said and done, will the kids care if I was able to afford a bigger home or a slick car?"

Jacquie Martin-Downs is the coordinator of the Family Resource Center in Westland and has a private counseling practice. If you have a question or comment, write her at the Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150 or at her e-mail address: downs@mail.resa.net.

On the road

Testing aims to keep senior drivers safe



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

Checking it out: Barbara Spreitzer-Berent, the author of "Supporting the Mature Driver: A Handbook for Friends, Family Members and Advisors," goes over the results of a driving test with Margaret Pittman-Hadley of Bloomfield Hills.

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

The two 80-somethings were polite but firm.

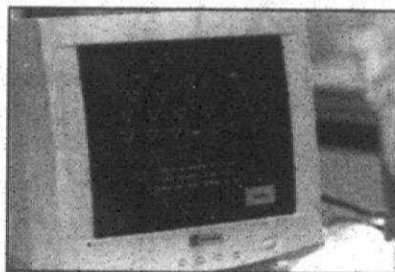
They wanted the people running the mature-driver workshop to know they'd already self-evaluated and had adjusted their driving accordingly: She drove at night, he drove during the day.

All they wanted, they said, were a few driving tips and the latest road-work information.

But what they got was a shock. "We found out she was night-blind and he wasn't," said Frank Cardimen, whose organization has been sponsoring the workshops around metropolitan Detroit for more than 11 years.

Cardimen is president of the private, award-winning, non-profit Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County, a Bloomfield Hills-based engineering group founded 33 years ago to stem the then-rising traffic death toll in Oakland County.

Since then, TIA has added high-



Just a test: One of TIA's testing machines checks people's cognitive ability for deficiencies.

quality traffic safety/enforcement educational programs and, in 1988, the mature driver workshops, becoming a national leader in its field. This year TIA received an Institute of Transportation Engineers award for its years of community service.

Each in its own way, TIA and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments are pushing to improve traffic safety for Michigan seniors.

TIA offers a very large program for

testing, evaluating and teaching seniors better driving safety, said Jennifer Evans, a SEMCOG transportation engineer.

"It's quite well-known across the country" for its innovations, she added. "AARP has senior driver retraining classes, but they're not nearly as advanced."

One TIA innovation is the Universal Field of Vision computerized testing machine, developed jointly with the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Cognitive ability

The testing machine checks people's cognitive ability for deficiencies by testing how well and how quickly they can identify and recall the location of a type of vehicle in a maze on a screen.

Research shows there is a "direct correlation between cognitive ability and traffic accidents" among older drivers, Cardimen said.

Cognitive ability - defined as the facility for understanding what we see

Please see DRIVING, B2

Handbook helps deal with driving

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

If you're a baby boomer, chances are good you've got at least one parent who's still driving.

And if you're holding your breath every time they do - because their driving skills have diminished but their need for independence and dignity haven't - well, metro Detroit gerontologist and educator Barbara Spreitzer-Berent has a handbook you'll want to read and keep around.

Spreitzer-Berent's "Supporting the Mature Driver: A Handbook for Friends, Family Members and Advisors" aims at helping boomers, their families and friends and professional caregivers deal with the often perplexing and sensitive issue of safe driving in later life.

"The vast majority of mature motorists are safe and responsible," said Spreitzer-Berent who's also an urban planner and founder/president of Quest Learning Resources in Royal Oak. "Yet friends and family members may have questions about some older drivers' skills on the road."

Her handbook provides insights that help readers approach the mature motorists in their lives with the respect those elders deserve to avoid risking cherished relationships.

Its 28 pages give hands-on, practical information, including checklists, resource guides and worksheets that help readers recognize a decline in an older person's driving skills, improve driving performance and explore transportation alternatives.

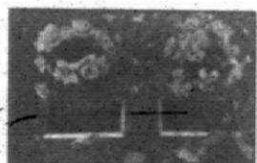
It's designed to help keep older drivers on the road as long as safely possible, help them make a smooth transition when driving is no longer an option, help people know when to get involved and initiate a conversation about driving and stay objective when talking about driving problems.

There's a special section for professionals, such as doctors, nurses, social workers and law enforcement personnel, who may work with older drivers.

Please see HANDBOOK, B2

Cemetery takes in people's 'little friends'

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



Shirley Cameron knelt next to her grandson, Robert Ortiz, as he placed a bouquet of flowers on the grave. She kissed him on the cheek and hugged him closely. They would both miss their dog, Buster, very much.

"Sometimes this is the first time for a young person to experience a death," said Sharon Lewinsky, the family's memorial counselor at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland.

On that October afternoon, the Cameron and Ortiz families of Redford lovingly wrapped their dog Buster in his own blanket and said their goodbyes as he was buried. Robert was allowed to come home early from school to attend the service.

"It's hard to say good-bye," said Dana Hannan, Robert's mother. "It's nice to be able to have a place to come and bring flowers."

Buster was a schnauzer/terrier/dachshund mix and a special pet to Robert.

"We got Buster out of the shelter and they grew up together," said Hannan. "That was his buddy."

The family found out about the local pet cemetery from Virginia Reinke, Dana Hannan's aunt and a Westland resident. She buried her own pets at the cemetery and recommended it because of the professional staff and location. Reinke said it's a good choice



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

for those who can afford it. Dispel any thoughts of Steven King's thriller "Pet Sematary" from your mind. When a beloved pet dies, the experience is one of grief and sorrow, not fear. Nothing demonstrates the affection owners have for their pets more than a place dedicated to the memories of those precious, mostly furry members of the

family. The Garden of Our Little Friends is devoted to pets who passed on and the owners who adored and cared for them. The pet cemetery was started in January 1986.

Please see CEMETERY, B2

Touching moment: Robert Ortiz and his grandmother, Shirley Cameron, place flowers on the grave of their beloved pet Buster at the Garden of Our Little Friends pet cemetery in Westland.

RELIGIOUS NEWS

Listings for the Religious News should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue.

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.

Bethany Suburban West: A Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance for divorced and

large diapers (more than 25 pounds). Donations can be dropped off in the church fellowship hall, 3 Town Square, Wayne. For more information, call the church at (734) 721-4801.

Blood Drive: Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church will have a Red Cross blood drive 2-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at the church, 40000 W. Six Mile Road, Northville. Donors are invited to stop by and give the gift of life.

Bethany Suburban West: A Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance for divorced and

separated Christians, will attend Mass at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, followed by a turkey dinner and open mike - say a clean joke and don't pay for supper - at St. Kenneth's Parish, Haggerty Road, south of Five Mile Road, Plymouth Township.

The group also meets at 10 a.m. Sundays for breakfast at the Redford Inn, Five Mile west of Beech Daly, Redford, and 11:15 a.m. for Mass at St. Aidan's Church, Farmington Road north of Six Mile, Livonia - call Val at (734) 729-1974 - for coffee and conversation at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Archie's Restaurant, Plymouth Road west of Middlebelt Road, Livonia - call Mary at (734) 722-2612.

Bethany Suburban West: A Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance for divorced and

Organist Ray Ferguson will perform in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 13642 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.

A light meal will be served following the concert. A free will offering will be taken. For more information, call the church at (313) 538-2660.

Garden City Presbyterian Church is offering a contemporary worship service at 9:15 a.m. Sundays, Nov. 21 and Dec. 12, at the church, 1841 Middlebelt Road, between Ford and Cherry Hill roads, Garden City. The contemporary service offers upbeat music and an informal atmosphere. "Be Not Afraid"

A team of young adults will offer a Christian, youth-oriented musical ministry at a concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Captive Free band members commit to a year-long, full-time tour performing in hundreds of churches as well as schools, youth events, coffee houses, nursing homes, camps and prisons.

St. James Presbyterian Church will celebrate St. Andrew's Day at a 10 a.m. worship service and 11:30 a.m. dinner on Sunday, Nov. 28. The St. Andrew's Society Band bagpipers will perform during the service and at the dinner.

The dinner costs \$9 for those 12 years and older, \$4 for those 3 years and younger. St. James is at 25350 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. For more information, call (313) 534-7730.

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church will have a free seminar, "Is Mormonism Christian?", presented by the Rev. Luke Wilson, executive director of the Institute for Religious Research, at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, in the sanctuary of the church, 40000 W. Six Mile Road, Northville. Child care will be available for children through age 4.

For more information, call the church at (248) 374-7400.

The topic for the Thursday, Dec. 2, meeting of New Beginnings, a grief support group, will be "Making It through the Holiday." The group will meet at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, east of Merriman, Livonia. The program is for people suffering as the result of the death of a loved one. There are no fees. Anyone may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need.

For more information, call the church office at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (734) 462-3770.

Covenant Community Church will present "Savior," the story of God's passion for his people, at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at the church, 26500 Student, Redford. The musical production is being done in the spirit of the Messiah and its style of "Les Miserables."

