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Thursday
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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

CHEER

The holiday season is here – and so is the Plymouth-Canton Observer Cheer Club. Opening the Cheer Club to new and returning "members" is one of our favorite holiday traditions. Please join us by bringing donations of new toys and canned or boxed food to our office at 794 S. Main Street in Plymouth during business hours. The items will be collected until Wednesday, Dec. 15 when we turn them over to the good folks at Salvation Army. They'll distribute the items to needy people in Plymouth, Canton and Northville.

The idea is to make the holidays special for everybody, not just the lucky families where people have plenty to spend.

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

When you bring your donation by our office, we'll ask you to leave your name and city/township of residence. That's because we like to print donor's names in the paper, while the Cheer Club drive is on. But you can be an anonymous donor if you prefer.

Each year, we've recorded around 200 donors to the Cheer Club from Plymouth and Canton.

Happy Holidays! Please keep our Cheer Club in mind.

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

ENTERTAINMENT

Theater: Erin Dilly's coming home as Bertrande, the female lead of the U.S. premiere of "Martin Guerre" at the Fisher Theatre. / E1

Holiday tradition: Subtle changes keep "A Christmas Carol" at Meadow Brook Theatre fresh and fun every year. / E1

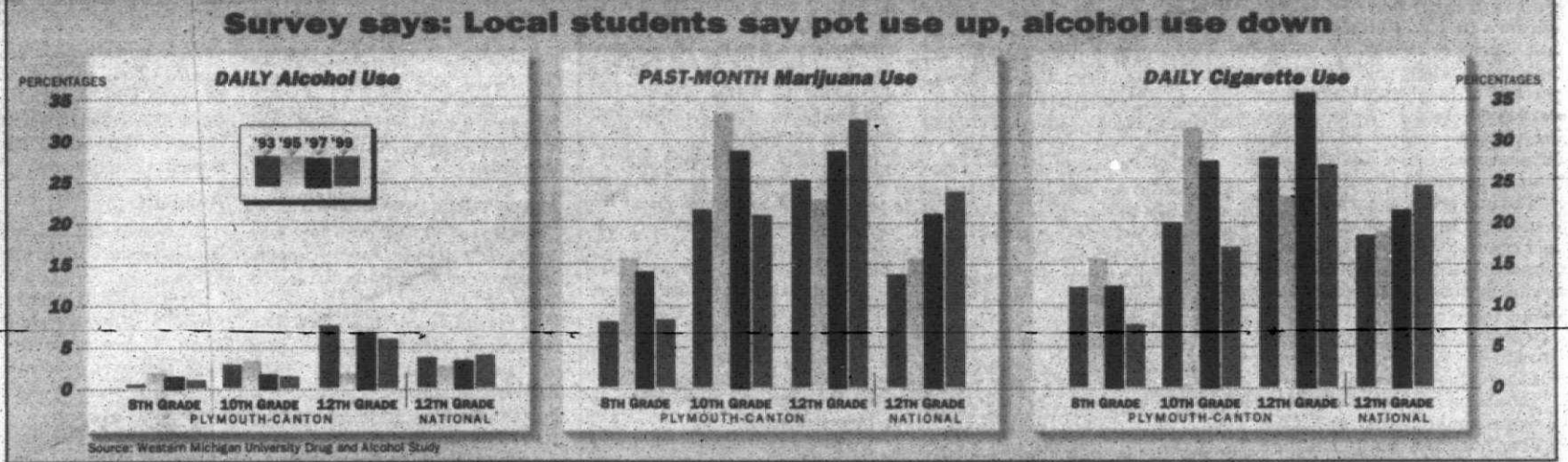
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Don't miss the exciting guide to great gifts in today's edition of your HomeTown newspaper!



'Gateway' drug use higher here



Plymouth-Canton students exceed national averages for use of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana, according to a Western Michigan University study. Better prevention and intervention may be necessary, a district official said.

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

According to the latest study of drug usage throughout the nation, Plymouth-Canton Schools' students are above the national averages when ana-

lyzing the use of so-called gateway drugs.

"Students in the Plymouth-Canton school district have a problem with illegal alcohol, tobacco and drug usage," said Plymouth Township Lt. Bob Smith. "Many people want to believe

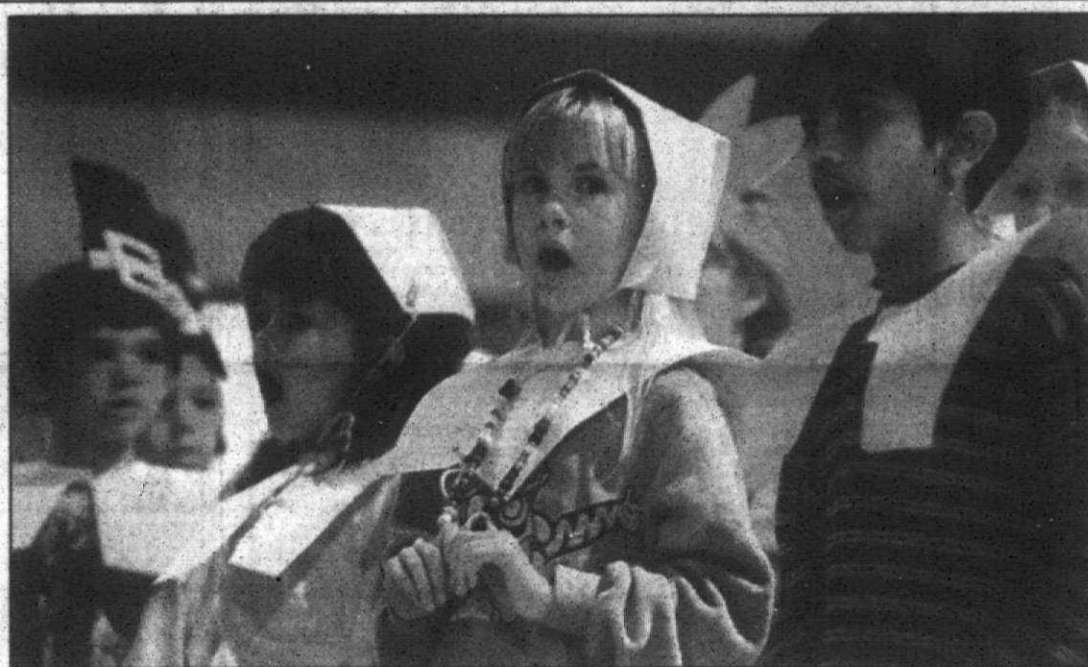
that because we are in an affluent community there isn't a problem. However, the data doesn't support it."

The data comes from Plymouth-Canton's participation in a Western Michigan University Drug and Alcohol Study, which has some alarming statistics showing Plymouth-Canton students use of cigarettes, drugs and alcohol above the national averages. The study is done every two years, and questions eighth, tenth and twelfth graders in the district about their con-

sumption. "The trends show statistics locally are down, but they are still high compared to national averages," said Smith. "We need to aggressively deal with the problem. There are a lot of poor choices being made by students, including binge drinking, drinking and driving, and riding with a driver who is intoxicated."

Cigarettes, marijuana and alcohol are considered gateway drugs, steering

Please see 'GATEWAY' DRUG, A2



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Singing thanks: Matthew Polly (from left) Alexis Hotz, Missy Bulmer and Soham Parikh, all 7, participate in the Thanksgiving sing-along for parents and teachers at Hoben Elementary in Canton Tuesday. Pictured at right, Jessica Jackson, 7, (left) and Melissa Rakobitis, 7½, hit the high notes.



Turkey time

Thanksgiving takes center stage at schools

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

Over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house we go

Thanksgiving was in the air throughout the Plymouth-Canton elementary schools this past week as children made pictures of turkeys, constructed pilgrim hats and Indian headdresses, made necklaces from macaroni, and learned about the first Thanksgiving dinner by helping to

prepare one.

At Hoben Elementary in Canton, the Thanksgiving feast has been a tradition since the school opened in 1988.

First grade teacher Sharon Belobraidich played the piano and led first and second graders in song as parents proudly stood by. All were dressed in Indian or pilgrim garb made in class.

Then it was on to the main course, the Thanksgiving feast with turkey,

Please see THANKSGIVING, A4

Local honor students are parade highlight

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Two Canton High School seniors will be among some 200 area honor students from more than 136 schools in southeast Michigan who will be participating in America's Thanksgiving Day Parade as members of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Honor Corps.

Tim Haurert and Niraj Patel will be making the 2.2-mile trek down Woodward Thursday morning in downtown Detroit, wav-



Niraj Patel



Tim Haurert

ing pennants representing Plymouth Canton High School.

"I've never been to see the parade

Please see PARADE, A4

Loren Bennett gets early start in '02 campaign

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

Loren Bennett figures it will cost \$1 million to become Michigan's next secretary of state in 2002.

That's why the State Senator, R-Canton, is hitting the fund-raising trail now. A \$250 per person reception will be held for him Dec. 6 in Grosse Pointe Farms.

"I'm not a wealthy person," said Bennett, "and there's no way I can afford an expensive campaign by myself. But I can put my sweat equity in as an alternative to raising a certain amount of money."

Next month's event isn't a formal kickoff for his campaign. He announced his intentions to run last spring.

"This is something I've thought about for some time," Bennett said. "I feel I have the background. I'm the only person in the senate who has been on the front line of managing voter registration and elections."

The former township clerk will be term-limited out of the senate in 2002. Current Secretary of State Candice Miller, a possible Republican candidate

SECRETARY OF STATE

for governor, faces the same fate.

"She has built a foundation of excellence. I feel I can build on," said Bennett. "I feel Candice Miller has done an outstanding job of improving the system since taking office."

Bennett served as Canton's clerk for six years before moving on to Michigan's senate in 1994. He said there are some similarities between the position and secretary of state.

Elections and voter registration is one. Bennett wants to make registering as easy and painless as possible.

"I understand the discouraging factor it can be on election day with people," he said. "I passionately believe in making it as perfect as possible."

Other responsibilities include drivers licenses and being the state's head historian. Bennett would be in charge of keeping state records.

"It needs to be a high profile position," he said of the historical aspect. "I think the secretary of state needs to use the position as a bully pulpit for historical preservation."

Bennett thinks he can hit the ground running as secretary of state.

"I come with practical experience."

Please see BENNETT, A12

'Gateway' drug from page A1

...Kids are making poor choices out there. Lt. Bob Smith, Plymouth Township police... Daily alcohol use among eighth, tenth and twelfth graders is falling...

Clean getaway: Thief gets car wash cash

About \$300 worth of U.S. quarters were stolen from the Canton Auto Wash on Michigan Avenue over the weekend. According to township police reports, a coin box at the auto wash was smashed sometime between 8 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Saturday...

All dressed up Area dance, theatrical store brings reputation to Canton

By SCOTT DANIEL STAFF WRITER... Few, if any, new businesses have an established clientele before opening. Lynch's Theatrical Superstore provides an exception to that rule...



Fit to be queen: Store manager Pam Ryan, holding a Darth Vader mask, wears a tiara and cape while standing next to the head of a Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer suit in Lynch's Theatrical Superstore on Lilley at Warren.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S. Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk...

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SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR PET by Elizabeth Routsoun, D.V.M. Veterinary Notes. WHAT IS YOUR DOG TRYING TO TELL YOU? Can a dog's behavior indicate his intentions? Experts tell us there are certain universal gestures...

Center 'adopts' needy family

The Children's World Learning Center in Canton is adopting a family for the holidays and is asking the community for help with donations. The center at 7437 North Sheldon Road is collecting toiletries, non-perishable food, new and gently used toys, books and clothing...

Don't know what to get her? Play it by ear. Hers, of course! Plymouth Jewelry & Gifts. 620 STARKWEATHER • PLYMOUTH • 453-1860

Plymouth Observer names new editor

Brad Kadrich has been named the new editor of the Plymouth Observer. Kadrich replaces Valerie Olander, who took a job opening at the company after serving as Plymouth Observer editor since September 1998. Kadrich had been the sports editor for North Oakland County...

Rudolph/Libbe names new general manager

Tom Hitz, formerly vice president of operations for Barton Malow Company, has been named general manager of Rudolph/Libbe Inc. Michigan Operations, headquartered in Canton. A Plymouth resident, Hitz brings more than 22 years of experience in the construction industry to Rudolph/Libbe...

CANTON CONNECTION

Youth Leadership under way: A group of 35 eighth-graders from East, West, Central, Pioneer and Lowell middle schools... Church moves services: Living Word Church has relocated its place of worship on Sunday mornings to Eriksson Elementary School...

@ the Canton Public Library. Did you know? The staff at the Canton Public Library wishes everyone a very happy Thanksgiving! The traditional beginning of the Christmas shopping season is called Black Friday...

READER SERVICE LINES Observer Newsroom E-Mail: Readers can submit story suggestions, reactions to stories, letters to the editor or make general comments to any member of our news staff through E-Mail via the Internet at the following address: newsroom@oecnl.com. Homeline: 734-953-2020

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Thanksgiving from page A1

vegetables, applesauce, muffins and, of course, pumpkin pie with whipped cream.

"This year the students helped make the feast," said Julie Darnell, Hoben second grade teacher. "With our social studies unit there's a big push to compare then and now, so what better way than seeing what it was like years ago to prepare Thanksgiving dinner and what it takes now."

"And with the study of pilgrims and Native Americans, we've been able to talk about the change in the community of Canton, how the culture and geography has changed," she added.

Second grader Adam Sawle obviously learned his social studies lesson well.

"The first Thanksgiving lasted three days," said Adam. "This guy went to get the chief and they came back with 90 Indians. Five of them went out to get deer and turkey for dinner."

"Thanksgiving is about giving thanks," said Alexis Hotz, 7. "The pilgrims traded with the Indians."

"It's about sharing and being thankful," added Charlie Barylski.

This second grader was probably much closer to the truth than he thought.

"You get big and fat from eating the turkey," said Soham Parikh.

The underlying theme in the kindergarten classes of Maureen Visser and Susan Justice at Smith Elementary in Plymouth was friendship.

"We try to teach the children about being good friends, and relating it to how the pilgrims and Indians became good friends," said Visser. "We've been working on being a good host and also being a good guest and sharing, inviting someone to play, using kind words."

Monday was Friendship Day, when kindergartners learned to practice their friendship skills with each other as the two classes mingled, drawing pictures of each other, making necklaces and baking muffins.



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HERRSMANN
Like Pilgrims: Hoben Teachers Mindy Eichenberg (left) and Karen Huston, both first grade instructors, joined in the celebration by donning pilgrim garb.

said Jenna Smith, 5, of Plymouth. "It's the day we have turkey."

"We learned about the feast the Indians had with the pilgrims because they were nice," said Christian Morgan. "I try to be nice."

"Thanksgiving is when you eat turkey," advised Chris Contos. "The Indians killed them."

In this class, you won't hear how the early English settlers crossed the Atlantic Ocean on the Mayflower and founded Plymouth Colony, holding the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621.

"We've talked about Native Americans and pilgrims and how they tried to help each other," said Justice. "We've also talked about being thankful with what we have and how they can share it with others."



Family: Kimberly Snyder, 7, was joined by her dad David.

The idea wasn't lost on 5-year-old Dakota Borensik. "The Indians and pilgrims shared turkeys because they were friends," Dakota said. "I learned to share the turkey at my grandma's house."

We Need Your Help!

Did You See Our Great Grandmother on March 2nd of this year?

Her name was Helen Klocek. She was 84 years old, stood 4 feet 9 inches tall, weighed 135 pounds and walked with a limp.

She was last seen alive in Plymouth Township on Tuesday, March 2, 1999. She was later found in Detroit...**MURDERED!**

Her 1992 white Ford Escort 4-door hatchback (license plate number 831-HZC) was stolen.

If you saw her or her car on March 2, 1999 between 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., please call Detroit Homicide at

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Parade

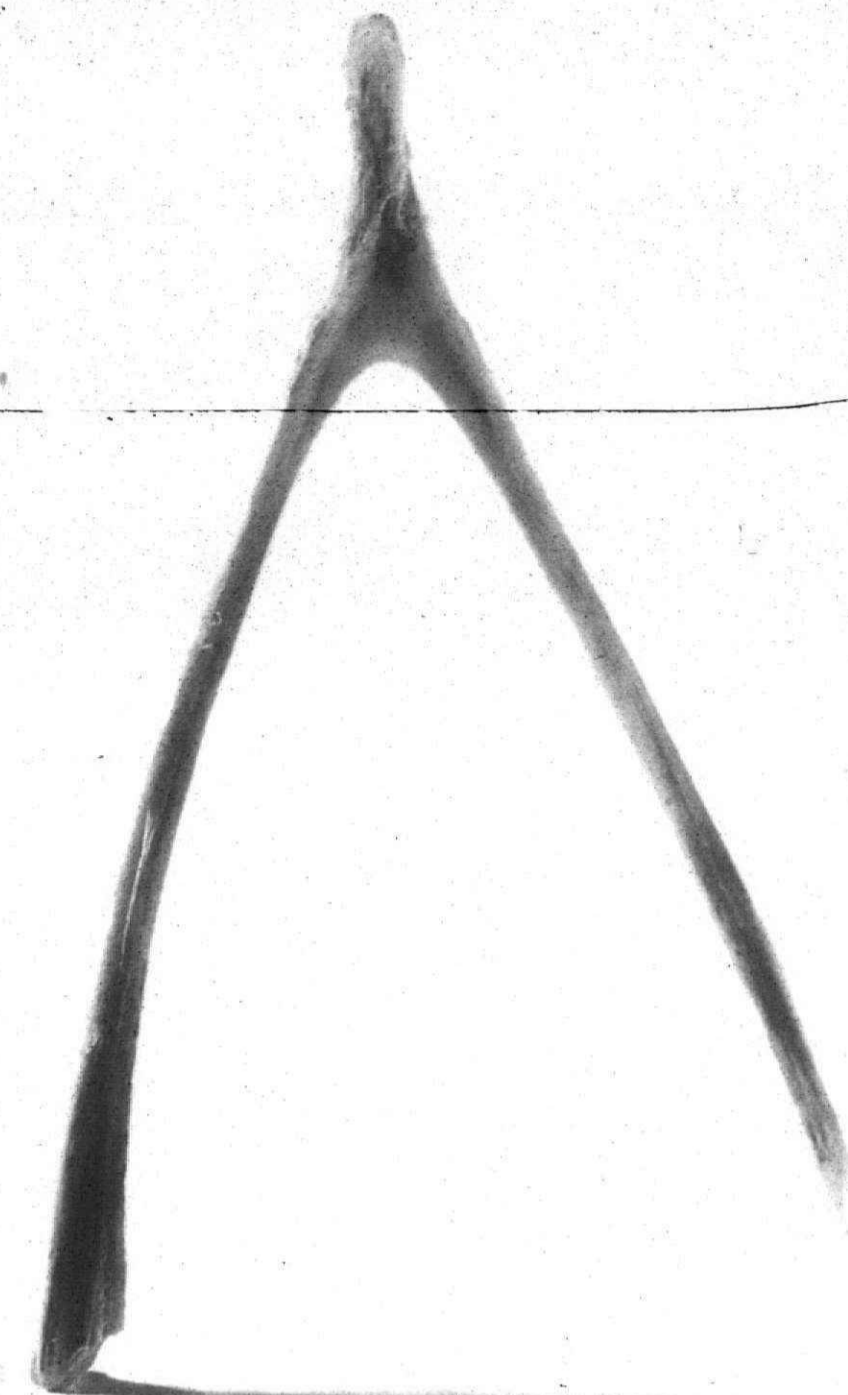
from page A1

in person, so it will be cool to actually be in it," said Patel. "I think it will be a lot of fun," added Haunert. "I was at the parade when I was little, but I don't remember being there."

The parade begins at 9:15 a.m., and the Blues Parade Honor Corps steps off an hour later.

It will be an "early riser" for the teens as they need to arrive at the BCBSM downtown headquarters at 6:30 a.m., about the same time those who want choice viewing spots are getting in place along the parade route.

(This can't be all there is.)



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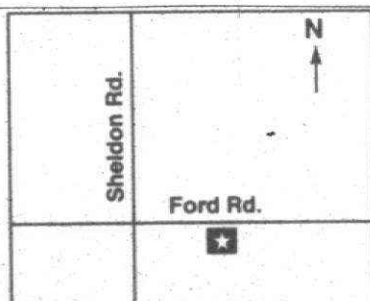
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State warns: 'Don't panic about the Y2K bug'

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

If "paranoia strikes deep" because of your Y2K concerns, then you may be creating additional hazards, according to the State of Michigan Year 2000 Readiness Report.

Completed by the Michigan Department of State Police's emergency management division, the Michigan Department of Management and Budget and the Year 2000 Project Office, the report concluded that Michigan's critical infrastructure - electric, gas and telecommunications - is not expected to experience any system failures that would "significantly interrupt" essential services for residents.

Water supply and sewage services are at "low risk," as are emergency services and the health care industry.

"All indications are that the majority of critical infrastructure providers are progressing successfully in their mitigation efforts and that widespread disruptions will be no more likely than they are on any other typical day," the report concluded.

"There probably will be interruptions of some systems related to Y2K failures that may cause



Look for a special report on Y2K in Sunday's Observer

inconveniences well into the year 2000, but their scope and severity should not be of a magnitude to threaten public health and safety."

But public fear and misinformation may create additional hazards. Communities at low risk from Y2K may face a greater threat from inappropriate preparedness activities.

Examples include improperly or illegally stored fuel that creates a fire hazard for homes and neighbors, or the increased use of generators, alternative heating and cooking devices that increased the danger from misuse of those devices.

Large cash withdrawals due to banking concerns may lead to increased robbery, swindle and theft, the report states.

The Michigan Emergency Management Division concludes:

■ The large electric utilities responsible for the bulk-power system are "progressing well."

■ There is "less assurance for the small electric utilities, but the risk they present to the bulk-power system is small, as is their risk of service disruptions."

■ There is relatively less risk for the natural gas industry, and utilities are progressing well.

■ In telecommunications, the public switched network has a relatively low risk of Y2K failure.

■ 100 percent compliance cannot be assured, but built-in

redundancy and contingency planning will help avoid service disruptions.

Telecommunications systems may have problems but not with Y2K; instead, customers may find difficulties from the holiday and the resulting increased phone usage or customers checking their phones for Y2K service interruptions.

Water supply and sewage services are at low risk. "These are largely electromechanical, gravity systems that have manual workarounds available and face little impact from Y2K problems," the report said.

County is ready
Wayne County also is Y2K-ready, according to Wayne County officials.

Sue Hansen, deputy director of Wayne County's Year 2000 Program Office, said the county's central communications system, providing radio communications for roads, public works, airports and the sheriff's staff will be operational.

"It has been tested and is ready to go," Hansen said. Hansen said Wayne County spent \$26 million for Y2K programs over two years. Hansen said the Y2K tests followed U.S.

General Accounting Office standards.

Test results received independent verification through county vendors, who also supplied information, Hansen said.

But just in case, Wayne County will declare a "Y2K alert period" from 10 p.m. Dec. 31 through 5 a.m. Jan. 1.

A command center will be set up near Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport with emergency offices set up for the following county departments: public services, sheriff, central communications and emergency management.

Mark Sparks, director of the county's Emergency Management Division, said state police will be providing updates to the news media.

Sparks doesn't expect Wayne County to conduct press conferences or updates.

"It would have to be of significant impact on a community for us to declare a state of emergency," Sparks said.

State police expect to activate an emergency plan center at 7 p.m. on Dec. 31 at a Southeast Michigan regional office in Northville, said Mark Wesley, public information officer for the Michigan State Police.

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Gas prices up 5.4 cents for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving holiday travelers will find no-lead gas prices in Michigan up 5.4 cents per gallon this week, according to AAA Michigan's weekly Fuel Gauge survey, reaching a nine-year high at \$1.339. The last time prices reached this level was

during the Persian Gulf War, the week of Dec. 10, 1990 (\$1.354).

Self-serve no-lead fuel in Michigan averages ranges between \$1.229 and \$1.389. The average is 33.4 cents higher than last year at this time.

In metro Detroit, no-lead sells

for an average \$1.32 per gallon, up 7.3 cents from last week. Prices run from \$1.219 to \$1.39. The average is 33.3 cents higher than a year ago.

During the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, 91 percent of stations surveyed plan to remain

open statewide; 70 percent plan to remain open after 9 p.m.

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SALE 28.80-36.00 Entire stock of Christmas sweaters from Designers Originals®, Tiara International and Parisian Works. In ladies', petites' and Parisian Woman sizes. Reg. 48.00-60.00. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.

40% OFF Hot Cotton holiday motif fleece sweatshirts and pull-on pants. Reg. 38.00-48.00, sale **22.80-28.80**.

SALE 59.99 Famous-maker Pelushe sweaters. Reg. 94.00. STYLES VARY BY STORE.

40% OFF Famous-maker casual and denim collections. Reg. 24.00-120.00, sale **14.40-72.00**. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.

40% OFF Entire stock of Karen Lessly knit sets. In ladies', petites' and Parisian Woman sizes. Reg. 88.00, sale **52.80**.

50% OFF "Millennium" sweaters from Parisian Signature, August Silk and more. Reg. 49.00-108.00, sale **24.50-54.00**.

SALE 34.99-49.99 August Silk silk/cashmere picot crew-neck and twin set sweaters. Reg. 68.00-88.00.

SALE 19.99 Famous-maker stretch shirts, tops and pants. Reg. 40.00-54.00.

60% OFF Parisian Signature merino wool sweaters. In ladies', petites' and Parisian Woman sizes. Reg. 78.00-148.00, sale **39.00-74.00**.

SALE 39.99 Finity silk/cashmere sweaters. Reg. 58.00-88.00.

50% OFF Finity iridescent stretch shirts. Reg. 78.00, sale **39.00**.

SALE 139.99 Choose from a large selection of leather coats. Reg. 250.00.

50% OFF Selected dresses and social occasion dresses and separates in ladies', petites' and Parisian Woman sizes. Reg. 68.00-400.00, sale **34.00-200.00**. STYLES VARY BY STORE.

SALE 99.99 Large selection of famous-maker suits. Reg. 189.00-290.00. STYLES VARY BY STORE.

**JUNIORS
 50% OFF** Selected juniors' sweaters. Reg. 28.00-38.00, sale **14.00-19.00**.

50% OFF Juniors' separates. Choose from stretch tops, skirts and pants. Reg. 20.00-32.00, sale **9.99-15.99**.

50% OFF Juniors' dresses in club, knit and social styles. Reg. 39.00-69.00, sale **19.50-34.50**.

SALE 19.99 Selected juniors' denim jeans from Mudd, i.e.i. and Hydraulic. Reg. 38.00.