Admission is free. A nursery will be provided. For more information, call the church at (313) 535-3100.

Temple Baptist Church will present its 1999 edition of "Glory of Christmas" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 and 10, 1 and 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 and 11, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 and 12, at the church, 49555 North Territorial Road, Plymouth.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available by sending a check payable to Temple Baptist Church or by charge (VISA/MasterCard) to Temple Baptist Church Ticket Office, 49555 North Territorial, Plymouth 48170.

For more information, call the church at (734) 414-7777, Ext. 600. Due to the length of the program, children under age 4 will not be admitted. No nursery facilities will be available.

Madonna University will hold an Advent retreat, "Christmas: A Time for Giving," 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, in the Founder's Room and University Chapel in the Residence Hall on the campus at Schoolcraft and Levan in Livonia.

The Rev. Edward Prus of St. Raphael Catholic Church in Garden City will lead the activities which include prayer, quiet reflection, conferences, a reconciliation service and liturgy. The public is invited. The cost of the retreat is \$12, including lunch and refreshments.

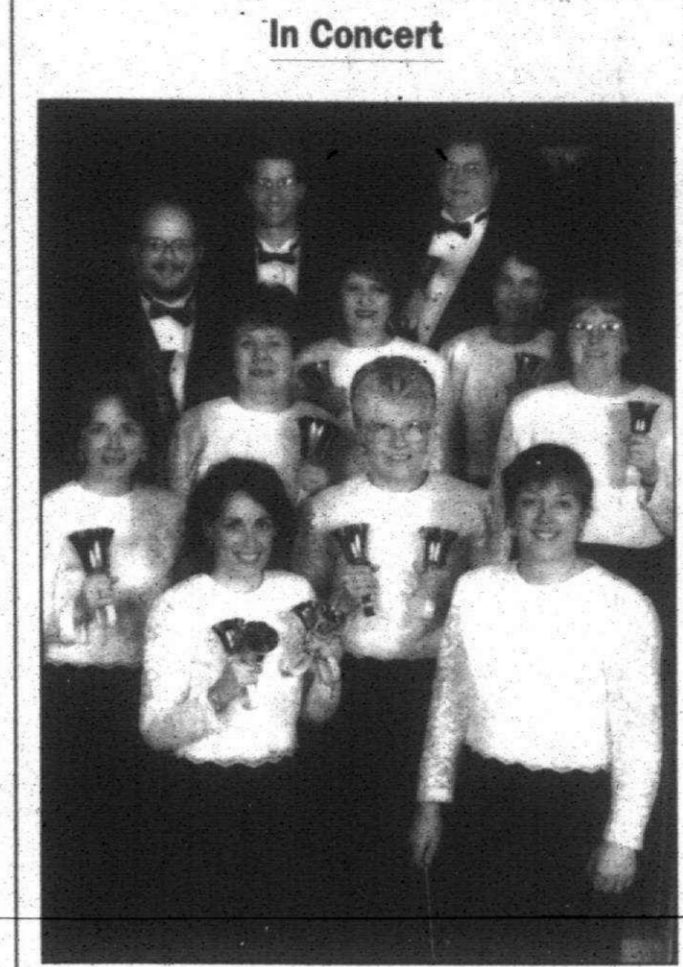
For reservations or more information, call Deacon Gene Desjarlais in the campus ministry office at (734) 432-5419. Reservations must be made by Dec. 1.

Doug Haugen, director of Lutheran Men in Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will speak about "Men in Mission" at the 19th annual Detroit Presbyterians Men's Council's Advent Communion Breakfast Saturday, Dec. 4.

The breakfast, served by the Boy Scout troop of Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, will be at 8 a.m. at Roseville Erin Presbyterian Church, 30000 Gratiot at 12 1/2 Mile Road, Roseville.

Tickets cost \$7 and are available by calling the Detroit Presbyterians Office at (313) 345-6550 or George Irwin at (734) 425-3024.

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



Plymouth church event: The Detroit Handbell Ensemble, under the direction of Susan Berry, will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at the First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. The group has been performing since 1991 and its musical selections range from simple folk tunes to celebrated hymns and transcriptions of orchestral classics.

Bountiful Benevolence! Please donate your motorized vehicle directly to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We help 1,000's of people through job placement, food depots, children's camps, clothing, furniture and other assistance. Your donations make this work possible. We are one of the only charitable organizations that seeks automobiles to support their own programs, allowing more proceeds to go to the needy.

We're putting the focus on contact lenses. Now all your favorite brands of contacts are on sale! Including: Acuvue Bifocal Contact Lenses, Johnson & Johnson, Bausch & Lomb, Wesley Jessen Fresh Look Color Blends and many others!

Society seeks St. Anne 'families' Descendants of the people who worshipped at or whose names are associated with the history of St. Anne Detroit Parish, the Gabriel Richard Historical Society would like to hear from you. The society is inviting people who have roots in the church which will celebrate the 300th anniversary of its founding on July 26, 2001, to share their history for the tricentennial.

CRAFTS CALENDAR ST. VALENTINE The Redford St. Valentine Parent Teacher's Club holds its eighth annual Holiday Crafts Shoppe 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 20 in the Activities Building on Hope Street at Beech Daly Road, Redford. There will be more than 50 crafters, a Country Kitchen, bake sale and holiday raffle with a 27-inch TV as first prize.

THE DETROIT SUBURBAN PRESS RING IF YOU AIM TO ADVERTISE ACROSS MULTIPLE COMMUNITIES REMEMBER THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO SHOOT FOR THE SUBURBS. When shooting for the suburbs there are just two things for an advertiser to keep in mind. One: It's economically more rewarding to aim for the affluent suburbs. Two: It's smarter to make women the primary target because they control the spending.

We've always planned ahead and made our own choices. That's why we pre-planned our final arrangements. The wisdom of pre-planning. Leaving decisions about your final arrangements to your family forces them to make hard choices at a time of extreme distress. Planning now lets you make choices you're comfortable with, and protects your family from needless burdens.

Introducing our stately Chapel Mausoleum addition. Dignity and serene beauty describe above-ground entombment. The Chapel Mausoleum addition features a cast bronze Michigan scene, stained glass, and the finest marble and granite. Clean, dry and ventilated, mausoleum burial compares favorably with the cost of in-ground burial.

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Great American Smokeout helps Americans kick habit

Today, the American Cancer Society's 23rd Great American Smokeout will help millions of smokers kick the habit, and help youth understand the importance of never starting to smoke.

The Great American Smokeout promotion is the American Cancer Society's annual, nationally recognized day when they ask smokers to put down their cigarettes, cigars, spit tobacco, or any tobacco product because they all have the potential to cause cancer.

Because ACS knows that approximately 32 million smokers (out of 47 million current

smokers) want to quit smoking completely, they will continue to offer support and education to the public. The promise of an addiction-free life has encouraged many smokers to join in and prove to themselves that they can live a day without cigarettes, and that they can therefore live the rest of their lives without them.

In 1998, 19 percent of smokers participated in the Great American Smokeout (approximately 8,930,000 people), and of those 10 percent reported they were smoking less or not at all one to five days later.

In 1998, 19 percent of smokers participated in the Great American Smokeout, and of those 10 percent reported they were smoking less or not at all one to five days later.

89,000 people who are well on their way to healthier, smoke-free lives, thanks to the American Cancer Society.

The Great American Smokeout

is not just about adult smokers and cessation. As the times change and our understanding of the addictive cycle of nicotine increases, American Cancer Society is working to prevent children from ever becoming smokers. More than 80 percent of current adult smokers started before they were 18 years old. That's why the Great American Smokeout is also focusing on promotions that will communicate to today's children the social disadvantages of smoking, and provide them with the tools to recognize and avoid negative social influences.

Everyone can participate in the Great American Smokeout—it's really quite simple. Smokeout events can be held in malls, schools, businesses, restaurants, military bases, hospitals, and colleges across the entire country. If you're a smoker, decide today, you will put your cigarettes down for good. Quitting won't be easy, but by preparation, determination, and some assistance, it can be done.

And if you're not a smoker but want to get involved by joining the American Cancer Society in promoting the Great American Smokeout, or if you are helping a loved one quit, there's a place for you too during Smokeout.

To find out about Great American Smokeout events in your area, contact your local American Cancer Society, call (800) ACS-2345, or visit our web site at www.cancer.org.

Programs benefit from Nights gala



Say cheese: Striking a pose in the lobby of Laurel Manor were Hollywood Nights chair Sherri Fletcher (from left), St. Mary Hospital director of development and volunteers; WYUR radio personality Jimmy Launce and his wife, Brigitte; and Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and his wife, Patt.

Organizers of St. Mary Hospital's largest fund-raising event have a lot to be happy about. The seventh annual Hollywood Nights raised more than \$150,000 for community and family wellness programs.

The more than 650 partygoers attending the event at Laurel Manor in Livonia enjoyed a pre-party, dinner, concert by The Preps (the lead singers of The Association, The Four Preps and The Diamonds) and after-glo.

Honorary host and hostess

for the evening was Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and his wife Patt*ok*, with Jimmy Launce of WYUR-FM serving as toastmaster. Honorary chairs were Gov. John Engler and his wife, Michelle.

Guests had an opportunity to meet Miss Michigan Audrie Chernauckas; Lila Lazarus, health reporter for WDIV-TV Channel 4; Cheryl Chodin, reporter and anchor on WXYX-TV Channel 7; and David Scott of UPN-TV Channel 50.

Home sales in section F

Cardiac center moves

The Oakwood Cardiac Rehab Center has moved to a new location, with more room for expanded services. Formerly located at 1331 Monroe in Dearborn, the Center has moved across the street to 22060 Beech.

"We will have 4,415 square feet of space in our new location," reports Center Lead Exercise Physiologist Jennifer Dyk-

stra. "That's 1,800 more square feet than our old place, giving patients a lot more elbow room for exercising and giving us room to expand in the future." Along with the added space, the Cardiac rehab Center will obtain a conference room/kitchen area large enough to provide health-related lectures and cooking demonstrations.

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 Sunday, November 21st • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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Special Info Night Nov. 22!

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Find out more at Lawrence Tech's special BSIT Info Night, Nov. 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Talk with pros and staff, visit with a major employer of graduates, and learn program details. You can even enroll for January classes. For details and reservations, phone today: 1-800-CALL-LTU, ext. 1. Bring a friend!

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Oakwood
Cardiology Center

The excitement about our new Cardiology Center is really starting to show. Every one of us is quite proud to announce the opening and celebration of the newly expanded Cardiology Center at Oakwood Hospital. Where you'll find doctors, nurses and facilities dedicated to the health and well-being of your heart. We hope you'll join us on Friday, December 3, from 3 - 5:30 p.m. for tours and refreshments at our community open house. Mark your calendars and celebrate with all of us to your heart's content. We know you by heart.

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**OBSERVER
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Fresh start

It had hardly been a memorable first season for Plymouth Salem graduate Jennifer Trott — at least not until last week.

Trott, a freshman on the Central Michigan University volleyball team, had watched her team lose a school-record 10-straight matches while rarely being called on to try and help get things reversed. Indeed, an outside hitter who suffered a severe knee injury in her final prep match, Trott had just four kills for the season.

Until last week. In CMU's loss to Eastern Michigan last Thursday, Trott had career-highs in kills with eight and digs with 10. Those marks lasted just two days: last Saturday against Mid-American Conference leader Ball State, she got her second career start and responded with 14 kills and 20 digs. CMU lost in four games.

"Jennifer stepped in and played well for us all week," said CMU coach Elaine Piha. "She's continuing to develop and the good thing is, she's only a freshman."

Trott has played in 91 of CMU's 100 games (the Chippewas have a 6-21 match record) and has 115 digs.

Jenny Young, another CMU freshman from Plymouth (Livonia Ladywood HS), continues to rank among the Chippewa leaders in kills (second with 258) and blocks (38); she also has 16 service aces and 59 digs.

In the loss to Ball State, Trott had 10 kills and three blocks.

Soccer sign-up

The Canton Soccer Club will have open registration for its spring season from 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 in the lower level meeting room at the Canton Township Hall.

The league is open to boys and girls, five to 19 years-old. Costs range from \$45 to \$100, depending on age and division, and is due at time of registration.

Registration forms are available at the Summit at Heritage Park. For more information, call the Canton Soccer Club at (734) 455-9946.

Used sports sale

The Canton Parks and Recreation Services is sponsoring its annual Used Sports Equipment Sale on Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Pheasant Run Golf Club clubhouse.

Those with items to sell may bring them to the clubhouse between 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2. Items will be priced and tagged for sale on Dec. 4.

Volunteers will be on hand to do all of the selling; those with items to sell need not be present. Those who have had items sold can collect the money or the unsold items between 1-2 p.m. Dec. 4 (those doing the selling keep 15 percent).

For further information, call the Canton Parks and Recreation Services at (734) 397-5110.

Prospects Tournament

Compuware Arena will be the site of the 1999 USA Hockey Top Prospects Tournament (formerly the King of the Hill Tournament) Nov. 29-Dec. 1.

The North American Hockey League, the United States Hockey League and the America West Hockey League will send 17-man teams to compete; a fourth team will consist of other players from all three leagues and some U.S. National Team Development players.

The round-robin schedule will begin with the USHL stars taking on the combined all-star team at 11 a.m. Nov. 29. The NAHL stars will battle the AWHL stars at 2 p.m. Nov. 29.

For ticket information, call Compuware Arena at (734) 453-8400.

Soccer referees

Training for new soccer referees will be held in the Auto Nation USA community room from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on four consecutive Saturdays: Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12 and Feb. 19. Those interested must attend all four sessions.

You must be at least 12 years old to take this class. To register, send your name, social security number and a check for \$43 made payable to the Michigan Referee Committee to 9115 Muirland, Plymouth, MI, 48170. Class size is limited.

For further information, call (734) 454-7335.

It's here!

Canton stops Salem in schools 1st hockey game

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

The giant is awake.

It's a baby giant, to be sure, but the Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem hockey programs have taken their first little steps.

More than 1,200 people crammed into the Plymouth Cultural Center on Tuesday night to witness the first high school hockey game between the fledgling programs.

Canton won, 9-1, with Brad Wolfe getting a hat trick in the battle between Western Lakes Activities Association rivals.

"It's unbelievable," said Kathy Lash, head of the booster club which represents both programs and which worked for years to make the game a reality. "It's hard to actually believe."

"But it proves once again that with a dream and a lot of hard work, you can make the impossible possible."

"What it really represents is the opportunity for players to play a sport they love for their high school. And they have tremendous community support."

They must. Lash has three children — two girls who have graduated from Canton and a son who is a third grader at Smith Elementary School.

Lash was cheered as she dropped the ceremonial first puck and then was given sweaters of both schools.

"This has been 20 years in the making," Athletic Director Brian Wolcott said. "And the fact it's a reality is a story."

The parking lot was filled to overflowing more than 30 minutes before game time.

The crowd exceeded attendance at most football games. The tip that would happen came when the boosters

sold more than 100 which tickets in less than three hours when they went on sale.

"I think we anticipated the crowd," Coach Fred Feiler of Salem said. "The bleachers were packed. But we expected that off what we've been hearing."

"It was fun. My guys had fun, too. Now, it's no fun getting beat 9-1, but just the fact it was happening was good."

"It's been a dream of mine to teach and coach in the same district," said Canton coach Dan Abraham, who teaches physical education at Lowell Middle School.

The game got a little chippy at the end in spite of the fact both coaches cautioned their squads during the week to lay off the rough stuff.

There were two penalties whistled in the opening period, five in the second and 10 in the third including a five-minute major for checking from behind.

Wolfe scored the first goal in Canton high school hockey history, the importance of which will dawn on him at some point down the road, when he broke by his defender and beat Scott Stukel on the left side at 11:30.