**ACCESSORIES
 40% OFF** Large selection of designer leather handbags. Reg. 75.00-288.00, sale **45.00-172.80**.

EXTRA 40% OFF Entire stock of red-lined handbags. Reg. 32.00-150.00, sale 24.00-112.50, now **14.40-67.50**.

50% OFF Parisian Signature leather handbags. Reg. 94.00-134.00, sale **47.00-67.00**.

SALE 39.99 Genuine stone bracelets. Reg. 120.00.

40% OFF Selected boxed jewelry. Reg. 15.00-36.00, sale **9.00-21.60**.

60% OFF Entire stock boxed sterling silver jewelry. Reg. 40.00, sale **16.00**.

THREE FOR 19.99 Power bead bracelets. Reg. 20.00 each.

50% OFF Entire stock of women's slippers. Reg. 8.00-28.00, sale **4.00-14.00**.

**INTIMATE APPAREL
 50% OFF** Entire stock of Olga® bras, panties, daywear and shapewear. Reg. 8.00-27.00, sale **4.00-13.50**.

40% OFF Cotton knit pajamas from Earth Angels, Karen Neuberger, Carole Hochman and more. Reg. 40.00-56.00, sale **24.00-33.60**.

SALE 24.99 Entire stock of Parisian Intimates flannel pajamas. Reg. 40.00-44.00.

40% OFF Entire stock of Parisian Intimates terry velour robes. Reg. 72.00, sale **43.20**.

SALE 34.99 Parisian's exclusive "Comfort Robe" from Cypress. Reg. 54.00.

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50% OFF Selected Preswick & Moore woven sportshirts. Reg. 34.00, sale **16.99**.

SALE 24.99 Polartec® vests from Common Man by Rustic River. Reg. 42.00.

SALE 29.99 Polyurethane jackets from Whispering Smith. Reg. 60.00.

SALE 29.99 Woods & Gray cotton/ramie sweaters. Reg. 65.00.

50% OFF Famous-maker solid-color gabardine pants. Reg. 65.00, sale **32.50**.

EXTRA 40% OFF Entire stock of red-lined better collections. Orig. 24.00-125.00, sale 18.00-93.75, now **10.80-56.25**.

40% OFF Entire stock of leather outerwear from our men's outerwear department. Reg. 350.00-425.00, sale **210.00-255.00**. DOES NOT INCLUDE DESIGNER COLLECTIONS. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.

40% OFF Preswick & Moore mock-necks, turtlenecks, henleys, fine-gauge solid-color cotton and merino wool sweaters. Reg. 20.00-115.00, sale **12.00-69.00**.

SALE 29.99 Savane® corduroy pants. Reg. 48.00.

40% OFF Entire stock of men's cold weather mufflers, gloves and slippers. Reg. 16.00-70.00, sale **9.60-42.00**. ASSORTMENT VARIES BY STORE.

50% OFF Large selection of famous-maker suits. Reg. 425.00-595.00, sale **212.50-297.50**. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE Entire stock of Max Deco/Intimo flannel sleepwear. Reg. 12.00-37.00. MERCHANDISE MUST BE OF EQUAL OR LESSER PRICE. ASSORTMENT VARIES BY STORE.

EXTRA 40% OFF Entire stock of red-lined dress shirts, neckwear, fall sport-coats and fall dress trousers. Reg. 32.50-425.00, sale 24.99-319.99, now **17.50-191.99**. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.

EXTRA 40% OFF Entire stock of red-lined golf collections. Orig. 45.00-95.00, sale 20.25-42.75, now **12.15-25.65**. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.

**KIDS
 50% OFF** Selected fashion denim for boys' sizes 2-20. Reg. 20.00-28.00, sale **10.00-14.00**.

50% OFF Selected fashion twill bottoms for boys' sizes 2-20. Reg. 22.00-28.00, sale **11.00-14.00**.

40% OFF Selected nylon and brushed fleece vests for girls' sizes 4-16. Reg. 26.00, sale **15.60**.

50% OFF Sweaters for girls' sizes 4-16. Reg. 26.00-36.00, sale **13.00-18.00**.

40% OFF Best Friends holiday plush toys. Reg. 6.00-36.00, sale **3.60-21.60**.

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50% OFF Duck Head® corduroy pants. Reg. 28.00, sale **14.00**.

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE Selected flannels and denim shirts for boys' sizes 2-20. Reg. 16.00-24.00 each.

50% OFF Nike® and Adidas® activewear tops and bottoms. Reg. 16.00-45.00, sale **8.00-22.50**.

50% OFF Selected fashion twill bottoms for girls' sizes 2-16. Reg. 24.00-32.00, sale **12.00-16.00**.

**SHOES
 50% OFF** Large selection of Timberland® shoes and boots. Reg. 100.00-130.00, sale **50.00-65.00**.

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50% OFF Large selection of women's shoes from Nine West®, Enzo, Jones New York®, Esprit® and more. Reg. 39.00-145.00, sale **19.50-72.50**.

EXTRA 40% OFF Large selection of women's, men's and children's red-lined shoes. Reg. 38.00-138.00, sale 22.99-81.99, now **13.79-49.19**.

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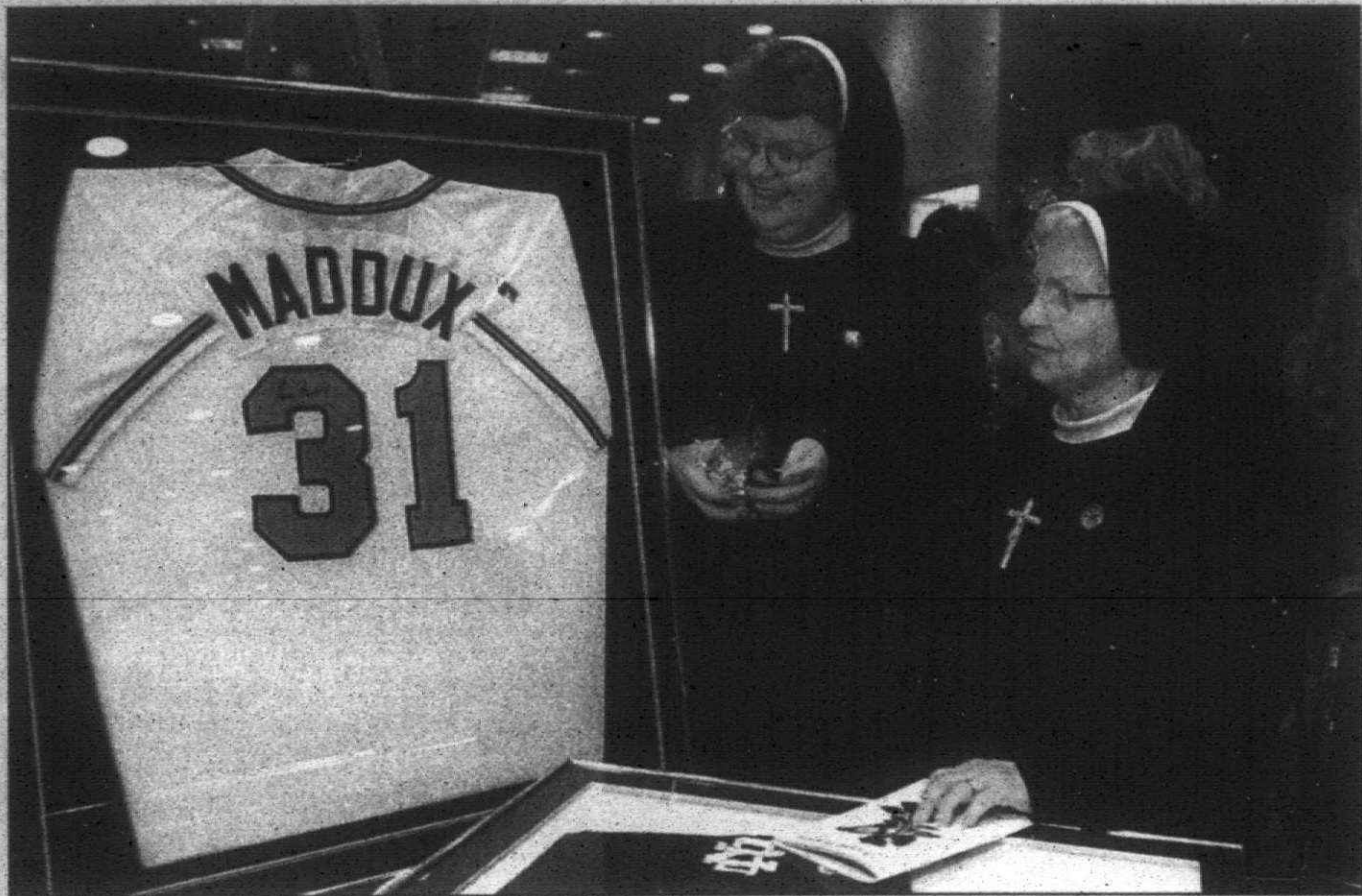
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12th ANNUAL LIGHT UP A LIFE BENEFIT

TOP GUNS

battle to support Angela Hospice



Big names: Sister Mary Ann Smith, left, and Sister Angela Marie of Ladywood High School check out the jersey of Atlanta Braves' star pitcher Greg Maddux, one of many sports related auction items.

PHOTOS BY BILL HANSEN



Fresh treats: Rosemary Mintz of Westland, a hospice volunteer, samples a strawberry from Joe's Produce of Livonia.

It was a dogfight.

Two bidders took their best shots to be Top Gun Sunday at the 12th Annual Light Up a Life benefit for Angela Hospice. One of the 25 items up for live auction was a chance to be fighter pilot for a day. The winner would have a chance to fly a state of the art military aircraft after attending flight school and engage in an aerial dogfight using lasers. One shot followed another until the final bidder cried out \$3,000. At the urging of auctioneer Dan Stall, the losing bidder decided he wanted to go flying at \$3,000 as well. Angela Hospice in Livonia was the beneficiary of this and other spirited bidding wars at Jacobson's Laurel Park store. This year's event drew a crowd of 800 and raised \$130,000, up from last year's record \$100,000. The proceeds will go toward supporting many Angela Hospice programs including their "My Nest is Best" pediatric program, home care and others.

Top auction bids in addition to the fighter pilot contest were \$2,000 for a trip to Chicago to see the Oprah Winfrey Show, \$2,000 for a trip to New York to see "Law and Order" being shot, \$1,900 for a trip to Hilton Head and \$1,550 for an autographed Red Wing hockey stick. In addition to the live auction and a silent auction, the evening also included gourmet food offerings from 28 area restaurants and food companies. Attendees were able to shop at Jacobson's and for every sales receipt \$100 and more, Jacobson's donated \$20 to Angela Hospice. Honorary chairs for this year's event are David Brandon and wife Jan with Angela Hospice President Sister Mary Giovanni, Carolyn DiComo and Georgia Scappaticci, the benefit chairs. The event was sponsored by the Jacobson's and the Italian American Club of Livonia. Media celebrities attended to give the evening a special festive air.



Raffle hopefuls: Monica Cahill, left, of Novi and Sue Slavin, of Novi, sign up for the dollar raffle with Giovanni Manzo and Mary Campagna.

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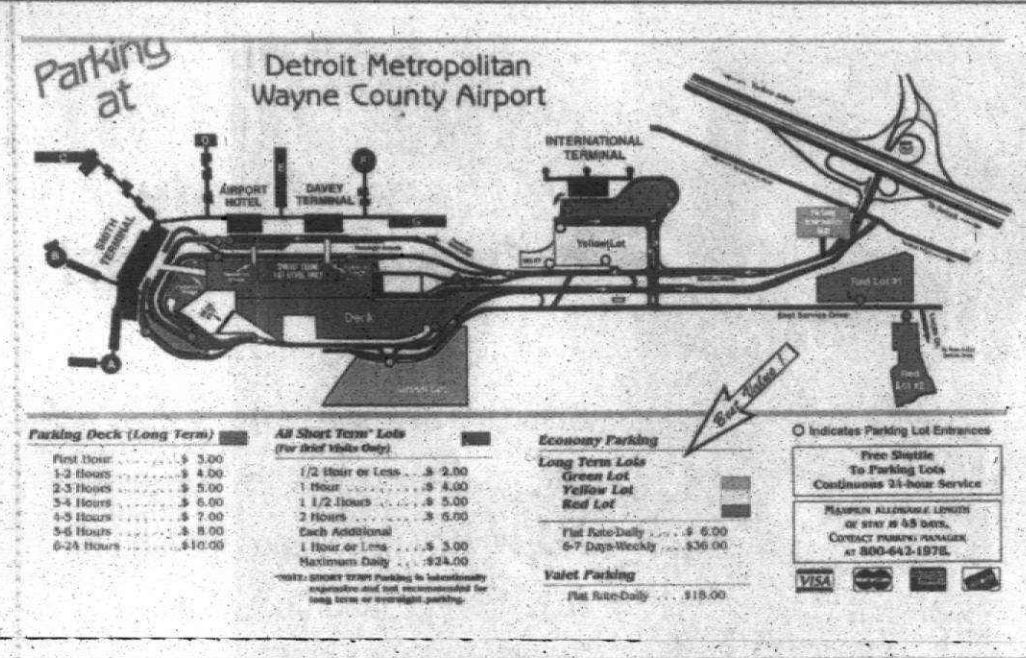
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Parking plates: Holiday travelers have approximately 12,000 parking places from which to choose at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, but they should allow themselves extra time as airport officials expect Wednesday and Sunday to be the busiest travel days this holiday season. For parking information, call (1-800) 642-1978.

Metro Airport says plan ahead for the busiest travel weekend

BY KEN ABRAHAMZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabrasmkyk@ve.homecomm.net

Officials at Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport are expecting 100,000 travelers to arrive at or depart from the airport this Thanksgiving weekend. With that amount of traffic, along with relatives picking up or dropping off travelers Wednesday and Sunday, people should plan ahead and give themselves plenty of time. Doing little things like filling out identification cards on luggage at home before arriving at the airport can save time and is one less thing to worry about before leaving town, said Brian Lassaline, airport spokesman. "If you are traveling on a domestic flight, you also should arrive at the airport at least two hours before your departure time, and if you fly an international flight, you should be here three hours before the flight leaves," Lassaline said.

September marked the 69th of the last 74 months when Detroit Metro set new records for passenger volume. Airport traffic is up 9.3 percent over the first nine months of 1998.

Last year Detroit Metro serviced 31.6 million passengers. In 1998 Metro was ranked the sixth busiest North American airport, according to passenger traffic statistics.

The curbside space near the Davey Terminal has been tripled to allow for more vehicles for relatives and friends dropping off air travelers.

"Commercial vehicles now park on the outer lane and private vehicles can use the inner lane for dropoff and pickups, which will help family and friends for dropoffs and pickups of passengers," Lassaline said.

Lassaline advises people to call their airline to confirm arrival and departure times. Travelers can call the airport's 24-hour parking hotline at (1-800) 642-1978. Detroit Metro houses about 12,000 parking spaces with 800 added in the red overflow lots.

Travelers also are assisted now with the message signs on Rogell Drive upon entering the airport.

Next to the parking deck people can wait in their cars for airplane passengers in a 40,000-square-foot parking lot across from the Davey Terminal.

If travelers happen to be transporting holiday gifts, they should not wrap them until they arrive at their destination, Lassaline said. Jewelry, money, passports and cameras should be packed in carry-on luggage, he added.

All travelers over the age of 18 should bring identification. Luggage should not be left unattended.

Deputy prosecutor found dead in van

BY ANDREW DIETDERICH
HOMETOWN COMMUNICATIONS

Ray Walsh, deputy Wayne County prosecutor and Northville Township resident, was found dead in his van Tuesday morning. Northville Township police are treating the death as an apparent suicide.

Northville Township police found the 53-year-old man locked in his van on the north end of the parking lot of Meijer, 20401 Haggerty Road, 12:54 a.m. Tuesday.

The body was turned over to the county medical examiner who is investigating the cause of death.

Police could offer no immediate explanation for the death of Walsh, who was the subject of numerous stories in The Northville Record regarding his department's investigation into the political activities of a Northville Township resident.

"There was no note or any evidence indicating what led up to this," said Chip Snider, Northville Township public safety director.

Snider said the cause of death has yet to be determined pending completion of the medical examiner's report. He said there was no blood in the van and investigators are focusing on possible suffocation.

Police say Walsh's family filed a missing person's report at 2:20 p.m. Monday. The family told police they had last seen Walsh early Saturday night. Police discovered Walsh in the back of the van behind two bucket seats Tuesday morning.

A subsequent review of Meijer security cameras showed Walsh's van entering the parking lot at 8:15 p.m. Saturday, Snider said.

"The missing person informant gave information on the last known vehicle he was in and our officers were given a BOL," Snider said.

A BOL is a "be on the lookout" alert, Snider said, and includes detailed information on the vehicle. Snider said officers patrol the Meijer parking lot regularly, and when doing so early Tuesday found the van matching the description of the vehicle from the BOL.

After they opened the door with a "slim jim" prying device, Snider said Walsh was discovered dead in the back of the van.

Walsh lived in Northville Township and has a wife and two children. He worked for the prosecutor's office for about 25 years. Walsh was appointed deputy chief of the out-county prosecutor's office in Westland about five years ago. He was credited with starting the faxing of warrant requests and using video cameras for interrogating witnesses to support warrant requests.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor George Ward called Walsh "a wonderful public servant, a very creative guy."

"He was really such a hard-working prosecutor," Ward said. "If an out-county police department had a legal question for him, he just worked until he got them the answer."

Of his death: "This is just an immense personal tragedy for all of us."

'This is just an immense personal tragedy for all of us.'
George Ward
Chief assistant prosecutor

Carol May, also of the prosecutor's office, said: "He was a very respected member of the staff and his death is a great loss not only to his coworkers, but family as well."

May said Walsh was responsible for bringing "innovative and creative" methods to his position. "I'm sure he was under a lot of pressure," said Dorothy Knox, chief investigator for John O'Hair, Wayne County chief prosecutor. "And I'm sure a lot of it came from (The Northville Record) office."

Walsh had been part of more than 20 articles in the Record concerning an investigation into local businessman Jim Nield, whose wife, Martha, is a Northville school district elected trustee. The investigation was started after Walsh filed a complaint against Nield and said his office had received a complaint that Nield was using school district property and labor for personal matters.

Several governmental officials, including O'Hair, state Attorney General Jennifer Granholm and Wayne County Commissioner Lyn Bankes (R-Livonia) later investigated Walsh but he was cleared in all probes, including the attorney general's investigation just last week.

"Everyone is shocked," May said. "I can't speak for everybody, but that's my guess."

Walsh and Prosecutor John O'Hair recently represented the prosecutor's office in receiving a resolution from Wayne County Commissioner Vice Chair Kay Beard (D-Westland) citing prosecutors for their work in shutting down the adult-entertainment Melody Theater in Inkster. Garden City Police Chief David Harvey represented that city's police department, which was also recognized, along with Westland, Wayne and Inkster police departments.

"Ray was very much on a crusade against child pornography and pornography in general," Harvey said.

Garden City police take all of their felony warrant requests to the out-county prosecutor's office that was headed by Walsh.

"You could always turn to Ray for an answer. Whether I was a detective, a lieutenant or chief, he always would stop what he was doing to take the call," said Harvey. "He would research things and give us an answer."

Ward didn't have personal knowledge of any health problems Walsh may have suffered. "I played golf with him in September. He played better this year than he did last year. I talked to him Friday and he sounded fine to me."

Andrew Dieterich may be reached via e-mail at adietderich@ht.homecomm.net. Observer staff writers Darrell Clem and Leanne Rogers contributed to this story.

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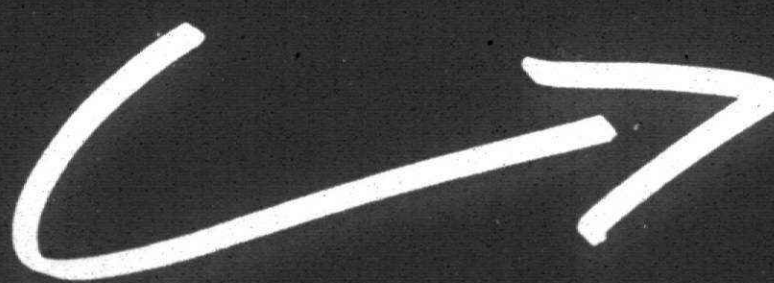
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OBITUARIES

MYRTLE K. HOUSMAN Services for Myrtle K. Housman, 98, of Canton were held Nov. 19 at St. Michael Lutheran Church, Canton, with Pastor Drex Morton officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

She was born Aug. 10, 1901, in Dearborn and died Nov. 16 in Plymouth. She was a homemaker who came to the Canton community in 1948 from Ypsilanti. She also lived in South Lyon and Redford Township and was a member of the Senior Citizens in Canton Township. She loved cooking, sewing, and family gatherings. She liked to visit family and friends and enjoyed playing cards.

Survivors include her son-in-law, Clark S. Woolsey of Canton; sister-in-law, Avis Waldecker of Plymouth; two grandchildren, Pamela McMichael of Westland and Carl Woolsey of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; one great granddaughter, Jessica McMichael of

Westland; and several nieces and nephews. Memorials may be made to St. Michael Lutheran Church. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth.

JAMES H. MCLENNAN, JR. A memorial gathering for James H. McLennan, Jr., 69, of Plymouth was held Nov. 23 at the Mayflower meeting house. He was born Feb. 22, 1930 in Detroit. He died Nov. 19 in Plymouth. He was a principal with the Detroit Public Schools until his retirement after 37 years. He was a member of Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity and a member of the VFW Mayflower-L. Gamble Post 6695 in Plymouth. In his retirement years he worked part-time as night desk clerk for the Mayflower Hotel. He served in the U.S. Army as a sergeant in the Korean War. He earned the Korean Service Medal and three Bronze Stars. He loved family gatherings and his grandchildren. He enjoyed gardening and reading, especially English murder mysteries. He also enjoyed being a handyman at home.

Survivors include his wife, Arlene F. McLennan of Plymouth; two daughters, Mary (Mark) McGraw of Dearborn Heights, Amy (Douglas) Fraleigh of Ann Arbor; one son, James McLennan III of Waterford; and one granddaughter, Sanna Fraleigh of Ann Arbor.

Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. FREDERICK W. GALLINAT Services for Frederick W. Gallinat, 89, of Canton were held Nov. 23 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Livonia with the Rev. William Lindholm officiating. Burial was in Woodmere Cemetery. He was born Oct. 18, 1910. He died Nov. 18 in Canton. He was a jewelry store owner.

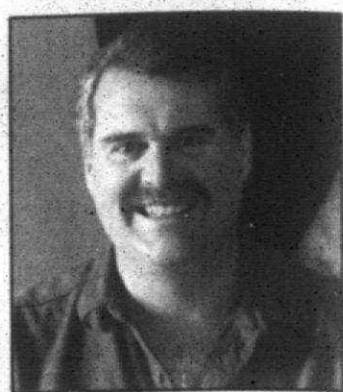
Survivors include his two daughters, Barbara (Wright) Hollingsworth, Patricia (James) Bevak; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Holy Cross Lutheran Church or Arbor Hospice.

Local arrangements were made by Neely-Turovski Funeral Home, Livonia.

Bennett from page A1

'If my (Senate) performance slips for any reason it will be a negative for my campaign. It would be crazy to let that happen.'



Loren Bennett amount of money," he commented. He'd like December's fundraiser to be a rarity, though. "I prefer to meet people one-on-one," Bennett said. "My game plan is to get out and meet a lot of people."

Sen. Loren Bennett

For a different seat early. Term limits make it necessary, he said. "The amount of money needed to run a winning campaign also predicated an early start. Miller spent about \$270,000 to take the secretary of state job in 1994. She spent \$870,000 just four years later. Bennett estimates \$1 million is needed for the 2002 campaign. "I'm confident I can raise that

Kidney foundation seeks 4-wheel donations

Program. The money raised will help support programs in research, patient services, organ donation and public education. The donation procedure is a lot simpler than cooking a meal for 25 and you might actually get something more valuable than a sink full of dishes when it's over - a tax deduction. For more information, call the foundation at 800-488-CARS (2277).

something more valuable than a sink full of dishes when it's over - a tax deduction. For more information, call the foundation at 800-488-CARS (2277).

Police launch campaign to ensure kids are buckled up

LANSING, Mich., Nov. 18 /PRNewswire/ - Armed with new information that Michigan children are buckled up at rates substantially below that of adults, hundreds of Michigan law enforcement agencies are readying to take action by strictly enforcing child safety belt laws.

More than 400 Michigan law enforcement agencies are joining the national effort, Operation ABC Mobilization: America Buckles Up Children. Starting Monday through the Thanksgiving weekend, police departments, county sheriffs and Michigan State Police will patrol city streets, county roads and expressways looking for adults who neglect to buckle up children.

According to the National Air Belt and Safety Belt Campaign, Michigan has among the highest number of participating police agencies in the nation. A just-released Michigan survey reveals that "forgotten children," ages 4 through 15, are buckled up only 58 percent of the

time, according to the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). This special survey, conducted earlier this year, examined safety belt use for children ages 0 to 15. Researchers found that overall restraint use for this group is 66 percent (59 percent for Wayne County) and 93 percent for children ages 0 to four.

Each year, UMTRI conducts a survey for the state to determine safety belt use by front seat vehicle occupants. Belt use for this group, mainly adults, is about 70 percent, the 1998 study found.

"It's appalling that adults are not taking this responsibility seriously," said Col. Michael D. Robinson, director of the Michigan Department of State Police. "We can do something about this by taking aggressive enforcement action."

Traffic crashes remain the leading cause of death for children of all races. Nationally, nearly six out of 10 children who die in crashes are unbuckled. Of those, nearly half would be alive today if an adult had made sure

they were buckled up. "This kind of law enforcement participation and support is nearly unprecedented," Colonel Robinson said. "There is overwhelming support to protect our state's children by seeing to it that they're buckled up. These children are being forgotten after they grow out of their toddler seats. Parents need to be aware that safety restraints are needed at all ages."

The UMTRI study also found that child safety restraint use is closely related to driver belt use, with child restraint use at more than 81 percent when the driver is buckled and only 33 percent when the driver is unbuckled.

"It's a parent's responsibility to see to it that they do everything within their power to keep them safe," said Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus. According to Posthumus, seat belts and safety seats do just that. "They provide important protection if there is ever a crash." Posthumus added.

Current Michigan law requires children up to age one to be in a child safety seat in the front and rear seating positions. In addition, the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning is funding special overtime enforcement to further support the program in the state's 15 highest crash counties. These counties are: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Genesee, Ottawa, Ingham, Kalamazoo, Saginaw, Bay, Barry, Berrien, Eaton, Mason and Newaygo. Michigan began building statewide support for the ABC campaign in May 1999, when more than 300 law enforcement agencies took part in a national Memorial Day mobilization to buckle up children. The next enforcement wave will take place Feb. 13-19, 2000, in conjunction with National Child Passenger Safety Week.