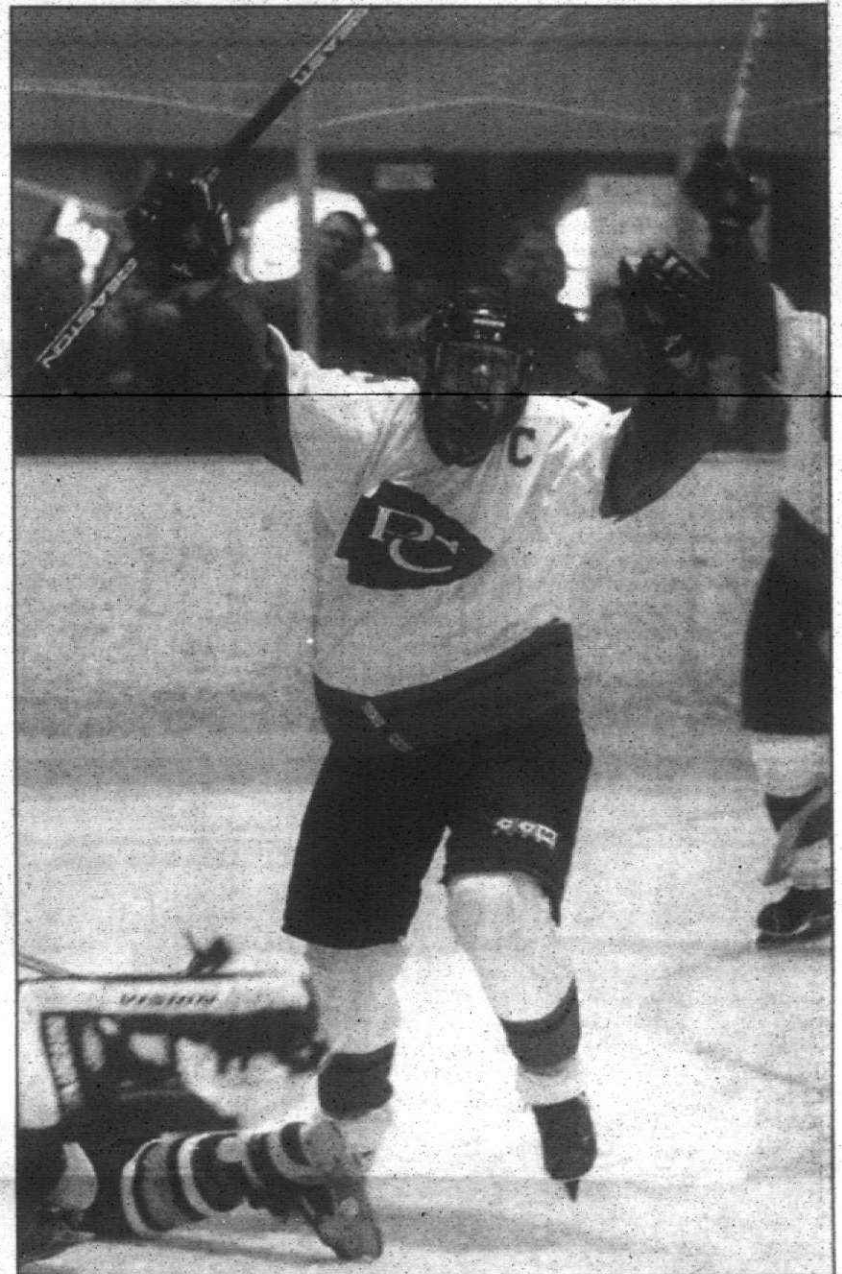
Steve Nagel notched the first goal in Salem high school hockey history on a power play with 31 seconds remaining in the first period.

His high shot waffled past Brad Arsnov, who otherwise was faced with 12 shots by the Rocks.

Stukel played a decent game in goal for the Rocks as the Chiefs controlled play through much of the first and third periods. Robin Beaudry became the first female player for Salem's



Bounces out: Canton goalie Brad Arsnov stops Salem's Andrew Peters.



Something to cheer about: Canton's Jeremy Majszak is jubilant after scoring a goal, but this one was disallowed by the referee. It hardly mattered — the Chiefs won handily.

STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSDMANN

Please see **PREP HOCKEY, C4**

Late goal earns Whalers a 3-3 tie



BY DANIEL DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net

Justin Williams' goal with 1:27 remaining gave the Plymouth Whalers a 3-3 tie with Kitchener Saturday at Compuware Arena.

Leading the entire game, Plymouth fell behind in the third period after two Rangers' goals. Williams tied the game and forced overtime.

Assistant coach and general manager Steve Spott said he was happy to pick up a point.

"Four of our top players and our two most veteran defensemen were out with injuries," he commented. "We'll take that point and run."

Plymouth currently stands in third place in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division with an 8-10-3 mark. The Whalers play on the road tonight at Peterborough and tomorrow at Kingston.

Heading into Saturday's contest, Plymouth and Kitchener were coming off vastly different perfor-

mances. The Whalers beat North Bay at home Friday 5-2. The Rangers, however, were skunked by Windsor 9-0. Those outcomes carried over into the early going Saturday, as Plymouth was the team that skated with fire.

The Whalers dominated play over the first four minutes. That hard work resulted in the game's first goal with just less than 10 minutes gone by.

Please see **WHALERS, C4**

That makes it 3! Rocks rip Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The first two chapters of this season's Plymouth Trilogy were hold-on-to-your-seat thrillers as both games went down to the final nail-biting minutes before the Rocks prevailed.

Wednesday night's third chapter played out more like an educational documentary: *How to play suffocating defense.*

Game III — the Class A district tournament opener for both teams — was dominated by Salem's pressure-cooker-like defense, which sparked the Rocks to a 47-32 win in the Novi High School gymnasium.

Salem will take its 20-1 record into Friday night's district final against the winner of Wednesday night's Northville-Novu game. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

"It's hard to get good shots against Salem's defense," stressed Canton coach Bob Blohm, whose team finished

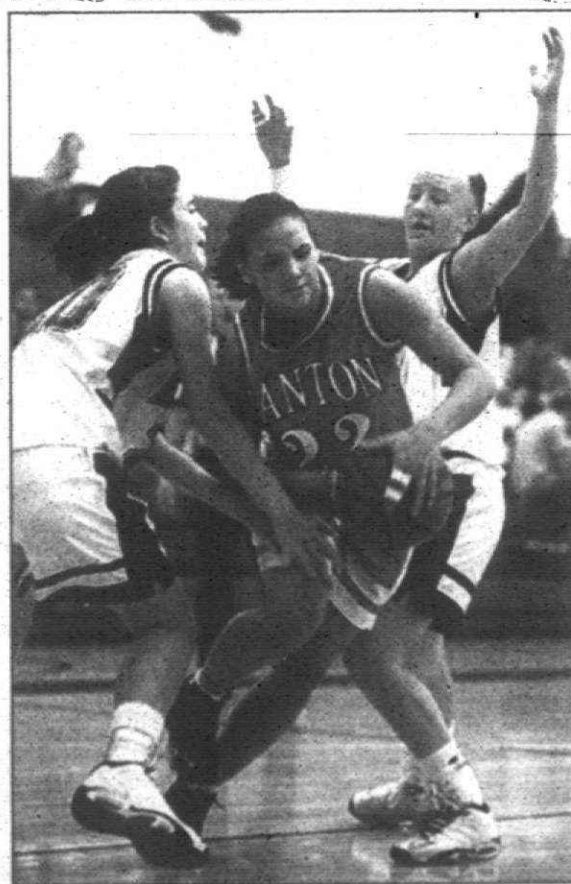
14-7. "They play together and they keep coming at you. They're a very good team, which their record proves."

Salem coach Fred Thomann said the key to his team's success revolved around keeping the Chiefs' top scoring threats out of the paint and forcing them to take longer, lower-percentage shots.

"When we played them last week, I think they scored 28 of their 36 points on dribble takes to the rim," Thomann reflected. "Tonight, we did a nice job of forcing them to take outside shots. The only exception was Janine (Guastella), who hurt us inside. I thought Kelly Jaskot played exceptionally well defensively for us."

The two teams took turns exchanging baskets in the first quarter, which ended with the score knotted at 11-11. Guastella, who finished with a game-high 21 points and seven rebounds, was Canton's go-to player, netting six in the open-

Please see **BASKETBALL, C6**



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSDMANN

Split decision: Canton's Janine Guastella drives between Salem's Kelly Jaskot (right) and Jenna Van Wagoner to score a pair.

COLLEGE SOCCER

Canton grad is in NAAs

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemons@oe.homecomm.net

The Whalers of Kentucky's men's basketball program will always be king in Lexington.

But at least this week there's room for the men's soccer program after the host Wildcats captured the Mid-American Conference title Sunday with a 2-1 victory over Northern Illinois.

And thanks to the efforts of two senior defenders, sweeper Scott Sersen (Livonia Stevenson) and stopper Todd Stonestreet (Plymouth Canton), the Wildcats (13-6-1 overall) will play in their first-ever NCAA tournament game Sunday against defending champion Indiana (16-3) in Bloomington.