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Bennett bill would bar students who riot from campus for 2 years

BY MIKE MALOTT HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE mmalott@homecomm.net

Rioting on campus at a university in Michigan will get you barred from college all across the state for as much as two years, under a bill proposed by state Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton.

The bill is a response to disturbances at Michigan universities, most recently Michigan State. But Bennett's legislative aide Bill Sullivan said there have also been incidents at the University of Michigan, Central Michigan and Western in recent years. The MSU disturbances "just brought it to a head" for the senator, Sullivan explained.

Under Senate Bill 525, students convicted of a misdemeanor related to a riot within 2,500 feet of a college campus can be barred from college property for up to a year, at the discretion of the judge. For those convicted of a riot-related felony, a judge could order them to stay away from college property for up to two years.

And the bill applies to all campuses in Michigan. Students from Western were recorded at the MSU disturbance saying they thought "it was great" being able to participate in the disturbance at MSU without getting in trouble at their own school, Sullivan explained.

For anyone caught participating in a campus riot who is not a student, the bill also allows a judge to order restitution to cover the cost of damage done.

Bennett's bill won approval in the Senate in the spring. It was reported from the Criminal Law and Corrections Committee in the House earlier this month.

The bill will be on the House calendar when it returns to session Nov. 30, but Bennett believes "high priorities" will keep it from being taken up until the start of the new year.

Rep. Rivers holds coffees in December

U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Ann Arbor, will conduct "coffee hours" in Canton and Livonia over the next several weeks. Rivers will visit with constituents at Tim Horton's, 41276 Ford Road, in Canton, 8:30-10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 14, and again during the same hours on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at Silverman's Restaurant, 36480 Plymouth, in Livonia.

All constituents of the 13th Congressional District are encouraged to drop by, have a cup of coffee and discuss concerns with her. Rivers also will hold a town hall meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at South Middle School, 45201 Owen, in Belleville. Constituents are encouraged to attend and discuss concerns they have about the federal government.

For directions or further information, call Deborah Johnson in Rivers' district office at (734) 485-3741.

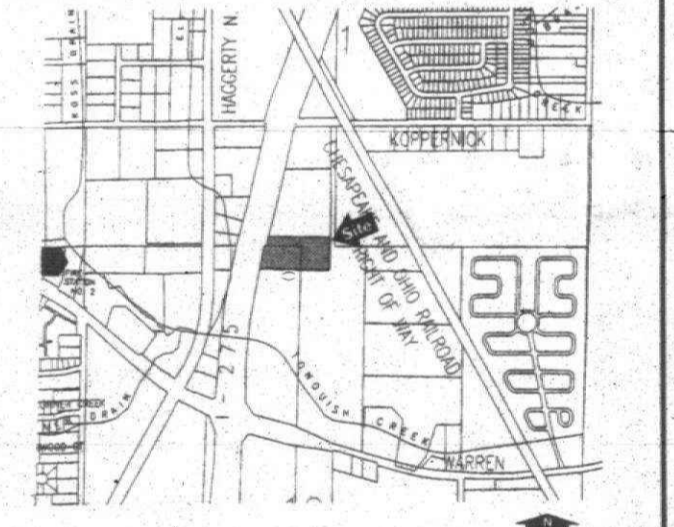
Planning a feast? See Sunday's Taste

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1967 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 6, 1999 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed special land use request as provided in Section 27.03 of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance.

SCHUMER HYDROFORMING SPECIAL LAND USE - CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL FOR HEADQUARTERS, PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT AND LIGHT MANUFACTURING IN THE CORPORATE PARK OVERLAY DISTRICT AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 6.08D.1 AND 6.08D.7 FOR PART OF PARCEL NOS. 003 99 0003 714 AND 046 99 0002 001. Property is located on the west side of Commerce Boulevard between Koppernick and Warren Roads.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday, December 2, 1999, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review. SEE ATTACHED MAP

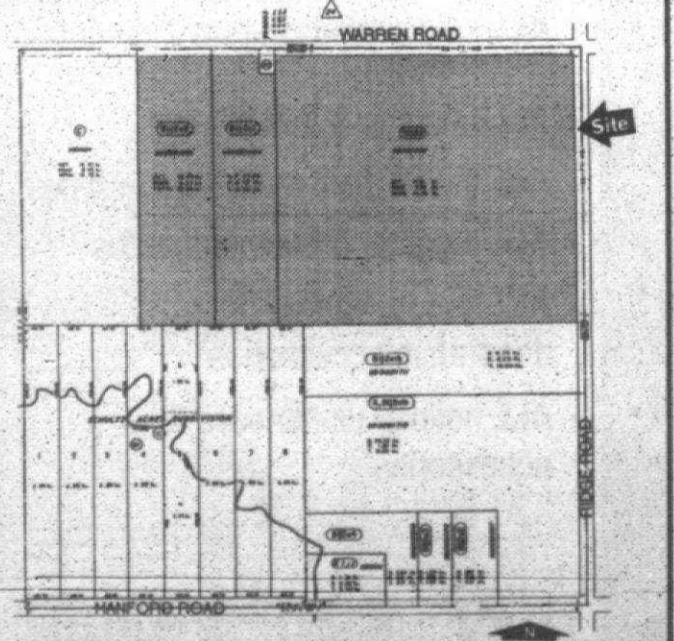


Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday, December 2, 1999, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review. VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1967 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 6, 1999 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 025 99 0001 002 FROM RA, RURAL AGRICULTURAL TO R-1, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (1 D.U./ACRE) AND PARCELS NOS. 025 99 0001 000A AND 025 99 0001 005 FROM RA, RURAL AGRICULTURAL TO RE, RURAL ESTATE (1 D.U./2 ACRES). Property is located on the southwest corner of Warren and Ridge Roads.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday, December 2, 1999, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review. VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188 (734) 397-5435

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS NOVEMBER 17, 1999

A special joint meeting of the Charter Townships of Canton, Northville and Plymouth was held Wednesday, November 17, 1999 at 1150 South Canton Center Road. Canton Township Supervisor and Chairman of WTUA Board of Commissioners Yack called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Canton Board of Trustees Present: Bennett, Burdick, Kirchgatter, Lajoie, McLaughlin, Shefferly, Yack. Canton Board of Trustees Absent: Kirchgatter, Canton Staff Members Present: Machak; Also Present: Johnson, Canton Planning Commission; Members of WTUA Board of Commissioners, Northville Township Board of Trustees, Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees. YCUA Board of Commissioners, WTUA staff. YCUA staff, members of the public.

ITEM I YCUA EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY Following introductions, opening comments were made by Supervisor/Chairman Yack, WTUA Operations Mgr Faa, and YCUA Director Thomas. A presentation by John Kang, McNamee, Porter and Seeley, Consulting Engineers for YCUA was made outlining the content and findings of the feasibility study to expand the existing 29 mgd YCUA wastewater treatment plant. Following the presentation, a brief questions and answer period was held. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

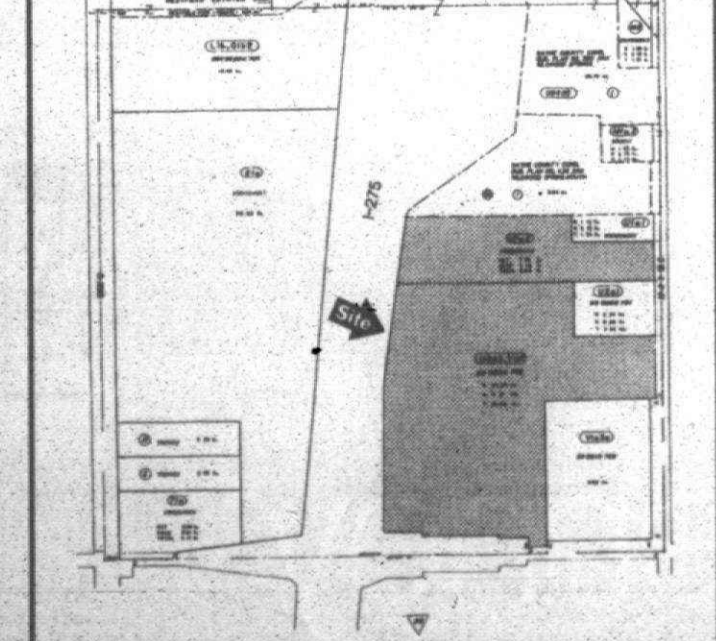
TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk The above is a synopsis of actions taken at the Regular Board meeting held on November 17, 1999. The full text of the approved minutes will be available following the regular meeting of the Board on December 14, 1999. THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM THE CONDOMINIUM ORDINANCE NO. 138 OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Condominium Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton, that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 6, 1999 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. to consider the request by the petitioner to permit the following proposed variance to the Condominium Ordinance for the project known as EBBE CREEK SITE CONDOMINIUMS located on the west side of Lotz Road north of Palmer Road.

The petitioner has requested a variance pursuant to Article 4, Design Standards, Section 4.1A1, Street and Alleys, Access to Major Streets, to reduce the required 50-foot wide landscaped berm to 30 feet for one side only of the south entrance of the project onto Lotz Road.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday, December 2, 1999, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review. VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS NOVEMBER 16, 1999

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, November 16, 1999 at 1150 South Canton Center Road. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Bennett, Burdick, Kirchgatter, Lajoie, McLaughlin, Shefferly, Yack; Members Absent: None

ITEM I YEAR 2000 REPORT A review by the Departments of Public Safety/Police and Fire, Resource Development and Administrative Services was presented to the Board indicating that due diligence has been made during the past year for the provision of emergency preparedness and Y2K compliance.

Terry G. Bennett, Clerk The above is a synopsis of actions taken at the Regular Board meeting held on November 16, 1999. The full text of the approved minutes will be available following the next regular meeting of the Board on November 23, 1999. THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

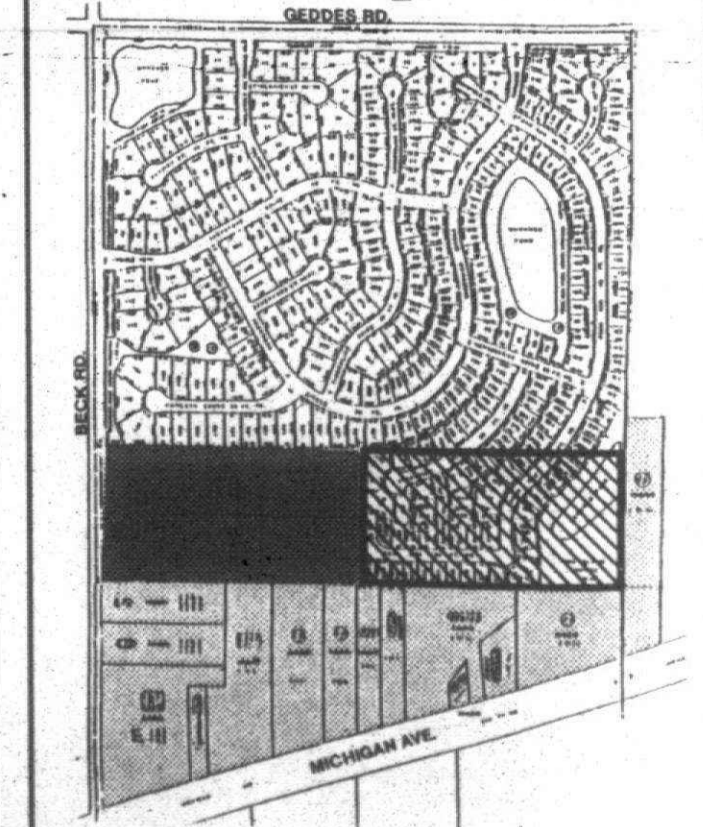
PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 168 of the Public Acts of 1969 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Comprehensive Plan of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 6, 1999 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan.

GOFFAHOJNSON FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT - CONSIDER AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (UP TO 8 UNITS/ACRE) FOR PARCEL NOS. 130 99 0003 000, 130 99 0004 000, AND 130 99 0005 000. Property is located on the east side of Beck Road between Geddes Road and Michigan Avenue.

CANTON TOWNSHIP INITIATED FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT - CONSIDER AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (4 UNITS/ACRE) FOR THE SOUTH 660 FEET OF MEADOW VILLAGE SUBDIVISION #2, AND FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (UP TO 8 UNITS/ACRE) FOR PARCEL NOS. 129 99 0009 000, 131 99 0001 000, 131 99 0002 000, 131 99 0003 000, 131 99 0004 000, 131 99 0005 000, 131 99 0006 000, 131 99 0007 000, 131 99 0010 000, 131 99 0011 000, 131 99 0012 000, 131 99 0013 000, 131 99 0014 000, AND 131 99 0015 000. Property is located north of Michigan Avenue east of Beck Road.



This hearing is rescheduled from September 13, 1999.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday, December 2, 1999, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review. VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

A14(C)

Superintendent Decision requires great care

The second round of interviews is under way to fill the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools superintendent's job and we like what we're hearing — both in terms of questions asked by the board and responses from the finalists. The district, its students, staff, residents and all three candidates



Outgoing: Interim Superintendent Ken Walcott has said he won't stay long after his contract expires in January.

deserve a full-fledged effort at the search process designed by the Bickert Group consulting firm and approved by the school board. At the same time, the Observer urges trustees to keep an open mind about the search and its parameters — even if that means starting over again and/or finding a new interim superintendent after Ken Walcott's contract expires in January.

School board members interviewed William Weber, currently an assistant superintendent in South Redford, last week. This week's scheduled interview is with Phyllis Wilson, deputy superintendent in Columbus, Ohio; and next week trustees will meet with Kathleen

Booher, current Berkley superintendent. Trustees hope to begin negotiations with a top candidate next month and name a superintendent by Jan. 1. The superintendent's job is too important to fill on a stop-gap basis, or with anyone less than an ideally qualified candidate who is a good fit for Plymouth-Canton. The superintendent obviously calls for a top educator and administrator. But we also believe Plymouth-Canton is at a crucial juncture, requiring someone with long-term vision about educational needs in the next century and the fortitude to make those changes.

This is not intended as a slight to the three finalists. But some board members expressed disappointment following the first round of interviews earlier this month. And others have questioned whether the plan to fill the job in the middle of a school year hurt the overall quality of the applicant field.

Walcott has stated his preference is to leave at the conclusion of his contract, which effectively turns up the pressure on the board to finish the search process in a timely manner. Finding a second, qualified interim leader at this late date wouldn't be easy.

And we're sure teachers and other employees would like a done deal. It's always easier to get the job done when there's stability in top management.

The Observer believes it would, indeed, be rough working with an interim superintendent for the remainder of the school year. But that's a far better scenario than hiring the wrong person for the permanent job.

Thanksgiving: Tolerance reins

Every year on the fourth Thursday of November we sit down to a feast with our families to give thanks for all that we have and for bringing us through yet another year.

We do this in commemoration of a hearty band of English subjects who came to this country on a small sailing ship they called the Mayflower. About half of those who left Plymouth, England, were religious non-conformists who had previously escaped to Holland; the others were people just anxious to leave their old lives behind.

Before disembarking, these two often-contentious groups came together to sign the Mayflower Compact. This document gave validity to the group, which was about to settle in an area north of the official Virginia colony.

As the group settled, they established a more detailed organizational charter, a precursor of our Constitution. They also made peace with the Indian Massasoit, outlining a just relationship between the two peoples whose ways were alien to each other.

Of course, we know that relations between white settlers and Indians did not remain hospitable. We know that the Pilgrims and their followers would create an atmosphere of intolerance that others would rise to protest.

But for one brief moment, probably sometime in late October 1621 the white settlers from England who had survived the terrible previous winter and their new-found Indian friends would come together to share athletic games, a harvest feast and the strange friendship of people at the end of the earth. It is that glorious moment of tolerance, sharing and humble supplication that we honor and hope to recreate in our own lives. May your Thanksgiving be in that spirit.

Keep teen drivers accountable

State Sen. Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Hills) has the right idea. Simply stated: No school... no wheels. It's just that simple, boys and girls — and parents, too: Michigan's teenagers attend classes on a regular basis, or they just don't drive.

So says Peters, who recently introduced legislation that would give school officials new ways to enforce attendance requirements. A key part of the package, Senate Bill 759, would allow a court to delay issuance of a driver's license, or suspend an existing license, for a student who is not regularly attending school.

Peters' package, Senate Bills 758-761, would also:

- Require parents to be notified if a student is absent without an excuse twice in 30 days.
- Require an "agreement for attendance" if a student is absent without an excuse five times in a month, and allow court intervention if a child is absent seven times in a month.
- Increase penalties for parents who fail to send their children to school. Sentences for parents could include fines from \$50 to \$500, or jail terms from two to 90 days.

While we can't endorse the entire package without additional information, we think the basic idea of linking a driver's license to attendance in school has merit, and we hope the Legislature takes favorable action.

What a wonderful attention-getter for chronic truants — youngsters who have yet to learn the importance of an education — and also for parents who won't make their kids go to school!

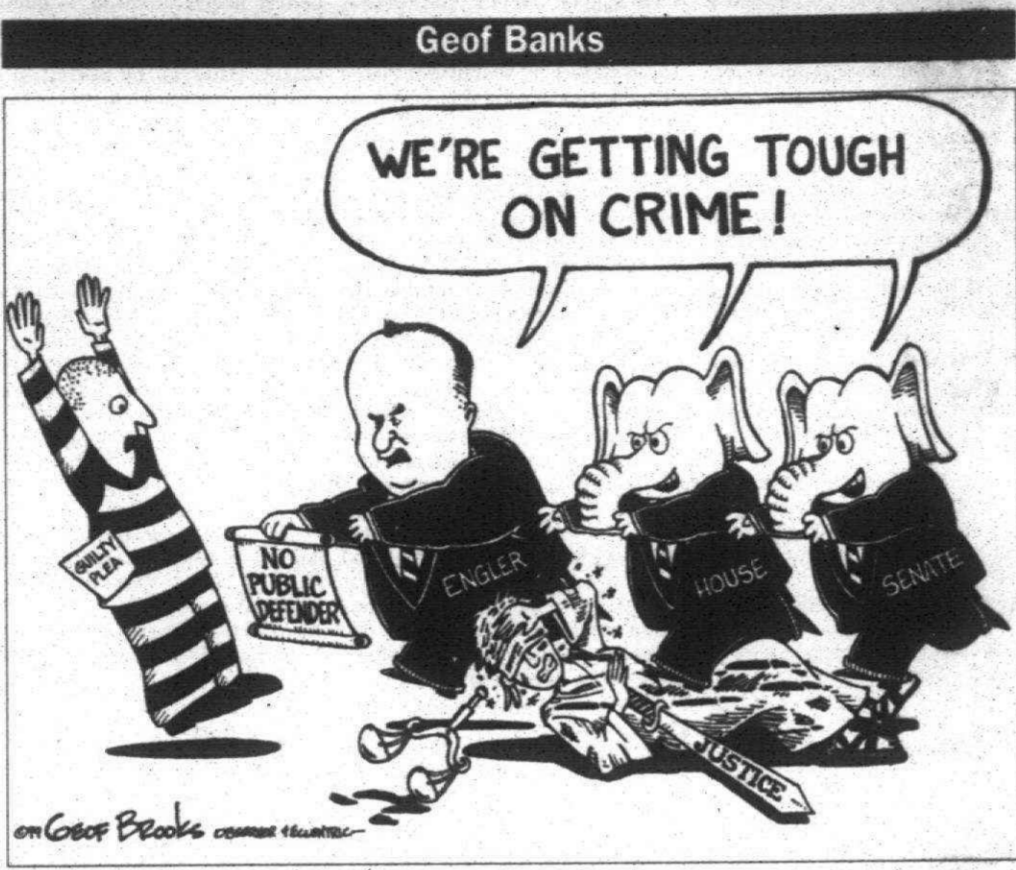
Finally obtaining that driver's license is a

huge event in the lives of most American teenagers. If there's a more important "right of passage" for a young person, we've not noticed it. And parents, who have come to depend on just-licensed Johnny or Janey to run those family errands in the family van, would be most unhappy at the prospect of losing their designated drivers.

Peters told reporter Mike Malott of our HomeTown News Service that the package is a way to intervene early in the lives of youngsters headed for trouble. Truancy is often an early sign a youth is on the way to delinquency, the senator said. Seen by many as a "status crime," truancy often is not taken seriously. Some school districts punish truants by suspending the offending students from classes. That makes no sense at all.

It would be up to the Family Court and Protective Services to determine which parents are making the effort and which should be subjected to the sanctions.

However the details finally are worked out, it appears that Sen. Peters has come up with a good strategy to cope with a problem that affects school districts across the state. We hope the idea eventually gets a chance.



LETTERS
Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, that's why we offer this space for your opinions. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity we ask that you provide a contact telephone number and if mailing or faxing a letter, please sign it. Letters can be mailed to: Tedd Schneider, Canton Editor, 794 South Main, Plymouth, MI 48170, faxed to Tedd at (734) 459-4224 or emailed to tschneider@oe.homecomm.net

Invis violence

With national and local media focusing on issues of teen violence in schools, I am pleased to see that the Plymouth-Canton Teacher's Association is supporting the educators responsible for the recent "Gay Displays" in two local schools.

According to the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, our nation's safest schools provide a welcoming climate, which promotes the success and development of all children. Violence is linked to intolerance, as evidenced in the Columbine shootings and the death of Matthew Shepard.

We know that homosexuals attend our schools, go to college, and get jobs in our community. Diversity in race, religion, age, and sexual preference exists regardless of public opinion; history shows us that it always has. Federal laws exist to protect us all from discrimination on these grounds. Tolerance is required.

Perhaps it should not be necessary to display famous homosexuals on bulletin boards to prove that we are tolerant of diversity. However, when we demand their removal, we sanction intolerance. We are teaching our children that some people are not welcome in school, and we invite violence.

In order to emphasize the dangers of intolerance to our children and promote tolerance through education, I move that we celebrate "International Day for Tolerance" on Nov. 16 as proclaimed by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. Let's even allow a few bulletin boards on the subject.

Barbara Wells
Plymouth

Homosexuality is immoral

How I wish I myself had written the principled, ever-so-pertinent letter by Scott Gentine that appeared in the Observer of Nov. 11! My hat is off to Mr. Gentine.

I have little to add to his sentiments except that I would note that voices urging us to "tolerate" and "accept" homosexuality are not new. They were present and in the majority when parts of the Pentateuch were written.

Marilyn B. O'Brien
Troy

Canton Observer

TEDD SCHNEIDER, COMMUNITY EDITOR, 734-459-2700, TSCHNEIDER@OE.HOMECOMM.NET
HUGH GALLAGHER, MANAGING EDITOR, 734-953-2149, MGALLAGHER@OE.HOMECOMM.NET
PEG KNOESPEL, ADVERTISING MANAGER, 734-953-2177, PKNOESPEL@OE.HOMECOMM.NET
SUSAN ROSIEK, PUBLISHER, 734-953-2100, SROSIEK@OE.HOMECOMM.NET
BANKS DISHMON, VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER, 734-953-2252, BDISHMON@OE.HOMECOMM.NET
MARK WARREN, CIRCULATION DIRECTOR, 734-953-2117, MWARREN@OE.HOMECOMM.NET
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— Philip Power

Geoff Banks

Pathetic sewer meeting a true waste of time

My father always used to tell me that there was a right and wrong way of doing things. If you're not going to do it the right way, he would say, don't bother.

If you happened to have the misfortune of attending the Nov. 17 meeting between the townships of Canton, Plymouth and Northville and Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority officials, you saw a perfect illustration of the wrong way of doing things.

Not that I'm faulting any of the township representatives. A good portion of each community's board showed up for the meeting, which was held at Canton's administration building. They appeared genuinely interested in hearing what YCUA had to say.

That was a mistake. For their trouble, board members were treated to a patronizing and pathetic presentation. Having taught elementary school, I can tell you directly I've seen better reports from fifth-graders. The authority made a feeble



SCOTT DANIEL

attempt at manipulating numbers. It was an effort to convince the boards they should help pay for an expansion of the Ypsilanti wastewater treatment plant instead of building their own.

It was insulting. Anyone with even a rudimentary understanding of the situation had to bite their lip, as one Plymouth Township official did, to keep from bursting out with laughter. Perhaps a bit of background might help explain why.

In 1974, YCUA was formed. It serves the city of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township. The two municipalities comprise the authority's board. Superior, Pittsfield, Augusta and Sumpter townships are YCUA customers. So, too, are Canton, Plymouth

and Northville, which form the Western Townships Utilities Authority. Each town receives water and/or wastewater service from Ypsilanti. WTUA began shipping wastewater to the authority in the early 1990s.

The Ypsilanti plant has a current capacity of treating 29 million gallons of wastewater per day. It's nearly at capacity now with WTUA sending about 9 million gallons every day.

The question is, is it more cost-effective for the townships to help expand YCUA's facilities or construct their own plant?

Further clouding the issue is the idea of representation. YCUA has steadfastly refused to give the townships a voice on its board. That means WTUA has no control over what its residents are billed for wastewater services.

Understandably, WTUA's board, which is composed of each community's supervisor, voted to build its own plant in September. The move was designed to end the authority's relationships with YCUA and Detroit.

It's a \$130 million proposition, however. That being the case, Plymouth Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy asked for a last-ditch negotiation effort between WTUA and Ypsilanti officials.

Talks have been ongoing for more than a month. A final bargaining session was held Friday.

WTUA Operations Manager Tim Faas said after the Nov. 17 meeting that he always tries to see the glass as being half-full when it comes to negotiations. Frankly, it's a courtesy Faas doesn't owe YCUA.

Ypsilanti Engineer Joe Kang made the presentation to the townships. He explained how expanding YCUA in two phases would "save" the townships big money.

If a 16-million-gallon-per-day facility were built by 2004, Kang said WTUA would save nearly \$50 million in capital costs. He failed to mention a few things.

First, the townships are planning to build a 29-million-gallon-per-day facility. While it's true WTUA would

save in the short term, it would pay more money later to help Ypsilanti expand a second time.

There's no savings. In fact, it's likely that building a plant big enough to handle all of the townships' future needs now will be cheaper over the long haul. We know what the cost is in today's dollars. Higher interest rates, labor costs, etc... will mean more out-of-pocket later.

On Monday, Faas will recommend to WTUA's board on which direction it should go.

I, for one, think the choice is painfully obvious. If you want to continue to get treated like children, stick with YCUA. If you want to control your own destiny, provide better and more cost-effective service to residents, build your own plant.

Scott Daniel is a staff writer at the Canton Observer. Reach him at (734) 459-2700 or via e-mail at: sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net

Turning the holiday table: She who gobbles last gobbles best

Hopefully, my revenge will be sweet...and succulent.

I'm talking about one nasty, fowl-mouthed, beady-eyed, overweight old hen who persistently pursued me at Roper's Turkey Farm in Livonia the other day.

OK, so I entered the turkey quarters uninited (by the turkeys), but reporters go to a lot of places uninited. I didn't mean to ruffle any feathers. I had a job to do. My editor wanted a Thanksgiving story.

I'm convinced that savage bird pegged me for a good pecking as soon as I closed the gate behind me. She emerged from a sea of white feathers and headed my way, head bobbing and knee-level gaze never wavering.



RENEE SKOGLUND

She's just assertive, I thought at first. How cute. "Oh, look at that funny, little black dot on her back," I said to our photographer, who was surrounded by a flock of turkey groups. Black Dot stood transfixed in front of me. "Isn't she cute...ooohhh, birdie, birdie...don't get so close...nice turkey, go away...no, don't...no!" Peck, peck, peck. "It's your buttons," said Christine

Roper, foster mother to Black Dot and her 4,500 siblings.

I looked down my dress. Twelve shiny brown buttons, from neck to mid-calf. Holy white meat, I was turkey fed. I took several steps backwards. Black Dot followed.

Peck, peck, peck. I wasn't going to give up my buttons without a fight. THWACK! I broadsided the bird with my notebook, knocking her a couple of feet across the yard. She regained her drumsticks in no time.

Peck, peck, peck. THWACK! THWACK! THWACK! This time, Black Dot budged less than a foot. I was going to lose the great Button Battle. I ran to the other side of the yard, parting those Broth-

Breasted White Wilfords like Moses parting the Red Sea.

Ah, safe. Peck, peck, peck. I know. By now you're expecting me to roll out the credits to Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds." (Was that Tippi Hedren or Tipper Gore?) But this scenario was "The Birds" on steroids. This was "The Turkeys."

By the time Christine came to my rescue, I had decided my editor would have a bird-less Thanksgiving indeed. No story was worth being stripped of my buttons.

However, once safely outside the turkey yard, I changed my mind. "I'd like to see your slaughter house," I told Christine. "You would?"

"Yup." "Why?"

She needed to ask? I looked over my shoulder and gave Black Dot and all the other \$2.39-a-pound gobblers the cranberries.

"Christine, I'd like to order one of your birds this year," I said, following her into the turkeys' death chamber. "Do you take special requests?"

Heh, heh, heh...revenge indeed is sweet. Remember, Thanksgiving is at my house this year. Four o'clock. Black Dot and all the trimmings.

Renee Skoglund is a staff writer for the Observer Newspapers and a Canton resident. Reach her at (734) 953-2128.

State's economy a bright spot

Under the effective leadership of CEO Doug Rothwell, The Michigan Economic Development Corporation has just issued a provocative report, "Strategic Directions for Michigan's Future."

Among other things, the report argues that Michigan's economy needs to go way beyond automotive metal bending. It identifies three areas where Michigan has a real competitive advantage against other states:

Advanced manufacturing, which means highly flexible, short run, nearly customized manufacturing capability, an extension of our existing base in regular manufacturing.

Information technology. Headquarters for Internet 2, the effort to produce the next version of the Internet, is in Ann Arbor. Everybody knows how fast the Internet is changing the entire world, and it only makes sense for Michigan to take fullest advantage of the IT capability now emerging right here.

An enormous chunk of the sciences research is now going on in our universities where, for example, the University of Michigan leads the nation in sponsored research, much of which is in things medical and biological. State government has pledged to plow \$50 million per year into life sciences initiatives now emerging at U-M, MSU and at the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids. The potential here is awesome.

What MEDC wants to do is get people focusing on how best to get there. The report recognizes, for example, that the skills and intelligence of our work force are vital. But the perception of many of Michigan's brightest young people is that there are "hotter economies to work in and cooler places to be."

The report suggests some good ideas such as tax reductions and tuition support for college and technical school students and promotion of careers in technology at high schools. Using money from the tobacco lawsuit settlement, Gov. Engler has funded college scholarships at Michigan schools for kids who score well on every section of the 11th-grade MEAP test. This alone should encourage many bright kids to stay home for college and, hopefully, thereafter.

One idea, not mentioned in the MEDC report, has been kicking around for years: Establish a Michigan Math and Science Academy, where the brightest kids in the state would go to get really serious math and science training from the best teachers in the state. It could start as a summer program modeled on the music curriculum of Interlochen, but there's no reason it could not be year-round and residential. Certainly a state that proposes to spend billions on prisons could afford to spend a few millions on an institution that might keep our science and math whizzes here in Michigan.



PHILIP POWER

Another area highlighted by the report is infrastructure. This begins with adequate roads and effective airports and ends with high bandwidth fiber optic connections into every home and business. Around a third of the Michigan business leaders surveyed in the MEDC report consider Michigan "in the dark ages" when it comes to technology.

A couple of years ago, I served as a member of the Michigan Information Technology Commission. Supported by a generous grant from the Kellogg Foundation, the Commission chewed on how best Michigan could become a world leader in IT.

One of the ideas that came out of our discussions was to create the equivalent of the Baldrige Award — a rigorous and much sought-after award given to companies that absolutely excel in their sector — for local communities that get their information technology infrastructure in order. Towns that, for instance, require developers to put fiber optic connections in all new homes and offered incentives for phone and cable companies to retrofit existing structures with fiber could be certified as "technologically friendly."

We reasoned that once folks understood what such a designation could do for local jobs and economic development, natural competition between communities could spur improvements in infrastructure through the entire state without having to rely on the heavy hand of government regulation.

Reading the MEDC report is encouraging. It suggests the time has passed for hand-wringing about the state of our economy, and it provides focus for what needs to be done to grow a diversified and healthy economy into the coming millennium.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at: ppower@homecomm.net.

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JACK GLADDEN

Have 'berry' good dinner

Forty years ago this month – on Nov. 9, 1959 – Arthur Fleming, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, made an ominous announcement: A shipment of cranberries from Oregon had been found by FDA investigators to be contaminated with aminotriazole, a weed killer that had been approved for use in cranberry bogs, but only after the harvest.

He said other berries from Oregon and Washington "might be" contaminated. And, while he said that berries from Massachusetts, Wisconsin and New Jersey showed no evidence of contamination, he was asked by a reporter if a housewife could be sure the cranberries she was buying were safe.

Fleming's response: "To be on the safe side, she doesn't buy."

The announcement and Fleming's offhand remark set off a national panic that later came to be known as "The Great Cranberry Scare of 1959." In Chicago and San Francisco – and in the entire state of Ohio – cranberry sales were banned. Other states – Kentucky, Michigan and Washington – called for voluntary suspensions.

Stores pulled cranberry products off the shelves, restaurants took cranberry dishes off the menus and schools dumped anything containing cranberries.

Agreed to help

Cranberry producers agreed to help the government look for contaminated berries, but, facing potential losses of millions of dollars in cranberry sales, they demanded an apology from Fleming.

As far as aminotriazole was concerned, it had been tested on laboratory rats and, indeed, shown to produce cancer in the rodents. But, according to the American Council on Science and Health, the risk to humans, if there ever was one, was infinitesimal at best. The lab rats were given a dosage that would have been equivalent to a human consuming 15,000 POUNDS of berries every day for several years.

Other government officials, worried that the scare was getting out of hand, tried to smooth things out a bit. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson announced that he was having cranberries for Thanksgiving. And presidential candidates Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy consumed cranberry sauce and cranberry juice at campaign stops. Even Fleming announced that he was having cranberry sauce for Thanksgiving dinner.

By the time Thanksgiving actually arrived, canned cranberry sauce was back on supermarket shelves, with labels telling buyers that the fruit had been inspected and was safe. But the damage had been done and millions of nervous Americans had cranberryless Thanksgiving dinners.

Back to normal, but ...

By the next year people had forgotten about contaminated cranberries and Thanksgiving dinners were back to normal. But the cranberry panic was just the beginning. It was the first of the modern food "scare."

Dr. Elizabeth Whelan, president of the American Council on Science and Health, summed it up:

"The cranberry scare of 1959 set the stage for decades of unfounded anxiety about trace levels of agricultural chemicals and additives in food. Many other food scares based solely on high-dose animal studies would follow, involving nitrite in bacon, the artificial sweetener saccharin, and most notably, the chemical Alar, which was used in regulating the growth of apples."

So if you have bacon and eggs for breakfast, then a Thanksgiving dinner including apple pie, cranberry sauce and coffee sweetened with saccharin, don't pig out (moderation is always best), but don't panic either. It's all perfectly safe (unless you're a laboratory rat).

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

Something to be thankful for



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSBACHMAN

In sickness and in health: This Thanksgiving Day John and Stacey Blackport of Canton Township have plenty to be thankful for. For John, it's the gift of life his wife gave him. For Stacey, it's being a match so she could give her husband one of her kidneys.

Husband, wife share gift of life

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Stacey Blackport came up with the best anniversary gift ever – a kidney that saved her husband's life.

On Oct. 26 they both underwent surgery at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor to transplant Stacey's kidney to John's body. They were married Dec. 5, 1998.

"From the beginning she thought she would be a match," John said. "She saved my life."

It turned out that her hunch was right despite what statisticians would have predicted: Since they aren't blood relatives the chances that she would be a compatible donor are rare, however, medical advances are making it more and more common for people who aren't related to donate kidneys, according to a hospital spokesperson.

Stacey, 30, returned to their Canton Township apartment two days after the operation and John, 36, joined her one day later.

John, who has a small incision where the doctors dropped in Stacey's kidney, is recovering much quicker than his wife. Stacey has a 9-inch scar reaching from her front to her back.

"She's having trouble getting up and down and I'm here bopping around," John said.

Laughing and then pausing, Stacey added: "Now you look healthy and I don't."

"I'm waiting on her hand and foot for a change," John said. "I can't do enough for her now. It's great. I love her so much that it's fun."

A 4-year wait

For nearly four years before he received Stacey's

kidney, John remained on two kidney transplant waiting lists – one at the U-M Hospital and another at the University of Wisconsin Hospital.

"No one in these two states could help me, whether they were dead or living," Blackport said. "Stacey did something that no one in the world could do for me."

John's medical problems began when he was 12 and was diagnosed with diabetes. His regimen included daily insulin shots and a restricted diet, but over the years, the stress of the disease weakened his kidneys.

Finally, in February 1994 his name was chosen to receive a kidney and pancreas from someone who had died. His organs weren't removed during either transplant.

"It's like a lottery and you wait for your name to be picked," John said.

If his stomach seems to protrude a bit, it's not from eating too much fast food or drinking beer, he said, but because he has three extra organs. He has four kidneys and two pancreas. Most people have two kidneys and one pancreas.

Meanwhile the operation forever changed his life, because the new pancreas worked properly and that meant he was no longer diabetic.

"That was a blessing," John said.

But, the operation wasn't all good news. His new kidney began to fail two years later and his body began to weaken.

"The kidney was rejected, but the transplant was a blessing, because it worked for nearly two years," he added.

John was on dialysis for four years, which meant his diet was highly restricted again, with no dairy products or dark pops to name a couple of the limi-

tations. He also ingested piles of pills everyday.

"It's hard to watch your diet all the time and take all the pills, including 16 for breakfast, when I didn't even feel like a piece of toast," John said.

Suitable match

The Blackports learned Stacey was a suitable match about two years ago, but the operation was delayed, because she had high blood pressure and he had an infection from his dialysis treatments.

His new kidney has given him another chance at a healthy life, except for a recuperation period. When the Blackports returned from the hospital, they were told not to drive for two weeks and not to lift anything heavier than a telephone for six weeks.

Their ordeal has been lightened by friends at the Church of the Savior in Livonia, the church Stacey has attended since her childhood.

Families there took turns bringing dinners, grocery shopping, doing laundry and house cleaning, taking them to doctor visits, running other errands and even providing financial aid.

"John and Stacey are a wonderful couple," said the Rev. Tom Daubenspeck, Church of the Savior pastor.

Likewise, the couple are bowled over by the kindness and generosity they've received.

"I think (the organ donation has) done some things at several levels," Daubenspeck said. "It's brought John and Stacey closer in a short period of time than most couples ever are. In terms of their own faith, it's been a great experience putting their trust in God and seeing God at work in their

Please see TRANSPLANT, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Santa's helper: Kristy Even of Garden City has "a lot of fun" writing personalized letters to children on behalf of Santa Claus.

Letter-writing 'elf' handles Santa mail

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

Kristy Even tells her children she's one of Santa's elves, but her children – Micaela, 5, and Connor, 2 – don't believe her. When she dressed the part for a craft show last year, they thought she was silly.

But they do help her stuff envelopes with very special letters and magic keys and snowflakes for other boys and girls around the country. Even is a member of the Professional Association of Santa's Elves.

"I've been doing it four years, and each year it's grown," said the Garden City resident. "I started doing it for the kids and my nephews and nieces for their scrapbooks. And when I went through AOL looking for a home-based business, I found PASE."

Founded in 1997, PASE ensures that its members have the resources necessary to write quality letters for Santa. PASE letter-writing elves "are dedicated to putting a smile on the face of a child and also offer Santa's encouragement in areas that need improvement." For \$5, Even writes a personalized

letter from Santa Claus to a child, an adult, even a family pet. She has written letters encouraging a 3-year-old to go to bed on his own or another to become potty trained and letting a boy know his girlfriend knew he had cheated on her. For that, he received a naughty letter with a bag of coal.

She has helped children who are dealing with divorce or the death of a grandparent ("those are not good letters to write") and sent some magic snowflakes to a child who lacked courage.

"I used the 'Wizard of Oz' idea and told him to put the magic snowflakes in his pocket," said Even. "His father wrote back to say that that little trick helped him keep his courage up."

"I sent one to my nephew who was 8 and at that age where they don't quite believe in Santa Claus. I included the names of his teacher and his friends. His mom said his mouth just dropped. He knew only Santa would know his teacher's name."

Getting the word out

Even uses fliers that she leaves on

Please see LETTERS, B2

Letters from page B1

bulletin boards at places like Meijers and Kroger, at several bowling alleys, including Novi Bowl and Drake's Lanes, and her Web site - http://members.aol.com/Dkforce02/BelvaSnt.htm - to get the word out about her personalized Santa letters. The fliers include forms that provide the information she needs to write the letters. The forms also can be obtained through the Web site. People also can call (734) 422-5290 and leave a fax number or address and she'll send out the form. The Santa letters are mailed after Dec. 1 and "after Santa is at the malls." The deadline for ordering is Dec. 10. The first few years, the flier included a spot for information about the toys the children wanted, but even revamped the form to make it less materialistic. "I do it so the kids can see how proud their parents and grandparents are of them," she said. "It's a self-esteem booster which parents want for their kids." The first few years, it took even up to a half hour to write each letter. She shuns form letters, using filler paragraphs about Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman only when not enough personal information is provided. "It takes about five minutes now that I have the hang of it, but ones like the grandmother died I have to think about," she said. "My husband (Dana) yells at me because I personalize all of them."

A touch of magic

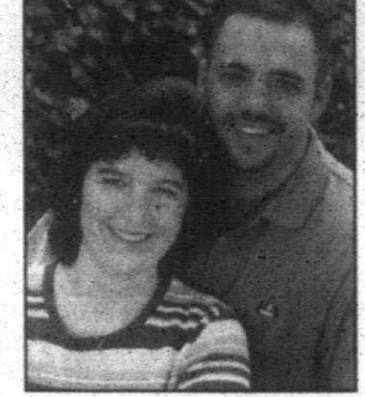
The letters come with the magic snowflakes or reindeer food, magic keys to hang on doorknobs or a snowflake ornament to hang on the Christmas tree and a certificate saying that Santa wrote the letter. Each letter is hand signed in gold ink and stamped from the North Pole. The first year, Even wrote 10 Santa letters, the next year it was 20. Last year, she wrote 150 and is hoping to triple the number this year. She does most of her writing while Connor is napping or when her husband takes the children to see grandma. The letter writing is in addition to working part-time as a customer service specialist at SnethKamp Chrysler Jeep and part-time as a customer service auditor for about 100 stores. Even isn't getting rich doing the letters. She does it mostly for fun. The head elf, whom she looks up to, makes \$40,000 a year for the six weeks leading up to Christmas. He hires his children to work for him and has 10 printers running, she said. "I mainly make \$1 from the letter and \$1 I donate (of each \$5) to charity (Canine Companions for Independence)." Even said. "It's a lot of fun... a lot of work, but a lot of fun."

NEW VOICES

Mark and Donna Seremak of Westland announce the birth of Brittany Katelyn June 22 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She has a sister, Ashlee, 3. Grandparents are Ethel Seremak of Livonia, Ted Seremak of Vermillion, S.D. Scott and Victoria Maki of Canton announce the birth of Jacob Scott Aug. 5 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Monty and Susan Lewis, Dennis and Carol Pagna and Gary and MaryJo Maki. Kirk Thompson of Westland and Colleen Thompson of Garden City announce the birth of Kyle Darian Aug. 6 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Karen and Bert Edwards of Garden City and Sharon and Mike Wallen of Westland and Curt and Maryann Thompson of Deckerville. Leo and Carrie Szabelski of Livonia announce the birth of Kristin Nicole Aug. 7 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Josephine Szabelski of Livonia and William and Marilyn Cole of Garden City. Ty and Kelly Hes of Livonia announce the birth of Casey Ann Aug. 7 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital-Oakland County. She has a sister, Dana Anne. Grandparents are Tom and Grace Makowski of Middletown, N.Y., Richard and Karen Porter of Holy and Eileen Hes of Frankfurt, Ill. Great-grandmother is Angela Ambrose of Livonia. John and Michelle Cook of Livonia announce the birth of Nicole Maldonado-Cook Aug. 8 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She has three siblings, Natalie, 12, Jennifer, 13, and Jaclyn, 13. Grandmother is Peg Cook of Livonia. Paul Gjedum of Utica and Lisa Brandenburg of Livonia announce the birth of Melanie Nicole Gjedum Aug. 9 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She has a sister, Megan, 13. Grandparents are Al and Judy Brandenburg of Livonia and Anthony and Jenny Gjedum of Utica. Leon Smith and Jodi Edwards of Westland announce the birth of Melissa Taite Smith Aug. 9 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She has a sister, Jordan, 4 1/2, and a brother, Mike, 14. Grandparents are Loretta and Leon Smith and Diane Timoszyk, all of Wayne. Gerald and Brenda Redmond of Westland announce the birth of Ashley Hunter Aug. 9 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. She has a sister, Megan. Jim and Sharon Peruski of Garden City announce the birth of Marikate Elizabeth Aug. 9 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Michele Szczepank of Garden City and Larry and Kay Peruski of Detroit. Karl and Danielle Kerkhof of Garden City announce the birth of Shelby Danielle Aug. 10 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She has a brother, Tyler, 4. Grandparents are Gary Kerkhof of Ypsilanti and Mike and Deborah Cannon of Garden City. Paul and Misty Young of Westland announce the birth of Hope Lynn Aug. 11 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Tom and Pam Janis of Westland and Ron and Corrine Young of Royal Oak. Anthony and Jennifer Gossett of Westland announce the birth of Roman Bailey Aug. 12 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He has one brother, Steven Broyles III. Grandparents are Richard and Carol Tjernlund of Garden City and David Gossett and Judy Byrnes of Allen Park.

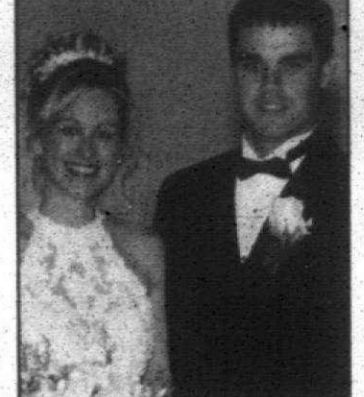
Weddings and Engagements

Spieth-Kneip Dennis Spieth and Cindia Spieth of Napoleon, Ohio, announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Kelly Ann, to Kevin Kenneth Kneip, the son of Kenneth and Jayne Kneip of Westland. The bride-to-be is a 1994 graduate of Napoleon High School and is attending Eastern Michigan University. She works as a customer service agent for Northwest Airlines at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Her fiancé is a 1993 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. He is employed as an equipment service employee by Northwest Airlines at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. A November wedding is planned at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Napoleon.



A November wedding is planned at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Napoleon.

Bohrer-Fleszar Anne Kristen Fleszar and Matthew Russell Bohrer were married June 12 at St. Edith Catholic Church in Livonia by the Rev. Denis Theroux. The bride is the daughter of Eugene and Joan Fleszar of Livonia. The groom is the son of Raymond and Stephanie Bohrer of Traverse City. The bride is a 1992 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 1996 graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor of arts degree in marketing. She is employed by Abbott Laboratories. The groom is a 1993 graduate of Traverse City Central High School and a 1997 graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor of arts degree in finance. He is employed by Financial Investment Management Group in Suttons Bay. The bride asked Denise Truesdell to serve as maid of honor with Megan Bohrer, Jean Butrico-Cooper, Michelle Koppek, Kelly Pizzuti and Melaney Truesdell as bridesmaids. Jennifer and Jessica Fleszar were the flower girls. The groom asked Chris Willburt to serve as best man with Aaron Bohrer, David Bohrer, Jake Brehmer, Pat Erway and Justin Fleszar as groomsmen. Josh Bohrer was the ring bearer. The couple received guests at a reception at Laurel Manor in Livonia before leaving on a honeymoon trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. They are making their home in Traverse City. The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School. She is employed as a shipping and receiving clerk with Air Gate Co. in Livonia. Her fiancé is a 1988 graduate of St. Clair High School. He is employed as a service engineer at Air Gate Co. A May wedding is planned at El Dorado Country Club.



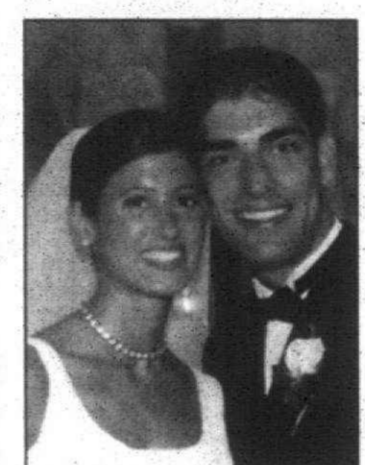
A May 2001 wedding is planned.

Cheal-Clapham Robert Cheal and Sharon Barbara of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Christina Barbara, to Matthew Aaron Clapham, the son of Edwin and Patricia Clapham of Livonia. The bride-to-be is a senior in the elementary teacher education program at Eastern Michigan University. She works in the chemistry department at the university. Her fiancé is a 1999 graduate of the University of Michigan where he majored in engineering and music. He is employed by Microsoft in Redmond, Wash. A September wedding is being planned.



A September wedding is being planned.

Yaquinto-Armstrong Maureen Armstrong and Todd Yaquinto were married Aug. 6 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington. The Rev. Scott Thibodeau officiated. The bride is the daughter of Robert and Barbara Armstrong of Farmington Hills. The groom is the son of Donald and Charlene Yaquinto of Northville, formerly of Livonia. The bride is a graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy. She is employed as a registered nurse at Children's Hospital in Detroit. The groom is a graduate of Wayne State University and Michigan State University. He is employed as a district sales executive by Expeditors International. The bride asked Andrea Kosiba to serve as maid of honor, with bridesmaids Maria Huhn, Kim Kregoski and Gina Yaquinto helping. Shelby Armstrong was the flower girl. The groom asked Tony Yaquinto to serve as best man, with groomsmen Blaise Krol, T.J. Armstrong and Andrew Karlo. Spencer Dunn was the ring bearer. The couple received guests at a reception at the Shenandoah Country club before leaving on a honeymoon trip to Jamaica. They are making their home in Northville. The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School. She is employed as a shipping and receiving clerk with Air Gate Co. in Livonia. Her fiancé is a 1988 graduate of St. Clair High School. He is employed as a service engineer at Air Gate Co. A May wedding is planned at El Dorado Country Club.



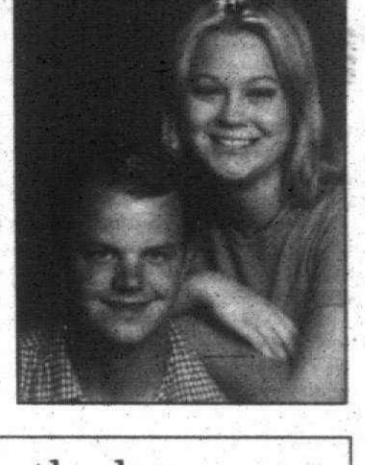
A May wedding is planned at El Dorado Country Club.

Hale-Meyers Donald and Janice Hale of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Ellen, to Dean Arthur Meyers, the son of Don Meyers and Carol Meyers of St. Clair Shores. The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School. She is employed as a shipping and receiving clerk with Air Gate Co. in Livonia. Her fiancé is a 1988 graduate of St. Clair High School. He is employed as a service engineer at Air Gate Co. A May wedding is planned at El Dorado Country Club.



A May wedding is planned at El Dorado Country Club.

Daniels-Smukal Michael and Kathy Daniels of Hartland announce the engagement of their daughter, Inga Brit, to Garrett Smukal, the son of Garrett Smukal of Livonia and Kim McKay of Lincoln, Neb. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lutheran High School Westland. She is employed as a secretary in the family business. Her fiancé also is a graduate of Lutheran High School Westland. He is studying to become an electrician. A September wedding is being planned.



A September wedding is being planned.

Transplant from page B1

The Blackporks have been an inspiration to church members, too, he added. "Tough times pull churches, people and families together," he said. "It's really pulled this church together. They've all tried to help them out anyway they can by praying for them and standing on the side lines, cheering for them." John and Stacey's story together began at NailCo in Farmington Hills where she worked in the accounting department and he was selling and fixing tanning beds. They dated for five years. "When I met him he was sick and on dialysis," Stacey said. "We just kind of fell in love. I didn't grow up planning on falling in love with someone that was terminally ill. Luckily enough, we were a match (for Stacey to donate a kidney)." "We feel that God put us together. Other than being a little sore, overall I feel good and it makes me feel good that he has pink in him instead of a yellow tint all the time." "It was like it was meant to be and it really was a blessing from the Lord," John added. "I started attending her church and getting closer to the Lord and we relied on him a lot. "Stacey knew there was something good would happen from this relationship. Now, it's like we're off on a new life."