"There's kind of been a buzz on campus," said Sersen. "Everybody pays attention to basketball, but people around campus are congratulating us and wishing us good luck. It's the most attention we've

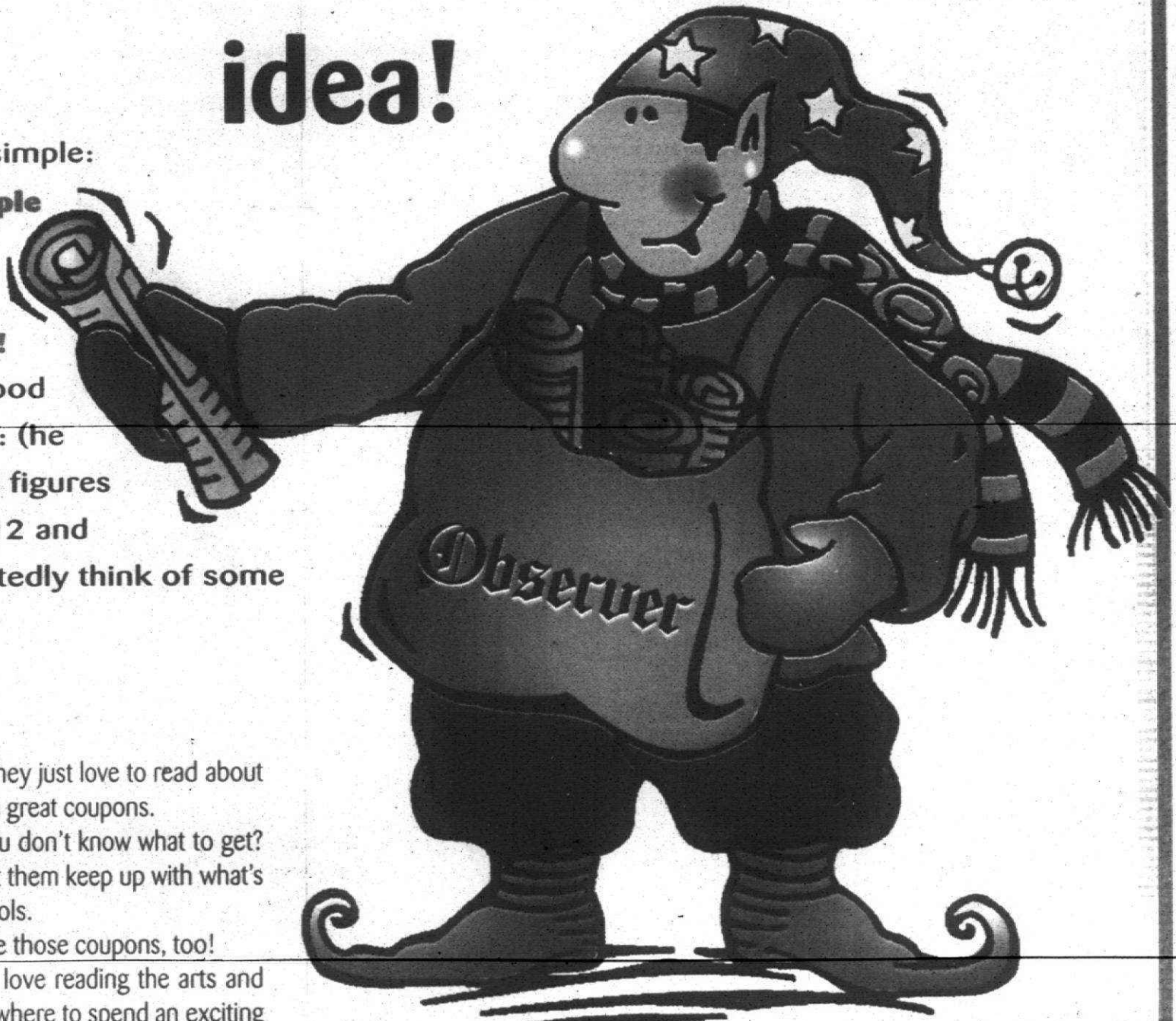
Please see **SOCCER STARS, C5**

Meet Mortimer, our Holiday elf with an awesome idea!

It's really cool and very simple:

Give those special people on your gift list a subscription to their hometown newspaper!

Mortimer has a dozen good reasons why you should: (he actually has more but he figures you'll get the idea after 12 and besides you can undoubtedly think of some of your own!)



So here they are:

1. Got some "seniors" on your list? They just love to read about what's happening and use all those great coupons.
2. Is there a Grandma or Grandpa you don't know what to get? Their hometown newspaper will let them keep up with what's happening in their grandkid's schools.
3. Got some young families?—they like those coupons, too!
4. How about the single set? They'll love reading the arts and entertainment pages and learning where to spend an exciting Saturday night.
5. Your hometown newspaper has lots of local sports information—a perfect gift for a coach, teacher, or scout master.
6. Someone in the family away at college? What better way to keep them from getting homesick and let them know what's happening back home?
7. New homeowners? An easy one. They'll learn all about their new community, from its schools, local government, upcoming events and our new **HOMETOWN SAVINGS CARD** program.
8. For that friend who loves the Observer, but buys it at the newsstand. Put an end to running out in the rain with their very own subscription!
9. A favorite aunt? She'll love the garage sales, craft shows, delicious recipes and church news.
10. How about the people on your list who spend half the year in the sunny southern climes? Help them keep track of what's going on "up north."
11. Don't forget your friends in business. Their hometown paper will keep them up to date on the local business scene.
12. Hunters. Know someone who always seems to be hunting for a job, a house, a car, they're going to love our huge Classified section!



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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Rhonda Aubry (left to right), Tom Padilla, Kim Smith, Nic Thompson, Sharon Spring, Keith Chadrick, Janet Jimenez-Smith and Gina DeBrincat star in "Godspell" presented by Pontiac Theatre IV 8 p.m. at Lincoln Middle School, Mountcalm and Summit, west of Baldwin Road, Pontiac. Tickets \$8 adults, \$7 children/seniors, (248) 681-6215.

SATURDAY



Former Detroit Red Wing Dino Ciccarelli and Miss Michigan Audrie Ann Chernauckas will be among the celebrities at the 17th annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Parade starting at 9 on Plymouth Road, beginning east from Merriman to Middlebelt, ending at Wonderland Mall. For more information, call (734) 466-2212.

SUNDAY



Barbara Colbeck (seated at piano) rehearses with Mary McBride (left), Mona Mason, Adele Popoff, and Patricia Knorp for a 3 p.m. Thanksgiving concert at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, south of Five Mile Road, Livonia. The concert will feature singers and handbell ringers. There is no admission charge. Call (734) 464-1222 for information.

A holiday favorite

PLYMOUTH THEATRE GUILD OPENS SEASON



Holiday tradition: The Plymouth Theatre Guild rehearses a scene from "It's a Wonderful Life," the James W. Rodgers' story about a man who gets his wish to have never been born.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

The holidays just wouldn't seem the same if Kristin Curle wasn't able to watch George Bailey rescue an angel named Clarence from the icy river in Bedford Falls.

Curle, who directs the Plymouth Theatre Guild's production of "It's a Wonderful Life," opening Friday Nov. 19 at the Water Tower Theatre in Northville, first saw the holiday film classic as a teenager growing up in Redford.

"It was one of my father's favorites," said Curle. "After the first time I saw it, I wanted to see it again and again. It would end on one channel and I'd flip it to another. Now that I have a tape of it, the whole family is in trouble."

Curle retains many elements of James W. Rodgers' story about a man who wishes he'd never been born. Set in the 1930s and '40s, the production is authentic right down to the seams in the backs of the women's nylons.

"It's loosely based on the movie, especially the dialogue," said Curle. "The only element we've added is a chorus who will sing Christmas carols throughout the show. We wanted to tie it in with a Christmas theme. It will be a great way to start your holidays."

What makes George Bailey, the lead character in "It's a Wonderful Life," so appealing is "everyman." Since his youth, Bailey dreamed of adventures in faraway places only to come to the realization he'd never escape the small town of Bedford Falls.

At the same time, Clarence a guardian angel, has to descend on Christmas Eve to earn his wings. Bailey provides the perfect vehicle. Clarence saves Bailey by showing him what the world would have been like if he'd never been born. Up to this point, Bailey is feeling sorry for himself and thinks he's just another "poor sap."

"I'm very excited that my directoral debut is with this show and with the Guild," said Curle. "It's a dramatic, heartwarming story. I like the story line that George Bailey really didn't believe that he was important in people's lives."

Curle's experience in producing

"It's a Wonderful Life"

WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, 26-27 and Dec. 3-4, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28.

WHERE: Water Tower Theatre, on the campus of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital, 41001 W. Seven Mile, west of Haggerty, Northville.

TICKETS: \$10, \$7 students ages 18 and under. Call (248) 349-7110.

the Guild's productions of "The Sound of Music" and "Wait Until Dark" last season made it easy for her to cast the parts in "It's a Wonderful Life." Dennis Hubel plays George Bailey, and Dennis Brunzell of Canton is the angel Clarence Odbody. Marlene Landry of Livonia plays Bailey's wife.

"I knew after the actors were chosen that this was my dream cast," said Curle. "I've liked working with the actors on their character development. It's like giving birth."

Family affair

Hubel auditioned for "It's a Wonderful Life" for family reasons. His daughters Stephanie, 11, and Vanessa, 15, were becoming involved with the production so the Plymouth resident decided to read for the lead.

Vanessa plays the nurse who pushes the play's villain, Mr. Potter, around in a wheelchair. Stephanie is cast as a paperboy. Both girls are involved with theater groups at their Plymouth-Canton Schools.

"I thought it was a good way to spend time with them," said Hubel, who grew up in Redford. "I always loved Jimmy Stewart and all of the characters in the film. It's a great story and something we can all relate to, but my original notion was to be in a play with my kids."

COMMUNITY THEATER

Actress enjoys playing Goldilocks

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook presents its annual children's production, "Goldilocks & the Three Bears," 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19; 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20; 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 at the theater, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$6, call (248) 644-0527. Park across the street from the theater in the Christ Church parking lot, and take the shuttle bus to the theater. Fifty percent of net profits from all six performances benefits the Old Newsboys Goodfellows Fund of Detroit.

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

Connie McEwan has enjoyed playing a backstage role — building and decorating sets at St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook. It's safe — no lines to remember, no opening night jitters.

But the story of three little bears, a young girl who doesn't fit in, and her zany camp counselor made McEwan want to "get in front of those footlights again."

She's playing a leading role this time

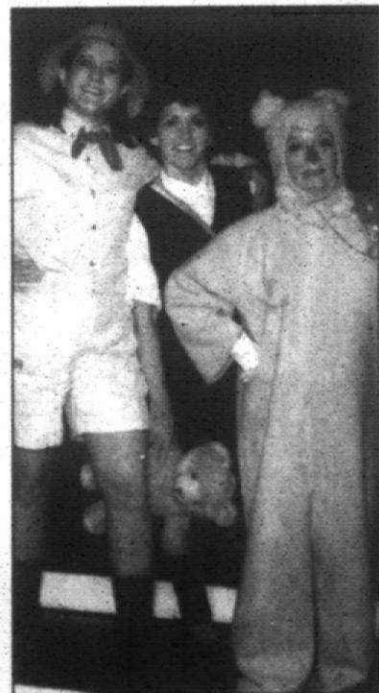
around in St. Dunstan's children's production, "Goldilocks & Three Bears," playing Friday-Sunday at the theater on the Cranbrook campus in Bloomfield Hills.

"I really loved the script," she said. "It's pretty funny and a little off-center. Primarily I paint sets, but when I read the script, I said 'Maybe I should, maybe I could,' and I did. It was the least scary, it's not a long show, it's so much fun, nothing serious, it's a safe entree back into drama."

Goldilocks is a brunette, and tired of being teased by all of the kids at camp. She keeps running away, and Ranger Rosie, the slightly neurotic camp counselor, has to keep looking for her. Meanwhile, in the woods, Papa, Mama and Baby Bear are looking for a comfortable place to stay. Uncle Sid from Hollywood pops in for a surprise visit, and to mooch off his relatives. Papa bear discovers Ranger Rosie's cottage, while she's out looking for Goldilocks, and decides it's a really cool place for his family to stay.

"The show is very audience interac-

Please see GOLDILOCKS, E2



Children's show: Janie Castagna (left to right) is Ranger Rosie, Connie McEwan, Goldilocks, and Margie Brooks, Baby Bear in "Goldilocks & the Three Bears."

Singer keeps in step with the times

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

"Keeping in Step With Time" is more than just the title of J.G. Contour's new CD with Brother T. For Contour, it's a way of life.

Contour, who sang lead with The Contours for two decades, and his brother Herman Green (a.k.a. Brother T) renew their musical bonds with each other after more than 40 years in the business. Their songs appeal to the young as well as to those who grew up listening to such Motown hits as "Do You Love Me."

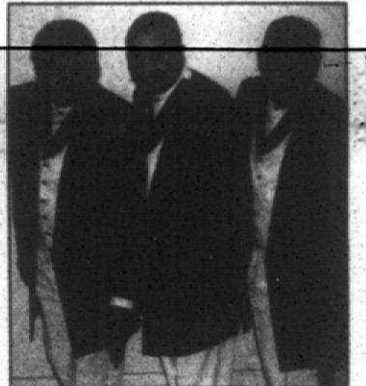
Recorded at Talent Live in Canton, the CD revisits those mellow Motown sounds while keeping in step with the times. Two of the songs rap an anti-gang, anti-drug message.

"There's everything ranging from the era from which I came to the present day with rap being positive music for young people," said Contour. "Some of the rap music today is trashy stuff. This is all positive. You can lead them to do positive things. I'm always trying to tell people the right things to do."

Contour grew up in a family where music was key. His 10 brothers and three sisters all sang in church choirs in Alabama until the family moved to Detroit in 1949.

"I was singing spirituals at first until one day my sister Ethel came home with a song she'd heard a group sing in town," said Contour, who was born Jerry Green. "Herman had also been singing in a spiritual tone. We got to Detroit to find street corner doo-wop

Please see SINGER, E2



Keeping in Step: J.G. Contour (right) with Herman Green (a.k.a. Brother T) and Ray Green (middle).

WHAT: J.G. Contour performs with Brother T. for the Maurice King Foundation of American Music's annual fund-raising dinner. Also appearing are Bettye LaVette and her band led by Rudy Robinson.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20.

WHERE: Warren Chateau, 6015 E. 10 Mile, east of Mound Road.

TICKETS: \$50. Proceeds go to educational grants for music students in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Call (313) 933-0310.

Dated comedy has bright moments

Village Players of Birmingham presents "The Man Who Came to Dinner," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20 and 26-27, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the theater, Chestnut Street and Woodward. Tickets \$12, \$10 students, call (248) 644-2075.

BY VICTORIA DIAZ
SPECIAL WRITER

And you thought your holiday season was going to be hectic!

Picture this: As Christmas approaches, a famous radio star slips on the ice in front of your home and apparently cracks a hip bone. Confined to a wheelchair, the vinegary curmudgeon proceeds to spend the days taking over your household, and threatening to sue. He tells you what to do, he tells your children what to do, and he issues orders to anyone else who gives him half a chance. He knows everybody from Eleanor Roosevelt (it's 1939) to Mahatma Gandhi to Samuel Goldwyn.

Thanks to him and his friends, your house gets cluttered up with everything from penguins to cockroaches to

Please see COMEDY, E2

HOT TICKET



Hot Tix: "Disney on Ice presents Toy Story," through Sunday, Nov. 21, at Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Tickets \$30, \$18.75, \$16.75 and \$13.75 available at the box office and all Ticketmaster outlets. For show times and other information, call (313) 983-6606. To charge tickets, call (248) 645-6666.

Singer from page E1

groups. We'd been singing in church, so it didn't take us long to blend in."

In 1958, Herman Green founded The Rivals. Before long, Contour was singing lead. He wrote and produced the group's first four songs, which became hits in 1962.

"Herman formed it when we were getting out of high school," said Contour of his older brother. "The CD with Herman's a wonderful thing. It keeps us intact from the early days."

"The Rivals" opened doors for me. We're proud of the fact we were the first African-American group ever to do commercials for major companies (Wrigley's Spearmint Gum, Gobel Beer and Delco Batteries) because this was something advertisers had not wanted African Americans to do at the time."

Contour wants future generations to know about The Rivals so he's donated a copy of their album, "The Soul of Detroit," to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Contour's Motown days began in 1958 when he auditioned for Berry Gordy Jr. in a two-family flat on Gladstone and 12th Street in Detroit. Contour knew he was on his way when Brian Holland and Smokey Robinson wrote a song for him shortly thereafter. By 1964, Contour was singing lead with the Contours.

For the next two decades and four albums, the group topped the charts with such hits as "Do You Love Me" and "First I Look at the Purse." Contour was honored with the Legendary Music Achievement Award by the Metropolitan Music Association in 1997. Contour wants young aspiring musicians to know there were ups and downs throughout his journey in the music business. Contour was able to feed his family and pay the bills by working at Ford's Livonia Transmission Plant for the last 31 years. He's grateful to have had those paychecks to fall back on.

"They don't realize that times can be tough when you're look-

Goldilocks Musical set to lift mood, brighten spirit from page E1

...tive, which is a blessing and a curse," said McEwan. "I walk through the audience and ask them to help me find Ranger Rosie."

McEwan's roles weren't always behind the scenes. She studied drama at Michigan State University, and was active in the Orchards Community Theater in the early 1970s before joining St. Dunstan's in 1991. Orchards Community Theater later merged with Pontiac Theatre IV. Raising children, and a career as an advertising agency owner have kept McEwan busy, but she's happy to be back on stage.

Fifty percent of net proceeds from the shows will benefit the Old Newsboys Goodfellows Fund of Detroit. Children from the inner city of Detroit will be brought to the theater to see the show Tuesday-Thursday. As for those opening night jitters - "I think I remembered my lines," said McEwan with a laugh.

Musical set to lift mood, brighten spirit

The Bloomfield Players presents "Meet Me in St. Louis," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19 and 20, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, Lasher High School, Lasher Road just north of Long Lake Road. Tickets \$9, call (248) 433-0885 for information. BY THESSIE L. MCFARLAND SPECIAL WRITER

"This (the Bloomfield Players) is an opportunity for everyone, young and old, experienced or not," said June Hamilton, executive producer, referring to the philosophy of the ten-year-old Bloomfield Players community theater company.