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CANTON 6... MOVIE GUIDE... Pascha BOOKS and GIFTS... 29219 W. 6 Mile at Middlebelt in Livonia 734-466-9722

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) 981-0900.

WESTERN TOWNSHIP UTILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS JOINT BOARDS OF TRUSTEES STUDY SESSION SYNOPSIS 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Announcement forms available... Schoolcraft, Livonia, or 794 S. Main St., Plymouth. For more information, call Sue Mason at (734) 953-2131 or Tiffanie Lacey at (734) 459-2700.

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CALENDAR

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND CANTON

WEEKEND

STORY TIME

Kindermusik presents "Story Time with Miss Karen," Saturday, Dec. 4, at Little Professor Book Center, 380 S. Main in downtown Plymouth, and at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, 88 4 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. Call (734) 455-5220 or (734) 454-0178.

TOY COLLECTION

Me's Golden Razor Annual Toy Collection will take place from Nov. 25 until Dec. 18 at 595 Forest, Plymouth. There will be new and used toys for needy and handicapped children for Christmas. Call (734) 455-9057.

CANTON GOODFELLOWS

The Canton Goodfellows will be collecting toys and non-perishable food items until Tuesday, Dec. 14, to provide gifts and holiday food baskets for needy Canton families and senior citizens. The collection is now under way. Non-perishable food items needed include: soup, canned pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, snacks, treats such as candy and gum, holiday dinner trimmings including cranberry sauce, stuffing/dressing, instant potatoes, gravy, Jell-O, pudding, cake mixes and frosting. Please don't gift wrap toys as they must be sorted by age and gender. Donations may be dropped off at the Hanford Road Clubhouse in Sunflower Village, 45800 Hanford, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays.

PLYMOUTH GOODFELLOWS

The Plymouth Goodfellows Association is seeking Plymouth and Plymouth Township families in need of assistance for the upcoming holiday season. The Goodfellows Association exists to ensure that no child will miss the opportunity of receiving a present for Christmas. Within the next few weeks, the Goodfellows will begin identifying families to receive assistance. If you are in need of help, or if you know of a family in need, please send the name, address, phone number and number of children in the family to: Plymouth Goodfellows Association, P.O. Box 700912, Plymouth, MI 48170. Contributions may also be sent to the Plymouth Goodfellows at the same address. The Goodfellows fundraiser (selling the Goodfellows edition art area round in terracotta) will be held Saturday, Dec. 4.

PAPER SALE

The Plymouth Goodfellows will hold a paper sale from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Fire Station behind Plymouth City Hall. Volunteers are needed to help sell papers. Proceeds go to help Plymouth and Plymouth Township resident families with Christmas gifts and food for the holidays. Call (734) 456-9656.

SPORTS SALE

Canton Parks and Recreation Services is sponsoring its Annual Used Sports Equipment Sale from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at Pleasant Run Golf Club Clubhouse, 46500 Summit Parkway in Canton. The public is invited to sell their sports or recreational equipment at this sale. Sellers can bring their equipment to the Pleasant Run Golf Club clubhouse from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2. Items will be priced and tagged for the sale on Saturday, Dec. 4. You set the prices, you get the money (Canton Parks and Recreation keeps 15 per-

cent).

Volunteers will be on hand to do the selling, so you need not be present. You may collect your money or pick up your unsold items from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. Call Canton Parks and Recreation Services at (734) 397-5110.

BRUNCH WITH SANTA

Bring the family to have brunch with Mr. Claus himself at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, or Sunday, Dec. 12, at the Summit on the Park, Canton, in the Banquet and Conference Center. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. Children under 4 are free. All children will receive a photo. Reservations are required. Reservations can be made 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Wednesday, Nov. 24. Call (734) 397-5110, ext. 410.

HOLIDAY DOLL SHOW

There will be a "Holiday Doll Show," Sunday, Dec. 12, at the Plymouth Cultural Center located at 525 Farmer St. Show hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5, and \$2 for people age 4-12. The show features dealers, collectors and doll artists selling new, used, antique, collectible dolls and doll accessories of all kinds. Call (734) 455-2110.

AROUND TOWN

EXHIBIT

The Plymouth Community Arts Council features "Spirit Earth," the recent wall crochets of Todd Marsee Dec. 1 through Jan. 26 at the JWH Center for the Arts, 74 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Friday and weekends by appointment. Dec. 17 through the holidays by appointment only. A reception to meet the artist is 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, at the Arts Council. Call (734) 207-3918.

BNI MEETING

The Plymouth chapter of Business Network International will hold its monthly meeting 7-8:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth. Call the BNI regional office at (810) 323-3800.

The Canton chapter of Business Network International will hold its monthly meeting 7-8:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at the Summit, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. Call the BNI regional office at (810) 323-3800.

MOPS MEETING

The Plymouth Baptist Church holds Mothers of Preschoolers meetings 9:15-11:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Mothers with their children, kindergarten aged and younger, may attend for a time of fellowship and fun with other mothers. Childcare is provided. The church is at 420 21 Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. Call (734) 453-5534.

M.O.M. MEETING

Meet Other Mothers (M.O.M.) invites you to join them for guest speakers and discussion from 9:30-11:30 a.m. every second and fourth Friday of the month. Baby-sitting is provided. Call Kelli at (734) 459-7035 or Shanon at (734) 354-0191.

GALLERY EXHIBITS

Plymouth Community Arts Council is having a gallery exhibit featuring torn paper collages by E. Lynne O'Rourke and seed bead designs by Colleen O'Rourke through Nov. 23, at 774 N. S. Sheldon at Junction in Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278.

GED TESTING

GED testing will be offered through the Plymouth-Canton Adult Education Department. Evening testing will take place 5-10 p.m. Monday, Nov. 29, and Wednesday, Dec. 1. Day testing will be offered 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, and Thursday, Dec. 2. It is a two-day test. The test will be held at Starkweather Education Center, 550 N. Holbrook, Plymouth. Registration fee is \$75. Register in advance. Call (734) 416-4901.

Raising blue flags at Salem



Flying high: Raising blue spirit is a breeze at Plymouth Salem this fall thanks to new flags that adorn the campus. The flags were a gift from last June's graduating class.

anton Adult Education Department

Evening testing will take place 5-10 p.m. Monday, Nov. 29, and Wednesday, Dec. 1. Day testing will be offered 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, and Thursday, Dec. 2. It is a two-day test. The test will be held at Starkweather Education Center, 550 N. Holbrook, Plymouth. Registration fee is \$75. Register in advance. Call (734) 416-4901.

OPEN HOUSE

Summit on the Park invites parents to come and observe a small demonstration, meet the instructor and ask any questions you may have about the Kindergarten music program 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, in the Ash Room at Summit on the Park, Canton. Kindergarten is designed for lab abilities, crawlers and walkers between the ages of newborn and 1 1/2 years. This class will open the door to your relationship with your baby through music. You will sing, dance, explore instruments and meet new parents. Call (734) 397-5110.

ART & JEWELRY FESTIVAL

Native-West will celebrate its 10th annual "Holiday Art and Jewelry Festival" 3-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3; 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4; and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. The festival will include new art jewelry by Native American artists. The show will be held at 86 3 W. An Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth. Call (734) 455-8838.

HOLIDAY DUETS

The Plymouth Community Arts Council "Whistle Stop Players" children's theater group presents two holiday classics in duet. Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates by Mary Mapes Dodge and The Bird's Christmas Carol by Kate Douglas Wiggin will be performed at 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the PCAC; at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 4; and at 2 p.m. Dec. 5. Tickets are \$5 for all ages. Call (734) 416-4278.

CANDLE LIGHTING

L.A. Turowski and Neely-Turowski Funeral Homes will host a memorial candle lighting service at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. The public is invited to attend and pay tribute to a loved one. In addition to the candle lighting service a special presentation will be made entitled, "Handling The Holidays," which will provide specific information about how to more effectively deal with grief during the holiday season. Wes Baldwin, director of Pointe Care Counseling will lead the presentation. The service will be held at the Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, 3020 O Five Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 525-9020.

PRINCETON REVIEW

The Princeton Review will hold free strategy sessions for students and parents on the SAT and ACT from 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, at the Summit on the Park in Canton. These are 90-minute sessions where students learn SAT and ACT test-taking techniques as well as receive information on the college admissions process. Students and/or parents must call the Princeton Review to register for or the strategy sessions. They may call to register by dialing (800) 2-REVIEW.

KIWANIS BREAKFAST CLUB

The Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club has a new meeting place at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth. Guests are welcome. Call Charri Briggs at (810) 406-8489.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

The Entertainment 2000 savings books are available through the Divine Savior Senior Jet Setters. Save money at restaurants, movie theaters, video rentals, car care, and more. This year's book is \$40. For more information or to order, call Mike at (734) 464-1263 or Doloris at (734) 464-0369.

DISCUSSION GROUP

"Shooting the Breeze," a new discussion group, will meet in the Senior Center at the Summit to discuss such timely topics as politics, education, arts and music, local Michigan happenings, influential people, movies and TV, sports and environmental concerns. Each discussion period will last for one hour, one time per week. Anyone interested in discussing any of these topics may join the "Shooting the Breeze" group. A donation of \$8 for the entire list of discussions is requested. For more information and to register, call Diane Neihengen at the Senior Center at (734) 397-5444.

VOLUNTEER WORK

PLYMOUTH-CANTON HEAD START

Head Start in Central Middle School, is looking for volunteers to help in the classroom with large-group activities, to assist children during recess, participate in the Learning Centers and assist during meal times. If you have a morning or afternoon free Monday through Thursday, call 416-6196.

ANGEL CARE, A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

Angel Care, a volunteer organization, is looking for volunteers to sew, crochet, knit, etc., blankets and burial gowns to donate to local hospitals for infants who have died. Contact Mary Piontek for patterns and information, (313) 534-6496.

HOSPICES OF HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM NEED VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers can help by visiting patients, either at their home or a nursing home, to offer emotional support, companionship and comfort. Call (313) 582-2382.

WILLIAM BEAUMONT HOSPITAL HOSPICE IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers to help the care of people with terminal illnesses and their families. Call (248) 853-8931.

HEAD START NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers to help in the classroom with large-group activities, to assist during meal times and participate in the learning centers with subjects such as art, computer and library. If you have a morning or afternoon free Monday through Thursday, call (734) 416-6196. Senior citizens and retirees in the Plymouth/Canton area are welcome.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS ARE NEEDED

For New Morning School's Swim/Cym program at the Livonia YMCA 8:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays. Volunteers may also help in the pool if desired. Call (734) 420-3331. New Morning School is located at 14501 Haggerty, just north of Schoolcraft.

CANCER SOCIETY

American Cancer Society needs volunteers. Call (248) 557-5353, ext. 336.

ALZHEIMER'S

The Alzheimer's Association is seeking volunteers to provide companionship to people experiencing memory loss. Call Adam Sterling, (248) 557-8277.

CLUBS

MOTHERS OF MULTIPLES

The Plymouth-Canton Mothers of Multiples Club meets 7 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month. Call Barb at (734) 207-5224.

ARBOR HOSPICE

Arbor Hospice sponsors grief support programs that are open to the public. If you would like more information or to sign up, call (734) 662-5999.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Community Hospice and Home Care Services has a drop-in grief-support group that meets 6:30-8 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month. Call Becky Rouse at (734) 522-4244 for more information.

COUNTERPOINT

Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families. Call (734) 563-5005 for additional information.

ANGELA HOSPICE

Angela Hospice offers free monthly grief support groups for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one. All groups meet at the Angela Hospice Care Center in Livonia. For meeting dates and times, call Ruth Favor, (734) 464-7810.

Helping each other

Group brings adoptive families together

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

When Maria Galloway's kidney problems made having children an impossibility, she and husband Jeff turned to foreign adoption.

For the Allen Park couple, there was no question about the country. "Jeff is a Korean adoptee," said Maria. "His mom and dad had three girls and adopted four more children from Korea. He was adopted in 1958."

The Galloways adopted their first child - Jason, who's now 8 years old - in 1991. During the process, the agency they were working with told them about a support group and suggested they see if they liked it.

Nine years and the addition of daughter Emily, 5, later, they are the coordinators of Families for Children, a support group for families who have adopted children from foreign countries. Most members have adopted children from Korea, but there also are youngsters from China, Japan and India.

"I knew a little about it (the support group) from when my parents were adopting," said Jeff. "I'm 42 and I have a friend

who lives in Muskegon whom I met as a child through a support group."

With November being National Adoption Month, The Galloways want to get the word out about support groups like FFC.

Yes, they say, there is a lot of information out there, but it's important for families with foreign adoptees to have one-on-one contact with a similar family.

"It's so vital and important to meet other families no matter where the children are from," said Maria. "The parents share a common goal of the kids and the kids meet other kids their age from their birth country."

"I can identify with what the children go through," said Jeff who also belongs to an adult adoptee support group. "I grew up in Lincoln Park and at that time there were no other racial groups. I was called names like 'gook' and 'slant eyes.' It was a different time, a different culture when my parents adopted."

"Adoption is not a big deal now. There's a lot more networking and information out there." The Galloways have found that most families join when their children are small and tend to drop out by the time the kids are teenagers.

They speak from experience. They took over the job of coordinating the group from a man



How about it?: Sister Elizabeth Ann (left) and Evelyn Mundy practice their sales technique for Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County's annual Koeze nuts and candy sale going on now.

Zonta club feels 'like a nut' sale

Evelyn Mundy has sold a lot of nuts and candies. A charter member of the Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County, which started in 1979, she's been active in the club's annual major fundraiser.

"We tell the kids they've been Americanized," said Jeff. "We tell them we can't change the color of their skin. We tell them we can't change their heritage, but they can be proud of it."

People interested in more information about Families for Children can call the Galloways at (313) 389-1846 or Area 4 leaders Jim and Lisa Nelson at (248) 229-2677.

Area 4 includes the communities of Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Redford, Garden City, Westland, Ann Arbor, Northville, Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Brighton, Novi and South Lyon.

Members are selling a selection of nuts and candies, some in glass canisters, at prices ranging from \$10 to \$26 and packaged for gift giving.

Money raised by the club from the Koeze sale and fashion show goes to both local and international projects like the Amelia Earhart Scholarship supports women graduate students in the fields of aerospace-related sciences and engineering.

Locally, the club supports Seedlings Braille Books for Children, the Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College and Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia.

For Koeze nuts and candy orders, call (734) 459-8374 or order by e-mail at kdigs4700@aol.com. Delivery is available.

Weather didn't stop running of America's 1st auto race

HOOKED ON HISTORY



VIRGINIA PARKER

Macy's Department Store and J. L. Hudson began the tradition of lighting crowds with Thanksgiving Day parades around 75 years ago. That makes the tradition old enough to have captured the hearts of generations.

There was, however, a single event in 1895 that excited Victorian crowds lining the streets of Chicago. Many did not yet believe the event that particular snowy Thanksgiving Day signaled the advent of dramatic changes, but it did. This was America's first auto race.

It was nothing like today's races with sleek cars pushing speedometers to incredible heights. These early automotive inventions were simply carriages rendered horseless by elementary engines. At best, they averaged 12 to 15 miles an hour.

Ironically, Chicago, which hosted the race, had just that year banned autos from public streets to protect bicyclists and pedestrians. A photo exists of bicycle cops there purportedly pulling over an inventor for breaking this law.

Nervous Nellies in cities everywhere passed restrictive laws. Some regulated speed limits to two or three miles per hour. Others required that red flags (following railroad tradition) or lanterns precede cars into town, or that Roman candles be fired off to warn approaching horse-drawn vehicles.

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CALENDAR FORM

The Canton Observer welcomes Calendar items. Items should be from non-profit community groups or individuals announcing a community program or event. Please type or print the information below and mail your item to The Calendar, Canton Observer, 794 South Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, or by fax to 734-459-4224. Deadline for Calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. Call 459-2700 if you have any questions.

Event:

Date and Time:

Location:

Telephone:

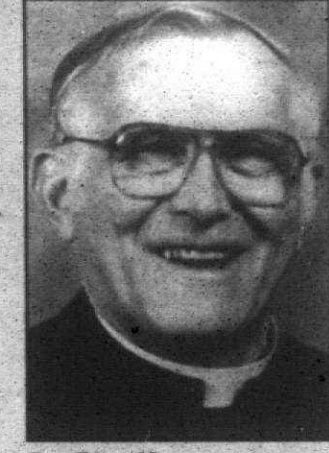
Additional info:

Use additional sheet if necessary

RELIGIOUS NEWS

Christmas giving is theme of retreat

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.



Rev. Edward Prus is the pastor of the Detroit Metropolitan United Methodist Church...

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

Garden City Presbyterian Church will have a Thanksgiving service at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, at the church, 1841 Middlebelt Road, Garden City.

Blanket Days: Garden City Presbyterian Church and the Church of Christ in Livonia are serving as drop-off sites for the American Red Cross's Blanket Days.

Families dressed in Pilgrim attire will greet the congregation and guests for the annual Thanksgiving Eve services 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church will present a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, at the church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Proclaim, with soloist Jim Kitchen will be in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, at St. Gemma Catholic Church, 23450 W. Davidson, Livonia.

St. Andrew's Day: St. James Presbyterian Church will celebrate St. Andrew's Day at 10 a.m. worship service and 11:30 a.m. dinner on Sunday, Nov. 28.

Residents are invited to join the members of Trinity Lutheran Church in giving thanks to the Lord for all the blessings they've received at a Thanksgiving Eve service with communion at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24, at the church, 8520 Wayne Road, Livonia.

Ward Evangelical Presbytery

A Church will have a free seminar, "Is Mormonism Christian?" presented by the Rev. Luke Wilson, executive director of the Institute for Religious Research, at 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, in the sanctuary of the church, 4000 W. Six Mile Road, Northville.

The son of a United Methodist minister, his special interests include providing ministries where the church can enable its members to grow in their ability to exercise their faith by engaging and becoming involved in the

lives of those less fortunate, less educated, less hopeful and less knowledgeable of the gospel of Christ.

For more information, call Sonja Styles at (248) 474-3444. BLOOD DRIVE: Aldersgate United Methodist Church will have a Red Cross blood drive 2-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 29, in the Fellowship Hall of the church, 10000 Beech Hall Road, Redford.

WOMEN'S SERVICE: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will have its annual Women's Advent service and creche display at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, at the church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

ADVENT SERVICES: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church invites the public to remember "One Night in Bethlehem" during Advent services 7:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, 8 and 15, at the church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Drama, music and a brief message will help worshippers focus on the history-changing events of Bethlehem 2000 years ago. Each of the three weeks will focus on a different scene in Bethlehem - "At the Inn" on Dec. 1, "In the Fields" on Dec. 8 and "Near the Stable" on Dec. 15.

There will be a fellowship dinner 5-6 p.m. prior to the services and mid-week classes and confirmation classes 6-7:30 p.m. The cost of the meals will be \$3.50 for adults, \$2 for children age 3-12 and free for those age 2 and

under. A package deal of three meals for \$9 is available if ordered by Nov. 28. Reservations can be made by calling the church office at (734) 522-6630.

Trinity Lutheran Church will have Advent supper and services Wednesday, Dec. 1, 8 and 15, at the church, 8820 Wayne Road, between Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. There will be a simple supper at 7 p.m. which will center around remembering the hungry and needy of the world. Midweek offerings will go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. For more information, call (734) 427-2290.

NEW MILLENNIUM: "Can the new millennium change your life?" will be addressed by David Degler of Nashville, Tenn., at a public lecture at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1100 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

Degler has a master's degree in journalism from Ohio University. He is in the full-time practice of Christian Science healing.

NEW BEGINNINGS: 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 Farmington, Livonia. The program is for people suffering as the result of the death of a loved one. There are no fees. For more information, call the church at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (734) 462-3770.

BAPTIST BETHEL BAPTIST TEMPLE 29475 W. Six Mile, Livonia. October 31st 11:00 a.m. Dr. Richard Freeman 6:00 p.m. Dr. Richard Freeman

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth. 8:00 Prayer & Praise Service 9:30 Contemporary Service 11:00 Traditional Service

WARD 4000 Six Mile Road "Just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400. Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor. Worship Services 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 A.M.

Brightmoor Tabernacle Assemblies of God • Calvin C. Ratz, Pastor. 26551 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI. 10:00 AM - Pastor Calvin C. Ratz The Door to God's Plans

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH Rev. Luther A. Worth, Sr. Pastor. Livonia 14175 Farmington Rd. (N. of I-96)

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.) ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH, USA 16700 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Sunday School for All Ages 9:30 a.m.

New St. Paul Tabernacle Church of God in Christ and Grandmont Rosedale Park Christian Day School. Bishop P.A. Brooks, Pastor & Founder.

Risen Christ Lutheran 20005 Middlebelt, corner of I-96 & Middlebelt Farmington Hills, Mich. Worship Services: 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

ROSEDALE GARDENS Presbyterian Church (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI. 734-422-0494. Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

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CHRISTADELPHIANS CHRISTADELPHIANS Sunday Memorial Service 10:00 A.M. Sunday School 11:30 A.M. Bible Class - Wednesdays 7:30 P.M.

Tri-City Christian Center Michigan Ave. & Hannon Rd. 526-0530 Sunday 9 am, 11 am, 6 pm

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8. 23110 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan

UNITED METHODIST ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST 30900 Six Mile Rd. (bet. Merriman & Middlebelt) Livonia 48150

CONGREGATIONAL Mt. Hope Congregational Church 8335 Schoolcraft, Livonia • 734-425-7280. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Loia Park Ev. Lutheran Church & School 14750 Kinloch • Redford Twp. 313-532-8655. Worship Services 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wiggins & Newburgh Rds. 422-0149. Worship Services & Sunday School 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

EVANGELICAL COVENANT FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 14 Mile & Wiggins Road, Livonia (248) 661-9191. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional

NON-DENOMINATIONAL Agapé Family Worship Center "A PRACTICAL CHURCH ON THE MOVE" 45081 Geddes Road, Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-0357

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH 291 E. Spring St. 8 Blocks N. of Main - 2 Blocks E. of I-96. 422-5222. Sunday 7:45 & 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist

History from page B5

him off. Not unlike accidents on streets and expressways today, his quadricycle tumbled into a ditch, damaging the differential housing and putting an end to that day's driving.

The night before the rescheduled race, a blizzard descended on the city. Rising and falling temperatures left wires and train and trolley tracks encased in ice. A hard crust and ruts of packed snow hampered travel.

A carnival atmosphere accompanied the spectacle. Crowds cheered and jeered along the way. Sleight beds just a few inches apart were jammed together. Engines rumbled and backfired. It's reported that 200 kids threw snowballs at policemen near the finish line.

From the start Mishaps abounded from the long way from being perfected, though, since, by 1863, the record run was six hours to travel three miles. A century after the race, we're still trying to improve technology, pollution control and safety.

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Teens want to hear more from parents about sex, values

In Chapter 4 of "Healthy Teen: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives," Alice McCarthy presents an overview of issues parents and caregivers need to consider as they discuss sexuality with their teen.

Teens want to hear more from their parents about sex, values and relationships, according to James Jaccard, distinguished professor at the State University of New York in Albany, who has studied information from 20,000 students in grades 7 through 12.

Contrary to popular expectations, kids care about what adults think, even though parents and other adults often say they feel awkward discussing sex and relationships with teens, that they are not sure what to say, or that teens do not listen anyway.

"Don't nag or lecture," says Jaccard, a researcher with the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. "Listen to what your adolescent has to say with an open mind. Express your feelings and expectations."

Dr. Jaccard outlines central facts in communicating with teens about sexual activity. These are:

■ Parents and caregivers tend to underestimate the sexual activity of their children. They may talk to their children about sexual issues at around 12 years of age, but statistics show that a number of children are sexually active at this age. It is important to talk about sexuality before your child becomes sexually active.

■ Adults talking to their children about sexual activity will do so using their own value system. If parents and caregivers talk about a broad range of reasons for not engaging in sexual-risk behavior, they will be more successful than dwelling on just pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases.

Another consideration is to talk about what positive benefits your teen sees in engaging in risky behavior. If a boyfriend or girlfriend is pushing for sexual activity, what does this say about a relationship?

■ Too often, adults turn discussions into one-way lectures. This will not work with adolescents. Communication, in this area as in every other area with your adolescent, should be hon-

est, open and respectful. Each side needs to listen to the other.

■ Parents and caregivers need to be sure that discussions about sexuality and sexual activity are held in a quiet place, free of interruption and stress. It is not a good idea to combine tasks with this kind of discussion.

■ Adolescents who say they know all there is to know about sexual issues do not know any more than other teens. Statements such as "I know everything" should be discouraged; parents and caregivers must take responsibility for providing helpful information.

■ For adults who know that their child is sexually active, who discover that their daughter is pregnant, that their unmarried son is a father, or that their teen has HIV, the issues are complex.

At such a time it is important to remain as cool as possible and to use these problem-solving strategies: define the problem, carefully discuss options, seek community resources and evaluate your direction. It is a time to do away with ranting and anger and to be supportive about a difficult life experience for a son or daughter.

Practical suggestions include further serious discussions about the value of abstinence and family values. Providing contraceptive information, seeking medical services and treatment are important.

Dangers of ignorance

There are numerous myths about sex, sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases. Be sure to address each of these issues with your child. Ask them to explain to you their views and beliefs about each of these areas and encourage them to be specific and detailed.

Create an environment in which they feel emotionally secure to share with you. There will be no effective communication with them unless you have their trust and respect. When listening to them, it is important that you do not appear to be judgmental or aghast at their responses.

If these topics of discussion are very difficult for you, then perhaps there is a friend or family member whom you trust and who has a good rapport with

Remember, each child eventually seeks answers to their own questions; it is best if those answers come from you or a trusted relative or friend.

your child. Remember, each child eventually seeks answers to their own questions; it is best if those answers come from you or a trusted relative or friend.

All too often, peers and television become the source of reference. Parents and caregivers who make sex education an ongoing process - something normal to discuss - can save themselves and their teens from the awkward, one-time, big deal conversation about sex. They might even save their teen's life.

The following guidelines come from the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding what to tell teens about sex. Well before they reach their early teens, both boys and girls should already know:

■ The basics of sexual "plumbing," that is, the names and functions of male and female sex organs.

■ The purpose and meaning of puberty (moving into young womanhood or young manhood).

■ The function of the menstrual cycle (period).

■ What sexual intercourse is and how women become pregnant.

Once your child becomes a teenager, the focus of your talks about sex should shift. You should begin to talk to your teen about the social and emotional aspects of sex and about your values.

Try to communicate

Everywhere the researchers for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy went, the teens told them they want to hear more from their parents about sex, values and relationships. Contrary to popular opinion, kids care about what adults think.

Even though you might be uneasy about your conversation, you should not stop trying to communicate. You can always say, "I am uncomfortable with this discussion, but please know how important I believe it is." Be very clear about your values. The more you listen to what your teen is saying, the greater chance of keeping lines of communication open.

Become aware of the world your teen lives in. Talk to a friend, buy some teen magazines, and visit your public library. Read as much as you can about teen sexuality and be prepared to be open and honest in your conversations.

Go to school and read the health lessons offered to middle school and high school students. Follow up with your student's teacher, if you have any questions about the lessons. Join with your school in seeing to it that positive, constructive, thorough information is taught.

Help your teen understand the internal and external pressures

to express their sexuality and to make responsible decisions. In other words, your teen needs to know where you stand. Bear in mind that you do not own your child, nor control his or her thinking. You can influence your teen's decisions but cannot make decisions for him or her.

Make sure that your teen knows the facts about pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDS. If you cannot provide information yourself, find someone who can and ask him or her to talk with your teen.

Most importantly, find out when, how and how much information about HIV your student is learning at school. In many states, HIV education is mandated by law; the quantity and quality of the education varies.

Try to be available to your teen, no matter what. Teens tend to live for today. Discussions you and your teens have and decisions you make together

will be tested by time and events in your teen's life. It is a good idea to be realistic about the fears and pressures your teens face on a daily basis.

The environment today is faster paced and perhaps more dangerous than when you were a teen. Sometimes, teens are more capable intellectually than they are emotionally. Let them know you will always be there. Listen to them when they need help without judging or criticizing them for getting stuck in their thinking. Your help in an emotional crisis could lead to lasting awareness.

"Healthy Teens: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives" by Alice McCarthy costs \$14.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling, and is available through Bridge Communications Inc., 1450 Pilgrim Road, Birmingham 48009. For more information or to order the book, call (248) 646-1020 or order by e-mail at bridgecomm@aol.com

ANNIVERSARIES

Geppert



Henry and Lorraine Geppert of Livonia recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner at The Whitney for family and friends, given by their children.

They are 48-year residents of Livonia and have four married daughters.

He worked as an engineer at Detroit Edison.

They are active in their church and enjoy spending time with their five grandchildren.

19th Annual Arts & Crafts Show
Christmas Shopping at Mercy High School

Friday, November 26, 4-8pm
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Oakwood

**OBSERVER
SPORTS
SCENE**

Canton grad sparkles

Plymouth Canton graduate Kristin Mayer scored nine points and made four steals to help her St. John Fisher College women's basketball team rout Seneca College of Canada in an exhibition game Nov. 14.

The Cardinals forced 31 Seneca turnovers in the first half alone while limiting the visiting Sting to 14 points. The win marked the 25th-straight season Fisher opened the season with a win, and improved coach Phil Kahler's overall record to 610-114 — best in NCAA Division III.

Spirits soar

The Plymouth Spirits, an under-9 1/2 boys soccer team, finished first in the Huron Division of the Great Lakes Soccer League with a 9-0-1 record — a notable accomplishment, considering it was the Spirits first season in the league.

Team members included Matt Brown, Matt Burgess, Dexter Gregg, Giffin Leitig and Ryan Sohocki, from Plymouth; Andrew Grawbowski, Christian Huch, Logan Lewis, Brad Lineberry, Michael Martucci, James Meiers, Travis Newton and Alex Thorpe from Canton; and Brad Mangune from Livonia.

The team is coached by Lucian Popescu and Jose Mangune, and is managed by Dale Leitig.

Anyone interested in submitting items to Sports Scene or Sports Roundup may send them to sports editor C.J. Risak, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150, or may FAX them to (734) 591-7279.

End of the line

Marian sidelines Salem in regionals, 50-34

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

One team had lost nine games. The other had lost just one.

So who's the favorite? That's an easy one — unless that "obvious" underdog happens to be Birmingham Marian, winner of two of the past three Class A state championships in girls basketball.

Don't want to look past the Mustangs, whatever their record. And Plymouth Salem coach Fred Thomann was certain that didn't happen.

But it would be difficult to find another feasible reason for what occurred in Monday's Class A regional semifinal, played at Birmingham Groves. It was almost like role-reversal, with Marian playing like the 21-1 team and Salem looking lost, maybe not even good enough to be 14-9.

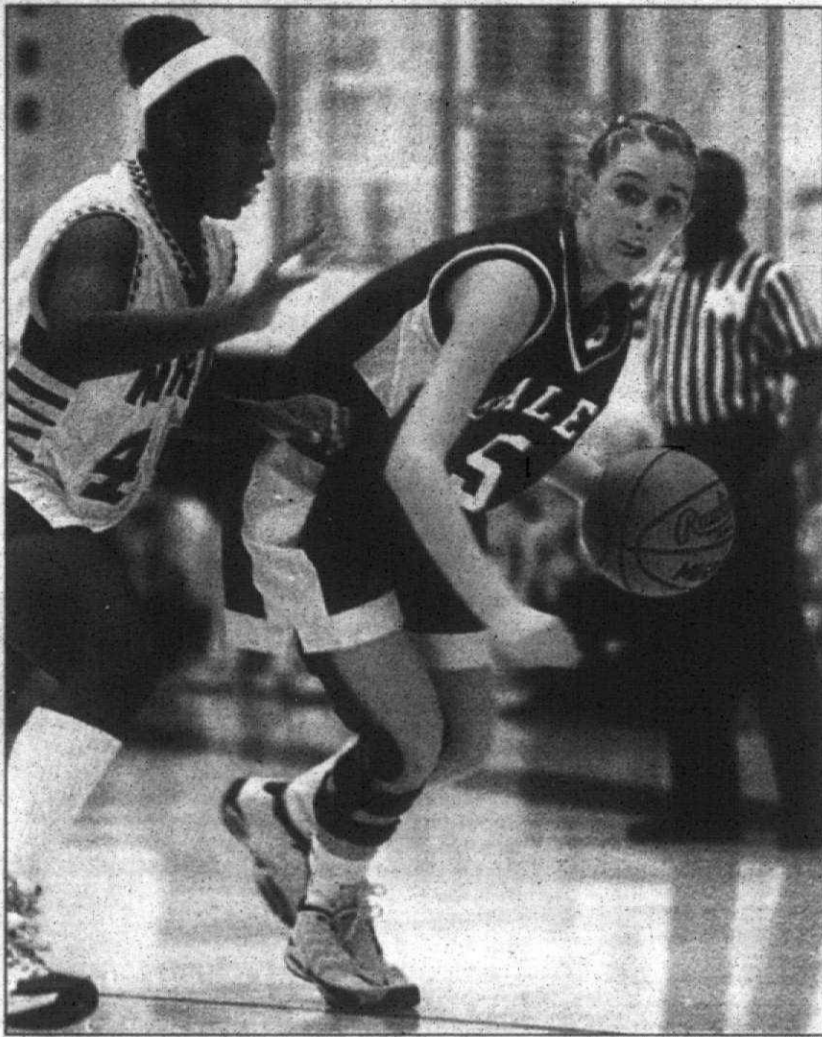
The Mustangs jumped all over the Rocks from the start, building a 20-5 lead after one quarter and then repelling all comeback attempts to eventually coast to a 50-34 triumph.

Marian, now 15-9, advances to tonight's (Nov. 24) regional final against West Bloomfield, which defeated Detroit Northern in the other semifinal at Groves Monday.

"You always dream of those kinds of starts," said Marian coach Mary Cicerone. "You lie awake the night before and hope for something like that to happen."

From Salem's viewpoint, that dream was a nightmare. While the Mustangs were scoring the game's first eight points, the Rocks were missing their first four shots and committing four turnovers.

"We had trouble with our post-up (defense)," said Salem's Thomann. "And I knew we might. But we didn't expect 31 (Amber Mazza) getting off



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Looking to score: Salem's Bree Pastalaniec (with ball) looks to score against Marian's Crystal Andrews. Unfortunately for the Rocks, it was Andrews who did the scoring — 20 points worth.

like that. That hurt us."

Indeed, throughout the game, it was a two-player show offensively for Marian — Mazza, a 6-foot-1 junior, and Crystal Andrews, a 5-11 senior — and Salem couldn't control it.

Andrews' explosion should have been anticipated. As Cicerone noted, "Crystal's done that all season long, to everyone."

But not Mazza. The two virtually traded baskets in the first quarter, with Mazza finishing the period with 10 points and Andrews collecting eight.

The two combined to score 34 points in the game, Andrews scoring 20 and Mazza 14.

"Our game plan was to get the ball into Crystal, and then kick it back out to Amber," explained Cicerone.

It worked to perfection in the opening quarter, but in the second Salem managed to claw its way back into it. The Rocks limited Marian to three baskets and six points while forcing five turnovers in the period, outscoring the Mustangs 14-6 — thanks to six points from Tiffany Grubaugh and four more from Bree Pastalaniec.

With the deficit trimmed to 26-17, Salem's chances seemed much improved. And through most of the third quarter, it stayed that way.

The Mustangs did get the early jump, with Andrews' three-point play pushing their lead to 33-21 with 5:45 left in the quarter. But over the next 3 1/2 minutes, the Rocks were on top of their game, outscoring Marian 10-4 while forcing six turnovers.

Lindsay Klemmer's basket with 2:10 left in the period made it a six-point game (37-31). And Salem had another chance to narrow the gap with yet another steal of a Marian inbound pass.

Please see ROCKS BASKETBALL, C2

Whalers salvage road trip by beating division leaders



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Points on the board: The Whalers Steve Morris got one goal and assisted on another over the weekend.

At least the Plymouth Whalers were able to salvage one win from their weekend road trip.

After losing at Peterborough and Kingston, the Whalers bounced back to beat the Ottawa 67s, leaders of the Ontario Hockey League's East Division, 5-2 on Sunday in Ottawa.

The win pushed Plymouth's record to 9-12-3; Ottawa is 15-6-1.

Kris Vernarsky's second goal of the game (and sixth of the season), scored 5:44 into the second period with assists from Steven Morris and Rob McBride, broke a 2-2 tie and ignited the Whalers.

Damian Surma made it 4-2 10:00 into the second period, his 12th goal of the season, with Bryan Thompson assisting. Jared Newman bumped that to 5-2 with his first goal of the season with 2:01 left in the second period, assisted by Tomas Kurka and Surma.

Aaron Molnar made 23 saves in goal to earn the win for the Whalers. Seamus Kotyk and Lavente Szuper divided time in

HOCKEY

goal for Ottawa, combining to make 17 stops.

Shaun Fisher got Plymouth going with a goal 7:12 into the first period (McBride and Morris assisted). After the 67s Brendan Bell tied it five minutes later, Vernarsky scored on the power play (Kurka and Thompson assisting) to make it 2-1 with 14:25 elapsed in the opening period.

Lance Galbraith tied it for Ottawa just 1:57 into the second period.

Two Kurka goals helped keep Plymouth alive in the first period of its game at Kingston last Friday — for a while, anyway. By the time the period ended, seven goals had been scored. The two by Kurka were all the Whalers had, a good reason they ended up losing 8-4.

Jonathan Schill had two of the Frontenac goals in the opening period. Others were scored by Brett Clouthier, Michael Ziganis and Tomas Skvaridlo.

Please see WHALERS, C2

SWIMMING

peak at the right time, turning in their best performances at the biggest meet.

For swimmers that realize state qualifying times, that meet would be the state finals. But Salem's swimmers improved in just one event, and that drop was slight.

The Rocks had trimmed nearly four seconds from their previous best last Monday in qualifying for the 200-yard medley relay. The team of Kari Foust, Alex Evans, Monica Glowski and Emily Laskie were clocked at 1:55.99.

But that was Monday. In Friday's state preliminaries, their time was 1:57.52.

"Almost all of them were a half-second slower," said Olson, unable to offer an explanation.

The same was true in four of Salem's five other events. Sarah Rogers, who qualified for the 200 freestyle in 2:00.2, had a 2:01.12 time at state.

Glowski qualified in the 50 free in 25.30, at state, she swam 25.57. And Foust's qualifying time in the 100 backstroke was 1:01.59; at state, she turned in the 18th-fastest clocking, 1:01.66.

Glowski, Laskie, Alicia Dotson

Please see SWIM FINALS, C3

Swimmers stall at state

Following last Monday's special state-qualifying session at Ann Arbor Pioneer HS, Plymouth Salem's swim team was well-represented at the Class A state championship meet last weekend at Oakland University in Rochester.

And coach Chuck Olson had high hopes for his team. Unfortunately, those hopes went unattained.

"I thought we were on our way," said Olson Monday. "I thought we were ready to go."

"But we didn't go anywhere." Salem had swimmers qualified in six events. The goal of all swim coaches is to taper their swimmers workouts so that they

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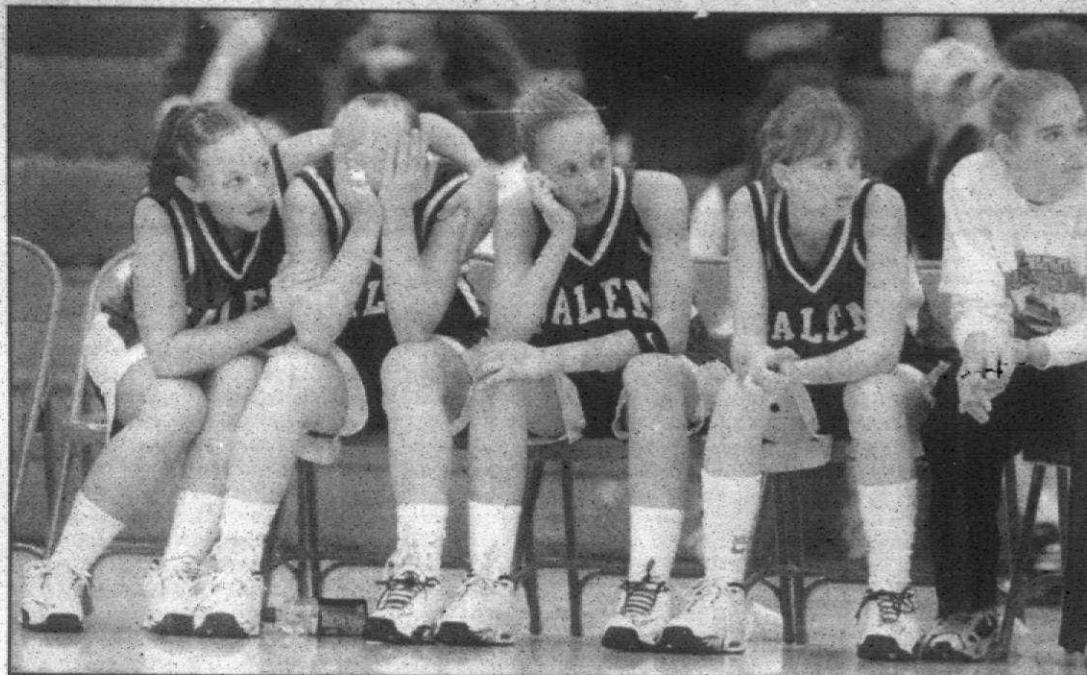
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Forced to rally: Salem got off to a late start, trailing by 15 after one quarter. But, led by Tiffany Grubaugh (right), the Rocks rallied and got to within six points of defending state champion Birmingham Marian. But that was as close as they could get; their comeback stalled in the fourth quarter, leaving some on the team stunned (photo at left).

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSKEMAN

Rocks basketball from page C1

But the Rocks couldn't capitalize. And then disaster struck. Marian kept keep-away, running the final minute of the clock until, with 12 seconds left in the quarter, Mazza knocked down a short jumper. Salem rushed the ball downcourt for a final shot, but it missed. Andrews rebounded, got the ball over midcourt and launched the inevitable 40-foot desperation shot — and hit it. The five-point surge, which increased Marian's lead to 42-31 going into the final quarter, finished Salem. "That," described Cicerone, "is a little balloon-popper."

Thomann, who believed the shot came after the buzzer, agreed. "Getting back from 18-2 to a two-possession game was a monumental climb," he said. "We just didn't have enough left. They gave their all. It's just too hard to maintain that kind of pace."

As for Andrew's quarter-ending three-pointer, Thomann said his players "couldn't help thinking 'Oh my God, what else can we do wrong?'" Salem did not score for the first 6 1/2 minutes of the fourth quarter, making its scoreless dry spell 8 1/2 minutes. Monica Mair's triple provided the Rocks with their only points. Grubaugh led Salem, but she managed just 11 points. Next best was Kelly Jaskot with seven. Marian made 21-of-39 shots from the floor (53.8 percent) while Salem hit just 15-of-43 (34.9 percent).



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSKEMAN

Rec offerings

Northville's Parks and Recreation Department is offering several activities for the winter months. •Adult women's basketball league: The 11-game schedule will be on Tuesdays, from Jan. 18 through April 4. Entry fee is \$380 per team plus \$15 for each non-resident; referee fees are extra.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

21-April 28. All skill levels are welcome. Entry fee is \$45. For information on any of the above activities, call the Northville Parks and Recreation Department at (248) 349-0203.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL FINALS Nov. 26-27 at Pontiac Silverdome DIVISION 1 Walled Lake Western (13-0) vs. Utica Eisenhower (11-2), 1 p.m. Saturday.

Roller ACTION SALES & SERVICE "The True Roller Hockey Store" Like Easton's Big Wheel AIR VENT SKATE Starting at... \$179 FREE WATER BOTTLE with a purchase of \$20 or more Expires 12-1-99

Women's A.M. volleyball leagues: Play is on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with participants required to know the basic skills of passing, setting, hitting and serving. There will be individual registrations. •Badminton: A 14-week season of competitive badminton, from 8-10 p.m. Fridays from Jan. 18 through April 4.

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

Family Value Packs! with the WHALERS Plymouth Whalers Saturday, Nov. 27 vs. Peterborough Petes Saturday, Nov. 27 vs. Peterborough Petes Family Value Pack includes: 4 TICKETS 4 HOT DOGS 4 PEPSI'S 2 PROGRAMS only \$36 Advance Purchase Only

FEDEX/NHL SUPERSKILLS Presented by Kmart Saturday, November 27, 1999 at 1:00pm Featuring your Red Wings competing in... Puck Control Relay • Fastest Skater • Hardest Shot and more! Joe Louis Arena Tickets are only \$5.00 and can be purchased at Joe Louis Arena box office, Hockeytown Authentics and all participating outlets or charge by phone at (248) 645-6666

Swim finals from page C1

and Rogers had a performance in the 200 free relay similar to the one turned in by the 200 medley relay. After qualifying at 1:43.20, they went 1:44.21 at state. The 400 free relay team of Glowski, Rogers, Jess Hala and Foust qualified in 3:49.03; they went 3:48.51 at state, a drop of only .52. "I guess maybe we should have swam the state meet on Monday," Olson summarized. For Canton's qualifiers, it wasn't any better. None showed drastic improvement over their state qualifying performances.



State qualifier: Salem's Alex Evans swam the breaststroke leg on the Rocks' state-qualifying 200-yard medley relay. Salem made it to state with a superb, final-chance performance the previous Monday.

Danielle Drysdale qualified individually in two events for the Chiefs and swam on the 200 medley relay. Drysdale went 1:02.71 in the 100 butterfly — slightly better than her state qualifying time — and 1:02.28 in the 100 back, slower than her qualifying clocking.

Rogala also qualified individually in the 100 breaststroke; at state, she couldn't match that previous time, finishing in 1:11.64.

Stevenson vs. Redford Unified at Edger Arena, 6 & 8 p.m. Redford CC vs. Brother Rice at B.H. Cranbrook, 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28 Redford CC vs. St. Joseph (N.Y.) at B.H. Cranbrook, 7:15 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27

Whalers from page C1 Sean Avery added a pair of goals in the next two periods. Jean-Francois Seguin also had a goal. Zigomanis also had four assists, while Avery had three.

STATE SWIM CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS LOWER PENINSULA CLASS A GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING Nov. 25 at Oakland University Team scores: 1. Grosse Pointe North, 188; 2. Farmington Hills Mercy, 582; 3. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 146; 4. Zeeland, 109; 5. Ann Arbor Huron, 84; 6. Grand Haven, 83; 7. Bloomfield Hills Laker, 76; 8. Livonia Stevenson, 66; 9. Grosse Pointe South, 41; 10. Bloomfield Hills Marian, 40; 11. (tie) Novi and Birmingham Seaholm, 38; 13. East Kentwood, 32; 14. Southfield/Lathrup, 24; 15. (tie) Farmington Huron and Portage Central, 21; 17. (tie) North Farmington and Grand Blanc, 20; 19. Jensen, 18; 20. Ypsilanti, 16; 21. Howell, 14; 22. (tie) Brighton and Okemos, 13; 24. Walled Lake Western, 13; 25. Harper Woods Regina, 11; 26. Forest Hills Central, 10; 27. (tie) Rockford and Holt, 8; 29. Macomb Dakota, 7; 30. Portage Northern, 6; 31. (tie) Battle Creek Lakeview, Livonia Churchill and Monroe, 5; 34. (tie) Utica Eisenhower and Mason, 4; 36. (tie) Traverse City Central, Troy and Dearborn, 2.

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STATE PREP FOOTBALL FINALS

Creston's speed means trouble for Hawks

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

Farmington Harrison's defense has switched gears and start thinking pass instead of run for this week's game — the last one in 1999.

Literally, it's the last game of the high school season.

The Hawks will try to win a record-tying 10th state championship when they play Grand Rapids Creston for the Division III title at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Pontiac Silverdome.

It's the last game of the two-day, eight-game finals weekend sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Harrison (9-4) reached the final stage of the tournament by defeating a power running team in Monroe Jefferson last week, 24-20. Creston (12-1) presents an entirely different challenge with its penchant for passing.

"They're complete opposites; there couldn't be two teams that are more different," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "We're going from a team that runs one or two formations and pounds it out to 30 formations and a wide-open attack."

Late fumble saves Harrison, earns berth in final

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The situation appeared bleak. It, as well as everyone on the Farmington Harrison side of the football field, cried out for decisive action.

Junior linebacker Tim Doig gave the Hawks what they desperately needed and hoped to see — a turnover!

With Monroe Jefferson headed for the winning touchdown, Doig caused a fumble that enabled Harrison to hang on and win a Division III semifinal game at Rochester High School, 24-20.

After blocking a punt at midfield, the Bears had the ball at

PREVIEW

The booklet containing Harrison's scouting report on the Polar Bears was a record 34 pages thick.

Fourth-year coach Charles (Sparky) McEwen, a former quarterback for Creston, runs an offense similar to what you'd see in the Arena Football League.

Junior quarterback Carlton Brewster is the offensive catalyst for the blue-and-gold Polar Bears. His favorite receiver is Bret Haney, who wears No. 1, but Creston has a number of other players who are capable of providing fireworks.

"They have six people they throw to," Herrington said, adding the Hawks haven't seen a passing team as good as the Polar Bears since Ryan Hujak (University of Toledo) played quarterback at Northville nearly a decade ago.

"They'll throw 40 times a game. The most times we've thrown was probably 15. They'll throw it on their 1-yard line, and they'll throw it on your 1-yard line."

"(Brewster) sees the whole field and has a great release. He's tough to sack because he has quick feet and, if you leave someone open, he throws timing patterns."

Ironically, the Hawks were hurt by Jefferson passes in the first half last week, partly due to the fact they were looking for the run so much.

"With this team, you know they're going to pass," Herrington said. "They don't throw off play-action, so you don't have to commit as much to the run."

"In some ways, it's easier but it's harder, because they have great receivers. They have outstanding skill position players."

Herrington has said the strength of the Harrison defense is its secondary of seniors Nick Hall, Brian Nelson and Lou Hadley and junior Chris Roberson.

The Hawks have given up more passing yards than they would've liked in their last three games, but Herrington believes his secondary will rise to the occasion Saturday.

"I think we do have a good, solid secondary, even though the last two weeks we haven't shown it," he said. "They'll step it up for this game."

"It should be a fun game for people to watch. It will be an interesting matchup between our defensive backs and their receivers."

But all the talk of passing makes it easy to overlook Creston's running game, much as Jefferson's rushing attack had the opposite effect last week.

Though the Polar Bears sometimes line up with five receivers and no backs, they do have a good runner in senior tailback Andrew Ferry.

"This team has the most skilled players since we played (Saginaw) Arthur Hill (in 1989) with Shonte Peoples (Michigan) and Brian Pruitt (Central Michigan)," Herrington said.

The Hawks, led by all-state quarterback Mill Coleman, won that game in Saginaw, 34-18.

"We have speed (in the secondary). We have good cover people, but we can't forget they run the ball, too," Herrington added. "And, when they spread you out so much, they run the ball effectively."

Harrison has speedy backs in Kevin Woods and Chris Roberson, and quarterback Lou Hadley is coming off his best game as a passer.

The game shapes up as a contest between two finesse teams. Could it be a high-scoring shootout?

"It could be, but you get to the Silverdome and the scores are not as high as you think," Herrington said. "If we get a few sacks or picks, it could slow things down."

"I don't think we can get outside because of the speed they have. On some plays, we're going to have to take it right at them and break some seams."

"Like every big game, special teams will be important. We have to contain them and put some pressure on their kicker."

The Polar Bears have good size on the offensive line, averaging 227 between the tackles.

"They pro pass block," Herrington said. "It's nothing real complicated. They have big bodies. They get side by side and use their hands to keep passing the defensive linemen off one to another."

Creston is led defensively by senior Maurice Carthen, whom Herrington considers the best defensive lineman he has seen this year. The Polar Bears also have good size up front defensively and at linebacker.

"We have to move the ball and do a good job holding on to the ball," Herrington said. "We don't want to let their offense have it."

"The past couple weeks Lou has come on as a thrower, and we definitely have the receivers with people like Hall, Nelson, Agim (Shabaj) and (Tim) Doig."

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Scrambling toward a win: St. Agatha's Jessica James (right) battles for a loose ball, showing the kind of scrappiness the Aggies needed to get past Lenawee Christian.

Into the finals

Aggies trip Lenawee Christian

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
skowalski@oe.homecomm.net

That Krystol Dennis earned a starting role in her first year on Redford St. Agatha's girls basketball team wasn't such a surprise.

That Dennis is still playing this late in the season, however, will raise some eyebrows.

Dennis, who transferred to St. Agatha last January after 2 1/2 years at Redford Bishop Borgess, scored a game-high 15 points as the Aggies continued their best season in years with a 40-39 win over Adrian Lenawee Christian in the Class D regional semifinal in Potterville.

The win earned the Aggies, 23-1 overall, a spot in the regional finals at 7 p.m. against Portland St. Patrick.

Krystol showed potential but rarely played in three seasons at Borgess. The irony is the Spartans, who made six straight trips to the Class C Final Four, were eliminated this season in the district championship game.