A cast varying in ages and experience performed a light-hearted, cheerful rendition of the classic all-American favorite musical "Meet Me in St. Louis." It's 1903, a much simpler time when the "buzz" is all about the amazing, impending World's Fair coming to St. Louis to commemorate the 100-year-anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase.

The story follows the tight-knit Smith family and the antics of their two teenage girls Rose and Esther, hot on the trail of suitable beaux; two mischievous younger sisters Agnes and Tootie; and their Princeton-bound brother, Lon. An unformed Mr. Smith (Cliff Furguson) thinks he's at the helm. However, it is actually Mrs. Smith (Debra Luria), Katie - the family cook - and Grandpa, who keep home and hearth together until Mr. Smith announces that due to his job, the family will leave St. Louis and move to New York City, much to the family's despair.

Bethanne Still captured the quick exuberance of Esther Smith as she sang her way through "The Boy Next Door," and a toe-tapping execution of the award-winning tune, "The Trolley Song." Still conjured an audience belly laugh during her very reluctant dances with the three most inept bachelors in St. Louis, played by Brian Carter, Andrew Miller and Ian Dittus.

Esther's blossoming romance with the boy-next-door, John Truitt (Christian Maurice) was interrupted briefly by an amusing scene where she beat him up, as she uttered the classic line, "If there's anything I hate, loathe, despise and abominate, it's a bully!"

Meanwhile, a cat-and-mouse game ensued between the lovely, composed Rose Smith (Elizabeth Stalker) and the heir to the Sheffield fortune, Warren, played by Patrick Devine.

Nine-year-old thespian Jessica Miller as Tootie, stole hearts from her opening solo of "Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis" and her memorable line, "Wasn't I lucky to be born in my favorite city?" In a performance that would make little Margaret O'Brien proud, Miller delivered her humorous lines with poise and beguiling charm. Tootie's constant morbid references, including her dolls' "four fatal diseases" and John Truitt's attempt to "kill her," brought levity to the production.

Miller's performance of "Under the Bamboo Tree" together with Still and energetic young actress Sarah Kiperman, as Agnes, was a playful delight.

A Bloomfield Player veteran, Larry Miller boldly projected a lovable Grandpa. He and a witty Katie (Kay-Ellen Murphy) kept the family solidly grounded.

A functioning trolley car that traversed the stage by discreet pulleys provided a clever backdrop for the famed "Trolley Song."

The sound system difficulties that periodically plagued the first Act seemed to improve in the second Act. Musical director Sharon Thomas engaged the audience in singing along with the finale song of "Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis."

Other actors included Robert White (Lon Smith), Jamie Hallmark (Lucille Ballard), Carly Peterson, Gary Quick, and Jerry Payton.

"Meet Me in St. Louis" is a wonderful chance to step back into a simpler time filled with familiar, fanciful tunes, sure to brighten your spirit.

Comedy from page E1

...ing to record your music," said Contour. "It took me nine years to write and record 'Keeping in Step With Time.'"

Today, Contour owns a record label and production company which gives him the artistic freedom to do what he wants, but that wasn't always true. "I want to have an outlet for young people so they don't have to go through strenuous times to get a record out. But I'll tell them to go and get your education. There's nothing guaranteed in this life. I know about doors slamming in your face. This is where I can bring them in and work with them. 'You've gotta love this business. It's something that I love to do. And I want to keep kids out of gangs. I'm anti-gang and anti-drug. If you want to perform on one of my productions you have to be drug free.'"

"Keeping in Step With Time" is available at local record stores, or call (313) 867-4843.

Directed by Jay Kaplan, this production comes across as a bit slow and a little tired. At times, it's even slightly tiresome to watch. Jeff Trudeau plays the inner city of Detroit with a newspaper reporter shows up in your living room, along with a detective, various and sundry radio performers, and an angelic children's choir. And who knows how long all of the hallelaloo is going to go on?

If you actually found yourself involved in such a godawful mess, chances are good that you wouldn't find it fun. On the other hand, it sounds like material that could make for memorable theater. Which is exactly how audiences felt about "The Man Who Came to Dinner" when it opened on Broadway 60 years ago. Since then, of course, the comedy by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman has been performed thousands of times. Could it be possible that it's growing a little creaky around the edges? As performed currently by the Village Players of Birmingham, it would seem so.

'The Women' entertaining, historically interesting

Farmington Players presents "The Women," a comedy by Clare Boothe Luce, 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, 26-27, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the theater 32332 W. 12 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Tickets \$12, call (248) 553-2955. BY ROBERT WEIBEL SPECIAL WRITER

The Farmington Players production of "The Women" is an entertaining and historically interesting biting comedy. While playwright Clare Boothe Luce takes a few shots at men ("they should only be let out of the house on a leash") she aims her most savage satire at the sisterhood for frittering away their lives on silly pursuits.

Clare Boothe was born (1903) illegitimate to an ex-chorus girl and itinerant musician. By the time of her death in 1987 she was considered by many to be among the first Renaissance women. She used her beauty and

brains to have more careers than most even dream of - including actress, war correspondent, editor of Vanity Fair, congresswoman and ambassador to Italy.

Along the way she married an older, wealthy man and later Henry Luce (co-founder of Time and Life magazines). She virtually "clawed" her way to the top when it was hardly the "ladylike" thing to do.

As a popular socialite, she had little patience with wealthy women who waste their time on

Director Cynthia Tupper captures the spirit of the play and the times (1936) with excellent costuming and music from the '30s.

Director Cynthia Tupper captures the spirit of the play and the times (1936) with excellent costuming and music from the '30s. The focus of the play is one Mary Haines who learns from gossip at the beauty salon that her husband is having an affair (but then, in this play who isn't?).

Ellen Akins creates a sympathetic character as Mary, who in the end turns the tables on her husband's paramour. That would be Lisa Curry as Crystal, who is a most convincing vixen. The way she puts out a cigarette reminds one of Bette Davis at her evil best.

Suzanne Rogers is very good as Mary's friend, Sylvia, who swears, "I never interfere in other people's affairs" then cannot wait to spread the latest gossip. Mary Ann Tweedie is most convincing as Edith, who keeps her marriage going by looking the other way ("pride - that's a luxury a woman in love cannot have.")

Margaret Gilkes as Nancy, a worldly writer, scores with many

'Jest A Second' evokes laughter

The Ridgedale Players presents "Jest A Second," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake between Livernois and Crooks, Troy. Tickets are \$11, \$10 for seniors and students on Sundays. Price includes sandwich and afterglow. Call (248) 988-7049. BY HELEN ZUCKER SPECIAL WRITER

The Ridgedale Players production of "Jest A Second," directed by Kent J. Martini and Jim Rink, is very funny. I agree with author James Sherman's opinion that "Jest A Second" is a better play than "Beau Jest." It has funnier lines and a more intricate plot. The cast of six does a lovely job.

Four of the cast members play the same characters they played in last spring's production of "Beau Jest," a continuity that adds to the believability of this comedy.

Selma Cohen was born to play Miriam, the self-sacrificing, poor mother who dominates her husband and her children's lives without doing anything but being there. Even when she's absent, Miriam is present in everyone's thoughts.

The comedy consists of absurd

behavior on the part of everyone while trying to please this woman, who enjoys nothing but news about single Jewish doctors. Cohen delivers lines like, "I once had a chance to change - I decided not to," and "It's a beautiful place to visit!"

Cohen responds with great weariness. "I was born there. I left."

It's Miriam's pick in many ways, and Cohen picks up the challenge.

Jack Abella as Abe, Miriam's retired husband, is a good foil. Abe runs out for dozens of bagels at the drop of a hat. He drags chairs up apartment steps. He seems obsessed with "parking in front," and with leaving up and doing his wife's bidding. Abella looks like the classic James Thurber husband, dwarfed, hidden behind his wife and making a show of putting up a fight now and then.

Carl Jones is terrific as Bob, the converted Jewish actor. He's a bundle of energy, running out to the synagogue three times a day, keeping everyone kosher (until Miriam takes him aside), leaping up to take his pregnant wife to the hospital the moment she says anything and changing into his neon dress from "La Cage Aux Poux" to help his gay

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THEATER 'To Forgive, Divine' shares story of a look back on life

Trinity House Theatre presents 'To Forgive, Divine,' a comedy by Jack Neary... Trinity House Theatre presents 'To Forgive, Divine,' a comedy by Jack Neary, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 19-20 and 26-27, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 and 28, at the theater, 38840 W. Six Mile, between Haggerty and I-275, Livonia. Tickets \$10, \$5 Sundays, call (734) 464-6302.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Table listing movie showtimes and theaters. Includes sections for National Amusements Showcase Cinemas, Star Southfield, United Artists Commerce Township 14, and various other theaters like Starwood, Main Art Theatre III, and AMC Livonia 20.