At St. Agatha she joined her sister, sophomore forward Kim Dennis, who also starts.

"I love it," said Krystol Dennis. "It's funner."

Holding her portable Compact Disc player after the game, Krystol Dennis also mumbled something about Jang-A-Lang, one of her favorite sayings on the big screen, while celebrating the victory with teammates.

"She's obviously our main low post threat and it's a great luxury to have," St. Agatha co-coach Tim Szakal said. "We're not deep at guard and she also helps when teams press us because she's a big target. Having her in the middle as a safety valve is great."

While Krystol Dennis and Kim Dennis, who added eight points, played key roles, the biggest points came from the smallest player on the court: senior guard Sonia Lousia.

Trailing 39-38 in the final minute, Lousia and Jessica James trapped a Lenawee Christian player near half-court, causing a turnover. Lousia, who hadn't scored in the previous 31 minutes, got the steal and coasted in for an uncontested layup with 42 seconds left for a 40-39 lead.

It was a little redemption for Lousia, who had turned the ball over on the previous two St. Agatha possessions.

"I thought it was my turn, that I've got to make this layup," Lousia said. "I was thinking 'There's no one behind me because the girl was stuck behind Jessica. Just concentrate on going slow.'" Lousia St. Agatha senior forward Kerry Shivers is grateful for her new teammate, but her body isn't sure it's worth it.

The Cougars still had a chance to win but a missed shot from inside the paint with 8.5 seconds left was rebounded by Krystol Dennis. The Aggies missed a free throw at the other end, which also was rebounded by Krystol Dennis, and the final seconds ticked off the clock without the Cougars getting another shot attempt.

Lenawee Christian, led by senior forward Danielle Psante

BASKETBALL

with 10 points, finished its season with a 19-5 record.

"The height factor we had to deal with - I think 22 (Krystol Dennis) had a soft touch - and more than anything she kept us from getting second looks (rebounds after missed shots)," Lenawee Christian coach Cheri Smith said. "When you're not shooting well, like we were tonight, that's what you count on."

The Aggies trailed 7-5 after one quarter but used a 15-9 second-quarter advantage to lead at halftime, 20-16. Lenawee Christian cut its deficit to one, 29-28, after outscoring St. Agatha 12-9 in the third quarter.

Krystol Dennis, who made four

of five free throw attempts, scored nine second-half points. She was the only one who shot well from the line, however, as the Aggies were 5-for-15 as a team.

Senior forward Kerry Shivers, who added six points, seems to be reminded each practice of Krystol Dennis' presence.

"Most of my bruises are from her, her and Jessica (James)," said Shivers, who added that rebounding is stressed by the new coaching staff, which includes Patricia Rich. "They've helped us improve our weak spots, like boxing out and fighting for the ball. We're not just watching the ball roll out of bounds."

James is proud of her aggressiveness.

"I'm the girl on the ground most of the game," she said.

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



WDET "Folks Like Us" host Matt Watroba joins Neil Woodward and Gary Weisenburg of Redford for an evening of folk music at the Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Doors open 7:30 p.m., concert starts at 8 p.m. Tickets \$12, call (734) 761-1451.

SATURDAY



Classic American toys are the highlight this year at "Traditions of the Season" through Jan. 2 at Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village in Dearborn. The museum and village are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (313) 271-1620 for more information.

SUNDAY



Robert Urich and the Merry Murderesses appear in a scene from the Broadway musical "Chicago," 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Masonic Temple Theatre in Detroit. Tickets run \$20 to \$59.50. Call (313) 832-5900.

HOT TICKET



Hot Tix: Radio City Entertainment presents "The Radio City Christmas Spectacular" Friday, Nov. 26, through Thursday, Dec. 30, at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets run \$10-\$55.50 and are available at the box office and Ticketmaster outlets, (248) 645-6666. For more information call (313) 983-6611.



ERIN DILLY



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LE POER TRENCH
New musical: Erin Dilly as Bertrande (left to right), John Herrera as Father Dominic and Hugh Panaro as Martin Guerre in a scene from "Martin Guerre."

'GUERRE'S' LEADING LADY WILL BE COMING HOME

BY JULIE YOLLES
SPECIAL WRITER

When Erin Dilly was 16, she and her best friend, Danny Gurwin, went downtown to the Fisher Theatre to see "Les Miserables" for the first time.

"The lights went down, and when Eponine came on stage, I just cried, 'I want to be her, I want to do this.' That was the first moment in my life when I realized that I wanted to be a professional actor," said Dilly, who grew up in Southfield.

Eleven years later, when Dilly heads downtown again to the Fisher Theatre on Dec. 1, she'll have the best seat in the house. Center stage, in fact. Dilly's coming back home as Bertrande, the female lead of the U.S.

premiere of "Martin Guerre," is a little mind-blowing for Dilly, she said.

As a high schooler at Birmingham Groves, Dilly was like the Energizer Bunny; she just kept on going, and going and going. The self-professed study bug was on the varsity tennis team, the forensics team and an actor.

"I did all the roles that I could

never do professionally," said the 27-year-old actress, who's been performing since graduating from the musical theater program at the University of Michigan.

"I was Dolly in 'Hello Dolly' when I was 17, which still makes me giggle. I also played Maria in 'West Side Story.' Here I am blonde and blue-eyed. I was so far away from this Spanish woman but, you know, someone's got to play those parts."

Millionaire theatrical producer Cameron Mackintosh chose Dilly to play the plum part in the pre-Broadway run of "Martin Guerre" after an eight-month search. Knighted "The Wizard of Ahhs" by Forbes ASAP, Mackintosh has produced more than 300 shows and is best known

for "Cats," "The Phantom of the Opera," "Les Miserables" and "Miss Saigon."

Mackintosh reunites with "Les Miz" and "Saigon" French composing team Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg for "Guerre."

The "Martin Guerre" casting team

Please see **GUERRE**, E2

HOLIDAY TRADITION

Subtle changes keep 'A Christmas Carol' fresh and fun

BY SUSAN B. TAUBER
STAFF WRITER
stauber@oe.homecomm.net

Just as families in southeast Michigan carry on the tradition of seeing "A Christmas Carol" at Meadow Brook Theatre every year, the tradition of the play is just as strong for many of the actors.

Take Paul Hopper, for instance. A familiar face in the annual production, he repeats his roles as Bob Cratchit and Fezziwig this season. He once played the role of Young Scrooge.

"Not since I lost my hair," quipped Hopper.

This year, he's giving up a trip to Hawaii with his wife, Barbara Ellis (Coven) and daughter, Nicole Coven, to return to the theater for multiple performances of the holiday play.

"I don't know what I'd do at Christmastime if I weren't in 'A Christmas Carol,'" said Hopper, who lives in Milford. He has 16 years with the play under his belt.

But how do Hopper, the others actors

on stage and those involved backstage keep the production fresh when it has opened to audiences more than 800 times?

Charles Nolte is the author and director of the beloved "A Christmas Carol" script adapted from the original story written by Charles Dickens. The

1999 production is the 16th using Nolte's script. There were two years when other scripts were used but the theater returned to Nolte's version three seasons ago.

Nolte flies in from his home in Minneapolis for rehearsals and stays through the first week or two of performances, returning throughout the run to look things over. He works hard at keeping the play fresh but tries to do it in subtle ways that don't attract attention.

"I always change the blocking and other things a little according to who is in the cast," said Nolte, who created the title role in the original production of "Billy Bud."

"A Christmas Carol"

WHEN: Friday, Nov. 26, through Sunday, Dec. 26. Performances 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday. The exceptions are 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, and 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24.

WHERE: Meadow Brook Theatre, Oakland University, Rochester Hills

TICKETS: \$26 to \$37, available at the Meadow Brook box office (248) 377-3300, and all Ticketmaster locations, (248) 645-6666.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN STORMZAND

"Many of our actors return to us year after year, but we also get new ones, particularly in the children's roles."

In this year's production, for instance, the actors in the umbrella scene are moving differently from in years past.

Booth Colman, the epitome of Ebenezer Scrooge, has played the role every year but one since 1981.

"This isn't a difficult role to keep fresh because the play isn't a straight run," said the actor, who lives in Los Angeles. "We have almost a year off

Holiday spectacular: Paul Hopper, (left) as Bob Cratchit and Booth Colman, as Ebenezer Scrooge, in a scene from "A Christmas Carol."

from the time it ends in December until we open the next November.

He said much of what keeps the play fresh is the interaction with the other actors on the stage.

"Different actors facilitate a different response," Hopper added.

For Mary Benson, who plays Mrs. Cratchit and Mrs. Fezziwig, performing in "A Christmas Carol" is like coming home from her West Virginia residence. She's done the holiday play at

Please see **TRADITION**, E2

Tradition from page E1

Meadow Brook for seven years. "It's so much fun," she said. "I get to go to a party and dress up in the play every night." She also gets to be the Cratchit mom to the young children, including Tiny Tim. Barbara Jenks and her crew of seamstresses are challenged every year to make the more than 100 costumes in "A Christmas Carol" look rich and resplendent or poor and shabby, depending on the character who wears them. "Every year we try to freshen up the look by making a new costume here and there," she said. This year, people are seeing Scrooge in a new, handmade tailcoat. "I try to create postcard scenes on stage," Jenks said. "We try to take care of every detail so it looks like a postcard perfect." Colman's fans can look forward to seeing him in a new movie, "Return to Secret Garden," to be released in the spring



Rehearsing: Paul Hopper (left) as Bob Cratchit, Booth Colman (Ebenezer Scrooge), Mary Ben-son (Mrs. Cratchit), and director Charles Nolte work on a scene from "A Christmas Carol."

STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN STORCKMAN

Guerre from page E1

continually called Dilly to audition for the show. But she was either on the national tour of "Beauty and the Beast" as Belle, ill with the flu or had just opened off Broadway. "It was the morning after opening night of the play, and I was in no shape to audition. But they kept calling me back, and I said 'Oh, OK, I'll go in,'" Dilly said. "I had slept late, didn't even take a shower, threw on some clothes, jumped in a cab and got caught in a traffic jam. I had no music with me. I did the audition completely by the seat of my pants." Dilly was called back. "Here I was, standing there, unshowered, hair sticking up all over the place, no makeup on and 'They wanted to see me again,'" she laughed. "After the audition, Cameron

approached me, extended his hand, hugged me and said 'Well, we start rehearsals in eight weeks.' I said, 'Oh, my God.' The conductor looked at me and said 'Remember this day, there are very few moments in your life where Cameron Mackintosh will offer you a job on the spot.' It was all so surreal, it really didn't sink in until about two weeks later." For Mackintosh, "Martin Guerre" has been an eight-year battle. Dissatisfied with the initial version of "Guerre," that opened in London in July 1996, Mackintosh closed down the production after three months. Mackintosh, Boublil and Schonberg started writing a revised version. That version of "Martin Guerre" won the 1997 Olivier Award for best new musical and ran for more than 700 performances at the Prince Edward Theatre in London's West End before Mackintosh shut it down again for a total overhaul. Detroit audiences will see the third version, featuring an all-American cast that includes Dilly. "The epic is on a five-stop pre-Broadway tour and will open in New York on April 26, 2000. After its premiere at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, "Guerre" comes to Detroit with Dilly Dec. 1 and runs through Dec. 19. Boublil and Schonberg set out to recreate the legend of Martin Guerre (played by Hugh Panaro) in 1553 Artigat, France. After a loveless marriage to Bertrande (Dilly) and ridicule by the villagers, Guerre leaves the town for a better life. Seven years later, on a battlefield in France, Guerre is presumed dead after his friend Arnaud du Thil (Stephen Buttrick) attempts to

save his life. Arnaud returns to Artigat to bear the tragic news to Bertrande and is mistaken for Guerre by the townsfolk. Through the deception, Arnaud and Bertrande fall in love. "They both actually live the perfect love for a very short time," said Mackintosh. "The story hasn't changed at all (from the initial version), but what's changed dramatically which is why it's been so well received now - is actually we've done it better. We've done it through the eyes of the characters. ... We start with a flashback, and we see the story through the central trio's eyes. The visual look is very simple, but a theatrically and terribly exciting look that gets to the heart of the storytelling. "There's no golden rule to follow to keep you out of trouble when putting on a musical. You just do what you feel is best for the moment and sometimes that moment takes a lot longer than you really thought it would in the first place." "Cameron Mackintosh has always been this extraordinary name in the theater. He's almost been this icon that didn't seem like I could ever attach it with the literal person," Dilly said. "But when I met him, he's the most salt-of-the-earth, warmest man I've ever met. He's completely accessible, wildly creative with a phenomenal sense of humor. I've never met a man so passionate about a show." Mackintosh has more than 50 musicals in production, including "Putting it Together," the Stephen Sondheim review that just opened on Broadway and stars Carol Burnett. Dilly hoped to catch "Putting it Together" while she was on a

small hiatus from "Guerre" before coming to Detroit. Dilly was temporarily living at Danny Gurwin's apartment. One show she definitely wasn't going to miss was "The Scarlet Pimpernel" on Broadway, with best-friend Gurwin in the show. "Both had appeared in Nancy Gurwin (Danny's mom) Productions in West Bloomfield and attended the homecoming dances together at Birmingham Groves and Southfield-Lathrup High School. "I'm thrilled to be able to come to my hometown in a show that I'm so proud of," said Dilly. She will stay for three weeks with her parents, Stewart and Ann Dilly, in the house Erin grew up in. "It's the kind of theater that can change a person's life, and I think that's rare."

COMMUNITY THEATER

Show highlights local talent

The Players Guild of Dearborn presents the adult comedy "Don't Dress for Dinner," written by Marc Camoletti, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 26-27, at the Guild playhouse, 21730 Madison, near Monroe and Outer Drive in Dearborn. Tickets are \$11, all seats are reserved. Senior and student rates are available. To purchase tickets, call (313) 561-TKTS. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

BY SUE SUCHYTA SPECIAL WRITER

When a husband uses his best friend as an alibi for a weekend with his mistress, trouble ensues when his wife decides to stay at home and renew her affair with the best friend. The best friend, who is hiding both infidelities, then mistakes the caterer for the mistress, setting the stage for subterfuge and silliness. Kirk Haas, who directed the Guild's comic delight "Moon Over Buffalo" last year, has assembled a talented ensemble worthy of the clever script and capable of delivering it with a crucial combination of talent and breakneck speed. Joe Donovan of Farmington Hills is clever and acerbic as Bernard, the philandering husband whose plans for a relaxing weekend turn into a chaotic yet hysterically funny romp. Donovan is the master of understatement, and can bring down the house with laughter with a well-aimed look or his physical comedy. He not only caught the seltzer in the pants, he wore the main course of the intended dinner party. Kudos to the costume committee for supplying numer-

ous changes of clothing. To intensify the comic treat, Joe is paired with his real life wife Kim Donovan, who plays his stage wife Jacqueline. The two make a dynamic duo from a comedy standpoint, and have delighted Guild audiences in the past as the couple in "Move Over Mrs. Markham" and in numerous other roles. Kim Donovan exudes class and stage presence while keeping a light enough touch to keep the show funny and moving along at a brisk pace. She was able to switch from passionate to systerly with the bat of an eye. Ron Williams of Redford shows he can play the debonair bachelor Robert as well as the troubled teen he portrayed so well in last season's "Blood Brothers." He has the right blend of teddy bear cuddliness and sophisticated conniving to be both convincing and likable. As he must concoct more lies and convince more people to go along with them, he invokes gales of laughter from the appreciative house. He also deserves a commendation for memorizing an extremely long, funny and complicated speech that attempts to finally catalog every lie, subterfuge and mistaken

Story of 'Truth' told at EMU

Eastern Michigan University's Theatre of the Young presents "A Woman Called Truth," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 at Quirk Theatre, on EMU's Ypsilanti campus. Tickets are \$13. Call the box office at (734) 487-1221 for tickets and information.

"A Woman Called Truth," written by Sandra Fenichel Asher, is a celebration of the life, courage and wit of Sojourner Truth, a woman who was sold as a slave and taken away from her family as a young girl. The story follows her historic fight for freedom and emergence as a respected speaker on the abolition of slavery and importance of women's rights. Truth continued fighting for those causes until her death in 1883 in her Battle Creek home. Directed by Patricia Moore Zimmer, the play is appropriate for ages 11 and older.

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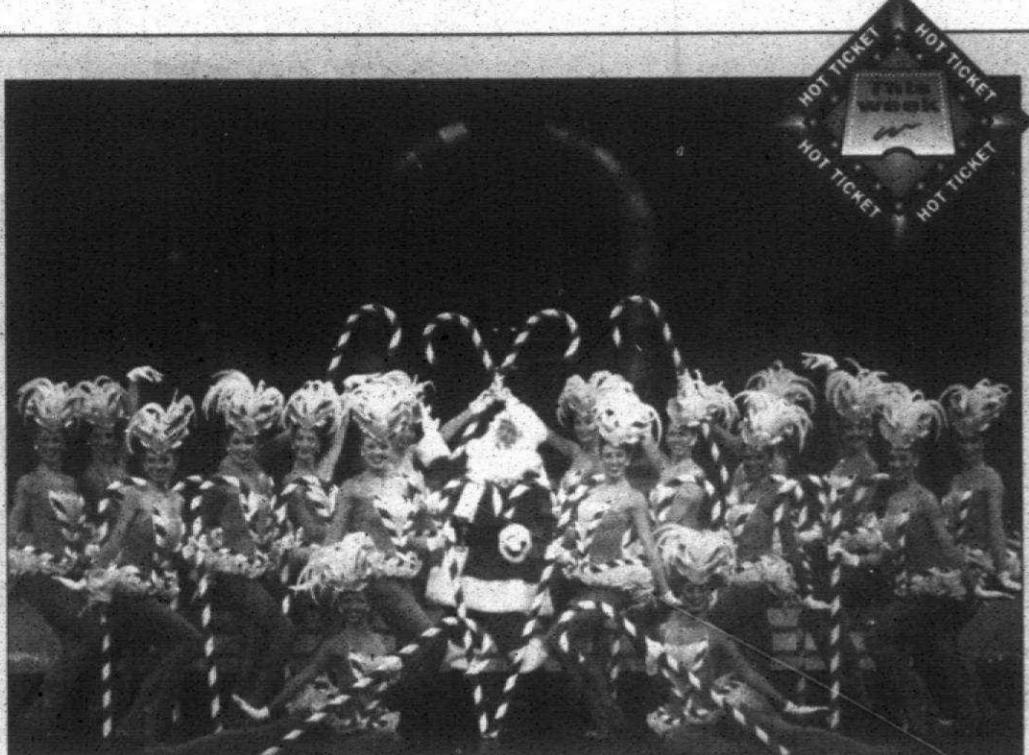
CENTURY THEATRE
"Forbidden Hollywood," through Dec. 31, 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Fridays, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 5:30 p.m. Sundays, at the Century Theatre, 333 Madison Avenue, Detroit. (248) 504-3300 (313) 963-9800

FISHER THEATRE
"Martin Guerre," opens Wednesday, Dec. 1 through Sunday, Dec. 19, at the theater, Detroit. (248) 645-6666

MASONIC TEMPLE THEATRE
"Chicago," the Drop-Dead Broadway Musical continues through Nov. 28, 8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, no performance Thursday, Nov. 25, at the theater, 500 Temple, Detroit. (313) 832-5900

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE
"Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church," through Dec. 31, at the theater, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. (313) 313-868-1347

GEM THEATRE
"Escanaba in da Moonlight," a comedy by Jeff Daniels, through Feb. 13, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays, at the theater, 33 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800



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COLLEGE

EMU THEATRE
"A Woman Called Truth," 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20 and Friday, Dec. 3, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 20-21 and Saturday, Dec. 4, Quirk Theatre, on the Ypsilanti campus, \$8 Thursdays, \$13 Fridays-Saturdays, \$11 Sunday matinee. (734) 487-1221

UD-MERCY
"Skylarks," 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 5. (313) 993-1130

WSU HILLBERRY
"Some Americans Abroad," through Feb. 5, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27; "Merchant of Venice," 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, at the theater 4743 Cass, Detroit. \$11-\$18. (313) 577-2972

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

DETROIT PUPPET THEATRE
The Russian tale "All the Firebirds," 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, Nov. 27-28, at the theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. \$7, \$5 children. (313) 961-7777

GEMINI
1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, instrument-petting zoo one half hour before the shows, at the Ark, at 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. \$7. (734) 761-1800

MARQUIS THEATRE
"Jack in the Beanstalk," through Sunday, Jan. 16, at the theater, 135 E. Main, Northville. \$7. (248) 349-8110

SPECIAL EVENTS

AMERICA'S THANKSGIVING PARADE
9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 25, from Woodward and Mack.

ART TRAIN USA
"Artistry of Space" features works from NASA and the National Air and Space Museum, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 4-5 and 11-12, at 1100 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor. Free. (734) 747-8300

TURKEY TROT
8 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 25, at the corner of Jefferson and Woodward. \$20, proceeds benefit America's Thanksgiving Parade. (248) 544-9099

HOLIDAY PARADE/SNOW CARNIVAL
11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 (parade), noon to 2 p.m. Snow Carnival, from Wliener Stadium on Oakland Avenue to the Phoenix Center on Saginaw Street, Pontiac. (248) 209-2621

HOLIDAY PIANO CONCERT
Ryan O'Neill performs 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, at the JC Penny Store at Westland Mall, Wayne and Warren roads, Westland. (889) 986-3455

PROGRESSIVE DOG CLUB SHOW
All breed dog show and obedience trial 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, in the Michigan Mart, West Mall and Ag Buildings at the Michigan State Fairgrounds, Eight Mile and Woodward, Detroit. \$4, \$1 seniors/children under 12, (248) 477-8477/(734) 425-0857

RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR
Starring the Rockettes Friday, Nov. 26 to Friday, Dec. 30, at the Fox Theatre, Detroit. \$20-\$55. (248) 645-6666/(248) 433-1515

TEDDY BEAR BRUNCH
11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, at Cobo Center, Detroit. \$10, \$8 ages 2-12, includes admission to Festival of Trees. (313) 745-0178

"WILD LIGHTS"
Continues through Sunday, Jan. 2, 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, until 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, at the Detroit Zoo, Woodward and I-96, Royal Oak. \$3 members (\$2 ages 2-12), \$4 non-members (\$3 ages 2-12). (248) 541-5835

DINNER THEATER

BACI THEATRE
"Flanagan's Wake," 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sundays and \$20 Thursdays-Saturdays, and \$30 Fridays-Saturdays, and "Tony n' Tina's Wedding," 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Sundays, at 40 W. Pike, Pontiac. (248) 745-8668/(248) 645-6666

BENEFITS

EMPTY BOWL PROJECT
To benefit Haven, an Oakland County domestic violence shelter, decorate your own bowl symbolizing hunger around the world, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, hot soup by Zoupi \$20 per parent and one child for one hour, \$10 each additional child. (248) 350-3007

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE MADRIGAL DINNERS
7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 9-11, entertainment by Good Neighbors All and the college's Madrigal Singers, in the Waterman Center on campus, 18600 Haggerty, between Six and Seven Mile roads, Livonia. \$35, proceeds go to the student scholarship fund. (734) 462-4417

A TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS
The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Aretha Franklin, 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. \$75-\$200, proceeds to Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development. (313) 576-5111

WATERBURY CATHY WHITE, JR.
8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, at the Ark, at 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. \$15. (734) 761-1800

WATROBA, WOODWARD & WEISBURG
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, at the Ark, at 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. \$12. (734) 761-1800

JOSH WHITE, JR.
7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, at the Ark, at 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. \$13.50. (734) 761-1800

BETHANY YARROW
With Peter Yarrow 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at Temple Emanuel, 14450 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park. \$10 Jewish Community Center members, \$15 non-members. (248) 661-1000

CHORAL

MADONNA UNIVERSITY CHORALE
Sing Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 in the Felician Sisters' Motherhouse Chapel at 196 and Levan Road, Livonia; and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at historic St. Paul's Church in Grosse Pointe Farms. \$10, proceeds go towards the choir's tour to Ireland in June. (734) 432-5708

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS
Presents a "Holiday Greetings" concert, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 3-4 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at Plymouth Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton. (734) 455-0800

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHOR
Holiday concerts featuring Mozart's "Regina Coeli" and Rachmaninoff's "Ave Maria" as well as other season favorites, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward, between Warren and Hancock, Detroit. Free: 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia. Donations will be accepted. (248) 349-8175/(734) 462-4435

UMS CHORAL UNION
Handel's "Messiah," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. \$10-\$18. (734) 764-2538

CLASSICAL

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Bach and Handel, with soprano Christine Branda and mezzo-soprano Maggetta Simpson, 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 2, 10:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3, and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. (313) 576-5111

POPS/SWING

ARETHA FRANKLIN
With the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 26-27, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. \$25-\$75. (313) 576-5111

MERIDIAN
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, at Andiamo Italia West, 6676 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300

JIM PARAVANTES
With Meridian in a "Frank Sinatra Tribute," 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Fridays-Saturdays through Dec. 3, at Andiamo Italia West, 6676 Telegraph Road at Maple, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300

ALTURO SHELTON
The musical impressionist sings "A Motown Tribute," voices include Stevie Wonder, Sammie Davis, Jr., Redd Fox and Nat King Cole, 9 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at the Ponchartrian Hotel, Washington Blvd. and Jefferson, Detroit. No cover. (313) 965-0200/(248) 354-1194

AUDITIONS

THEATRE GUILD OF REDFORD
Is searching for directors, choreographers, musical directors, and all others interested in musical comedy theater. Call (313) 531-0554 for information, or deliver resumes and letters of interest to the Theatre Guild, 15138 Beech Daly, across from the Township Hall in Redford.