SCREEN SCENE Local artists are hitting their stride

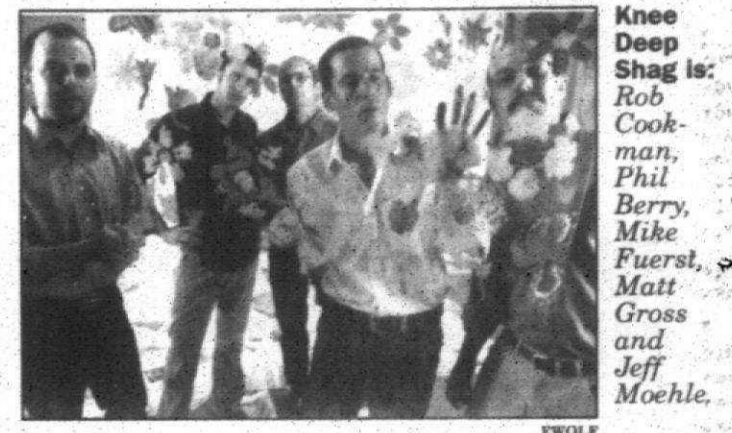
Just about everyone questions their career choice at one time or another. Often, the doubt surfaces when the goals we set aren't achieved by our own arbitrary deadlines. It's even more deflating when you begin to feel that those lofty objectives are no longer worth the bother.

It would seem artists and performers would be most susceptible, particularly if they strive for artistic, critical, and commercial success along with self-satisfaction. Pulling off a grand slam like that doesn't happen often.

What sustains an artist is the opportunity to keep active in his creative field. With persistence those moments that remind you why you do what you do will come. It has been a year for those moments for Alicia Gbur and Christine Kerwin of Sister Sledge.

STREET SCENE Local rock: Knee Deep Shag's time for change begins now

If I close my eyes real tight, I can still see and hear it — The exact day I was introduced to the brilliance of Kalamazoo-based band Knee Deep Shag. Earth Day, 1995. Michigan State University's London Field. Afternoon. Sunshine. And then they began to play.



Knee Deep Shag is: Rob Cookman, Phil Berry, Mike Fuerst, Matt Gross and Jeff Moehle.

Old 97s reveal Texas roots rock at its finest

By STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA. Remember this name: Old 97s. The Dallas foursome — singer Rbht Miller, guitarist Ken Bethea, bassist Murry Hammond and drummer Philip Peoples — will open the Detroit show on one of just seven tour dates with Wilco, a more established band in the same musical genre.

troj womens association logo featuring a stylized figure and the text 'troj womens association'.

The 28th Annual Juried Elf Shelf Arts & Crafts Show. November 27, 1999. (Saturday after Thanksgiving) 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Troy High School 4777 Northfield Parkway South of Long Lake between Crooks and Coolidge. Featuring Over 150 Select Artisans. Admission \$2.00.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS. LISTEN FOR A WEEK, STAY FOR A LIFETIME. HOUSEHOLD PROBLEMS? Tune-in Bob Allison's Ask Your Neighbor. (WNZK 690 AM, M-F 9am-11am). How to Cook It, How to Do It, Where to Find It. Menu Minder. Recipes - Household Hints. \$20 per year U.S. 12 issues. Send check payable to "Ask Your Neighbor" along with your name and address to: Menu Minder P.O. Box 20 Detroit, MI. 48231 www.asloordneighbour.com

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Picasso Graphic Magician Prints from the Norton Simon Museum Now through January 16, 2000. Trace the career and life of this starting and original 20th-century master through his print work. Call 419-255-8000 for more information. The Toledo Museum of Art.

HOLIDAY FAVORITE Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. November 20-December 26. Meadow Brook Theatre. For tickets call the Box Office (248) 377-3300. Tickets also available at all Ticketmaster locations (248) 645-6666. Presented with the generous support of GMAC. SEATS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THESE DATES! HALF-PRICE PREVIEW PERFORMANCES: Thursday, Dec. 2, 8:00 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 3, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4, 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 5, 8:00 p.m. SPECIAL FAMILY DISCOUNTS - THANKSGIVING WEEKEND: Friday, Nov. 26, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 27, 2:00 p.m.; Sunday, 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.

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Tradition and Nu-Asian harmonize at Empire Dynasty

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

Proprietors spend serious moments choosing a name for a restaurant. In Farmington Hills, owner Kevin Hoang-Do named Empire Dynasty from his heart. "In Chinese, empire reflects a family concept," he said. "Dynasty is a land, your own, forever."

Of Chinese origin, 42 year-old Hoang-Do emigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam in 1980 with a degree in architecture and design. He is grateful to be a U.S. citizen - his land forever. He went on to earn an electrical engineering degree at Oakland University in Rochester. During his student days earning a master's degree in electrical engineering at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, he worked for a friend in a Chinese restaurant. There he learned to speak Chinese, the language of his ancestors, and gain a love for its food.

He never practiced in his schooled profession, except to use his engineering, design, and

Empire Dynasty
Where: 29505 W. Nine Mile Road (at Middlebelt), Farmington Hills, (248) 888-6866.
Open: Monday-Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday until 11 p.m., Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Menu: Szechuan and Cantonese cuisine with a number of surprising Nu-Asian innovations. No liquor license.
Cost: Lunch specials served until 3:30 p.m., \$5.50-7.50. Dinner House Specials \$11-15.
Reservations and major credit cards: Accepted.

architecture skills to personally remodel his restaurant from a former Mexican eatery at the location. He opened Empire Dynasty's doors a year ago. "Cooking is an art," he said. "It's like my second marriage. It makes me happy. I want to pass this feeling on to my customers." And he does. Hoang-Do spends his time greeting diners and visiting them at the table to learn their satisfaction with dishes, prepared by his two chefs Randy and Michael Wang. Randy specializes in Szechuan cooking. He formerly worked at one of New York City's most successful Asian restaurants, Szechuan Empire. His brother Michael is

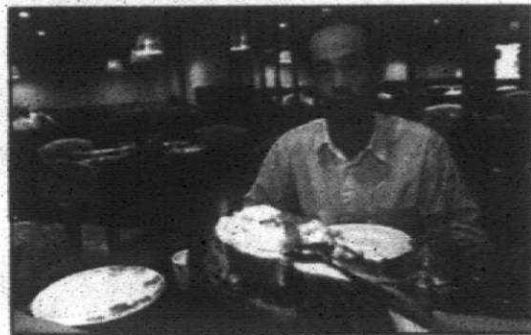
the specialist for Cantonese dishes. Hoang-Do is the inspiration behind Nu-Asian innovations such as Heavenly Shrimp, which he created four years ago to celebrate the anniversary of good friends. The special sauce takes jumbo prawns to new heights. Dynasty Sizzling Fried Noodle's creation was inspired by the opening of Empire Dynasty. Cantonese noodles are complemented by Szechuan flavors. A dish such as Empire Duck is seldom seen because marinating is not traditionally done in either Szechuan or Cantonese provinces. In this dish, sliced duck is marinated and slowly barbecued in a new-age Chinese oven, then stir-fried with select

vegetables in a Szechuan sauce. Volcano Delight breaks all the rules. This dish is hard to explain, but suffice it to say that if you thought of Szechuan as hot, this dish is not - it's spicy and full of flavor. If you consider Cantonese as a lot of over-battered fried food, not in this dish. The mixture of stir-fry and sauté flavors explodes in your mouth. Pun intended!

Quite unusual for a Chinese menu are three lamb dishes. Hoang-Do explained that in China, only the province of Szechuan cooks lamb. Empire Dynasty's preparations result in very balanced flavors.

November's house special is named Queen's Paradise, a classic Szechuan and Cantonese style combination of fresh jumbo prawns sautéed with selected vegetables in hot, spicy sauce and joined with golden-brown boneless chicken breast in the chef's fresh lemon sauce. Yum at \$14.25.

Returning in December is the Marco Polo Special, marinated, tender steak mixed with fresh pineapple and pepper, sautéed in the chefs' most sophisticated



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Specialty dish: Kevin Hoang-Do, owner of Empire Dynasty, presents the Marco Polo Special served in half a pineapple.

sauce and served on a tropical golden pineapple.

Empire Dynasty's atmosphere is upscale yet casual. Tables on two levels break up a large dining area. They are not crowded together and the booths are roomy. Green, mauve and beige tones serve to accent a large, brightly lit replica of the Hong Kong skyline.

Going unused due to outmoded Michigan liquor licensing is an unstocked bar area. After a year, Empire Dynasty remains a place where you cannot, in this mod-

ern era of matching wine and beer with food, have either with your chosen dish. This is a travesty some 66 years after the repeal of Prohibition.

Many thanks to a Southfield reader who called Empire Dynasty to my attention, pronouncing it "outstanding." What more do I need to say? Two things. Lunch specials total 37; dinner menu items number 145 and all plates have grand eye appeal. That's exceptional!

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