YOUTH COMPETITION
The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra is looking for contestants for its Youth Competition to be held in December at Evola Music of Canton, in addition to orchestral instruments, piano contestants are also being sought, winners will perform on the youth concerts in February of 2000. (734) 451-2112

WORLD MUSIC

WHO CARES
9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 26-27, at Cowley's Old Village Inn, Grand River and Farmington Road, Farmington. (248) 474-5941

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE
at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak, 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. (248) 542-9900 or http://www.comedycastle.com

SECOND CITY
Phantom Menace to Society? Wednesday-Saturday, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Mainstage comedy acts: \$10 Wednesdays, Thursdays, Sundays. \$17.50 on Fridays, and \$19.50 on Saturdays. (313) 965-2222

FOLK/BLUEGRASS

KATIE GEDDES & THE USUAL SUSPECTS
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, also Dec. 11 and 18, at the Rough Cuts, at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, west of I-75, Livonia. \$12, \$10 members. (734) 464-6302

WATROBA: CATHY WHITE, JR.
8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, at the Ark, at 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. \$15. (734) 761-1800

WATROBA, WOODWARD & WEISBURG
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, at the Ark, at 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. \$12. (734) 761-1800

JOSH WHITE, JR.
7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, at the Ark, at 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. \$13.50. (734) 761-1800

BETHANY YARROW
With Peter Yarrow 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at Temple Emanuel, 14450 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park. \$10 Jewish Community Center members, \$15 non-members. (248) 661-1000

POETRY / SPOKEN WORD

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN
Workshop for poets looking for more members, 2-4 p.m. third Tuesday of month, in the Jenkins rooms on the third floor of the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. (734) 762-7568

DANCE

ADVANCED CONTRA DANCE
8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, at the Pittsford Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor Saline Road, south of I-94, Ann Arbor. \$8. (734) 665-8863

BALLROOM DANCING
9 p.m. Saturdays, at the Dance Scene, 25333 Van Dyke, Centerline. \$5. Also swing and Latin classes. (810) 757-8300

THE HARKEN TRUCKER
Presented by Donald/Byrd/The Group, Friday, Nov. 26 to Sunday, Dec. 5, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. \$12-\$50. (734) 764-2538

JAZZ

MR. B
8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, at the Ark, at 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. \$13.50. (734) 761-1800

GEM JAZZ TRIO
Performs 7-11 p.m. Friday-Saturdays, at the Century Club Restaurant, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

WENDELL HARRISON
8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

BILL HEID
8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

JOHNNY & AL
Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Sweet Lorraine's, 29101 Greenfield, Southfield. (248) 559-5985

RICH K. TRIO
8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at Big Fish, 700 Town Center Dr., Dearborn. (313) 336-6350

MATT MICHAELS TRIO
at Ron's Fireside Inn, 28937 Warren, east of Middlebelt Road, Garden City, \$5 cover. (734) 762-7756

GARY SCHUNK
9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

STRAIGHT AHEAD
9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

JANET TENAJ TRIO
Featuring Sven Anderson, piano and Kurt Krahnke, bass, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays, at Fishbone's Restaurant, 29244 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. (248) 351-2925

WARREN COMMISSION
Sunday, Nov. 28, at Andiamo Osteria-Royal Oak, Main Street. (248) 582-9300

ED WELLS
The pianist performs 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, at the Century Club Restaurant, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-9800

PAMELA WISE & THE AFRO-CUBAN ALLSTARS
8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at Edison's, 220 Merrill, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

COMEDY

ELDORADO COUNTRY CLUB
Norm Stutz with J.R. Remick & Dee Proffitt, 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 26-27, at 2869 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Township. (248) 624-1050

HENRY FORD ESTATE-FAIR LAKE
Estate tours include the restored riverside powerhouse, Henry Ford's personal garage and car, giant generators placed by Ford and Thomas Edison that still operate, and the tunnel to the 56-room mansion with elaborate carved woodwork and personal artifacts, at 4901 Egreen Road, Dearborn. (313) 593-5590

HENRY FORD MUSEUM/GREENFIELD VILLAGE
The village is celebrating its 70th season with a host of activities, and exhibits such as Abraham Lincoln's assassination chair and a life mask made 60 days before his assassination, at the museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, \$12.50, \$10.50 seniors, \$7.50 kids 5-12, members and children under 5 free. (313) 271-1600

MEADOW BROOK HALL
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DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Film festival and family workshop based on the new On the Air exhibit 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, the exhibit allows visitors to walk through time and the area's radio to TV broadcast industry. \$3. (313) 833-9720; "Frontiers to Factories: Detroiters at Work at 1701-1901," formerly known as "Furs to Factories," with a new "Land Office," a "Wheel of Fortune" style land acquisition interactive, three new video screen interactives, a documentary video, a new Heavy Industry section and a display explaining Detroit's move from "Stove Capital of the World" to the Motor City, automobile capital of the world, at the museum, 5401 Woodward Ave. (at Kirby), Detroit. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Free admission: Wednesdays: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 seniors and children aged 12-18, free for children ages 11 and younger Thursdays-Sundays. (313) 833-1805 or http://www.detroithistorical.org

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER
IMAX movies include "Tropical Rainforest" at 10 a.m. Mondays-Fridays, "Thrill Ride: The Science of Fun" at 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and "Everest" and "Whales" multiple showings seven days a week, at the center, noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sundays: at 5020 John R. (at Warren), Detroit. Admission to exhibit Hall is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 3-15 and adults ages 60 and older, free for children ages 2 and younger; IMAX films are additional.

POLISH ALLIANCE DANCERS OF DEARBORN
Dance and language classes for ages 3 to adult have begun Saturday mornings at Prince of Peace Church, on Altar Road, Dearborn. (313) 581-3181

STARBUST BALLROOM
Dance parties 9 p.m. Fridays, lessons also available, at the dance studio, 28651 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. (888) 356-5678

WATERFORD-OAKS BALLROOM DANCE
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford. (248) 673-4764

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MUSEUMS AND TOURS

ANN ARBOR HANDS-ON MUSEUM
Reopened its door Oct. 19, the celebration continues with more than 250 interactive exhibits intended to make science fun, at the museum, 220 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. \$6, \$4 children/seniors/students. (734) 995-5439

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POPULAR MUSIC

AGENTS OF GOOD ROOTS
9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, Blind Pig, Ann Arbor. \$8 advance, \$10 day of show. 19 and older. (248) 645-6666

ALBERTA ADAMS
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 3-4, Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800 (blues)

THE ALLIGATORS
9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, Lower Town Grill, 195 W. Liberty, Plymouth. Cover. 21 and over. (734) 451-1213 (blues)

GREG ALLMAN
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, State Theatre, Detroit. Tickets \$28.50, \$24.50. All ages. (248) 645-6666

THE BACK DOORS
8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. \$10 in advance. (248) 544-3030

BARENAKED LADIES
With Tal Bachman, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets \$50 and \$35 reserved. (248) 645-6666

THE BEACH BOYS
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, The Palace of Auburn Hills. \$25, \$15

Continued from previous page
at \$4. (313) 577-8400

DETROIT ZOO
The exhibit, "Inside/Outside: The Art of Caring" continues through Jan. 2, in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile, Royal Oak. \$7.50, \$5.50 seniors/students. \$4.50 ages 2-12. (248) 398-0003

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM
Visit the newest exhibition "Folk Art of the Great Lakes" or "Racing on the Wind: Sailing on the Great Lakes," also a temporary exhibit on the construction and launch of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, at 100 Strand Drive on Belle Isle, Detroit. Regular admission \$2, \$1 seniors/children ages 12-18 during the hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. (313) 852-4051

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MOVIES

'Dogma' takes cynical, comic look at religion

BY JON KATZ SPECIAL WRITER Carl Reiner's "Oh God" (1977) gave us George Burns and a Borscht Belt take on the Old Testament. In Kevin Smith's fantasy-comedy "Dogma," the Lord is angsty singer Alanis Morissette, if you can accept that, the rest of the often clever, quite pro-faith plot may make perfect sense. Loki (Matt Damon) and Bartley (Ben Affleck) are fallen angels of death. Expelled from Heaven, they've been commanded to live in Wisconsin for the length of human existence. This is some cruel God we're talking about here.



Comedy-Fantasy: Matt Damon and Ben Affleck in a scene from director Kevin Smith's latest effort "Dogma."

explaining Catholic doctrines such as plenary indulgence, which is an eternal amnesty of sorts. At the heart of the film, however, is writer/director Smith's assertions that an idea is better than a belief and it doesn't matter what you have faith in as long as you have faith. For all its controversy, planned or not, "Dogma" is as pro-Bible as it is anti-organized religion. There is a real "Wizard of Oz" sweetness there if you dig far enough below the sophomoric language and "Lost in Space" effects (a demon from the bowels of the earth is a poop-monster that emerges from a toilet).

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Scheduled to open Wednesday, Nov. 24 "FLAWLESS" - Comedy drama of a retired security guard who suffers a stroke and is assigned to a rehab program which includes singing lessons with his neighbor, a drag queen. Stars Robert De Niro and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 10 "THE GREEN MILE" - Remarkable story of a guard in a Southern prison's death row in 1955 and one of the inmates over which he has charge. Based on the 1996 serialized novel by Stephen King. Stars Tom Hanks. Scheduled to open Saturday, Dec. 25 "LIBERTY HEIGHTS" - A dramatic look at the life and times of a Baltimore family in the mid 1950s which focuses on issues of religion, race and class distinction written and directed by Barry Levinson. Stars Adrien Brody, Bette Neuwirth and Joe Mantegna. Scheduled to open Wednesday, Dec. 22 "ANY GIVEN SUNDAY" - Drama about a aging star quarterback who is induced to play hurt.

Film lacks believability, focus

BY JON KATZ SPECIAL WRITER Some husbands put their wives on a pedestal. French filmmaker Luc Besson put his (model/actress Mila Jovovich) on the big screen with thousands of extras. A few husbands may think of their wives as a saint. Besson's was cast as one. And then, to believe the tabloids, she left him. Frankly, their off-screen lives may prove more exciting than this latest retelling of Joan of Arc. Before the details, one warning is in order. "The Messenger" is not the film to take your catechism student to. He or she will learn about Joan, all right, but also about the language the English used to describe her. It is very plain English, not how we thought they talked in the pristine 15th century. A groaning audience seemed to agree. If you're still interested, "The Messenger" is an ambitious effort that is visually attractive and graphically detailed. Young peasant girl Joan witnesses her tiny French village overrun and her older sister raped and murdered during the bloody Hundred Years' War. A deciding factor in the war was who would control the city of Orleans. Only one thing could save France... a miracle. Jovovich is armor is out of her element. As an actress, she's the deal with her hair color? She's a sunny blond to begin with. Somewhere in the middle, after cutting her long

Give it all: Ferndale band heads into local studio

Stepping into the Ferndale Recording Studio in Ferndale Tuesday night, I heard the intermittent sounds of a strumming guitar, and the quiet, reflective expression of a group of musicians warmly welcoming me into their domain. If you haven't already heard of Give, chances are pretty good you've seen these musicians performing in other successful bands over the years. Singer-songwriter Ferris George, bassist Ray Echlin, guitarist Allen Liggett, drummer Scott Spellman and fiddler Jim Flynn have made their way in and around the local music scene, each searching for the perfect combination, the perfect sound. Together, they seem to have found it. Writing music is a collaborative and somewhat spontaneous effort for Give. "It's more emotional," said George, strumming softly on his guitar. "We just sit in a room and watch the vibe happen." Echlin said the band's songs develop from a simple riff or the initial boom of a bass line. Even if they argue over a song structure, the bandmates agree they are passionate about the music. Echlin said he doesn't always use words to express where he sees the music going. "You can communicate it easier with a guitar," he said. "Often I find myself scating a drum or Ferris will hum a bassline in my ear. A lot of times these ideas will stick." Give's song lyrics take on the same sort of life of their own. George admitted that "Sometimes I don't even know what the theme of the song's going to be. If you trust it, it comes out almost perfect." The true test of the music, according to George, is the emotional impact it expresses. "Is it touching me?" he asks of a song. "If it touches me it must touch someone else." But Flynn insists the real magic of Give is to be experienced in a live venue. Echlin - who at this point is providing the appropriate "interview music" on a nearby piano,



adds confidently, "It's always a positive reaction. People come and listen." While you might be moved to dance or sway when Give takes the stage, it's more likely the music will capture your attention and your mind. "Some of the music is kind of trance-y," Liggett explained. Flynn added of the typical audience: "They get into the zone with us." What's most evident about this group of musicians is the passion they share for making music. Liggett said the passion for performing and making music is simply something you're born with, something he's always wanted to do. From the first show Give performed as a five-piece, a benefit for a fellow musician at St. Andrews Hall, he said "We all knew it was something special." Dave Feeny, owner of Temperment Studio and sound engineer, knows first-hand how the musicians work. "It's an interesting collective," he said of Give. "Their strengths are their experi-

ence of being around the block, knowing what it takes to put something together," added Feeny, while working on a song. "Their weakness is their experience of being around the block. It's a double-edged sword. Everyone has a strong opinion." Those strong opinions only serve to make the band's passion for music that much more noticeable. "The album is going to be a work-in-progress," said Liggett. With five songs near completion, Give is compiling material to send out to record companies and radio stations, while completing a full album. There's no better time for a group of dedicated and talented musi-

Sounding Off: More music reviews

Local musicians may submit full-length compact discs, which have not been completed or released more than three months prior to submission, to the newspaper office. Send materials with a daytime phone number to Arts and Entertainment, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich. 48150. We do not guarantee that all submissions will be reviewed, but we'll try our best. David Mead The Luxury of Time RCA Records Since Fat Boy Slim and Len have made smart pop singles hip again, music fans should be primed and ready for David Mead. On his debut album "The Luxury of Time," the guitarist/composer tries his clever, shrouded lyrics and laces in upstart instrumentation to create thirteen instantly familiar tunes. Comparisons to Squeeze, Elvis Costello, Beck and even the Beatles are almost unavoidable, yet this is the work of a young artist whose vision is solely-owned and musical ambitions sustained. With "Touch of Mascara" and "Breathe You In," the engaging tenor redefines ballads as warm and integral chapters in a collection, rather than mere footnotes to the big hits. But with a fat bass guitar, a retro Wuritzer, the Havana horns and beguiling lyrics in the "World of a King," Mead proves he can pump out glossy tunes, too. The familiar themes of love and loss are evident throughout this album with a seemingly endless array of emotional twists and turns. Mead recorded "The Luxury of Time" with Jason Lehnin and British producer Peter Collins, whose credits include Brian Setzer, Jewel and the Indigo Girls. The result is a tight debut effort which hearkens back to classic pop style - not lost in time - but merely luxuriating in its inexactuality. Garth Brooks In the Life of Chris Gaines Capitol Records When it was announced that Garth Brooks' latest release would be an alter-ego rock concept album, fans and foes were understandably confused. And when comparisons between his "Chris Gaines" and David Bowie's "Ziggy Stardust" began

STAY TUNED

Somewhere between a Turkey-induced slumber and football season there's a space for alternative rock hit-makers Third Eye Blind. The band will debut their new single "Never Let You Go" at half-time on Thanksgiving Day. Look for the band on Fox Television during the Detroit Lions/Chicago Bears Football game, which kicks off at 12:40 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 25. The song is featured on Third Eye Blind's latest release "Blue" which hit stores Nov. 23. Feeling blue? Hip-O Records has the cure. On Nov. 2, the company released "Broken Heartsoul Essentials," a compilation of B.B. hits like Percy Sledge's "When a Man Loves a Woman" and Smokey Robinson's "The Tracks of My Tears." Two volumes are available in stores now. As if radio stations don't overlap songs like Barenaked Ladies' "One Week" and Madonna's "Ray of Light" too much, a compilation of hits has included this year's most popular songs on "Totally Hits." With names like Kid Rock and Santana, it's radio with rewind and fast-forward. —REVIEWS BY ALICE RHEIN

HOLIDAY FAVORITE Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol November 20-December 26 adapted and directed by Charles Nolt Meadow Brook Theatre Oakland University's Professional 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! PREVIEW PERFORMANCES: Saturday, Nov. 20 - 8:00 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 - 2:00 p.m. SPECIAL FAMILY DISCOUNTS: THANKSGIVING WEEKEND: Friday, Nov. 26 - 8:00 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27 - 2:00 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28 - 2:00 p.m. All performances December 16-26

Sleepy Hollow JOHNNY DEPP CHRISTINA RICCI "Sleepy Hollow" is a total Tim Burton experience...his richest, prettiest, weirdest film since "Batman Returns." "Sleepy Hollow" may be late for Halloween, but this trick is a real treat. NEWSWEEK, 11/22/99 "Sleepy Hollow" has got to be the most gorgeous movie ever made...it's a marvel bold, exciting and full of visions." TIME, 11/22/99

TOM HANKS TIM ALLEN Disney PIXAR TOY STORY 2 STARTS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AMC BEL AIR 10 AMC EASTLAND 2 AMC FORUM 30 AMC LAUREL PARK AMC LIVONIA 20 AMC SOUTHWEST CITY AMC WOODLAND BIRMINGHAM 8 CANTON CINEMAS MJB SOUTHGATE 20 QUO VADIS RENAISSANCE 4 SHOWCASE 2000 SHOWCASE DEARBORN SHOWCASE DELTA SHOWCASE EASTLAND STAR GRADUATE AT 15 MILE STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING STAR JOHN R AT 10 MILE STAR LINCOLN PARK 8 STAR ROCHESTER TWP. 14 STAR SOUTHFIELD STAR TAYLOR STAR WOODLAND 12 OAKS WEST RIVER

Laurel Manor's Millennium Gala Dine, Dance and be Dazzled into the New Millennium with sophisticated music in a truly elegant atmosphere of silver stars and spectacular lights. Friday, December 31, 1999 7:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. A Black Tie Optional Evening Featuring: Elegant dining with your choice of Lobster Tail and Filet Mignon combination or Vegetarian Entree Wine service with dinner Champagne Toast Fruit & Pastry Extravaganza designed by Sweet Dreams of Bloomfield Hills Dancing to the sophisticated music of "Higher Ground" Deluxe Premium Bar Package - 6 Afterglow at 12:30 including Coney Dogs, Pizza and Canolies and A Complimentary Keepsake Millennium Collectors Plate and Champagne Glass for Each Guest! \$2500 off TICKETS: \$250 per person. Reservations Required. No admittance after 8:30 p.m. Must be 21 years or older to attend. Call for Reservations... (734) 462-0770 Payment by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Cash or Check (with ID.) 39000 Schoolcraft • Livonia

DINING

If you're too busy to cook, try The Intelligent Chicken

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

Pressured for time to eat well? The holidays bring this on! Take-out often becomes a high-fat, high-calorie, high cholesterol solution. Unless you discover The Intelligent Chicken in Farmington Hills.

Perhaps you remember the name. A 1992 graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in Hotel & Restaurant Management, owner Todd Rones first opened The Intelligent Chicken in 1993 at Crosswinds Mall, West Bloomfield. When the mall underwent a multi-million dollar renovation, his lease was bought out by the management and he moved on to other entrepreneurial ventures outside the world of restaurants.

Relocation to Northwestern Highway last month allowed Rones to double the size of his eatery and thereby expand dine-in and catering capabilities.

While take-out is the specialty, dine-in seating for about 40 is available in comfortable, light, simple surroundings, reflecting the essence of The Intelligent Chicken's food items. Eat-in service is cafeteria style with plastic plates and flatware, in an area well away from the carry-out counter.

Rotisserie chicken is marinated in house-made barbecue sauce, then slow roasted. Its sumptuous natural flavors don't need a sauce, but you can have your choice from among honey mustard, garlic and herb, or Dijon mustard.

Orders of rotisserie chicken serving two or more with side dishes and rolls are intelligently named for the three oldest Detroit high schools, Mumford, Cass Tech, and Central. The Mumford is the most popular,

The Intelligent Chicken

Where: 32431 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills, between Middlebelt and 14 Mile Road (248)855-4455.
Open: Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturday until 3 p.m., Sunday 4-8:30 p.m.
Menu: Carry-out or deliver and dine-in restaurant featuring natural ingredient marinated, low-fat char-broiled or rotisserie chicken plus fresh salads, sandwiches, side dishes, and soups.
Cost: Average \$5-6 per person without soft drink.
Credit cards: All majors accepted.
Details: All items carry-out. Two-item kid's menu. Catering and corporate lunches.

"only because it serves two to three, a popular size," Rones explains.

The Intelligent Chicken specializes in low-fat, great-tasting canola oil based marinated boneless, skinless char-broiled chicken breasts, served with the same three sauces mentioned above. This time, portions for two or more are named for the three largest suburban high schools, not named after their city: Andover, Lahser, and Harrison. For the same reason as The Mumford, The Andover is the favorite.

Chef Andy Brenner also offers salads, sandwiches, side dishes, and two homemade soups, Mom's Chicken Noodle and Grandma's Minestrone. "Mom" is Todd Rones' mother Rona and it is her recipe with broad noodles, carrots, celery, parsley, and generous chunks of chicken.

"If you're chickened out, there's minestrone," Rones quipped.

Not on the regular menu, but running as a special some days is Chicken Chili without beans. With chunky tomatoes, onions, and plenty of pulled chicken, it's a twist on the standard with a light level of spicing. Brenner sometimes makes a batch with beans, so ask.

If you crave a burger, the

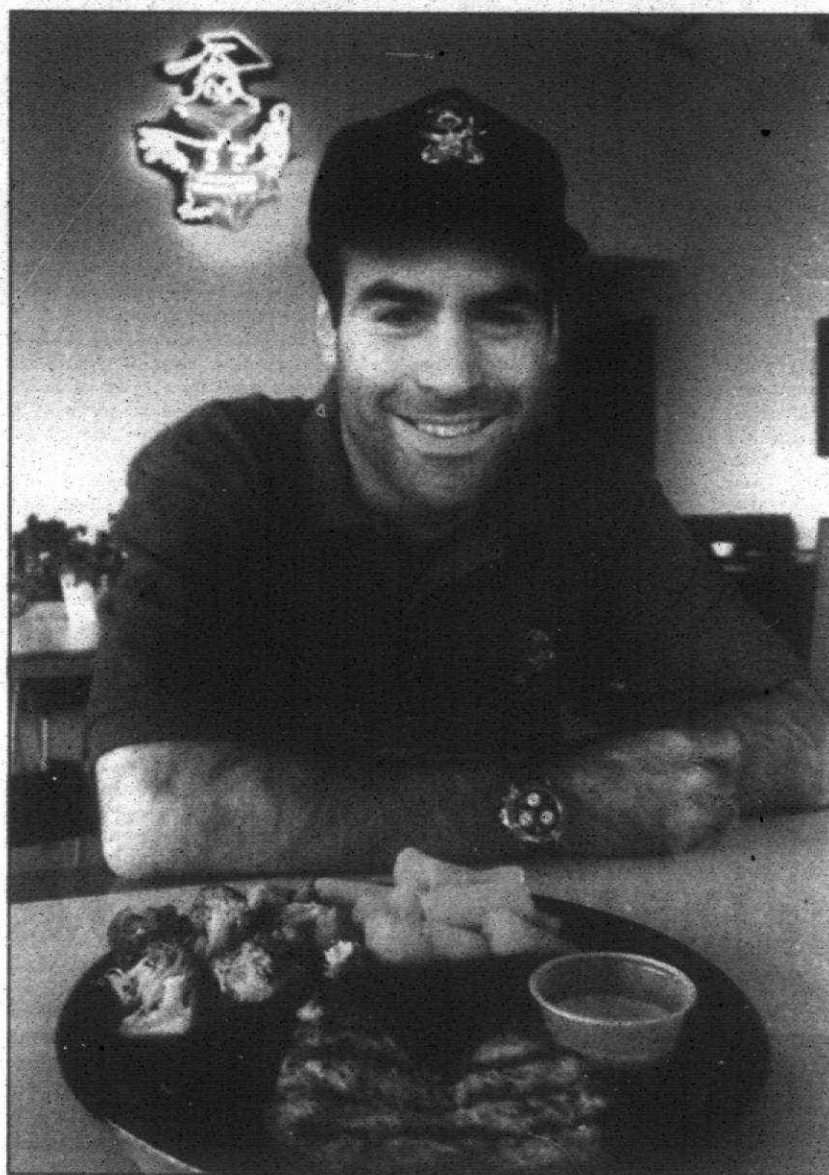
ostrich is the intelligent chicken's other feathered friend. Marinated in a beef marinade, then grilled to sear in great taste, the Big Bird Burger, served on a Kaiser roll, is a way to eat flavorful red meat with less fat and cholesterol.

For chickadees (the kids!), two items including a kiddie side, soft drink or milk, and a surprise are available. Chicken Little Special is a char-broiled half chicken breast. Baked Chicken Nuggets come with honey mustard dipping sauce. Booster chairs are available.

The Intelligent Chicken has Michigan restaurant exclusivity to carry and sell the popular Mucky Duck Mustard, which could, up to now, be found only in specialty grocery stores.

Intelligent Lunch in a Box is a brainy idea for busy executives needing tasty corporate lunches. The Intelligent Chicken is computer savvy and ready for E-commerce on line at www.food.com. Once logged on, go to Detroit, then the Intelligent Chicken to place an order.

Eleanor Heald is a Troy resident who writes about dining, food and wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. To leave her a voice mail message, dial (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1864.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Smart choice: Todd Rones presents The Intelligent Chicken's specialty, low-fat, marinated boneless, skinless char-broiled chicken breasts, served with a flavorful sauce, and your choice of side dishes.

WHAT'S COOKING

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

What's Cooking includes listings of new restaurants, special dinners, menu changes, restaurant anniversaries and renovations.

Taste of the Arts — An evening of food, art and classical music 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 30 at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 38315 Joy Road, between Wayne and Newburgh, Westland. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Call (734) 326-7222 for information. "Taste of the Arts" will feature samplings of food and beverages from more than 20 local businesses including Chimento's Italian Market, Max & Erma's and the Fire Academy Brewery and Grill. Art works by students from Wayne-Westland Schools will be exhibited and will be for sale. During a silent auction, you can even place a bid on works by a number of local artists, including Norma McQueen and Mary Brittain. A string quartet will provide entertainment for the evening. Event benefits the Family Resource Center and the Westland Chamber of Commerce. Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Maui Travel, International Minute Press, the Hellenic Cultural Center, North Bros Ford, and other local businesses.

Millennium white wine — If you read about the special millennium white wine Galilee 2000, hailing from the Galilee in Israel, in O&E's AT HOME holiday section on Oct. 21, and have not been able to find it, it's available for about \$10 at Cloverleaf Fine Wines, Applegate Square; Spitzer's Books & Gifts, Eleven Mile Road at Lahser; Borenstein Books & Gifts, 10 Mile Road at Greenfield; and Big Ten Party Store, Ann Arbor. However, any retail wine shop can order the wine for you from the distributor Regal Wines in Dearborn.

Red Robin — Restaurants in Madison Heights, Novi, and Westland, will be selling mini versions of its mascot "Red" the robin for \$1.99 with kid's meals through Dec. 31, or until supplies last. The restaurant is selling the "Mini Reds" in honor of its redesigned mascot, making its debut in the restaurants this month. Red Robin will donate \$1 of each Mini Red toy sale to Canine Companions for Independence. For more information,

visit www.redrobin.com

Ristorante Ciaro — Newly opened, cozy 80-seat Italian restaurant, 1024 Monroe St.,

south of Michigan Ave., Dearborn. House specialty is wood-fired, thin crust pizzas baked in a wood burning oven. Homemade

pastas, veal and seafood dishes also available. Open 5-11 p.m. Monday-Saturday for dinner. Call (313) 274-2426.

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